COMBINATION PORTABLE FOLDABLE BASSINET AND CARRYING CASE

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COMBINATION PORTABLE FOLDABLE BASSINET AND CARRYING CASE

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The bassinet and carrying case comprises a rectangular bottom wall having a pair of spaced apart fold lines thereon extending substantially parallel to the shorter edges thereof to define first, second, and third bottom wall portions, a pair of upstanding side panels respectively joined to the edges adjacent the first bottom wall portion, a first end panel joined to the side panels and to one shorter edge of the bottom wall to define a compartment, a pair of sidewalls foldably joined to respective ones of the longer edges of the bottom wall, a second end panel foldably joined to the other shorter edge of the bottom wall and to the shorter edges of the sidewalls adjacent thereto, and fold lines formed in the sidewalls aligned with the fold lines in the bottom wall, the second end panel and the sidewalls and the bottom wall being foldable to the disposed within the compartment.

It is an object of this invention to provide a combination portable foldable bassinet and carrying case which, in the folded position thereof serves as a case for carrying the bassinet and additional equipment, and in the unfolded position thereof serves as a crib or bassinet.

A further object of the invention is to provide a portable foldable bassinet which is, in the unfolded position thereof, safe and relatively strong, yet easily folded up.

In summary, the portable foldable bassinet incorporating the features of the invention comprises a generally rectangular bottom wall having a pair of substantially parallel shorter edges and a pair of substantially parallel longer edges, a pair of spaced apart bottom fold lines formed in the bottom wall and extending substantially parallel to the shorter edges thereof to define a first bottom wall portion located between one of the shorter edges of the bottom wall and one of the bottom fold lines nearest thereto, a second bottom wall portion located between the pair of bottom fold lines, and a third bottom wall portion located between the other of the shorter edges of the bottom wall and the one of the bottom fold lines nearest thereto, a pair of upstanding side panels joined to the portion of respective ones of the longer edges of the bottom wall adjacent the first bottom wall portion, a first end panel having a lower edge joined to the one shorter edge of the bottom wall, the first end panel having a pair of side edges joined to respective ones of the side panels to define a hollow compartment therewith and with the first bottom wall portion, a pair of sidewalls each having a shorter edge opposite the first end panel and each having a longer edge foldably joined to respective ones of the longer edges of the bottom wall, a second end panel having a lower edge foldably joined to the other shorter edge of the bottom wall, the second end panel having a pair of side edges foldably joined to respective ones of the shorter edges of the sidewalls, a pair of parallel side fold lines formed in each of the side walls and extending substantially parallel to the shorter edges thereof and aligned with respective ones of the bottom fold lines in the bottom wall, a diagonal side fold line formed in the end portion of each of the sidewalls adjacent the second end panel and extending diagonally upwardly and toward the first end panel portion and along the diagonal side fold lines to overlie the bottom wall, the second end panel being foldable inwardly along the longer edge thereof and along the diagonal side fold lines to overlie the bottom wall, the bottom wall and the sidewalls being respectively foldable along the bottom fold lines and along the parallel side fold lines to a position wherein the second bottom wall portion extends substantially parallel to the first end panel and wherein the second end panel and the sidewalls and the third bottom wall portion are disposed within the compartment.

The portable foldable bassinet may further comprise a pair of spaced apart elongated bottom reinforcement members disposed in the bottom wall and extending substantially parallel to and substantially coaxial with the shorter edges thereof, a pair of spaced apart elongated side reinforcement members disposed in each of the sidewalls and extending substantially parallel to and substantially coaxial with the shorter edges thereof and aligned with the bottom reinforcement members, and hinges individually joined to the ends of the sidewalls and to the reinforcement members and to adjacent ones of the ends of the side reinforcement members, each of the hinges including a limiting device for precluding the sidewalls from forming an angle greater than approximately 90° with the bottom wall, and a spring biasing device for snapping the sidewalls to portions approximately normal to or parallel to the bottom wall.

Further features of the invention pertain to the particular arrangement of the parts whereby the above-outlined and additional operating features thereof are attained.

The invention, both as to its organization and method of operation, together with further objects and advantages thereof, will best be understood by reference to the following specification taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a combination portable foldable bassinet and carrying case constructed in accordance with and embodying the principles of the present invention, and illustrated in a folded position; 

FIG. 2 is an end elevational view of the combination bassinet and carrying case and illustrating the cover therefor in an open position; 

FIG. 3 is a perspective view of the combination bassinet and carrying case illustrated in a partially unfolded position;

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of the combination bassinet and carrying case illustrated in a more complete unfolded position;

FIG. 5 is a side elevational view of the combination bassinet and carrying case in an unfolded position with a portion of the sidewall broken away to illustrate the reinforcement members therein;

FIG. 6 is a side elevational view of the combination bassinet and carrying case in an unfolded position with a portion of the side panel broken away to illustrate the construction of one of the end panels;

FIG. 7 is an enlarged view in vertical section through the side and bottom walls of FIG. 5 along the lines 7—7 thereof showing most of the covering materials removed and showing a portion of such materials in an exploded condition;

FIG. 8 is an enlarged fragmentary view in horizontal section through one sidewall of FIG. 5 along the lines 8—8 thereof; and

FIG. 9 is a bottom plan view of the combination bassinet and carrying case;
FIG. 10 is an enlarged fragmentary view in vertical section along the lines 10—10 of FIG. 7 and illustrating the hinge; and

FIG. 11 is a view in vertical section of the hinge of FIG. 10 along the lines 11—11 thereof.

Referring now to FIGS. 1 to 4 of the drawings, there is illustrated a combination portable foldable bassinet and carrying case 20 which as illustrated in FIG. 1 may be folded up to provide a compact, lightweight unit, and which as illustrated in FIG. 2 has room for carrying additional equipment such as a baby blanket and the like, and which as illustrated in FIGS. 3 and 4 may be unfolded by a minimum number of steps to provide a crib or bassinet.

Referring now more specifically to FIG. 9, to describe the construction of the combination bassinet and carrying case 20 of FIGS. 1 to 4 in the unfolded condition thereof, there is shown a generally rectangular bottom wall 30 having a pair of substantially parallel longer edges 31 and a pair of substantially parallel shorter edges 32. Formed in the bottom wall 30 are a pair of spaced apart bottom fold lines 33 extending substantially parallel to the shorter edges 32 to define an end bottom wall portion 33a therebetween and a pair of spaced apart fold lines 32 extending substantially parallel to the shorter edges 32 to define an end bottom wall portion 33b therebetween.

Disposed in each of the bottom fold lines 33 is a layer of plastic material 56, which plastic material additionally covers the inner surfaces of the bottom wall 30, the side panels 40, the end panels 50 and 100, the cover 60, and the side walls 70 thereby to provide a liquid and stain resistant surface covering the interior of the combination bassinet and carrying case 20. Formed on the outside of the panel 50 is a layer of decorative cloth 57, which cloth also covers the outer surfaces of the bottom wall 30, the side panels 40, the end panels 50 and 100, the cover 60, and the sidewalls 70, thereby to provide a decorative covering on the exterior of the combination bassinet and carrying case 20.

The combination bassinet and carrying case 20 further comprises a generally rectangular cover 60, one of the longer edges of which is foldably joined to the upper edge of the end panel 50, which cover conforms generally to the shape of the first end bottom wall portion 34a of the bottom wall 30, whereby in the closed position thereof the cover 60 overlies the upper ones of the shorter edges 42 of the side panels 40, a hood being defined by the side panels 40, the end panel 50 and the cover 60 in the closed position thereof. Preferably, the fiber boards in the cover 60, in the end panel 50 and in the side panels 40 are in a generally similar construction and scored at the junctions of these parts to permit the cover 60 to be foldable and to provide the bottom fold line 33 between bottom wall portions 34a and 34b. Formed on the opposing shorter side edges of the cover 60 are a pair of flaps 63 disposed adjacent to respective ones of the side panels 40 in the closed position of the cover 60. Also provided is an interengageable locking element 54 comprising a piece of metal bent to form a slot 65 in the flap 63, and a locking member hingedly joined to the side panel 40 and extending through the slot 65 and pivotable downwardly to lock the cover 60 in the closed position thereof. A similar interengageable locking element (not shown) is provided on the other side panel 40. Alternately, each locking element could comprise a pair of mating snaps.

The combination bassinet and carrying case 20 further comprises a pair of generally rectangular sidewalls 70, each having a parallel longer edges 71 and a pair of parallel shorter edges 72, the lower one of the longer edges 71 being respectively foldably joined to the longer edges 31 of the bottom wall 30. The longer edges 71 are preferably coextensive with the longer edges 31, whereby the lefthand (as viewed in FIG. 5) portion of each of the sidewalls 70 is disposed within the compartment 58 and extends adjacent to respective ones of the uppermost side panels 40. Formed in each of the sidewalls 70 is a pair of spaced apart fold lines 76 extending substantially parallel to the shorter edges 72 and aligned with respective ones of the bottom fold lines 33 in the bottom wall 30, to define an end sidewall portion 78a, located between one of the shorter edges 72 and the fold line 76 nearest thereto, and a second end sidewall portion 78b located between the other shorter edges 72 and the fold line 76 nearest thereto. Formed in the second end sidewall portion 78c of each of the sidewalls 70 is a diagonal side fold line 77 extending diagonally upwardly and toward the first end panel 50.

As is more clearly shown in FIG. 8, a layer of cushioning material 74 is disposed in the first end sidewall portion 78a and in the central sidewall portion 78b, which cushioning material is similar to that used in the first end panel 50 and the first end bottom wall portion 34a of the bottom wall 30. The end panel 50 is constructed of a plurality of layers as illustrated in FIG. 6, which layers include a fiber board 54 generally coextensive with the end panel 50 and a layer of cushioning material 55 generally coextensive with the end panel 50 which provides protection for the baby's head disposed near the end panel 50.

Disposed in each of the sidewalls 70 is a pair of
spaced apart elongated vertical side reinforcement members 75 extending substantially parallel to and substantially coextensive with the sidewall shorter edges 72 extending alongside of respective ones of the parallel side fold lines 76 and aligned with respective ones of the bottom reinforcement members 36. Connecting the upper ends of the vertical side reinforcement members 75 is a horizontal side reinforcement member 79, whereby a frame is defined by the reinforcement members 75 and 79 to give additional strength and rigidity to the sidewalls 70.

The combination bassinet and carrying case 20 further comprises a set of four hinges 80 respectively joining the two vertical side reinforcement members 75 in one sidewall 70 and the two vertical side reinforcement members in the other sidewall to the adjacent ends of the bottom reinforcement members 36. More specifically, as illustrated in FIGS. 10 and 11, the hinge 80 comprises a first body portion 81 joined by rivets 82 or the like to the upturned flange 37 of the associated bottom reinforcement member 36. Formed in the body portion 81 are a pair of end fingers 83 rolled over at the upper ends thereof at 85 to define a cylindrical opening therethrough. Between the end fingers 83 is formed a resilient central finger 84, which projection 82 has an abutment surface 93 at the end surface thereof engaging the resilient central finger 84 when the vertical side reinforcement member 75 is in a first position, namely when it extends normal to the bottom reinforcement member 36 (see FIG. 7 also). The projection 92 has a second abutment surface 94 on the surface thereof facing the bottom reinforcement member 36, the abutment surface 94 engaging the resilient central finger 84 when the vertical side reinforcement member 75 is in a second position, namely when it extends normal to the bottom reinforcement member 36, and extends slightly downward toward the bottom reinforcement member 36. At any position of the vertical side reinforcement member 75 other than said first and second positions, the corner formed by the abutment surfaces 93 and 94 engages the resilient finger 84 and there will be a tendency for the vertical side reinforcement members 75 to revert to either said first or said second position, whereby the hinge 80 has a spring biasing feature to cause the sidewalls 70 containing the vertical side reinforcement members 75 to tend to snap between positions normal to or slightly toward the bottom wall 30 containing the bottom reinforcement member 36. As shown in FIG. 7, the thickness of the mattress 38 which rests on the bottom wall 30 is such that the top surface thereof is aligned with the rolled-over portions 85 and 91 of the hinge 80, whereby the sidewalls 70, in the down position thereof, will be approximately parallel to the bottom wall 30. The spring biasing feature of the hinges 80 causes the sidewalls 70, in the down position thereof, to retain the mattress 38 in place. The hinge 80 further includes a bracket 96 having an attachment flange 97 joined to the body portion 81 and to the vertical side reinforcement member 75 by the rivets 82. Depending from one end of the attachment flange 96 and normal thereto is a limiting flange 98 resting upon the upper edge of the resilient central finger 84 when the sidewalls 70 are in the upstanding position, thereby to limit the sidewalls 70 from forming an angle of greater than 90° with the bottom wall 30.

The combination bassinet and carrying case 20 further comprises a second generally rectangular end panel 100 having the lower one of the longer edges thereof foldably joined to the adjacent shorter edge 33 of the bottom wall 30, the shorter side edges of the end panel 100 being foldably joined to respective ones of the side wall shorter edges 72 opposite the first end panel 50. As shown in FIG. 4, a strap 105 is connected to the outer surface of each of the side walls 70 for use in carrying the combination bassinet and carrying case 20 in the unfolded position thereof. To shorten the length of the strap 105 when it is not in use, the mid-portions 104 thereof is snapped together at 106. Unsnapping the mid-portions 104 lengthens the strap 105 whereby the strap 105 is adapted to carry the combination bassinet and carrying case 20. Further, as shown in FIGS. 1 and 4, there is provided a strap 107 having the ends thereof attached to the upstanding side panels 40, which strap is useful in carrying the combination bassinet and carrying case 20 in the folded position thereof. A separable fastener such as a zipper 110 has one portion thereof joined to the longer edge of the side panel 40 opposing the end panel 50 and the mating portion thereof joined to the bottom wall longer edge 31 adjacent the central bottom wall portion 34b. A similar zipper (not shown) is joined to the other side panel 40 and to the other of the longer edges of the bottom wall 30.

In folding the combination bassinet and carrying case 20, the side walls 70 are folded inwardly along the lower ones of the longer edges 71 thereof and on the hinges 80 and along the diagonal side fold lines 77 to overlie the bottom wall 30. The end panel 100 is then folded inwardly along the lower side edges thereof and along the diagonal side fold lines 77 to overlie the bottom wall 30 and the sidewalls 70. The bottom wall 20, the sidewalls 70 and the end panel 100 are then folded successively on the bottom fold lines 33 and the parallel side fold lines 76 to a position wherein the bottom wall, portion 34a extends substantially parallel to the end panel 50, the distance between the bottom fold lines 33 being approximately equal to the height of the upstanding side panels 40 to completely close the compartment 58 when the cover 60 is locked in place. The end panel 100, the sidewalls 70, the bottom wall portion 34c and the mattress 38 of the bottom wall 30 then extend within the compartment 58. The zippers 110 are then fastened to maintain the combination bassinet and carrying case 20 in the closed position thereof. If may be seen in FIG. 2 that the volume of the compartment 58 is held up by the mattress 38, the end bottom wall portion 34c, the sidewalls 70 and the end panel 100 in the folding position thereof is less than the total volume of the compartment 58 whereby the remainder of the compartment 58 may be used to carry additional equipment such as a baby blanket and the like. In unfolding the combination bassinet and carrying case 20, the steps just described are reversed as shown in FIGS. 1 to 4.

What is claimed is:

1. A portable foldable bassinet comprising a generally rectangular bottom wall having a pair of substantially parallel shorter edges and a pair of substantially parallel longer edges, a pair of spaced apart bottom fold lines formed in said bottom wall and extending substantially parallel to the shorter edges thereof to define a first bottom wall portion located between one of the shorter edges of said bottom wall and the one of said bottom fold lines nearest thereto, a second bottom wall portion located between said pair of bottom fold lines, and a third bottom wall portion located between the other of the shorter edges of said bottom wall and the one of said bottom fold lines nearest thereto, a pair of upstanding side panels joined to the portion of respective ones of the longer edges of said bottom wall adjacent said first bottom wall portion, a first end panel having a lower edge joined to said one shorter edge of said bottom wall, said first end panel
having a pair of side edges joined to respective ones of said side panels to define a hollow compartment thereby and with said first bottom wall portion, a pair of sidewalls each having a shorter edge opposite said first end panel and each having a longer edge foldably joined to respective ones of the longer edges of said bottom wall, a second end panel having a lower edge foldably joined to said other shorter edge of said bottom wall, said second end panel having a pair of side edges foldably joined to respective ones of the shorter edges of said bottom wall, a pair of parallel side fold lines formed in each of said sidewalls and extending substantially parallel to the shorter edges thereof and aligned with respective ones of said bottom fold lines in the bottom wall, a diagonal side fold line formed in the end portion of each of said sidewalls adjacent said second end panel and extending diagonally upwardly and toward said first end panel, said sidewalls being foldable inwardly along the longer edges thereof and along said diagonal side fold lines to overlie said bottom wall, said second end panel being foldable inwardly along the shorter edges thereof and along said diagonal side fold lines to overlie said bottom wall, said bottom wall and said sidewalls being respectively foldable along said bottom fold lines and along said parallel side fold lines to a position wherein said second bottom wall portion extends substantially parallel to said first end panel and wherein said second end panel and said sidewalls and said third bottom wall portion are disposed within said compartment.

2. The portable foldable bassinet set forth in claim 1, and further comprising a generally rectangular cover foldably joined to the upper edge of said first end panel and pivotable between an open position wherein at least a portion of the interior of said compartment is exposed and a closed position wherein said cover overlies the upper edges of said bottom wall, said front portion thereof a hood is defined by said first end panel, said side panels and said cover.

3. The portable foldable bassinet set forth in claim 2, and further comprising a pair of flaps extending from respective opposing edges of said cover and disposed adjacent to respective ones of said side panels in the closed position of said cover, a first pair of interengagable locking elements respectively on one of said side panels and one of said flaps, and a second pair of interengagable locking elements respectively on the other of said side panels and other of said flaps.

4. The portable foldable bassinet set forth in claim 1, and further comprising a pair of separable fastening means respectively on the edge of each of said side panels opposing said first end panel and respectively on the portion of the longer edges of said bottom wall between said pair of bottom fold lines.

5. The portable foldable bassinet set forth in claim 4, and wherein each of said separable fastening means is a zipper.

6. The portable foldable bassinet set forth in claim 1, and further comprising a first strap attached to the outer surfaces of said side panels for carrying the bassinet in a folded condition thereof, and a pair of straps attached to respective ones of the outer surfaces of said sidewalls for carrying the bassinet in an unfolded condition thereof.

7. The portable foldable bassinet set forth in claim 1, wherein the distance between said bottom fold lines in said bottom wall is approximately equal to the height of said standing side panels.

8. The portable foldable bassinet set forth in claim 1, and further comprising a mattress resting on said bottom wall, substantially coextensive therewith, said mattress being formed of relatively pliable material to permit folding thereof along with said bottom wall.

9. The portable foldable bassinet set forth in claim 8, wherein the volume of said compartment taken up by said third bottom wall portion, said sidewalls and said second end panel in the folded position thereof is less than the total volume of said compartment, whereby the remainder of said compartment may be used to carry equipment.

10. The portable foldable bassinet set forth in claim 1, and further comprising a pair of spaced apart elongated side reinforcement members disposed in said bottom wall and extending substantially parallel to and substantially coextensive with the shorter edges thereof, a pair of spaced apart elongated side reinforcement members disposed in each of said sidewalls and extending substantially parallel to and substantially coextensive with the shorter edges thereof and aligned with said bottom reinforcement members, and four hinges individually joined to the ends of said bottom reinforcement members and to adjacent ones of the ends of said side reinforcement members.

11. The portable foldable bassinet set forth in claim 10, wherein each of said hinges includes limiting means for precluding said sidewalls from forming an angle greater than approximately 90 degrees with said bottom wall, and spring biasing means for snapping said sidewalls to positions approximately normal to or parallel to said bottom wall.

12. A portable foldable bassinet comprising a generally rectangular bottom wall having a pair of substantially parallel shorter edges and a pair of substantially parallel longer edges to said first end panel and wherein said second end panel and said sidewalls and said third bottom wall portion are disposed within said compartment.
tially parallel to said first end panel and wherein said second end panel and said sidewalls and said third bottom wall portion are substantially parallel to said first end panel and extending substantially parallel to the shorter edges thereof to define a first bottom wall portion located between said first end panel and the one of said bottom fold lines nearest thereto, a second bottom wall portion located between said pair of bottom fold lines, and a third bottom wall portion located between the other of the shorter edges of said bottom wall and said one of said bottom fold lines nearest thereto, a pair of upstanding side panels joined to the portion of respective ones of the longer edges of said bottom wall adjacent first end panel and each having a lower edge foldably joined to respective ones of said side panels to define a hollow compartment therewith and with said first bottom wall portion a pair of said side walls each having a shorter edge opposite said first end panel and each having a longer edge foldably joined to respective ones of the longer edges of said bottom wall, a second end panel having a lower edge foldably joined to said other shorter edge of said bottom wall, said second end panel having a pair of said side edges operably joined to respective ones of the longer edges of said bottom wall, a pair of parallel side fold lines formed in each of said side walls and extending substantially parallel to the shorter edges thereof and aligned with respective ones of said bottom fold lines in said bottom wall, and a pair of hinges pivotally joining respective ones of the longer edges of said side walls, each of said hinges including means for precluding said side walls from forming an angle greater than approximately 90 degrees with said bottom wall, each of said hinges including spring biasing means for snapping said side walls to positions approximately normal to or parallel to said bottom wall, said side walls being foldable inwardly on said hinges to overlie said bottom wall, said second end panel being foldable inwardly along the lower edge thereof to overlie said bottom wall, said bottom wall and said side walls being respectively foldable along said bottom fold lines and along said parallel side fold lines to a position wherein said second bottom wall portion extends substantially parallel to said first end panel and wherein said second end panel and said sidewalls and said third bottom wall portion are disposed within said compartment.

15. A portable foldable bassinet comprising a generally rectangular bottom wall having a pair of substantially parallel shorter edges and a pair of substantially parallel longer edges, a pair of spaced-apart bottom fold lines formed in said bottom wall and extending substantially parallel to the shorter edges thereof to define a first bottom wall portion located between said first end panel and the one of said bottom fold lines nearest thereto, a second bottom wall portion located between said pair of bottom fold lines, and a third bottom wall portion located between the other of the shorter edges of said bottom wall and the one of said bottom fold lines nearest thereto, a pair of upstanding side panels joined to the portion of respective ones of the longer edges of said bottom wall adjacent said first bottom wall portions, a first end panel having a lower edge joined to said one shorter edge of said bottom wall, said first end panel having a pair of side edges joined to respective ones of said side panels to define a hollow compartment therewith and with said first bottom wall portion, a pair of rigid sidewalls each having a shorter edge opposite said first end panel and each having a longer edge foldably joined to respective ones of the longer edges of said bottom wall, a generally rectangular cover foldably joined to the upper edge of said first end panel and pivotable between an open position wherein at least a portion of the interior of said compartment is exposed and a closed position wherein said cover overlies the upper edges of said upstanding side panels, whereby in the closed position thereof a hood is defined by said first end panel and said side panels and said cover, a second end panel having a lower edge foldably joined to said other shorter edge of said bottom wall, said second end panel having a pair of said side edges foldably joined to respective ones of the shorter edges of said rigid side walls and extending substantially parallel to the shorter edges thereof and aligned with respective ones of said bottom fold lines in said bottom wall, a diagonal side fold line formed in the end portion of each of said rigid side walls adjacent said second end panel and extending diagonally upwardly and toward said first end panel, said rigid side walls being foldable inwardly along the longer edge thereof and along said diagonal side fold lines to overlie said bottom wall, said second end panel being foldable inwardly along the lower edge thereof to overlie said bottom wall, said bottom wall and said side walls being respectively foldable along said bottom fold lines and along said parallel side fold lines to a position wherein said second bottom wall portion extends substantially parallel to said first end panel and wherein said second end panel and said rigid side walls and said third bottom wall portion are disposed within said compartment.

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