No. 639,050. Patented Dec. 12, 1899.

N. F. HURDEL.

HAT CASE OR VALISE.

(Application filed Apr. 8, 1897. Renewed May 20, 1899.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

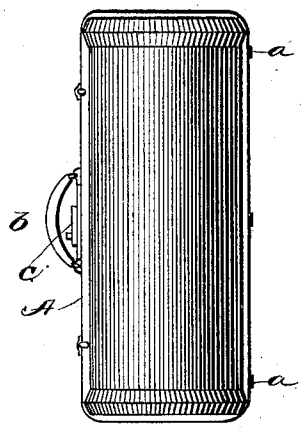


Fig. 2.

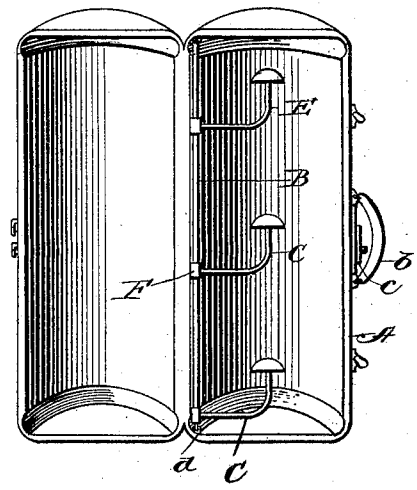


Fig. 3.

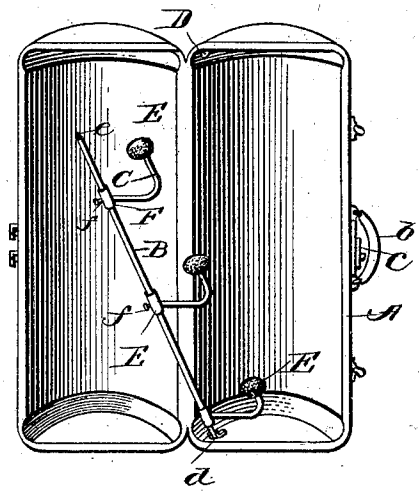


Fig. 4.

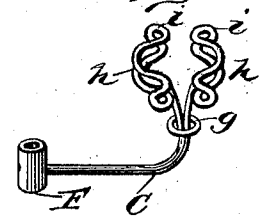
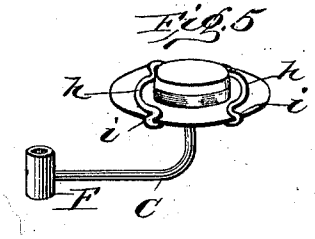


Fig. 5.



Witnesses:
J. M. Fowler Jr.
O. H. Fowler

Inventor.
Nellie F. Hurdel
By Patrick O'Farrell
Attorney.

THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

NELLIE F. HURDEL, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

HAT CASE OR VALISE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 639,050, dated December 12, 1899.

Application filed April 8, 1897. Renewed May 20, 1899. Serial No. 717,645. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, NELLIE F. HURDEL, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Hat Cases or Valises, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in hat cases and valises and more particularly to that class in which a number of hats are placed in one receptacle.

The object of this invention is to provide a hat-case in which a number of hats may be easily and quickly packed and supported within the case in such manner that they cannot be mashed or injured.

Another object of this invention is to provide a hat-case which is exceedingly cheap and simple in its construction, also durable and convenient for travelers, and one that may be quickly and easily adjusted to receive either men's or women's hats of different sizes.

With these objects in view my invention consists in the particular construction of the various parts and in the novel manner of combination and arrangement of said parts, all of which will be described hereinafter, and pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings forming a part of this specification, Figure 1 is a side elevation of the case closed. Fig. 2 is a perspective view showing the case open with the cylindrical tube or shaft held in place, having the hat-supporting arms mounted thereon. Fig. 3 is also a perspective view showing the case open with the shaft in position to have the supporting-arms placed thereon or removed. Fig. 4 is a detail view showing the form of supporting-arm used in connection with men's hats. Fig. 5 is also a detail view of the supporting-arm, showing a hat held therein.

Referring to the drawings, A represents the case, which may be made of any suitable material and in any form or shape desired in which the case is centrally divided and connected by hinges *a a*. It is also provided with a handle *b* in the center of the said case and suitable locking means *c*.

Supported within one side of the case, approximately near the hinges, is a hollow cylindrical tube or shaft B, which is perforated and closed at both ends, having one end provided with a hinge *d*, which is secured to one end of the case. This hinge prevents the said shaft from turning and also allows the same to swing out of its horizontal position in the case in order that the hat-supporting arms C may be easily and quickly placed thereon or removed, as desired. The loose end of the shaft is provided with a lug *e*, which engages a recess in the spring D when the said shaft is in place.

The hat-supporting arms C are formed with semicircular wires, having secured to one end a pad or cushion E and to the other a sleeve or collar F, adapted to fit closely over the shaft and provided with a thumb-screw *f*, which engages the said perforation and affords means for tightening the arm upon the said shaft in any position desired. The lower arms of the semicircular wires or the arms which extend at right angles to the shaft are of a sufficient length to give the upper arm or the arm parallel to the shaft a central location in the case. A woman's hat is used in connection with this form of hat-supporting arm, and in using the same the hat is placed upon the knob and secured thereto by thrusting an ordinary hat-pin through both the hat and cushioned knob.

In Fig. 4 I have shown a modified form of the hat-supporting arm, which is to be used in connection with men's hats or similar hats used by women. The manner of adjustment upon the shaft is substantially the same, having an arm secured thereto extending at a right angle to the said shaft, and mounted upon this arm, in the center of the case, is the support proper, consisting of two flat spring-steel dependent arms *g g*, secured by one end to the said arm and extending up at an angle less than a right angle thereto, then bent in opposite directions, both parallel to the said arm, and having secured upon their ends, at equal distances from the center, a wire frame *h*, consisting of a single piece of wire bent in the form of a link, with its sides sufficiently apart to receive the brim of a hat, as shown in Fig. 5. The link is also bent semicircular, and the portions *i* of the said link are bent perpendicular thereto in

order to leave the ends open and to provide a support for the upper side of the link. An ordinary flat band is clamped around the dependent arms and adapted to slide thereupon, thus affording means for operating the support and clamping a hat therein.

It will thus be seen that I provide an exceedingly cheap and simple form of hat-support which may be employed in traveling-cases, shipping-boxes, and show-cases and one that will proficiently perform all of its intended functions. My device may also be employed in closets and wardrobes in lieu of hat-boxes by suspending the same in any convenient place by means of a strap or loop attached to the top lock-hinge.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a hat-supporting case, the combination of two similar parts hinged together, having secured in one side thereof a longitudinal shaft, adapted to support a series of vertical adjustable hat-supporting arms arranged one above the other and provided with clamps, said shaft hinged to one end of the case approximately near the said hinge and provided with a lug upon the other end, said lug to engage a recess in a spring on the opposite end of the case, substantially as shown and described.

2. In a hat-case, the combination of two similar parts hinged together, having a shaft secured therein, said shaft provided with hat-supporting arms, arranged adjustably thereupon and one above the other, said supporting-arms constructed of a piece of wire provided at its lower end with a sleeve or collar, and at its upper end with a clamp, substantially as shown and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

NELLIE F. HURDEL.

Witnesses:

O. H. FOWLER,

WILLARD H. MYERS.