March 24, 1959 J. S. KIVETT 2,878,907

FOLDABLE LUGGAGE

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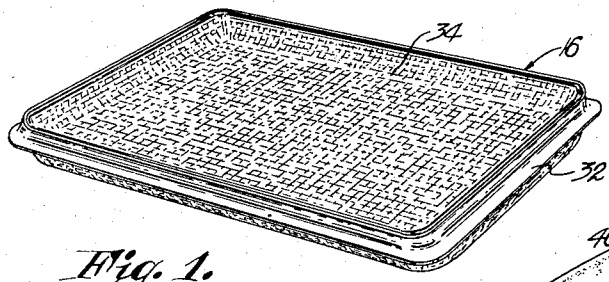


Fig. 1.

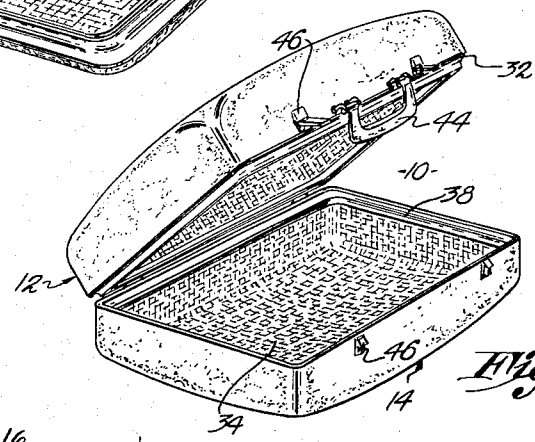


Fig. 2.

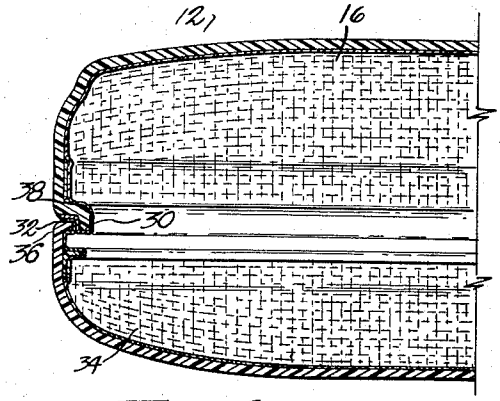


Fig. 3.

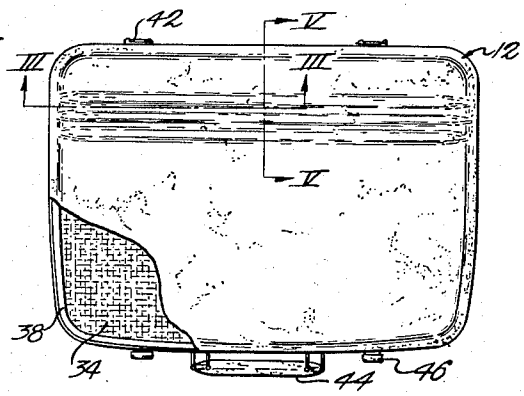


Fig. 4.

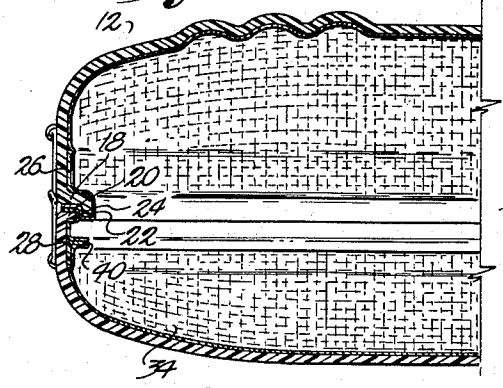


Fig. 5.

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FOLDABLE LUGGAGE

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This invention relates to improvements in lined receptacles or containers such as carrying cases, merchandise-receiving equipment, luggage, valises, equipment carrying cases and the like, and has for its primary object the adaptation of modern-day materials in a manner to present a strong, durable, lightweight and attractive overall construction.

The field to which the instant invention relates has for many years followed a more or less standard and uniform pattern including as a basic component thereof, structural framing or boxing made from wood, metal, paper or the like and necessitating the use of outermost coverings to hide the unsightly appearance thereof. Considerable hand labor to form attractive corners and provide various trim sections, as well as to present interengaging mating edges, increased the cost of production without presenting a particularly good piece of merchandise.

It is, therefore, the most important object of the present invention to eliminate entirely the common frame support and the disadvantages thereto, my employment of plastic material or the like capable of being bent, formed or molded into a desired shape, and at the same time form mating flanges at the abutting edges thereof to present a relatively tight seal.

Another important object of the instant invention is to provide a novel lining of one-piece construction adapted to be quickly and easily inserted within the receptacle and bonded thereto for the purpose of hiding unsightly surfaces and present an impervious, easily cleaned, attractive innermost appearance when the receptacle is used as a part of a piece of luggage.

A further object of the instant invention is to provide a novel joint between a pair of articulated, hollow receptacle that serves also as a stiffener, thereby permitting use of the aforementioned materials in a molded construction.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a lining for receptacle or luggage construction made pursuant to the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a piece of luggage made in accordance with the principles of the instant invention.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged, fragmentary, cross-sectional view taken on line III—III of Fig. 4.

Fig. 4 is a plan view of the luggage shown in Fig. 2, parts being broken away for clearness; and

Fig. 5 is an enlarged, fragmentary, cross-sectional view taken on line V—V of Fig. 4.

As is clear in the drawing, the principles of the instant invention have been shown as the same apply advantageously to the construction of a piece of luggage, carrying case or the like, broadly designated by the numeral **10**. To this end, there is illustrated a pair of open-top receptacles **12** and **14**, it being understood that regardless of the use made of the receptacles **12** and **14**, many advantages emanate from the provision of the novel lining **16** therefor that is initially separate from the receptacles **12** and **14** as seen in Fig. 1.

Each of the receptacles **12** and **14** is preferably made from an initially flat, single sheet of flexible material that may be molded, formed or otherwise shaped into the desired configuration, as for example, that illustrated in the drawing. The lining **16** is likewise made from an initially flat, single sheet of material that is appreciably more flexible than the material from which the receptacles **12** and **14** are produced. There are many types of plastic substances readily available on the open market which may be employed for such purposes.

In the interest of economy of production, it is to be preferred that the two luggage sections **12** and **14** be initially identical; however, variances in ornamental configurations may be employed as desired.

While the material from which the sections **12** and **14** is made has a high degree of rigidity and is adapted to maintain the molded configuration illustrated, the open tops thereof are preferably reinforced by continuous, inturned, peripheral flanges **18** and **20** on sections **12** and **14** respectively. The section **12** is additionally provided with an outturned lip **22** integral with the flange **18**, but such lip is removed from the flange **20** after fabrication, presenting in the latter a continuous, inwardly facing edge **24** that is overlapped by the lip **22** when the sections **12** and **14** are closed in the manner shown in Figs. 3 to 5 inclusive. The flange **18** presents therefore, a continuous shoulder disposed in opposed relationship to the flange **20** when the case is closed.

The sections **12** and **14** are preferably provided with additional reinforcement adjacent the flanges **18** and **20** thereof which may take the form of continuous bands **26** and **28** respectively attached to the sections **12** and **14** in any suitable manner, and made from relatively rigid material such as metal or any other stiff substance. It is notable in the drawing also that the shape and configuration of the bands **26** and **28** may vary, the band **26** chosen for illustration being flat transversely thereof, whereas the band **28** illustrated in the drawing is of L-shaped, cross-sectional configuration.

The highly flexible, impervious lining **16** for the section **12** is shaped to conform to the configuration of the inner surface of the section **12** and preferably attached thereto through use of a suitable adhesive, bonding together the interengaging faces of the section **12** and the liner **16**. It is noted that the lining **16** covers, and, therefore, hides the band **26** and is provided with a continuous peripheral groove **30** that receives the lip **22** and extends into a continuous outturned flap **32** in covering relationship to the flange or shoulder **18**.

Lining **34** for the section **14** is of a similar nature in that it is provided with a continuous groove **36** that covers the edge **24** and is provided with a continuous outturned flap **38** that overlaps the flange **20**. Additionally, by virtue of the configuration of the reinforcing band **28**, the lining **34** has a continuous groove **40** which receives the reinforcing band **28**.

As above mentioned, it is to be preferred that the linings **16** and **34** be adhesively or otherwise bonded directly to the inner surfaces of their corresponding sections or receptacles **12** and **14**, and similarly, it is desirable that the flaps **32** and **38** be firmly attached to their corresponding flanges **18** and **20** respectively. When the case is closed, therefore, it is seen that the flaps **32** and **38** are clamped together between the flanges **18** and **20**, presenting therefore, a positive seal that will effectively protect garments or other equipment carried in the case **10** from dust, moisture and other elements.

The bands **26** and **28** serve still another important function in the article of manufacture **10** when the sections **12** and **14** thereof are articulated in that the same present means for fastening the necessary hardware, including hinges **42**, handle **44** and clasps **46**.

It is not difficult through use of many of the presently available synthetic plastics, to provide luggage and the like in accordance with the forementioned principles which simulate quite closely the more expensive equipment now on the market that is made from wood, leather and other materials as above indicated. Noteworthy is the fact that the device **10** is completely devoid of wood components and eliminates the use of imitation leathers, fabrics and similar substances, together with the disadvantages inherent therein. The imperforate linings **16** and **34** are essentially moisture-proof and can be easily and quickly cleaned in the event of spillage of any liquids therein. Similarly, dust collection can be easily and quickly wiped clean and the problems incident to soiling of fabric linings in conventional structures of this kind, are entirely eliminated.

Another important factor is that the case **10** is lightweight, yet equally as strong and durable, if not more rigid than structures of this type made from conventional materials. Reference is again made to the expense of providing desired configurations when wood and similar substances are employed as distinguished from the case **10** wherein the sections **12** and **14** thereof are easily and inexpensively provided with rounded corners and edges and other shapes and configurations as may be desired simply by providing a suitable mold or form around which the same are shaped.

Again, it is to be stressed that open-top, imperforate receptacles for many uses other than in the field of luggage, carrying cases and the like, may be produced having the peripheral edge reinforcement feature, as well as the novel lining contemplated by the instant invention whether or not the same are joined together to present a closed compartment as illustrated in Fig. 2 of the drawing.

Having thus described the invention what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

1. A case comprising a pair of hollow, one-piece, imperforate, articulated receptacles, each having a continuous, inturned flange, the flange of one of the receptacles terminating in an inwardly facing edge, the flange of the other receptacle having an integral outturned lip, the flanges being in abutting relationship and said lip overlapping said edge when the case is closed, each receptacle being provided with a reinforcing band mounted therewithin adjacent said flange thereof; a lining covering the inner surface of each receptacle respectively and the reinforcing band thereof, said linings being initially separate from the receptacles and each comprising a one-piece, imperforate, hollow body of flexible material conforming in shape to the inner surfaces of corresponding receptacles, one of the linings having a continuous, outwardly-facing groove receiving the flange of said one receptacle and the other of said linings having a continuous, outwardly-facing groove receiving the flange and the lip of said other receptacle; and means bonding together the interengaging surfaces of the linings and their receptacles.

2. A case comprising a pair of hollow, imperforate, articulated receptacles each having a continuous inturned flange, the flange of one of the receptacles terminating in an inwardly facing edge, the flange of the other receptacle having an integral outturned lip, the flanges being in abutting relationship and said lip overlapping said edge when the case is closed; and a lining joined to and covering the inner surface of each receptacle respectively, said linings each comprising an imperforate hollow body of flexible material conforming in shape to the inner surfaces of corresponding receptacles, one of the linings having a continuous, outwardly facing groove receiving the flange of said one receptacle and the other of said linings having a continuous, outwardly facing groove receiving the flange and the lip of said other receptacle.

3. A case comprising a pair of hollow, imperforate, articulated receptacles each having a continuous inturned flange, said flanges being in abutting relationship when the case is closed, each receptacle being provided with a reinforcing band mounted therewithin adjacent to and parallel with said flange thereof; and a lining joined to and covering the inner surface of each receptacle respectively, said linings each comprising an imperforate hollow body of flexible material conforming in shape to the inner surfaces of corresponding receptacles and having outwardly facing grooves receiving corresponding inturned flanges of respective receptacles.

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