

No. 842,277

PATENTED JAN. 29, 1907.

J. A. H. VILLMOW.

SUIT CASE.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 30, 1904.

Fig. 1.

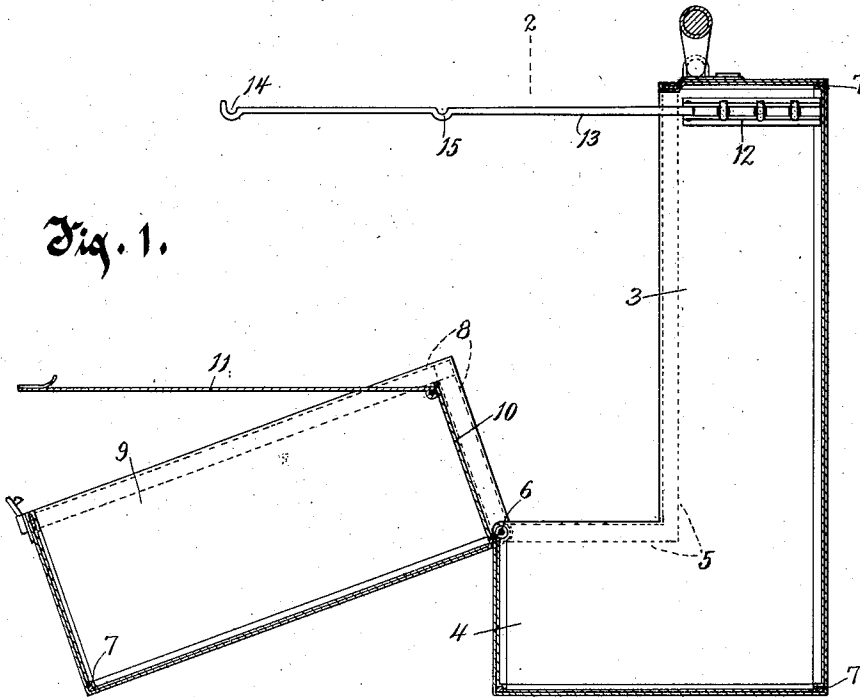
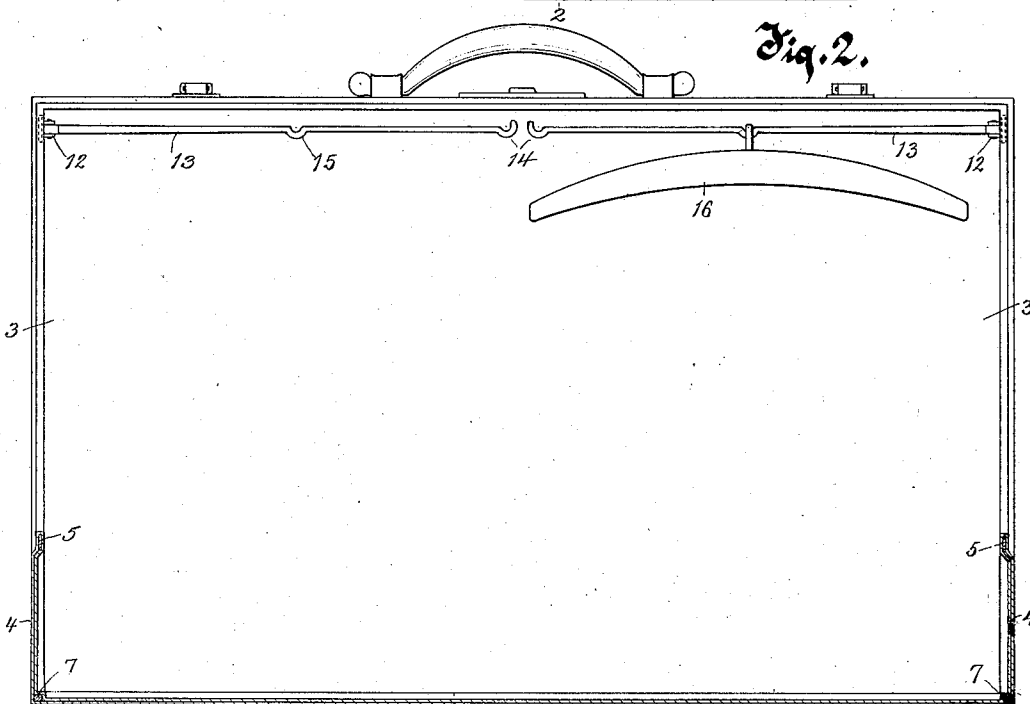


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN A. H. VILLMOW, OF MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN.

SUIT-CASE.

No. 842,277.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Jan. 29, 1907.

Application filed December 30, 1904. Serial No. 238,932.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN A. H. VILLMOW, residing in Milwaukee, in the county of Milwaukee and State of Wisconsin, have invented new and useful Improvements in Suit-Cases, of which the following is a description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which are a part of this specification.

10 This invention relates to suit-cases, and comprises a suit-case having a portion thereof formed by a tray which is pivotally mounted on the body portion and is capable of being swung open therefrom to expose the interior of the body portion and the tray.

15 An object of this invention is to improve upon traveling-bags, trunks, and the like in general by providing them with the characteristic features of the suit-case elected for illustration and description of the invention herein.

20 Another object of this invention is to produce a suit-case or the like of such a construction that the body portion thereof will constitute an upright support for clothing and also a lateral base extension into which said clothing may project with a tray pivotally mounted on the body portion and adapted to complete the regular contour of the suit-case when closed on the body portion.

30 Another object of this invention is to provide such a suit-case or the like with a novel means for supporting clothing in the body portion of the device.

35 Another object of this invention is to provide a frame for such a suit-case or the like of such a construction that it affords the necessary support for the body portion and the pivotally-mounted tray.

40 With the above and other objects in view the invention consists in the device, its parts and combinations of parts and their equivalents, as herein set forth.

45 Referring to the accompanying drawings, in which like characters of reference indicate the same parts in the several views, Figure 1 is a transverse sectional view of a suit-case constructed in accordance with this invention, the tray being shown in its opened position and one of the hanger-brackets being in its extended position; and Fig. 2 is a front sectional elevation thereof on the line 2 2 of Fig. 1, with the hanger-brackets swung within the body portion and a clothes-hanger suspended on one of them.

55 In the drawings, 3 represents the upright

section of the body portion of the suit-case, which has a laterally-extending base portion 4 at its lower end, the two constituting an L-shaped body with the mouth edges thereof formed around a body-portion frame 5, preferably of strap metal, which likewise has L-shaped side members with a horizontal top member and a round rod 6 connecting the forwardly-extending ends of its L-shaped side members. The body portion of the suit-case has its corners formed over frame-wires 7, as usual, to produce a rigid structure.

A tray-frame 8, preferably of strap metal, corresponding in shape to the body-portion frame 5, is pivotally mounted at the outer ends of its shorter arms to the rod 6 on the outside of the connections therewith of the frame 5, and said frame 8 is slightly larger than the frame 5, so that when closed it fits on the outside of said frame 5, the corresponding parts of the two frames overlapping each other and forming a tight-fitting connection between them. The tray-frame 8 has formed upon it a tray 9, which when closed against the body portion completes the regular formation thereof, so as to give the closed device the appearance of an ordinary suit-case, the tray occupying the space produced by the L-shaped formation of the body portion. The tray is also formed on frame-wires 7 at its corners for rigidity.

The back wall 10 of the tray is set forwardly sufficiently to permit of the side walls overlapping the side walls of the body portion when the device is closed, and a swinging cover 11 is pivoted thereto and is adapted to close the tray and prevent the contents thereof falling into the body portion when the suit-case is closed. The leather or other covering forming the bottom of tray 9 is continuous with the leather forming the front of the base portion 4, so that when the suit-case is closed there is no break in the covering material at the hinge connection between the tray and the body portion. The rear and top edges of the tray overlap the top and the side edges of the base and upright sections of the body portion, respectively, to close the mouth of the suit-case, the frame 5 of the body portion being slightly offset from the walls thereof in the usual manner, as clearly seen in Fig. 2, to form a flush joint between the tray and body portion when closed.

Each end wall of the upright portion 3 has secured at its upper end a bracket-frame 12, in which are pivoted a series of hanger-

brackets 13, having hooks 14 formed on their ends, and notches 15 formed at intermediate portions, in which suitable clothes-hangers 16 may be engaged.

5 Clothes suspended on the clothes-hangers may hang naturally within the upright section 3 of the body portion, and if they are long enough to reach the bottom of the body portion they may be extended forwardly
10 into the base-section 4 and lie naturally without folding, so that their proper shape may be preserved. The clothes suspended within the body portion in this manner are unaffected by the closing of the tray, and the
15 contents of the tray are kept separate therefrom, and therefore are not liable to muss or injure the clothes during travel.

When the suit-case is open, the hanger-brackets 13 are capable of being swung in
20 their frames 12 out from the body portion so as to extend forwardly, as shown in Fig. 1, in which position the clothing supported thereby is readily accessible. The L-shaped formation of the body portion allows of its remaining upright notwithstanding this extended position of the weight supported by the bracket-arms. The tray in its open position serves as a brace for the suit-case to prevent its tilting forward when the bracket-arms are extended with the clothes on them,
30 and this is especially true when the tray is loaded, as would naturally be the case at such times. The bracket-arms 13 are so shaped that clothing may be hung thereon direct by
35 folding over them, and in such use the upwardly-extending ends of hooks 14 prevent the clothing sliding off during transportation.

While the construction of the suit-case as above described is suitable for carrying clothing of any sort and affording protection therefor, it is particularly designed for the purpose of carrying ladies' shirt-waists, allowing of their being supported several deep on either side of the suit-case or in the middle
45 thereof, according to whether the hangers are supported from the notches 15 or the hooks 14, and bending into the laterally-extending base portion without folding and without coming in contact with the contents
50 of the tray, so that their shape is preserved and they are not liable to damage in transportation.

It is obvious that the objects of the invention may be accomplished by constructions differing from that herein shown and described without departing from the spirit and
55 scope of the invention, and therefore various changes and alterations in arrangement and details of construction may be resorted to without departing from the terms of the
60 claims.

Furthermore, it is apparent that the principles involved in this invention apply equally well to trunks and other receptacles for clothing and the like, and therefore it is
65 to be understood that though for convenience a suit-case is shown and described the invention as claimed is to be considered as including such other devices.

What I claim as my invention is—

70 1. A receptacle for clothing and the like, comprising a body portion having an open-front upright section and a laterally-extending open-top base-section communicating with each other, means in the upright section
75 for supporting clothes and the like so that they extend through the upright section and into the base-section without folding, and a tray pivotally mounted on the base-section and adapted to swing closed against the up-
80 right section.

2. A receptacle for clothing and the like, comprising a body portion having an open-front upright section and a laterally-extending open-top base-section in communication
85 with each other, a tray pivotally mounted on the base-section and adapted to close the body portion by swinging against the upright section, and a pivoted hanger-bracket in the upright section adapted to support
90 clothing in the upright section so that it may extend into the base-section without folding, said hanger-bracket being adapted to swing to the front of the body portion with the clothing thereon, the open tray serving as a
95 brace to prevent the body portion being tilted.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JOHN A. H. VILLMOW.

Witnesses:

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