

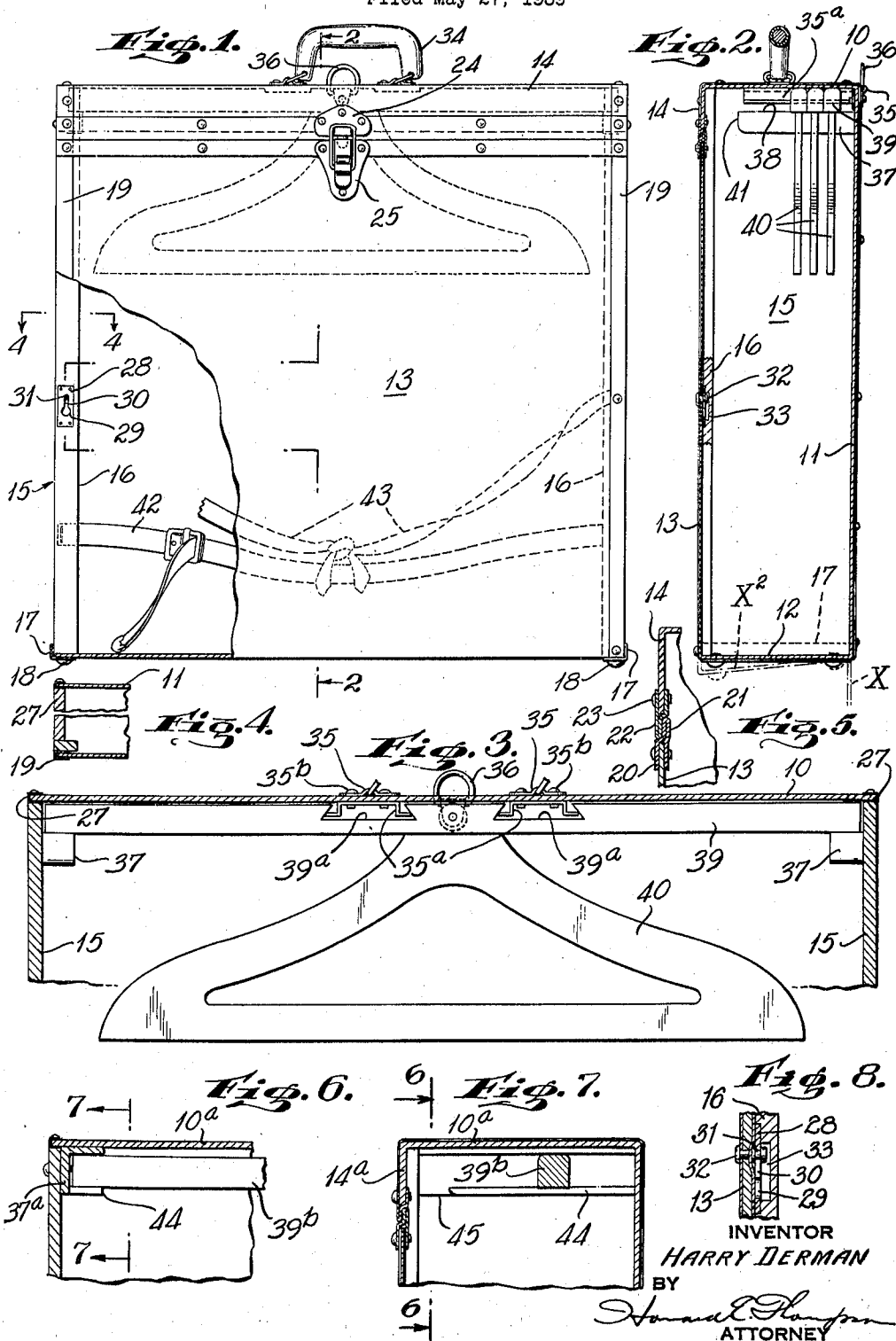
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EXTENSIBLE LUGGAGE

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EXTENSIBLE LUGGAGE

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This invention relates to luggage wherein the front and bottom walls of a rectangular case may be moved from a closed position to a fully extended position with the bottom and front walls arranged in common alinement with each other and in alinement with the back wall; and the object of the invention is to provide a case of the character described comprising relatively fixed top, back and side walls with a downwardly extending front flange portion at the forward edge of the top wall with a bottom wall hingedly joined to the lower end of the back wall and a front wall hingedly joined to the forward end of the bottom wall for the full and flat extension of the back, bottom and front wall portions of the case, whereby garments may be hung in fully extended position within said case; a further object being to provide the upper end portion of the case with means, preferably concealed within said top front flange, for detachably mounting garment hangers in connection with the case for supporting a number of garments within the case, said means also serving to reinforce and stiffen the upper corner portions of the case; a further object being to provide the forward edges of the side walls of the case with inturned flanges with means thereon and on the side edges of the front wall for coupling the front wall to the side walls intermediate upper and lower edges thereof when the case is in closed position; a further object being to provide means for reinforcing predetermined edge portions of the case and in flanging said reinforcements between the upper edge of the front wall and the lower edge of the front top flange to provide a rain-proof joint between said case parts; and with these and other objects in view, which will be more fully hereinafter set forth, the invention consists in a device of the class and for the purpose specified, which is simple in construction, efficient in use, and which is constructed as hereinafter described and claimed.

The invention is fully disclosed in the following specification, of which the accompanying drawing forms a part, in which the separate parts of my improvement are designated by suitable reference characters in each of the views, and in which:

Fig. 1 is a front view of a case made according to my invention with part of the construction broken away and in section.

Fig. 2 is a broken section substantially on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a longitudinal sectional view of the

upper end portion of the case as shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

Fig. 4 is a partial and broken section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is an enlarged detail view of a part of the construction as shown in Fig. 2.

Fig. 6 is a sectional view similar to Fig. 3 showing only a part of the construction and showing a modification, the section being substantially on the line 6—6 of Fig. 7.

Fig. 7 is a partial section on the line 7—7 of Fig. 6, and

Fig. 8 is an enlarged sectional view of a part of the construction as shown in Fig. 2.

The construction forming the subject matter of this application is related to the structure as disclosed in my prior application, Serial No. 218,312, filed July 9, 1938, having since issued as Patent #2,163,116, dated June 20, 1939, and differs generally from the structure shown in the earlier application in providing relatively fixed side and top walls which form what might be termed a garment protecting hood portion. However, the front wall and bottom wall are foldable with respect to each other and to the back wall to fully extend in alinement with the back wall when the case is in open position to facilitate the placement of garments upon the walls of the case prior to folding the walls to close the case so as to maintain the garments in a neat noncreasing or wrinkling position within the case when fully closed, and also to allow the garments to hang fully extended and freely from the top hood portion through the open bottom of the hood portion when the case is fully open.

For the purpose of illustrating one adaptation of my invention, I have shown in the accompanying drawing a case consisting of a top wall 10, back wall 11, bottom wall 12, front wall 13 and front downwardly extending flange portion 14 at the forward edge of the top wall 10. The parts 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 in the construction shown are made from a single sheet of material. In the more economical form of device, this material may consist of a sheet of fibre board, corrugated board or the like, painted or covered with a fabric to produce any desired appearance or effect upon the outer surface of the case and any effect upon the inner surface thereof. In the present instance, facings or other characterizations to indicate what is commonly referred to as aeroplane luggage, are employed. These characterizations are omitted from Fig. 1 of the drawing solely from the standpoint of simplifying the complete illustration.

The separate wall portions are scored to form the hinge connections between the parts as will be apparent.

Secured to the side edges of the top and back walls 10 and 11 and the front flange 14, are side walls 15 preferably in the form of wood strips which are also characterized or faced to correspond with the facings of the other wall portions of the resulting case. The side walls 15 have at the forward edges thereof, flanged strips 16 which are also faced and characterized, as will be apparent. From the foregoing, it will appear that the back, top and side walls including the front flange 14 will form a rigid non-extensible frame, or what might be termed a hood portion, whereas the front wall 13 and bottom wall 12 may be extended in a position in alignment with the back wall 11, as indicated partially in dotted lines at X in Fig. 2 of the drawing, in which position of the parts, the front of the case and the bottom of the case will be open.

The side walls 15 are arranged within the edges of the walls 10, 11, 12 and 13 and flange 14, and the ends of the bottom wall have angular metal reinforcing strips 17 which overlap the outer edges of the side walls 15 to reinforce the case at the lower side corner portions thereof. The strips 17 also support domed feet 18 for supporting the case upon a surface.

The side edges of the front wall 13 are provided with U-shaped reinforcing metal strips 19 which reinforce and stiffen the edges of the case. The upper edge of the front wall is provided with a U-shaped reinforcing strip 20 including an upwardly extending flange portion 21, note Fig. 5, engaging or arranged beneath a downwardly extending flange portion 22 on a similar reinforcing strip 23 secured to the lower edge of the flange 14. The overlapped flanges 21 and 22 form a rain-proof joint between the upper edge of the front wall of the cover 13 and the flange 14, and also provides means for firmly supporting the upper edge of the front wall 13 throughout the width of the case when the front wall is in closed position.

Centrally of the front wall portion of the case is provided a suitable coupling device consisting of a part 24 secured to the flange 14 and a part 25 secured to the wall 13. These parts have interlocking portions for securely coupling the same together while at the same time drawing the wall 13 in the direction of the wall 14.

In order to maintain the desired finish throughout the case, the side edges of the flange 14, the top wall 10 and back wall 11 are covered with fabric edging strips 27. However, in more expensive type of cases, other types of finishing strips may here be employed. In this connection it will be understood that while in the present illustration, I have shown my invention as adapted to the more economical form of construction, that I am not necessarily limited in this respect to the details of construction herein shown and described.

The flanges 16 are each provided substantially centrally thereof with key-hole plates 28 with large apertures 29 of the plates extending downwardly and the narrow apertures 30 extending upwardly so that when the front wall or cover 13 is in closed position, the shanks 31 of headed pins 32 will be disposed in the reduced apertures 30 with the heads of the pins disposed in recesses 33 formed in the strips or flanges 16. It will thus appear that when the front wall or cover 13 is in a partially closed position, for example as indi-

cated at X2 in dot and dash lines, Fig. 2, the heads of the pins 32 will pass through the large apertures 29, each simply pressing inwardly upon the adjacent portions of the front wall 13, and then by sliding the wall upwardly, the pins 32 will be moved into locked position which will retain the side edges of the front wall against outward flexing in the event that the case is packed to capacity. The foregoing movement of the front wall is also essential in coupling the parts 24, 25; in other words, to detach the front wall 13 or to disengage the flanges 21 and 22, it is essential to move the front wall downwardly to a slight degree, and this movement will automatically unlock the headed pins 32 from the key-hole plates 28.

Centrally of the top wall 10 of the case is attached a suitable handle 34, the supporting brackets 35 of which are riveted or otherwise secured to the top wall. At 36 is shown a case supporting loop pivoted to the upper edge of the back wall to provide means for hanging the case upon a supporting nail or hook when the same is in a fully extended position. In this way, garments may be maintained within a travelling case and the case may be used as a supporting means for the garments and readily packed whenever desired.

In the construction shown in Figs. 1 to 5 inclusive, I have shown a reinforcing and garment hanger supporting strip 37 secured to the side walls 15 adjacent the top wall 10 so as to form in conjunction with the top and side walls, channels 38 in which the top cross rods 39 of garment hangers 40 are free to slide forwardly and backwardly in the case. The rods are removable from the case through the opening as at 41 formed by terminating the strips 37 short of the front flange 14. It will appear that the strips 37 are substantially concealed within the flange 14.

It will appear from a consideration of Fig. 3 of the drawing that the rails 39 are preferably provided with dove-tailed recesses 39a to engage flanged washer plates 35a secured in position by the rivets 35b employed to retain the brackets 35 in position. The flanged plates form means to interlock the rails 39 with the top wall 10 so that the weight of the garments within the case may be directly suspended from the handle 34 thus relieving the strain on the top wall 10. With this construction the rails will be maintained in close proximity to the top wall of the case to provide a strong and sturdy construction.

It is also preferred that garment retaining straps 42 be provided between the side walls 15 of the case adjacent the bottom wall thereof, that is to say, across the inner surface of the back wall 11; whereas other straps or ribbons 43 are provided on the inner surface of the front wall 13 to securely retain garments in connection with the front and rear wall portions. These straps are placed in position when the case is in fully opened position.

In Figs. 6 and 7 of the drawing, I have shown a slight modification of the structure shown in the other figures, which consists in substituting for the single strips 37, channelled strips 37a which will provide a stronger reinforcement for the upper corner portions of the case. The lower wall or flange 44 of the channelled strip 37 will be cut away adjacent the front flange 14a similar to the flange 14 as seen at 45 in Fig. 7, so that the rails 39b of hangers may be inserted into and removed from the channels of the strips 37a. With this construction it will appear that

the top of the rails 39b will be spaced from the top wall 10a, thus the recesses as at 39a, Fig. 3, need not be employed in the rails 39b. Otherwise, the construction shown in Figs. 6 and 7 will be the same as that shown in the other figures.

Having fully described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:

1. A luggage case of the character described comprising relatively fixed top, back and side walls forming a hood structure, a narrow front wall portion at the top of the hood and fixedly secured to the top and side walls, a bottom wall hingedly joined to the lower edge of the back wall, a front wall hingedly joined to the forward edge of the bottom wall whereby both bottom and front walls are extensible in a plane continuous and in alinement with the back wall, cleats on inner surfaces of the side walls below the top wall and inwardly of said narrow front wall, the forward ends of the cleats being spaced from said front wall portion, a pair of spaced dovetailed rails centrally of the inner surface of the top wall and extending from the back wall to a position short of said narrow front wall portion, and means for securing the hinged front wall in closed position.

2. A luggage case of the character described comprising relatively fixed top, back, side, and front walls, the front wall extending downwardly from the top wall a short distance thereby forming of said relatively fixed walls a hood-like structure open at the front and bottom of the case, a bottom wall hinged to the lower edge of the back wall, a cover wall hingedly joined to the forward edge of the bottom wall whereby both the bottom and cover walls are extendable into a plane continuous and in alinement with the back wall, the side edges of the narrow front wall overlying the forward edges of the side walls and being attached thereto, the lower edge of the front wall having a reinforced flange extending the full length thereof and spaced with respect to the forward edge of the side walls, the free upper edge of the cover wall having a flange insertable beneath the front wall flange in retaining the cover wall in closed position, and means coupling the front wall and cover wall to support the same in closed position.

3. A luggage case of the character described comprising relatively fixed top, back, side, and front walls, the front wall extending downwardly from the top wall a short distance thereby forming of said relatively fixed walls a hood-like structure open at the front and bottom of the case, a bottom wall hinged to the lower edge of the back wall, a cover wall hingedly joined to the forward edge of the bottom wall whereby both the bottom and cover walls are extendable into a plane continuous and in alinement with the back wall, the side edges of the narrow front wall overlying the forward edges of the side walls and being attached thereto, the lower edge of the front wall having a reinforced flange extending the full length thereof and spaced with respect to the forward edge of the side walls, the free upper edge of the cover wall having a flange insertable beneath the front wall flange in retaining the cover wall in closed position, means coupling the front wall and cover wall to support the same in closed position, side edges of the cover wall overlying the forward edges of the side walls, and means at side edges of the cover wall cooperating with means on the

forward edges of the side walls retaining the cover wall against displacement from the side walls intermediate upper and lower ends of the cover wall.

4. A luggage case of the character described comprising relatively fixed top, back, side and front walls, the front wall extending downwardly from the top wall a short distance thereby forming of said relatively fixed walls a hood-like structure open at the front and bottom of the case, a bottom wall hinged to the lower edge of the back wall, a cover wall hingedly joined to the forward edge of the bottom wall whereby both the bottom and cover walls are extendable into a plane continuous and in alinement with the back wall, the side edges of the narrow front wall overlying the forward edges of the side walls and being attached thereto, the lower edge of the front wall having a reinforced flange extending the full length thereof and spaced with respect to the forward edge of the side walls, the free upper edge of the cover wall having a flange insertable beneath the front wall flange in retaining the cover wall in closed position, means coupling the front wall and cover wall to support the same in closed position, side edges of the cover wall overlying the forward edges of the side walls, means at side edges of the cover wall cooperating with means on the forward edges of the side walls retaining the cover wall against displacement from the side walls intermediate upper and lower ends of the cover wall, said said last named means comprising key-hole plates on the side walls engaged by headed pins on the cover wall.

5. A luggage case of the character described comprising relatively fixed top, back, side, and front walls, the front wall extending downwardly from the top wall a short distance thereby forming of said relatively fixed walls a hood-like structure open at the front and bottom of the case, a bottom wall hinged to the lower edge of the back wall, a cover wall hingedly joined to the forward edge of the bottom wall whereby both the bottom and cover walls are extendable into a plane continuous and in alinement with the back wall, the side edges of the narrow front wall overlying the forward edges of the side walls and being attached thereto, the lower edge of the front wall having a reinforced flange extending the full length thereof and spaced with respect to the forward edge of the side walls, the free upper edge of the cover wall having a flange insertable beneath the front wall flange in retaining the cover wall in closed position, means coupling the front wall and cover wall to support the same in closed position, said front, top, back, bottom and cover walls comprising a single sheet of material, and means reinforcing the coupling between the bottom and side walls when the case is in closed position.

6. A luggage case of the character described comprising relatively fixed top, back, side, and front walls, the front wall extending downwardly from the top wall a short distance thereby forming of said relatively fixed walls a hood-like structure open at the front and bottom of the case, a bottom wall hinged to the lower edge of the back wall, a cover wall hingedly joined to the forward edge of the bottom wall whereby both the bottom and cover walls are extendable into a plane continuous and in alinement with the back wall, the side edges of the narrow front wall overlying the forward edges of the side walls and being attached thereto, the lower edge

of the front wall having a reinforced flange extending the full length thereof and spaced with respect to the forward edge of the side walls, the free upper edge of the cover wall having a flange insertable beneath the front wall flange in retaining the cover wall in closed position, means coupling the front wall and cover wall to support the same in closed position, means within the upper portion of the case and substantially concealed by said front wall for detachably supporting garment hangers in connection with the case, said last named means comprising cleats on inner surfaces of the side walls adjacent the top wall and terminating short of said front wall to provide clearance for engagement of hangers with said cleats.

7. A luggage case of the character described comprising relatively fixed top, back, side, and front walls, the front wall extending downwardly from the top wall a short distance thereby forming of said relatively fixed walls a hood-like structure open at the front and bottom of the case, a bottom wall hinged to the lower edge of the back wall, a cover wall hingedly joined to the forward edge of the bottom wall whereby

both the bottom and cover walls are extendable into a plane continuous and in alignment with the back wall, the side edges of the narrow front wall overlying the forward edges of the side walls and being attached thereto, the lower edge of the front wall having a reinforced flange extending the full length thereof and spaced with respect to the forward edge of the side walls, the free upper edge of the cover wall having a flange insertable beneath the front wall flange in retaining the cover wall in closed position, means coupling the front wall and cover wall to support the same in closed position, means within the upper portion of the case and substantially concealed by said front wall for detachably supporting garment hangers in connection with the case, said last named means comprising cleats supporting hanger rods adjacent and longitudinally of the top wall, means centrally of the top wall securing a handle thereto, and said last named means including means interlocking with the hanger rods for suspending garment hangers directly from said handle.

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