

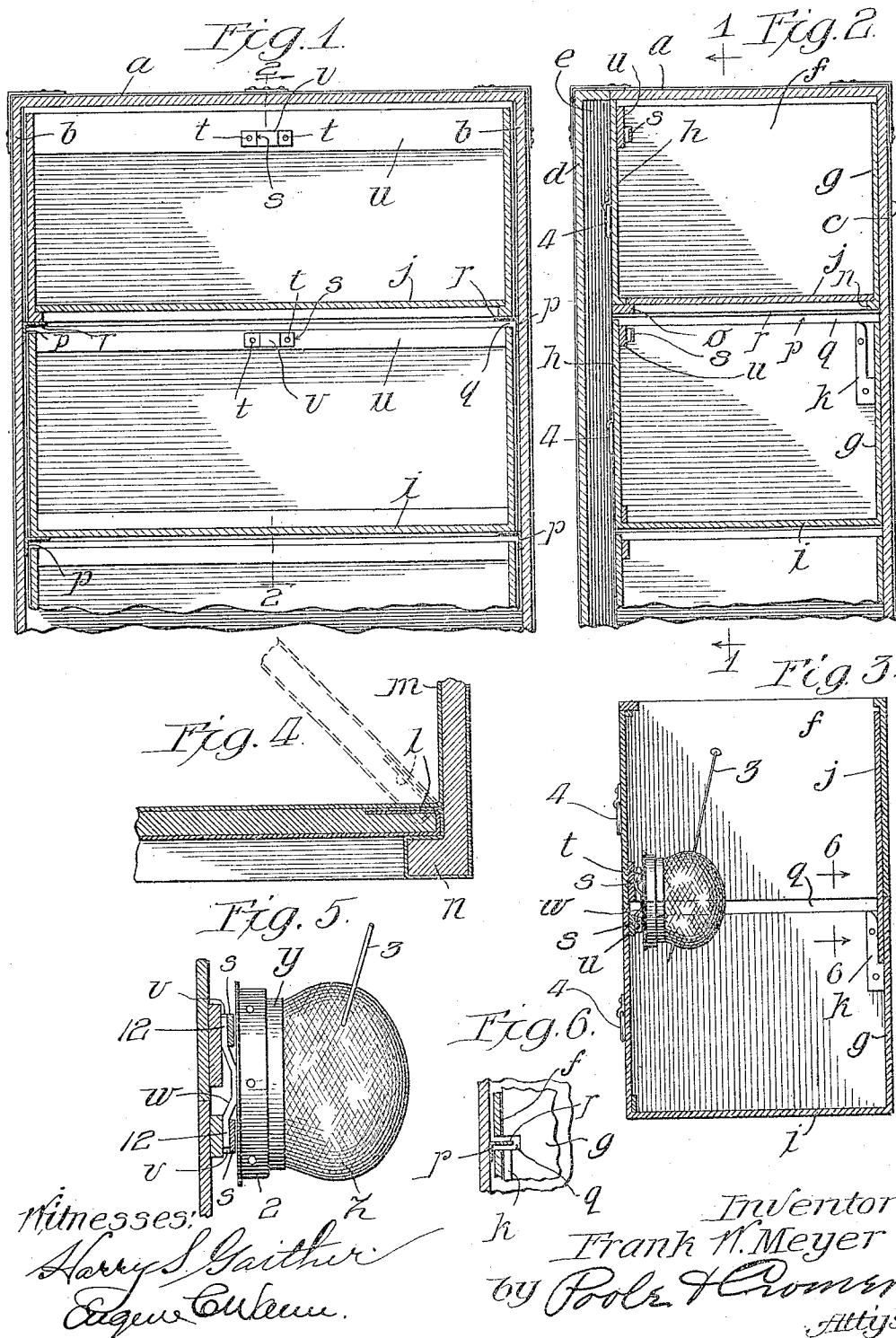
F. W. MEYER.

TRUNK.

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1,121,933.

Patented Dec. 22, 1914.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## TRUNK.

1,121,933.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK W. MEYER, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Oshkosh, in the county of Winnebago and State of Wisconsin, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Trunks; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to trunks or cases having an outer casing provided with drawers or slidable receptacles adapted to form compartments, and to be converted into receptacles or compartments of various sizes.

The principal object of the invention is to provide a trunk or case having an outer casing with drawers or slidable compartment-forming sections or receptacles within the outer casing, and adapted to be converted into independently movable receptacles or compartments of different or of varying dimensions, in such a manner that a compartment may comprise or be formed by any two of such receptacles as desired.

A further object of the invention is to provide a trunk or case having a series of drawers, compartment-forming sections, or slidable receptacles adapted to form compartments the number and sizes of which may be varied as desired by connecting or disconnecting adjacent drawers, receptacles, or sections, and to enable the bottoms of one or more of such receptacles to be moved to a position which will leave a compartment formed of a plurality of sections unobstructed, and enable the adjustable or foldable bottom to be utilized for connecting the desired receptacles or sections, whereby the compartments thus formed of one or more sections, as desired, will each comprise a separate, independently movable receptacle or drawer the number and dimensions of which may be varied, as desired.

Other and further objects of the invention will appear from an examination of the following description and claims and from an inspection of the accompanying drawings.

The invention consists in the features, combinations, and details of construction herein described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1

is a view in vertical section of a trunk or casing constructed in accordance with my improvements, with the lower portion of the same broken away, said section being taken on line 1—1 of Fig. 2; Fig. 2, a view in vertical section, taken on line 2—2 of Fig. 1 looking in the direction of the arrow, and showing the adjustable or foldable bottom of the upper compartment-forming section, receptacle or drawer in horizontal position, and the drawers or receptacles in position to form a plurality of compartments or independently movable sections or receptacles; Fig. 3, a detail view in vertical section, showing the two upper sections, receptacles or drawers illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2, with the upper drawer or receptacle inverted and its adjustable or foldable bottom member in vertical position and connected with the lower drawer or section, and showing a hat-supporting member and bracket for connecting a plurality of the drawers or compartment-forming sections so that they will form a single compartment or slidable receptacle; Fig. 4, a detail view in vertical section, showing the manner of connecting the adjustable or foldable bottom with the main body portion of the drawer or receptacle of which it forms a part; Fig. 5, an enlarged detail view of the connecting bracket and hat support shown in Fig. 3, showing the manner of connecting the bracket with the supports of each of a plurality of compartment-forming sections; and Fig. 6, a detail view of one of the supporting and guiding strips for slidably supporting the drawers or sections, and showing the slot or space between the adjacent drawers or receptacles for admitting the guiding strip when two sections are united so as to form a single compartment, said figure being taken on line 6—6 of Fig. 3.

In constructing a trunk or case in accordance with my invention and improvements, I provide an outer casing having end walls *a*, side walls *b*, a back or bottom wall *c* and a front wall or cover *d* secured to the main body portion of the casing in any desired ordinary or well known manner, all forming an outer casing which may be of any desired proportions and formed of any desired suitable material. The interior space *e* which is inclosed by the outer casing thus formed is divided into a series of compartments by a plurality of drawers or slidable receptacles,

each of which comprises end walls *f*, a back wall *g*, a front wall *h* and a bottom wall.

The bottom *i* of the lower drawer or receptacle of any pair or series of drawers or receptacles which are intended to be convertible so as to form a single or continuous compartment, may be in fixed relation to the side and end walls of the compartment-forming section or drawer of which it forms a part. The bottom member of one or more of a plurality of compartment-forming sections which are to be so used in connection with each other as to form a single compartment, when desired, or a plurality of compartments, when desired, is so constructed and arranged as to be movable into and out of position to divide the space inclosed by a plurality of adjacent sections into a plurality of compartments, when desired, and is adapted to be moved from such position to a position which will enable such adjacent sections to form a single undivided compartment or movable receptacle. In order to enable this to be accomplished in a simple and efficient manner, each of the bottom or partition-forming members *j* is connected with the main body portion of the section of which it forms a part in such a manner as to enable the same to be moved into position to engage the next adjacent section so as to form a connecting wall portion for the sections which are to be connected, as illustrated in Fig. 3, in which the upper one of the plurality of sections shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3 is shown in inverted position, with the member *j* in upright or suspended position and with its bottom portion projecting downward below the level of the top of the next adjacent section and in position to be held in rigid engagement with the latter by means of securing cleats *k*, and in the groove or socket formed between said cleats and the back wall *g* of said section. These movable bottom members or partition-forming members *j* are, by preference, hinged to the main body portion of the section of which they form a part by means of flexible hinges *l* which may form a part of or be attached to a flexible lining *m* with which the interior of the compartment-forming section is, by preference, lined. Each of the sections having a hinged bottom or partition-forming member *j* is provided with horizontal flanges or bottom-supporting shoulder portions *n* and *o* in supporting engagement with the opposite marginal edges of the bottom member *j* to be supported thereby, and a series of drawer-supporting cleats or strips *p*, which are preferably angular or L-shaped in cross-section, are mounted in parallel relation upon the inner sides of the opposite outer casing walls *b* in position to engage and slidably support the opposite bottom marginal portions of the drawers or sliding compartment-form-

ing sections or receptacles, when the latter are in normal or upright position.

The sections or drawers are so constructed as to provide a space *q* therebetween (see Fig. 3) when the upper one of any two sections is inverted and in position to form, in connection with the next lower section of such two sections, a single compartment. These spaces *q* are adapted to admit the horizontal flange portions *r* of the adjacent supporting and guiding strips or cleats *p* when a section immediately above a pair of such strips or cleats is in inverted position, thus permitting the receptacle formed by the two superposed sections to be readily moved upon or in sliding engagement with a single pair of supporting cleats or strips *p*. Each of the compartment-forming sections is provided with a socket member, loop or strap *s*, which is formed preferably of metal, and secured in position upon the front wall *h* by means of rivets *t*, or in any desired suitable manner. These socket members or metallic straps may be supported upon the wall members *h* by means of wooden blocks *u* and are so arranged with respect to each other that when either of two adjacent superposed sections is inverted the socket members of such sections will be in superposed relation and in such position that their socket or grooved portions *v* will register with each other.

A connecting bracket *w*, formed preferably of metal and having upwardly and downwardly projecting end portions *12*, is mounted with said end portions *12* in position to extend into the grooves *v* of the socket members *s* of the superposed compartment-forming sections to be connected thereby, and is provided with a hat-supporting block or member *y* mounted upon and adapted to be supported by such bracket. The hat-supporting member or block may comprise in its construction a form *z*, the outer portion of which is made preferably of resilient or cushioning material enveloped by one or more layers of suitable fabric, and a rigid base *2* is connected with the form or cushion portion of the hat support and with the bracket or metallic member *w* and is adapted to be firmly secured and held in position to support a hat or other article too large to be contained in one of the compartment-forming sections or receptacles, or which for any reason it may be desired to support in position to extend into or to be inclosed by a plurality of sections so constructed as to form a single movable receptacle or compartment. By making a portion of the form or hat-supporting member of cushioning material, a hat may be secured thereto by means of a hat pin *3* inserted through the hat or article to be supported and into the cushioning material, and the hat or other article may thus be sup-

ported in such a manner that its weight will not rest upon the bottom of the receptacle in which it is contained so as to be injured or distorted thereby.

5 Handles 4 are provided for each of the drawers or compartment-forming sections adapted to enable the same to be readily moved into and out of position to be inclosed within the outer casing.

10 By the above arrangement it will be seen that each of the compartment-forming sections or drawers is adapted to be used and operated independently and in such a manner that each forms a separate compartment and separate movable section, when desired, and that the number of compartments may be diminished by inverting one each of any two of said sections and connecting them in the manner above described so as to form a 15 compartment of greater dimensions than that formed by any single section or drawer, and that when a plurality of the sections are so connected as to form a single compartment the single compartment or receptacle 20 thus formed is movable independently of the other sections or compartments and is adapted to afford security and protection for any article or articles placed therein, and to enable articles which are too large to be contained within a single section to be placed in a compartment thus formed by a plurality 25 of sections.

30 I claim:

1. A convertible trunk, comprising a 35 trunk section having a compartment, drawers positioned within said compartment, one of said drawers being invertible to form a single space when combined with the other drawer, and means connecting the drawers 40 together when one of said drawers is in inverted position.

2. In a trunk, the combination of an outer casing, a plurality of compartment-forming sections movably mounted in the outer casing, each comprising a main body having side and end walls, and a bottom member for each compartment-forming section; the bottom member of at least one of said sections being adapted to divide the space inclosed by 45 said plurality of sections into a plurality of compartments in one position of such bottom member, and being movable into position to extend into the next adjacent section, to enable said plurality of sections to 50 form an undivided movable compartment, and means adapted to engage and hold said bottom member in position extending into said next adjacent section.

55 3. In a receptacle of the class described, 60 the combination of a plurality of compartment-forming sections, each comprising a main body having side and end walls, a bottom member for each section, the bottom member of at least one of said sections being normally located in position to divide

the space inclosed by said plurality of sections into a plurality of compartments and being movable into position to extend into the next adjacent section, means for securing the bottom member to the section of 70 which it forms a part, and means for removably securing said bottom member to said next adjacent section.

4. In a trunk, the combination of an outer casing forming a receptacle, a plurality of 75 compartment-forming sections located inside of the outer casing, each comprising a main body having side and end walls, a bottom member for each compartment-forming section, the bottom member of at least one 80 of said sections being adapted to divide the space inclosed by said plurality of sections into a plurality of compartments in one position of said bottom member and to extend into the next adjacent section in a 85 second position, means for securing the bottom member in engagement with the section of which it forms a part, means for removably securing said bottom member in engagement with said next adjacent section, 90 and means for slidably supporting the compartment-forming sections in the outer casing.

5. In a receptacle of the class described, 95 the combination of a plurality of compartment-forming sections, each comprising a main body having side and end walls, a bottom member for each section, the bottom member of at least one of said sections being normally horizontally disposed and located 100 in position to divide the space inclosed by said plurality of sections into a plurality of compartments and being movable into position to extend vertically into the next adjacent section, means for supporting the 105 bottom member in normal horizontal position, and means for securing said bottom member in vertical position in engagement with said next adjacent section.

6. In a trunk, the combination of an outer 110 casing forming a receptacle, a plurality of compartment-forming sections slidably mounted in the outer casing, each comprising a main body having side and end walls, one of said sections being movable to inverted position, a bottom member for each compartment-forming section, the bottom member of at least one of said sections being adapted to divide the space inclosed by 115 said plurality of sections into a plurality of compartments in one position of said bottom member and to extend into the next adjacent section when the section of which it forms a part is in inverted position, means for connecting the bottom member with the 120 main body of the section of which it forms a part, and means for securing said bottom member in engagement with the next adjacent member.

7. In a device of the class described, the 130

combination of a plurality of compartment-forming sections, each comprising a main body having side and end walls, and a bottom member for each section, the bottom member of at least one of said sections being in hinged engagement with the main body of the section of which it forms a part and adapted to extend below the level of the top of the next adjacent lower section when the section of which the bottom member forms a part is in inverted position above such lower section.

8. In a device of the class described, the combination of a plurality of compartment-forming sections, each comprising a main body having side and end walls and a bottom member, the bottom member of one of said sections being movable into position to extend below the level of the top of the next adjacent lower section when the section of which said bottom member forms a part is in inverted position above such lower section, and means for connecting said bottom member with both of said sections in position to form an upright inner side wall portion of a receptacle comprising said plurality of connected sections.

9. In a device of the class described, the combination of a plurality of compartment-forming sections, each comprising a main body having side and end walls, one of said sections being movable to inverted position, and having an adjustable bottom member adapted to extend into and in engagement with one side wall of the next adjacent lower section when the section of which the bottom member forms a part is in inverted position above such lower section, means for removably holding said adjustable bottom-forming member in engagement with the lowermost section into which it extends, and in position to connect said sections on one side thereof, and means for connecting the opposite sides of the connected sections.

45 10. In a device of the class described, the combination of a plurality of compartment-forming sections, each comprising a main body having side and end walls and a bottom member, the bottom member of at least one of said sections being movable into position to extend below the level of the top of the next adjacent lower section when the section of which said bottom member forms a part is in inverted position above such lower section, means for removably securing said bottom-forming member in engagement with the lowermost section into which it extends, socket members mounted upon the upright wall portions of the superposed sections and in superposed relation to each other, and a connecting member having upwardly and downwardly extending end portions extending into said socket members and forming a connection between said superposed sections.

11. In a device of the class described, the combination of a plurality of compartment-forming sections, each comprising a main body having side and end walls and a bottom member, the bottom member of at least one of said sections being movable into position to extend below the level of the top of the next adjacent lower section when the section of which said bottom member forms a part is in inverted position above such lower section, means for removably securing said bottom-forming member in engagement with the lowermost section into which it extends, socket members mounted upon the upright wall portions of the superposed sections and in superposed relation to each other, and a connecting bracket having upwardly and downwardly extending end portions extending into said socket members and forming a connection between said superposed sections, said bracket comprising a bracket arm extending at an angle with respect to said socket-engaging portions, and adapted to form a support for an article to be contained in the receptacle formed by said connected sections.

12. In a receptacle of the class described, the combination of an outer casing, a plurality of superposed compartment-forming sections located inside of the outer casing, each comprising a main body having side and end walls, a bottom member for each section, the bottom member of at least one of said sections being adapted to divide the space enclosed by said plurality of sections into a plurality of compartments in one position of said bottom member, and to extend into the next adjacent section in a second position, lower supporting members upon the inner walls of the outer casing and in supporting engagement with the lower one of said plurality of sections, and upper supporting members located adjacent to the opposite ends of the upper one of said plurality of sections and adapted to admit said movable bottom member therebetween, the walls of said sections being so constructed and arranged as to provide a space therebetween adapted to admit said upper supporting members between the walls of said sections.

13. In a receptacle of the class described, the combination of an outer casing, a plurality of superposed compartment-forming sections located inside of the outer casing, each comprising a main body having side and end walls, one of said sections being adapted to be moved to inverted position, a bottom member for each of said sections, the bottom member of one of said sections being movable from horizontal position to vertical position and adapted to extend into the next adjacent section when in vertical position, upper supporting members located upon the inner walls of the outer casing in position to slidably support the upper one of said sections.

in upright position and adapted to admit said movable bottom member between said supports when the bottom member is in vertical position, and lower supporting members upon the inner walls of the outer casing in supporting engagement with the lower one of said plurality of sections.

14. In a receptacle of the class described, the combination of an outer casing, a plurality of superposed compartment-forming sections located inside of the outer casing, each comprising a main body having side and end walls, one of said sections being adapted to be moved to inverted position, a bottom member for each of said sections, the bottom member of one of said sections being movable from horizontal position to vertical position and adapted to extend into the next adjacent section when in vertical position, upper supporting members located upon the inner walls of the outer casing in position to slidably support the upper one of said sec-

tions in upright position and adapted to admit said movable bottom member between said supports when the bottom member is in vertical position, and lower supporting members upon the inner walls of the outer casing in supporting engagement with the lower one of said plurality of sections, the walls of said sections being so constructed as to provide a space therebetween adapted to admit said upper supporting members between and out of engagement with said sections when the upper section is in inverted position.

In testimony, that I claim the foregoing as my invention I affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses, this 12th day of December A. D. 1912.

FRANK W. MEYER.

Witnesses:

A. H. WENDLAND,  
W. E. KRIPPEREL.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."