United States Patent [19]

Nowak

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[54] **UTILITY CASE**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **206/216;** 206/389; 220/20; 220/94 R; 206/203

[51] **Int. Cl.**[2] **B65D 85/67;** B65D 25/28

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 206/216, 169, 203, 391, 206/389; 220/94 R, 20

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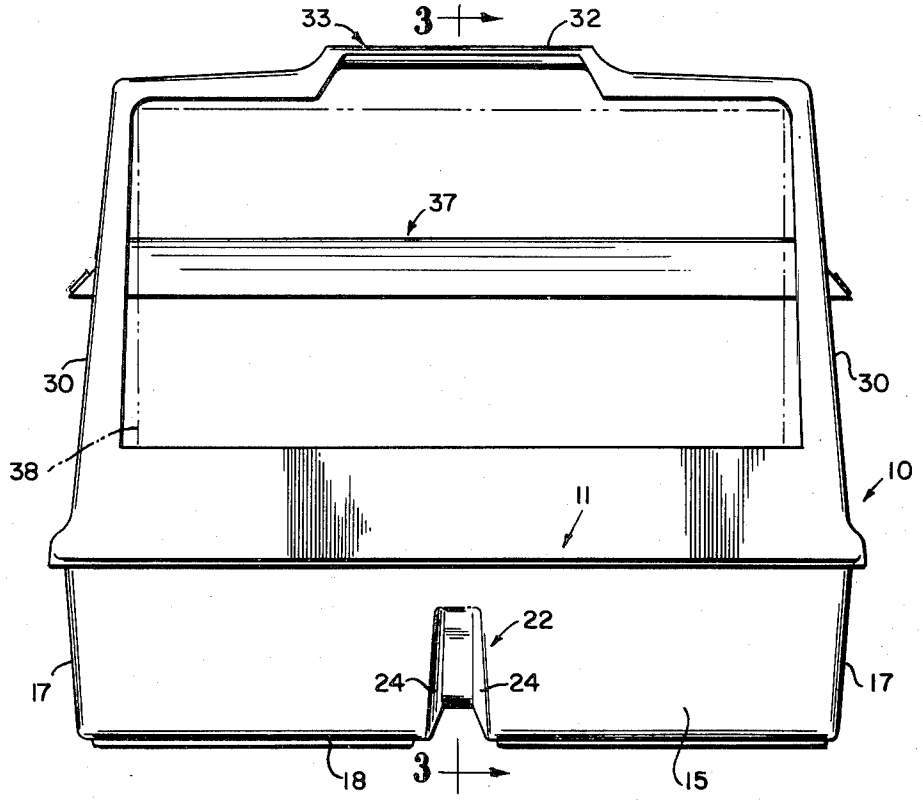
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A utility case formed from a molding having a pair of elongated laterally spaced compartments interconnected at their opposed ends by a pair of uprights. Said uprights are interconnected at their upper ends by an elongated handle-forming strut. A second molding forming a support for a roll of dispensable material extends between said uprights and is removably carried in openings formed therein.

5 Claims, 4 Drawing Figures



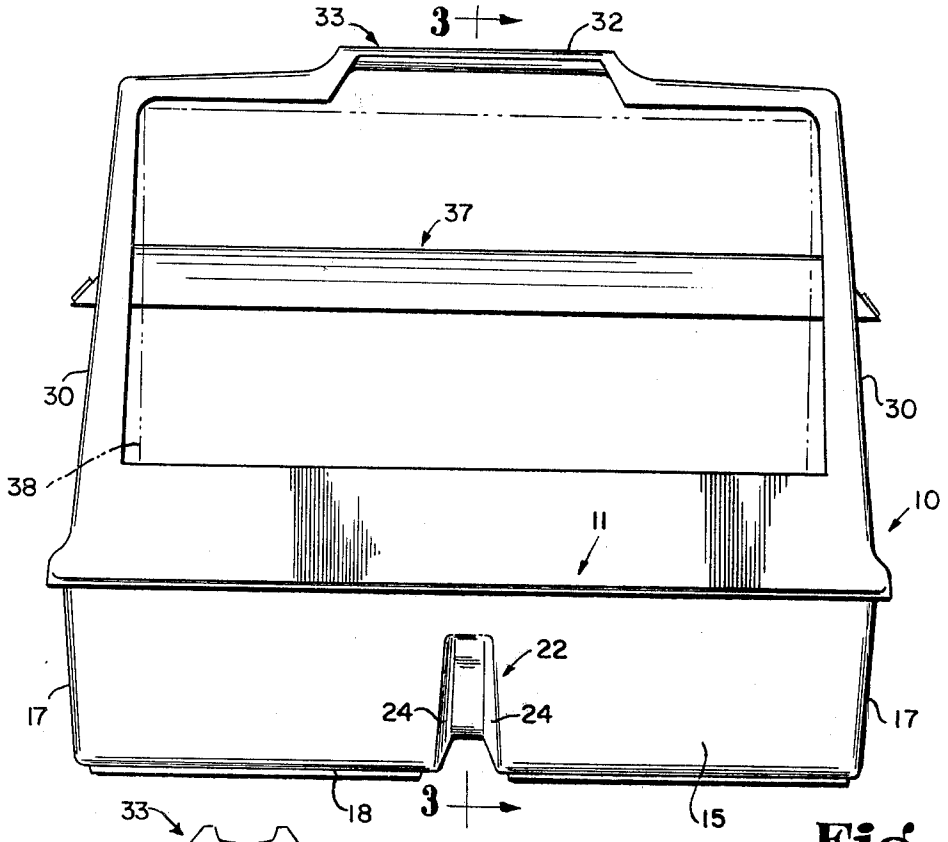


Fig. 1

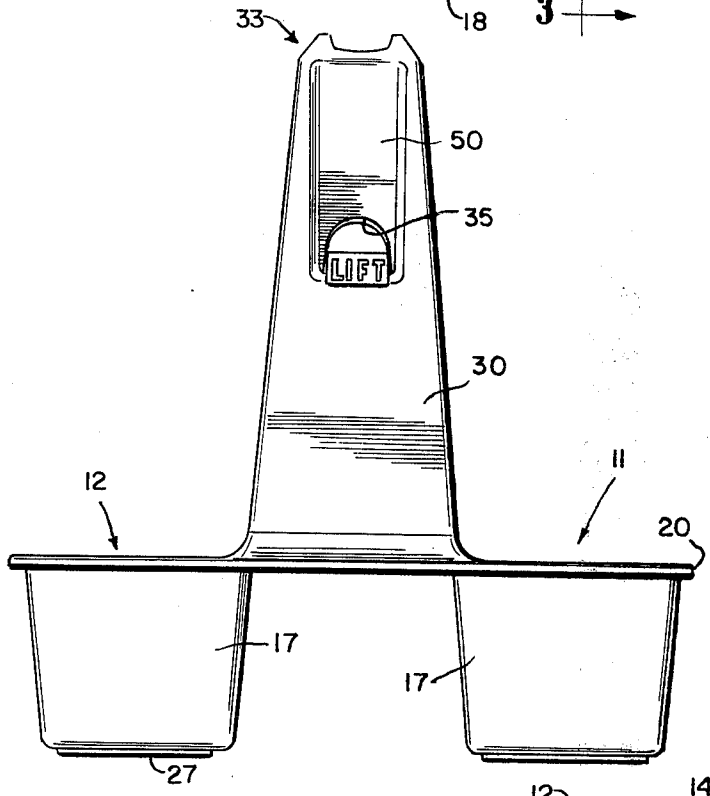


Fig. 2

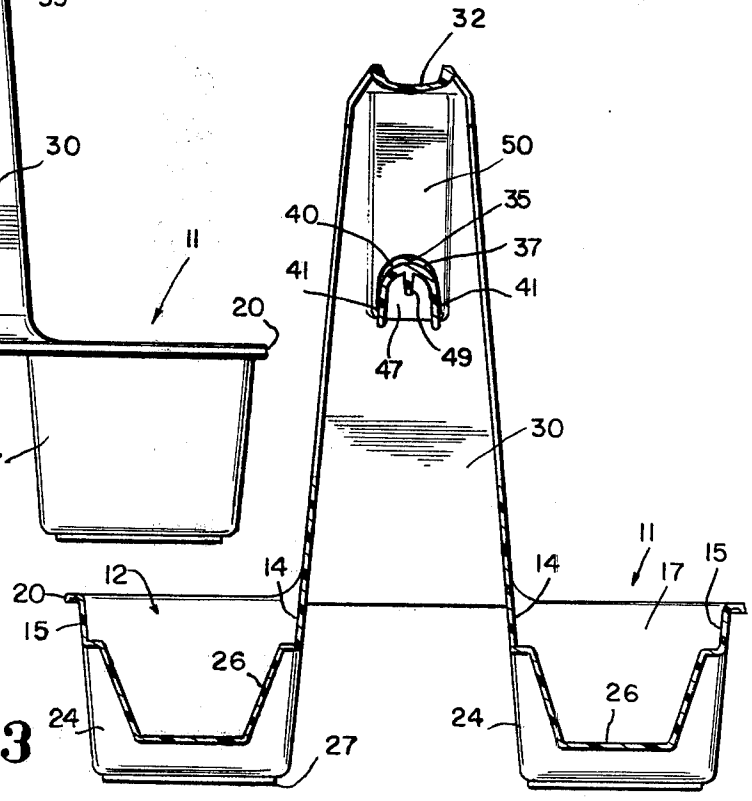
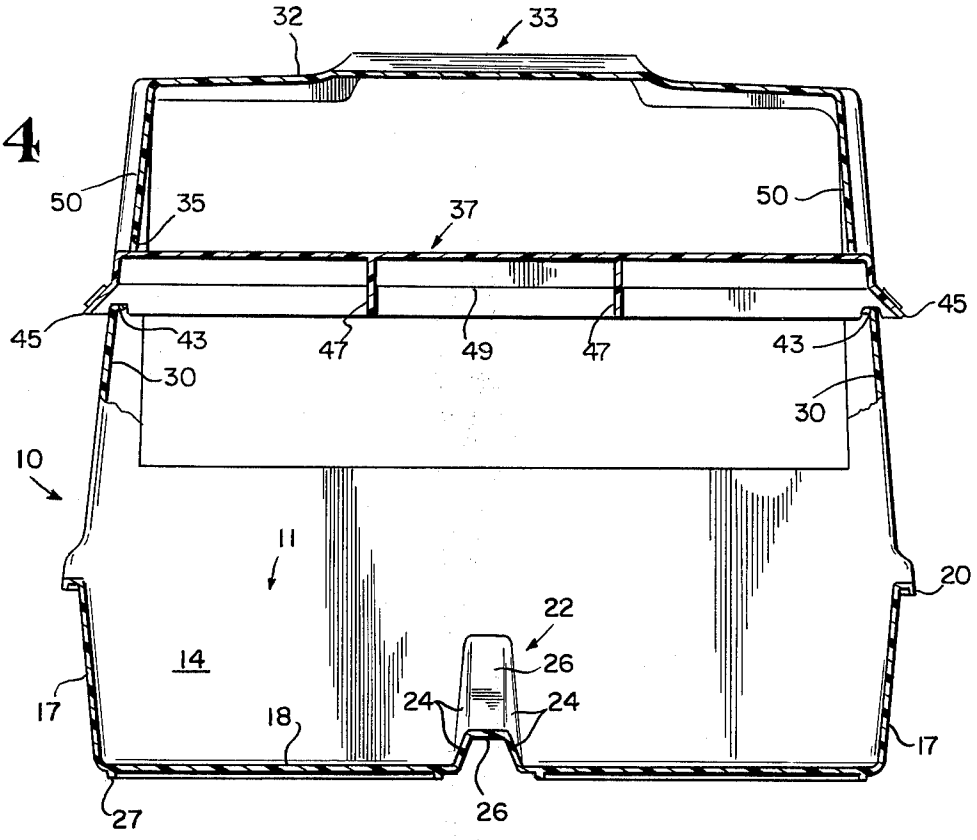


Fig. 3

Fig. 4


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UTILITY CASE

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with the preferred form of the invention, there is provided a unitary molding having a pair of laterally spaced parallel compartments. The compartments are interconnected at their opposed ends by a pair of uprights which extend upwardly from said compartments and are interconnected at their upper ends by a strut. The strut is disposed well above the compartments and thus serves as a handle for carrying the case from one location to another.

A pair of aligned openings are formed in the uprights intermediate their height. A support bar adapted to support a roll of a dispensable material such as paper toweling extends between the uprights with its ends projecting outwardly through the openings in the uprights. Notches are formed in said support bar to engage the edges of the upright openings for releasably locating said support bar on said uprights.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying drawings illustrate the invention. In such drawings:

FIG. 1 is a side elevation of a utility case embodying the invention;

FIG. 2 is an end elevation of the utility case shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a vertical section taken on the line 3—3 of FIG. 1; and

FIG. 4 is a vertical section taken on the line 4—4 of FIG. 2.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

As illustrated in the drawing, the body **10** of the case is formed as a unitary plastic molding. It comprises a pair of elongated, parallel, laterally spaced compartments **11** and **12.** As shown, each of the compartments **11** and **12** is formed by inner and outer side walls **14** and **15** interconnected at their opposed ends by a pair of end walls **17** and at their lower ends by a bottom wall **18.** The outer and end walls **15** and **17** of each compartment have an outwardly and downwardly projecting stiffening lip **20** extending around their upper edges.

Each of the compartments is divided into a pair of sections by a panel **22** extending transversely thereacross. As shown in FIG. **4,** the panel has a downwardly open generally U-shape formed by a pair of side faces **24** extending upwardly from the bottom wall **18** and inwardly from the inner and outer side walls **14** and **15.** The panel side faces **24** are interconnected along their lengths by a top face **26.** In the embodiment shown, the panels have a height less than the overall height of the compartments so that they are disposed below the upper edges of the compartment walls **14, 15,** and **17.** Conveniently, the bottom compartment walls are stiffened on the opposite sides of the panels by downwardly projecting ribs **27** which also serve as feet for supporting the case on a supporting surface.

A pair of uprights **30** extend upwardly at the opposite ends of the compartments. As shown, the lower ends of the uprights are integrally connected to the inner side walls **14** and end walls **17** at their junctures. In this manner, said uprights interconnect said compartments

in laterally spaced relation. The upper ends of the uprights **30** are interconnected by an elongated strut **32** integrally connected thereto and disposed substantially above the plane of the upper edges of the compartments **11** and **12.** In this manner, the uprights **30** and strut **32** form a bail for carrying the case from one location to another. To this end, the strut **32** is offset inwardly and upwardly intermediate its length to form a hand grip **33.**

Each of the uprights **30** has an opening **35** formed therein intermediate its height. The openings are disposed in aligned relationship well above the compartments **11** and **12** and are adapted to receive an elongated support bar **37.** Said bar is adapted to hold a roll **38** of a dispensable material such as paper toweling or the like as shown in phantom lines in FIG. **1.**

The support bar **37,** which is removably mounted in the uprights **32** for replacing the roll **38,** is also formed as a unitary plastic molding. As shown in FIG. **3,** said bar has a generally U-shape to provide it a rounded top wall **40** so that the roll **38** will rotate easily thereon. The top wall interconnects a pair of generally parallel vertical side walls **41.** Each of the side walls **41** has a pair of notches **43** formed in its lower edge adjacent its opposed edges. The notches **43** are received over the lower edges of the upright openings **35** for releasably mounting the support bar on the uprights **30.** End flaps **45** extend across the ends of the top and side walls **40** and **41** and are angled outwardly from the top wall to dispose their lower edges well outside the extent of the uprights **30** to provide finger lifts for facilitating removal of the bar from the uprights. In order to strengthen the support bar **37,** a pair of longitudinally spaced cross-braces **47** extend between the side walls **41** and a longitudinally extending brace **49** extends downwardly from the top wall **40.**

Desirably, as shown in FIG. **3,** the uprights **30** have vertically extending recesses **50** extending upwardly from the lower edges of their openings **35** to thus strengthen said uprights and reduce the tendancy of the end flaps **45** to catch on objects as the case is carried from one location to another.

I claim:

1. In a utility case, a first molding comprising a pair of elongated laterally spaced compartments, a pair of uprights interconnecting said compartments at their opposed ends and projecting upwardly therefrom, and an elongated strut interconnecting the upper ends of said uprights, said uprights having aligned openings formed therein intermediate their heights; and a second molding comprising an elongated bar adapted to support a roll of dispensable material and extending between said uprights and projecting outwardly from uprights through the openings therein, said bar having a pair vertical side walls, said side walls having notches formed in the lower edges thereof at the opposed ends of said bar for reception over the lower edges of said openings in the uprights for removably mounting said bar on said uprights.

2. A utility case as set forth in claim **1** in which each of said compartments has pairs of interconnected side and end walls and a bottom wall, and a panel projects upwardly from said bottom wall and inwardly from said side walls to divide each of said compartments into a pair of sections.

3. A utility case as set forth in claim 1 in which said bar has a rounded top wall interconnecting said pair of vertical side walls.

4. A utility case as set forth in claim 1 in which said bar has a rounded top wall interconnecting said pair of vertical side walls, and a pair of end flaps interconnect said side and top walls at the opposed ends of said bar, said end flaps being angled outwardly from said top wall and being disposed outside the extent of said uprights.

5. A utility case as set forth in claim 1 in which said bar has a rounded top wall interconnecting said pair of vertical side walls, a pair of end flaps interconnect said side and top walls at the opposed ends of said bar, said end flaps being angled outwardly from said top wall and being disposed outside the extent of said uprights, and said uprights have recesses formed therein extending vertically upwardly from the lower edges of the openings in said uprights.

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