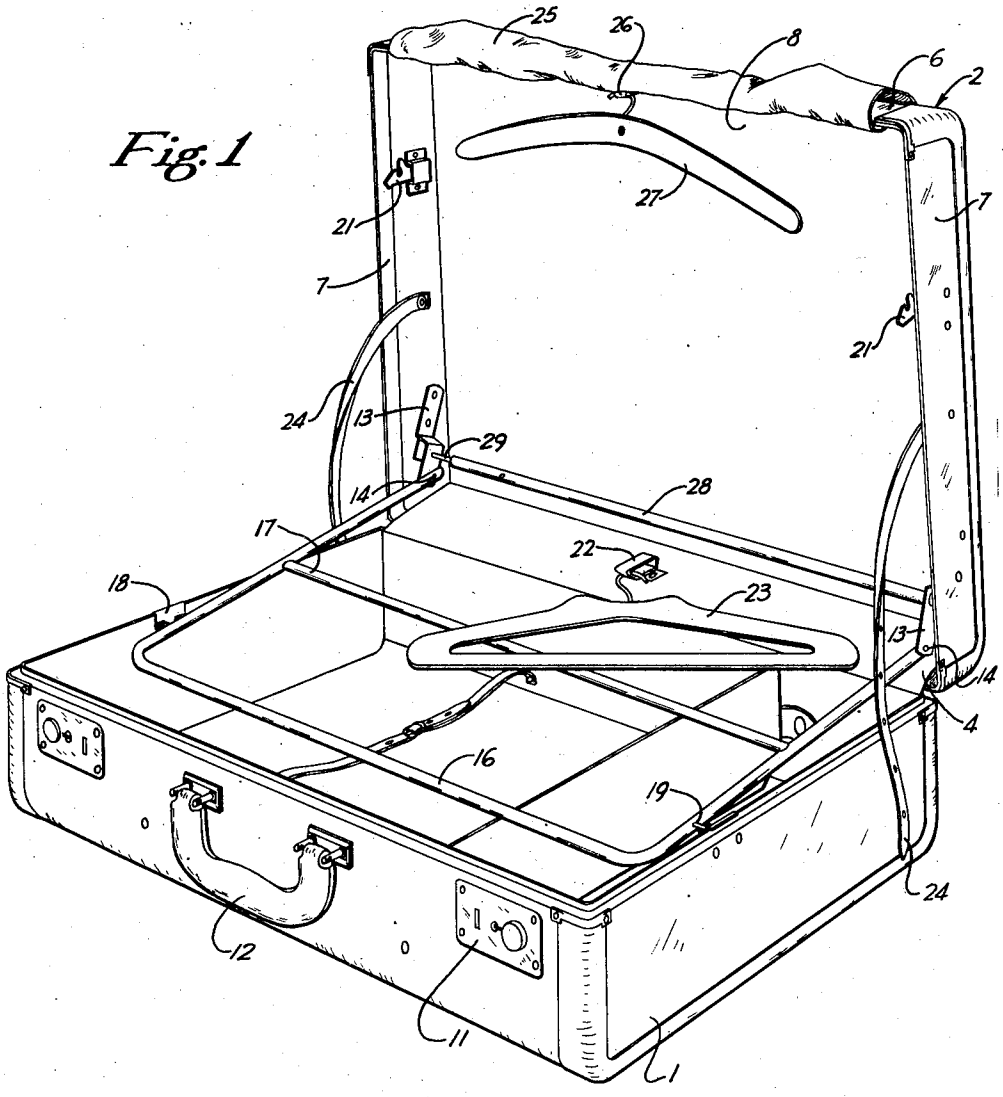
Feb. 8, 1949. S. L. KLEBER 2,461,216

WARDROBE CASE FOR MEN'S SUITS AND WOMEN'S DRESSES ON HANGERS

Filed May 4, 1946 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1



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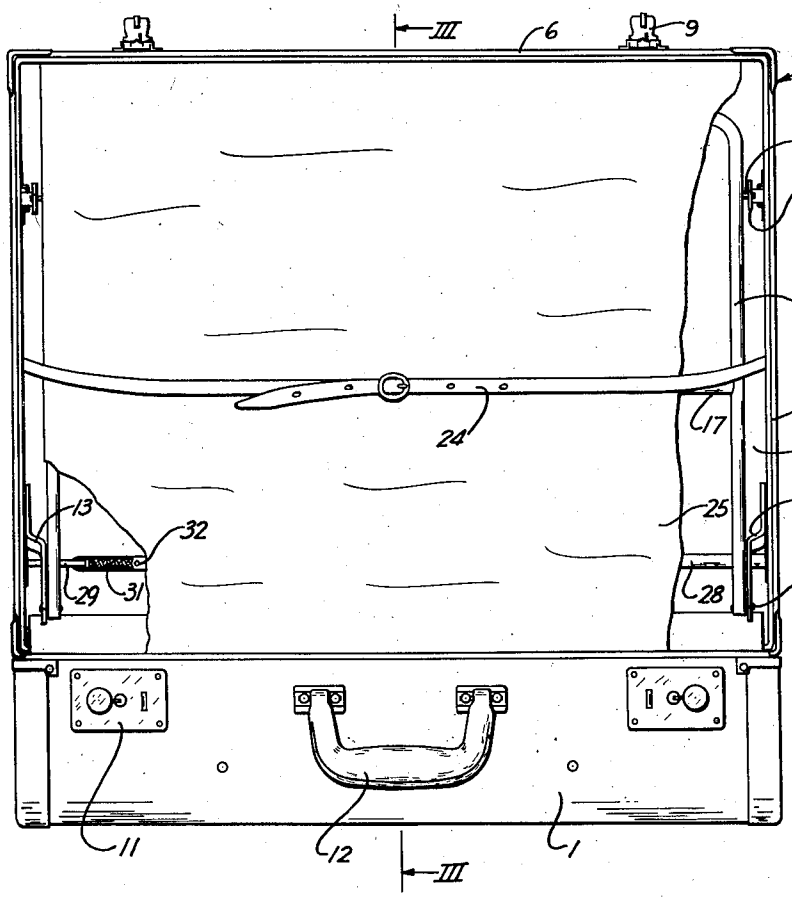


Fig. 2

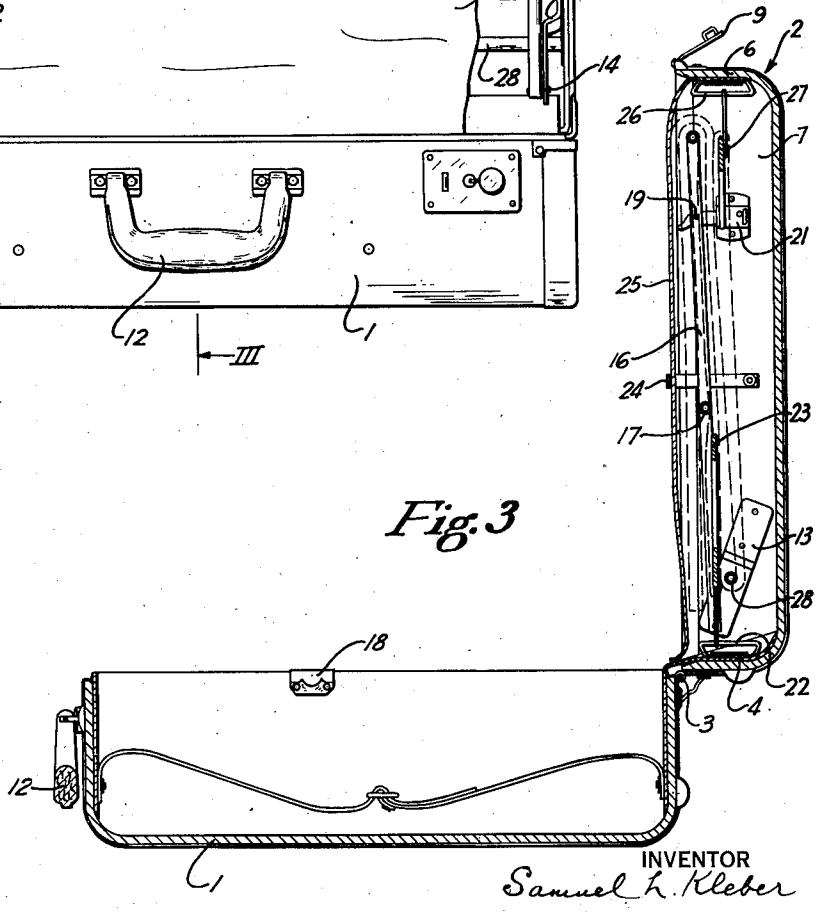


Fig. 3

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2,461,216

WARDROBE CASE FOR MEN'S SUITS AND WOMEN'S DRESSES ON HANGERS

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3 Claims. (Cl. 190—41)

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This invention relates to luggage, and more particularly to wardrobe cases in which clothes are hung on hangers.

It is among the objects of this invention to provide a wardrobe case in which both suits and dresses can be hung, which supports such garments in folded condition with a minimum of wrinkling, which is provided with a sturdy lightweight garment-folding frame, and which includes novel means for supporting the frame and a removable bar around which long garments are folded.

In accordance with this invention the wardrobe case has the usual top section hinged at one side to a bottom section so that when the case is resting flat on a support, it can be opened by swinging the top section up into upright position. In that position the top section has a support for hangers suspended from its upper wall and another support for hangers mounted on its lower wall. The upper hangers are for long garments, such as dresses and top coats, while the lower hangers are for shorter garments, such as suits and jackets. Inside the case there also is a frame which is pivoted at its inner end on a horizontal axis near the joint between the two sections of the case. Garments on the hangers are folded over the outer end of the frame and extend along its opposite sides. The garments are held against the outside of the frame by any suitable means, such as a strap. Short garments mounted on the lower hangers are placed next to the frame and are covered by the long garments suspended from the upper hangers. The long garments extend downwardly from the upper hangers and around a retaining bar before extending outwardly along the frame. The retaining bar is located adjacent the inner end of the frame. Preferably, the frame is pivotally connected to brackets attached to the end walls of the top section of the case. These brackets have inwardly offset portions provided with openings in which the retaining bar is removably mounted. Most suitably, this bar is in the form of a tube having one end extending through an opening in the adjacent bracket, and a spring-pressed pin in its opposite end projecting through an opening in the other bracket. By moving the tube toward its pin end, the opposite end of the bar can be removed from one bracket and then the pin withdrawn from the other bracket.

The preferred embodiment of the invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which Fig. 1 is a perspective view of my wardrobe case shown open with the frame swung down

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out of the top section and the curtain thrown back; Fig. 2 is a front view of the open case with the frame and curtain in operative position, but with portions of the curtain and retaining bar broken away; and Fig. 3 is a vertical section through the open case taken on the line III—III of Fig. 2 and indicating in broken lines some garments on the hangers.

Referring to the drawings, a rectangular box-like case has, when lying flat, a bottom section 1 to the rear edge of which a cover or top section 2 is connected by hinges 3 (Fig. 3). As shown, the top section stands substantially upright at right angles to the bottom section when the case is open, and in this position the top section has a lower wall 4 and an upper wall 6 connected at their ends by vertical end walls 7 and all of which are connected by a side wall 8 that forms the top of the case when it is closed. When the case is closed the two sections are locked together by latches 9 and keepers 11 mounted thereon. The front wall of the bottom section is provided with the usual handle 12 for carrying the case.

Mounted on the inside of end walls 7 of the top section are a pair of brackets 13 each of which has an upper portion riveted to the adjoining wall, and an inwardly offset lower portion spaced from the same wall. As shown in Fig. 3 the lower ends of the brackets are disposed near the lower wall of the top section, and the brackets are inclined so that their lower ends are farther from side wall 8 than are their upper ends. The lower ends of the brackets are provided with holes in which pins 14 are pivotally mounted. These pins are rigidly mounted in the inner or rear end of a frame 16 over the outer or front end of which garments can be folded so that they will extend along both sides of it. This frame preferably is formed from a light metal tube, such as aluminum, which is bent to provide parallel side members integrally connected at their outer ends by an end member. The frame may be reinforced by a straight tube 17 connected at its ends to the central portions of the side members. It will be obvious that the frame can stand upright in the upright top section of the case as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, or be swung down into the bottom section as shown in Fig. 1. When the frame is in the latter position its outer end is supported by seating members 18 on which rest pins 19 that project laterally from the sides of the frame. When the frame is swung up into the top section of the open case these pins snap into spring catches 21, attached to the end walls

of the top section, for holding the frame therein.

The lower wall of the upright top section is provided centrally with a metal loop 22 through which one or more clothes hangers 23 can be hooked. When the frame is upright a relatively short garment, such as a jacket or man's suit coat, mounted on a hanger 23 extends upwardly along the back of the frame, over the top of the frame and down its front side. To hold the outer fold of the garment against the front of the frame when the top section is swung down onto the bottom section, straps 24 are attached to the end walls of the top section and are buckled together across the front of the frame. The appearance of the open case is improved and the garments in the top section are protected by a curtain 25 which hangs from the upper wall of that section down in front of the frame between the garments and the straps. This curtain can be thrown back over the upper wall of the top section after the straps have been unbuckled, as shown in Fig. 1.

Another feature of this invention is that this case also is formed to hold long garments, such as dresses, neatly and in unwrinkled condition, so that both a man and his wife can carry their clothes on hangers in the same case. For this purpose the upper wall of the upright top section likewise carries a metal loop 26 on which clothes hangers 27 can be hung. Also, the inwardly offset lower portions of brackets 13 are provided above pivot pins 14 with openings in which a retaining bar is removably mounted. The bar preferably is formed from a metal tube 28 one end of which extends through one of the bracket openings and substantially into engagement with the adjacent end wall 7. The opposite end of the tube terminates short of the other bracket by a distance greater than the spacing between the offset portion of the first bracket and the end wall to which the latter is attached. As shown in Fig. 2, the short end of the tube is provided with a restricted opening through which a pin 29 extends. The pin projects through the hole in the adjacent bracket and substantially into engagement with the adjacent end wall 7. This pin is urged outwardly by a coil spring 31 compressed between its head and a rivet 32 through the tube. Due to the inclination of the brackets 13 the retaining bar is above and behind the pivoted inner end of the frame as shown in Fig. 3, whereby room is left for garments between the bar and the frame. When it is desired to remove the retaining bar from the brackets, tube 28 is moved toward its pin end, this movement being permitted by spring 31. The opposite end of the tube thus is freed from the adjoining bracket, and then the tube and spring-pressed pin 29 can be withdrawn from the other bracket.

When both long and short garments are to be hung on the hangers in the case, frame 16 first is released from catches 21 and swung down into bottom section 1 until pins 19 rest on seating members 18, and then the retaining bar is removed from brackets 13. A short garment is hung on lower hanger 23 and pulled out straight across the frame and the front of the case. A long garment then is hung on hanger 27 from which it hangs straight down with its lower portion resting on the short garment below it. The retaining bar is replaced in brackets 13 so that the bar will extend across the lower part of the vertical portion of the long garment. The rest of the long garment then is pulled out straight from the bar and across the short garment lying

on the frame. The outer ends of the two garments generally will be close together. Of course, more than two garments can be hung in this case by using more hangers. After arranging the garments neatly on the frame, the latter is swung up into the top section and held by catches 21 which engage pins 19. This causes the garments on the frame to fold over its outer or upper end to hang down its front side. Curtain 25 is let down in front of the garments, and straps 24 are buckled to hold the curtain and garments in place when the case is closed. It will be seen that the short garments are folded to provide two layers, while folding of the long garments results in three layers.

According to the provisions of the patent statutes, I have explained the principle and construction of my invention and have illustrated and described what I now consider to represent its best embodiment. However, I desire to have it understood that, within the scope of the appended claims, the invention may be practiced otherwise than as specifically illustrated and described.

I claim:

1. In a wardrobe case formed from a top section which is joined by a hinge connection at one side to a bottom section and which is adapted to stand substantially upright when the case is open, said upright top section having upper and lower walls connected by vertical end walls, a support for long-garment hangers suspended from said upper wall, a support for short-garment hangers mounted on said lower wall, a frame pivoted at its inner end in the case on a horizontal axis adjacent said hinge connection and adapted to have folded over its outer end and extending along its opposite sides the garments which are mounted on said hangers, a retaining bar adjacent the inner end of the frame for extending across garments suspended from the long-garment hangers and around which the long garments fold when the frame is swung into said top section, means for detachably holding said bar in garment-retaining position, said lower support being positioned to support short-garment hangers between said bar and the open side of said top section so that short garments will lie next to the frame and retaining means for holding the garments against the side of the frame opposite the bar.

2. In a wardrobe case formed from a top section which is joined by a hinge connection at one side to a bottom section and which is adapted to stand substantially upright when the case is open, said upright top section having upper and lower walls connected by vertical end walls, a support for long-garment hangers suspended from said upper wall, a support for short-garment hangers mounted on said lower wall, a pair of brackets rigidly mounted on said end walls adjacent said lower wall, each of said brackets being inclined downward toward the open side of said top section and having an upper portion secured to the adjoining end wall and a lower portion offset inwardly from said upper portion, the lower ends of said brackets being provided with pivot holes, each of said lower portions being provided between its pivot hole and upper end with a retaining opening, a frame provided at its inner end with lateral pins projecting into said pivot holes to pivotally connect it to said brackets, said frame being adapted to have folded over its outer end and extending along its opposite sides the garments which are mounted on said hangers, and a retaining bar provided at one end with a longitudinally projecting spring-pressed pin, said

bar being removably mounted in said retaining openings with said spring-pressed pin and the opposite end of the bar disposed close to said end walls, said lower support being positioned to support short-garment hangers between said bar and the open side of said top section so that short garments will lie next to the frame.

3. In a wardrobe case formed from a top section which is joined by a hinge connection at one side to a bottom section and which is adapted to stand substantially upright when the case is open, said upright top section having upper and lower walls connected by vertical end walls, a support for long-garment hangers suspended from said upper wall, a lower support for short-garment hangers mounted on said lower wall, a frame pivoted at its inner end in the case on a horizontal axis adjacent said hinge connection and adapted to have folded over its outer end and extending along its opposite sides the garments which are mounted on said hangers, and a removable retaining bar adjacent the inner end of the frame for extending across garments supported from the long-garment hangers and around which the

long garments fold when the frame is swung into said top section, said lower support extending from below the bar toward the open side of the top section for supporting short-garment hangers between said bar and the open side of said top section so that short garments will lie next to the frame.

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