Sept. 26, 1961 C. K. TURNER 3,001,650

PORTABLE SHOWCASES

Filed June 27, 1958 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

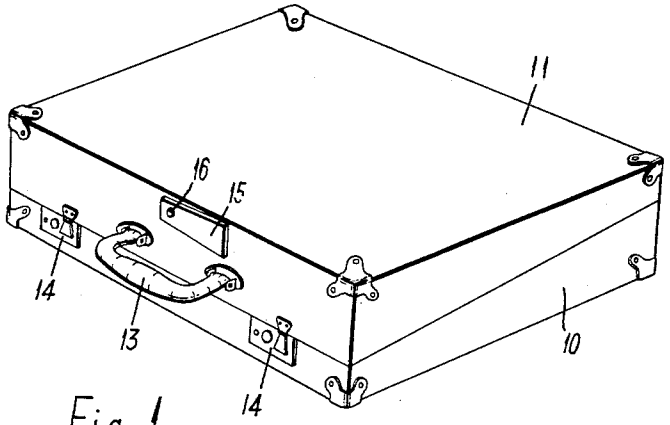


Fig. 1.

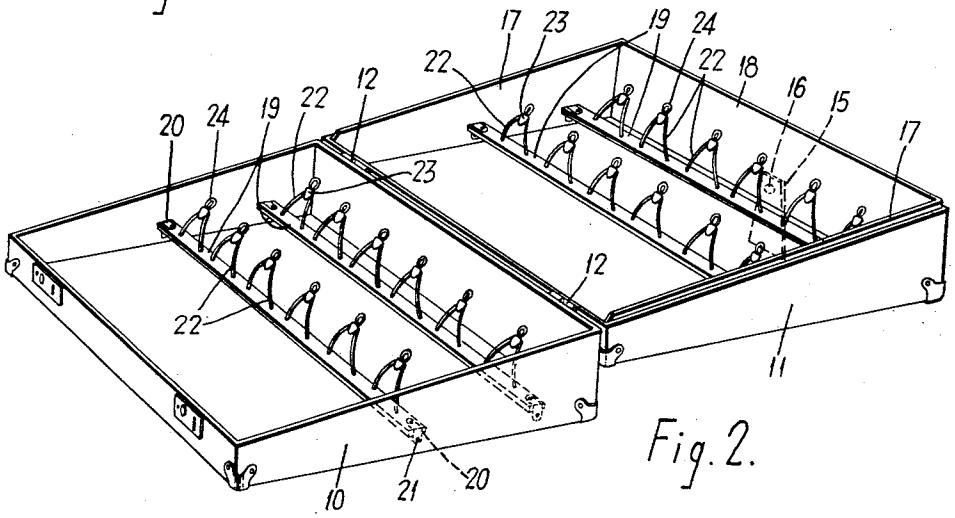
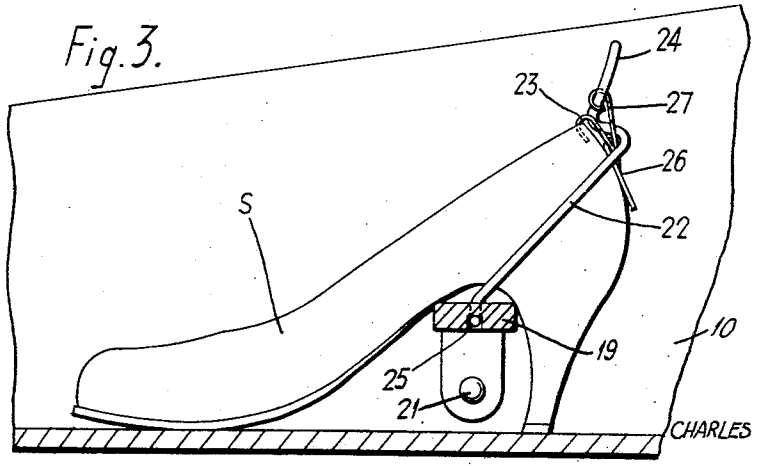


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.



Inventor
CHARLES KEYMER TURNER

By Toulmin & Toulmin
Attorneys

Sept. 26, 1961 C. K. TURNER 3,001,650

PORTABLE SHOWCASES

Filed June 27, 1958 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

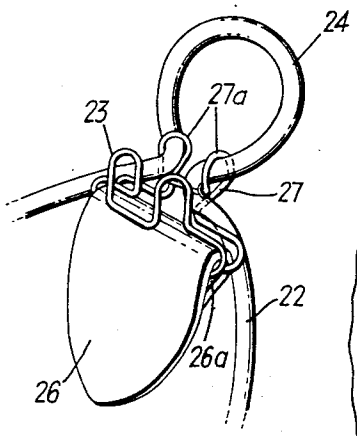


Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.

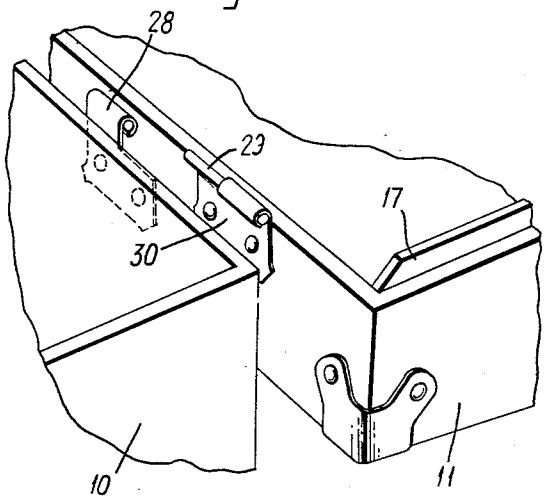
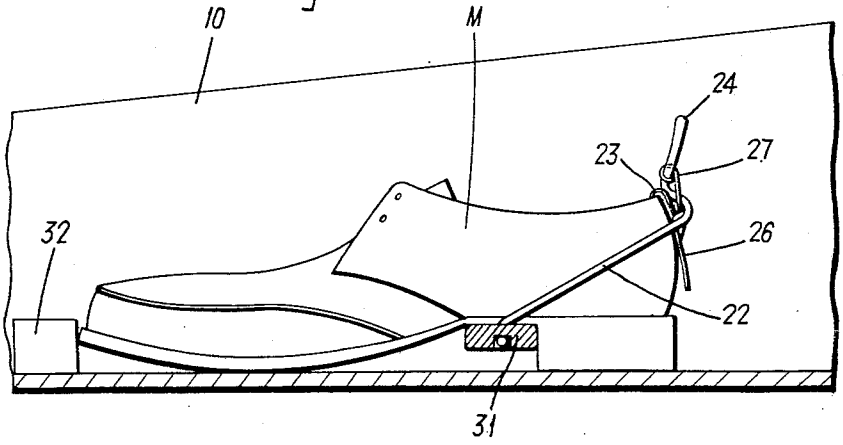


Fig. 6.



Inventor

CHARLES KEYMER TURNER

By Toulmin & Toulmin

Attorneys

United States Patent Office 3,001,650
Patented Sept. 26, 1961

3,001,650

PORTABLE SHOWCASES

Charles Keymer Turner, Thurmaston, England, assignor to A. Potterton Limited, Leicester, England

Filed June 27, 1958, Ser. No. 745,195
1 Claim. (Cl. 211—34)

This invention is for improvements in or relating to portable showcases and is particularly concerned with display containers of suitcase form adapted to contain travellers' samples and often referred to as sample cases. Such cases frequently have the body and lid both of sufficient depth to receive samples mounted in position therein and permitting the case to be closed and then carried about in the manner of a suitcase and at suitable times to be opened to expose samples both in the body and lid for display. The invention has for an object to provide in a sample case for shoes a simple convenient and effective locating means whereby samples may be detachably retained securely in place.

In accordance with the invention there is provided, in or for a portable showcase for footwear, sample retaining means comprising a cross bar adapted to engage the heelward under part of a sample and a resilient strap or band for detachably holding a sample in place and adapted to embrace the heelward end of the sample and urge the latter downwardly and forwardly into firm engagement with the cross bar. When used with a footwear sample having a depending heel, the strap or band is desirably arranged to urge the forward face of the heel against the cross bar so that the sample is gripped between the strap or band and the cross bar and steadied by its engagement with the latter.

Conveniently the resilient strap or band has its ends secured to the cross bar so that its intermediate portion is arranged to extend around the rear part of the sample and engage the latter towards its upper part while being in tension so that the resilience of the strap or band presses the heel part of the sample both downwardly and forwardly against the cross bar. Thereby the strap or band is caused to retain the shoe firmly in proper position against the cross bar and restrain it against undesired movement while permitting the shoe to be removed readily when required.

In a preferred form of construction the resilient strap or band is arranged to be retained in place against a shoe by engagement with an edge portion of the upper, for example the top edge of the upper in the region of the back seam. This may be arranged by providing the strap or band with a hook or clip adapted to engage over the upper edge of the back of the shoe thus retaining the strap or band in tension with its central portion bearing forwardly and downwardly against the upper part of the back of the shoe and extending from that position around the rearward parts of the sides of the shoe to anchorages on or near the cross bar.

The invention includes a display tray for footwear samples comprising sample retaining means as aforesaid and particularly a sample case formed by two such trays hinged together.

By way of example a preferred form of construction incorporating the invention is shown in the accompanying drawings in which

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of a sample case in a closed position.

FIGURE 2 is a similar perspective view of the case when opened to display samples therein.

FIGURE 3 is an enlarged elevation partly in cross-section of a portion of the case illustrating the mounting of a shoe.

FIGURE 4 is a greatly enlarged perspective view of a shoe retaining device.

FIGURE 5 is a broken perspective view on a larger scale than that of FIGURE 2 showing a hinge mounting of the case, and

FIGURE 6 is a view corresponding to FIGURE 3 but illustrating a modification.

Referring first to FIGURES 1 and 2, there is shown a sample case of similar form to a suitcase and comprising a base **10** and lid **11**, both of traylike form and connected by hinges **12**. The case has a handle **13** and retaining catches **14** similar to those of a suit-case for holding the case and lid together when in the closed position. When closed the case can be carried by the handle **13** in a convenient manner as a suit-case. The edges of the lid and base which engage in the closed position are slanted from back to front downwardly in the attitude viewed in FIGURE 1 so that the lid is shallower near the hinge than at its opposite edge. The lid is fitted with a turn button strut **15** pivoted at **16** so that it can be turned outwardly from the lid to form a leg on which the lid can rest when in the open position shown in FIGURE 2. In this position it will be seen that the bottoms of the lid **11** and base **10** are positioned at different levels in the manner of staggered show-case shelves. The lid **11** is fitted with rigid linings **17** and **18** on three of its walls forming locating flanges around which walls of the base **10** engage for positioning purposes when the case is closed.

In carrying out the invention spaced cross bars **19** are fitted between end walls of the base **10** and lid **11**. The bars **19** have their ends mounted on metal brackets **20** which are pivoted to the end walls at **21**, see particularly FIGURE 3, the pivots **21** being somewhat below the bars in the attitude shown in FIGURE 2. The bars **19** are fitted at intervals with resilient straps, or bands on each bar **19** in the construction illustrated. Each strap or band **22** is fitted with a metal or other clip **23**, the latter being so positioned as to leave a small finger loop **24** in the strap or band for manipulation purposes. The bars **19** together with the straps or bands **22** and clips **23** form simple releasable retaining means whereby articles of footwear may be retained firmly in the lid and base of the sample case at spaced positions and in such manner that they are prevented from bumping against one another in both the closed and open positions of the case. The cross bar **19** in each case is adapted to engage a forward part of the heel of a shoe S (FIGURE 3) placed across it whilst the appropriate strap or band **22** embraces the heelward end of the shoe or the like when the clip **23** is engaged over the top edge of the shoe upper at the heelward end in the manner shown in FIGURES 3. Thus the resilience of the strap or band **22** presses the heel part of the sample both downwardly and forwardly against the cross bar **19** and may cause the heel and sole of the shoe S to bear against the bottom of the base or lid. Thereby the sample is retained firmly in place against height-wise and lateral movement while being readily removable from the case by the simple act of releasing the strap or band by means of the finger loop **24** which requires only to be grasped and pulled to release the sample.

In the preferred construction the straps or bands **22** are formed of elastic cord with a braid covering such as to avoid damaging a sample and the ends of each loop **22** are passed through apertures in the appropriate cross bar **19** and anchored in a groove **25** in the under face of the cross bar either by being knotted or by being anchored to the bar. Alternatively all the loops **22** of the same cross bar **19** may be formed from a continuous length of elasticated cord or strip which is passed to and fro through the spaced apertures in the cross bar and anchored in the groove **25** at the end of the bar and at the intervening places where it runs along groove **25**.

Specifically the clip **23** may be made from bent wire

with bent over ends in a tubular pocket **26***a* presented by a doubled over tab **26** of smooth leather or other suitable non scratch material adapted to bear against the back face of the upper of the sample. The attachment of the clip to the strap or band **22** may be secured by a further bent wire clip **27** engaging in the pocket **26***a* of the tab **26** and having looped portions **27a** in which the strap or band **22** is gripped to form the finger loop **24**. By this construction a simple and convenient form of retaining means is provided to engage with the heelward part of the upper of the sample and such retaining means can readily be attached to and released from the sample without damage thereto.

The pivoted mounting of the cross bars **19** as illustrated in FIGURE 3 enables them to be adjusted to suit samples having different heel heights. Thus for a lower heel than that shown in FIGURE 3 the bar **19** is canted backwardly or frontwardly about its pivot **21** to bring it nearer to the bottom of the base **10** or lid **11** so that the sample can be retained with its heel pressed yieldably against the cross bar **19** and with the bottom of its heel and sole resting against the bottom of the lid or base.

FIGURE 5 illustrates in greater detail the hinged mounting of the lid and base, there being fixed to the base a hinge member **28** presenting a hollow tube in which a hinge pin **29** can slide, the latter being fixed in a tubular portion of a further hinge member **30** mounted on the lid **11**. The two hinges are arranged similarly, so that the lid **11** can be detached completely from the base **10** when the case is open by end-wise movement of the lid to disengage the hinge members **28** at each hinge. The lid **11** and base **10** can then be used as separate sample trays for display purposes. When the hinges have been re-engaged and the case closed, the projecting parts of the linings **17** and **18** are engaging within the walls of the base **10** preventing relative movement between base and lid in the direction to disengage the hinges.

FIGURE 6 illustrates a modified arrangement suitable particularly for samples of men's footwear, having relatively low heels. In this case cross bars **31** fixed to the end walls of the base **10** and lid **11** are substituted in place of the cross bars **19** and are mounted close to the bottoms of the base and lid as seen in the open position. A low heeled sample M can thus be detachably clamped in place resting across a cross bar **31** and with the front face of its heel urged against the latter, the sample being retained in position by resilient straps or bands **22** having clips **23** as in the earlier construction. The arrangement as illustrated in FIGURE 6 can also be used for samples such as slippers having no downwardly projecting heel. To accommodate such samples, rods or bars such as that indicated by broken lines at **32** in FIGURE 6, may be fitted to form abutments against which the toe-ward ends

of the samples may bear when urged forwardly by the resilient straps or bands **22**.

Desirably, the interior surfaces of the base **10** and lid **11** and the bars **10** and other parts liable to engage the surface of samples mounted in the case, are covered with fabric or other material such as will not be liable to cause any damage to the samples by abrasion or otherwise.

It will be appreciated that the sample case provided with the improved retaining means permits footwear samples to be detachably mounted in position for display without risk of accidental displacement such as might cause them to be bruised or otherwise damaged. With each sample held in this manner the case may be closed and carried from place to place without risk of displacement of the samples in whatever attitude the case may be moved to, and damage to the samples through accidental contact with one another is avoided.

If desired, the sample case may be so constructed that the division between its lid **11** and base **10** along the slant side edges extends from about the position shown in the drawings at the edges remote from the hinges to a position approximately mid-way of the combined depth of the lid and base at the hinged edges. With this modification, the case when open will have the bottoms of the lid and the base at the same level, the turnbutton strut **15** being then unnecessary and being consequently omitted.

What I claim is:

In a portable showcase for footwear, means for retaining footwear samples comprising tray means, a crossbar mounted in said tray means at a distance from the bottom of said tray means, elastic strap means having each end thereof secured to said crossbar for detachably holding a sample in place by its intermediate portion extending around the rear part of the sample to embrace the heelward end of the sample so that the latter is urged downwardly and forwardly into firm engagement with said crossbar, said crossbar engaging the heelward underpart of the sample and being pivotably mounted in said tray means, thereby being adaptable to the shape of the footwear sample attached thereto.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

789,782	Yates	May 16, 1905
790,669	Winship	May 23, 1905
1,106,465	Loomis	Aug. 11, 1914
2,587,971	Crawford	Mar. 4, 1952
2,611,463	Trimble et al.	Sept. 23, 1952
2,698,689	Novak	Jan. 4, 1955

FOREIGN PATENTS

912,292	Germany	May 28, 1954