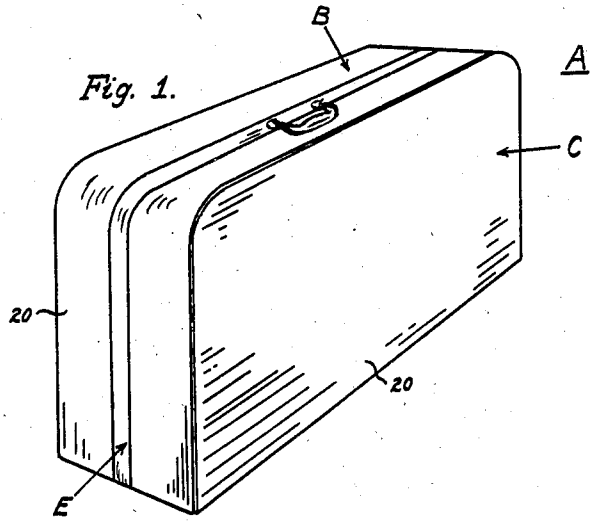
May 9, 1944. M. MEDOFF 2,348,436

SUITCASE

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Fig. 1.



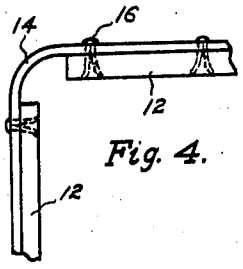


Fig. 4.

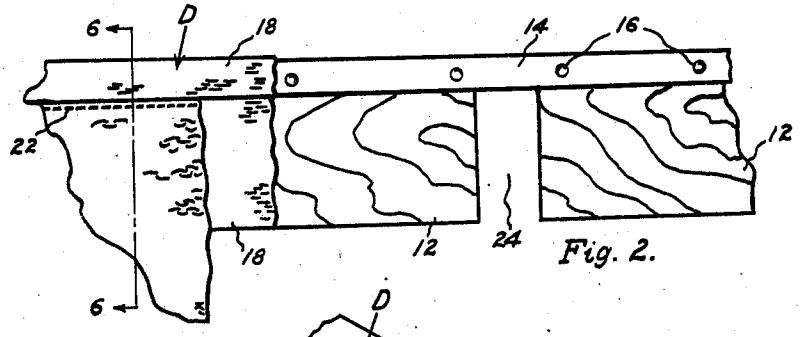
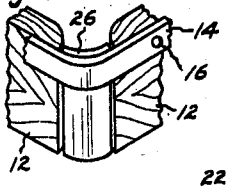


Fig. 2.

Fig. 5.



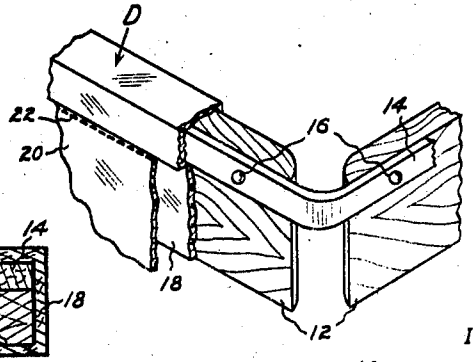


Fig. 3.

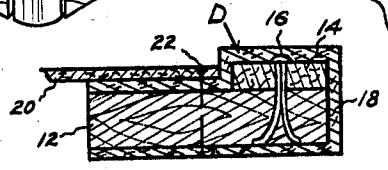


Fig. 6.

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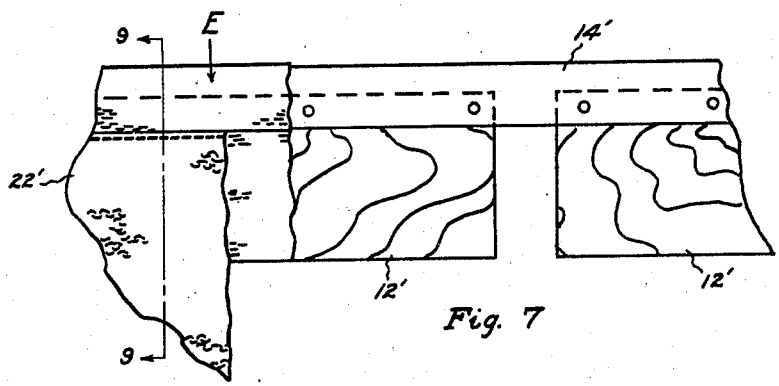


Fig. 7

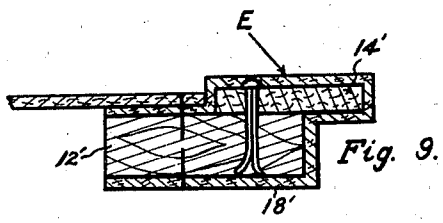


Fig. 9.

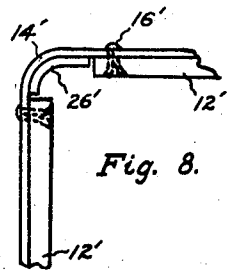


Fig. 8.

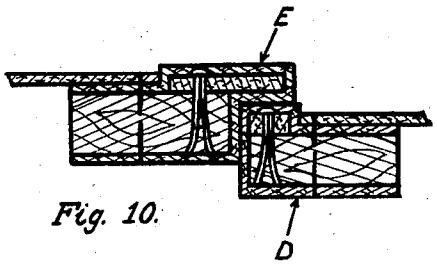


Fig. 10.

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Patented May 9, 1944 2,348,436

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,348,436

SUITCASE

Meyer Medoff, Lambertville, N. J.

Application December 29, 1942, Serial No. 470,431

1 Claim. (Cl. 190—48)

My invention relates to valises, suitcases, bags and the like, and more particularly, relates to a closure construction for the same.

In the construction of suitcases and the like, it has heretofore been customary to use a metallic stiffener in the engageable rims or edges of the pivotably separable sides. In order to conserve metals it is desirable that non-strategic materials be substituted for metallic construction wherever possible. Ordinarily, such substitutions are at the expense of effectivness, durability and expensiveness.

The primary object of my invention is to provide a suitcase of non-strategic materials in which these shortcomings are eliminated.

Another object of my invention is to produce a suitcase having non-metallic stiffeners in the engageable rims.

A further object of my invention is to provide a suitcase having composite wood and fiber stiffeners in the engageable rims.

Still another object of my invention is to produce an inexpensive suitcase of non-strategic materials having maximum effectiveness, durability and simplicity of construction.

With these and other objects in view which will become apparent as the description proceeds, my invention comprises a suitcase of fibrous material having two pivotably separable sides with edges arranged for partially overlapping engagement and said edges having primary stiffeners of wood and auxiliary stiffeners of fiber, the fiber stiffeners being positioned in lapping relation when the suitcase is closed.

The invention, both as to details of construction and combination of parts will best be understood from the following description of a specific embodiment which I illustrate as an example, when read in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the suitcase of my invention.

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary side elevation of the edge construction of the bottom side of the suitcase of Fig. 1 before forming a corner.

Fig. 3 shows a fragmentary perspective view of the parts shown in Fig. 2 after forming the corner.

Fig. 4 shows a fragmentary plan view of the stiffener assembly of Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 shows a fragmentary perspective view of the corner stiffener assembly for the bottom side of my suitcase.

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary section on the line 6—6 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary side elevation of the edge construction of the top side of the suitcase of Fig. 1 showing the relation of parts before forming a corner.

Fig. 8 shows a fragmentary plan view of the stiffener assembly of Fig. 7 after forming the corner and adding the corner stiffener.

Fig. 9 is a fragmentary section on the line 9—9 of Fig. 7.

Fig. 10 is a fragmentary sectional view showing the relation of parts in the edges of the top and bottom sides when the suitcase is closed and the edges are in engagement.

Referring now to the drawings, I have in Fig. 1 an embodiment of my invention in which a suitcase A is composed essentially of a top side B and a bottom side C pivotally attached together along a longitudinal axis mediately of the lower surface of the closed suitcase shown in the figure. The bottom side C is shown provided with a rim D which is a covered stiffener assembly comprising a wood stiffener 12 of rectangular section, to which is attached flat on the outside surface and flush with the outer edge a strip 14 of fiber or wood or the like flexible material, by means of split rivets 16. An edge covering 18 of leather or leather simulating material is folded to fit snugly over the stiffener assembly and is cemented or glued thereto. The suitcase outer covering 20 which may be of leather or leather simulating material or the like is secured by a row of stitching 22 to the outside of the rim D, the covering 20 terminating at the strip 14 and the stitches 22 being relatively near to the end of the covering 20.

The corners are constructed by leaving a space 24 approximately ¾ inch wide between the front and the two side components of the wood stiffener 12, the fiber stiffener 14 being continuous across space 24 as shown in Fig. 2. The two side components of the stiffener 12 are then bent at right angles to the front component as shown in Figs. 2 and 4, the fiber stiffener 14 taking on an edgewise curvature.

A curved edge stiffener 26 is inserted in the corner comprised by the space 24, as shown in Fig. 5, to build up and reinforce the corner. The coverings 18 and 20 and the row of stitching 22 are made continuous around the corner at which point the stitching 22 penetrates the edge stiffener 26 instead of the wood stiffener 12.

The top side B has a rim E which is identical in construction to that of the bottom rim D except that the fiber strip 14 extends beyond the outer edge of the stiffener 12 for a distance of

approximately ½ inch instead of being flush with the outer edge of the stiffener as in the case of the strip 14.

This construction results in a strong resilient and relatively rigid casing requiring a minimum of machining operations in its manufacture.

When the top and bottom sides of the suitcase are closed together, a tight-fitting closure is formed with the engaging edges having contact surfaces of L-shaped transverse section as illustrated in Fig. 10.

Though the invention has been described in considerable detail, such description is intended as illustrative rather than limiting, as numerous embodiments will be apparent to those skilled in the art. My invention, therefore, is not to be limited except insofar as is necessitated by the prior art or by the spirit of the appended claim.

I claim:

In a suitcase of generally rectangular shape having a top side and a bottom side pivotably attached so that their rims are engageable, a flexible outer covering on each side, a stiffener assembly in each rim, and a rim covering on each rim adhesively attached thereto, said stiffener assembly comprising a primary wood stiffener of rectangular transverse shape continuous along the straight portions of the rim and interrupted short of the rim corners, an auxiliary flat strip fiber stiffener attached to said primary stiffener but continuing around said corners, and a supplementary corner stiffener of curved fiber in each corner, the auxiliary stiffener for the bottom side rim being flush with the outer edge of its associated primary stiffener and the auxiliary stiffener for the top side rim extending beyond the outer edge of its associated primary stiffener, whereby in engaged position the contacting surfaces of the two rims have an L-shaped transverse sectional shape, and said outer coverings being sewed to and positioned flatwise on the covered primary stiffeners and abutting the covered auxiliary stiffeners.

MEYER MEDOFF.