B. CHARSKY.

BRIEF CASE.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 2, 1921.

1,424,152. Patented Aug. 1, 1922.

Fig. 1

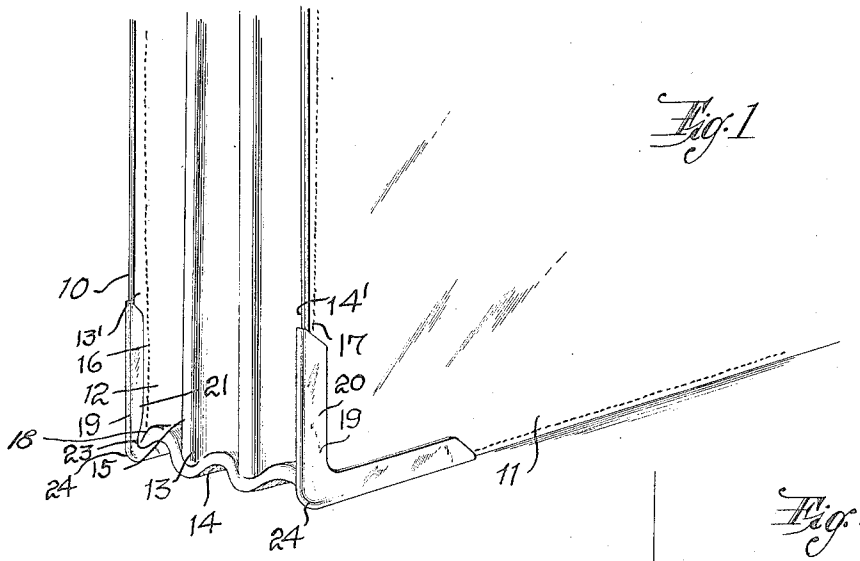


Fig. 3

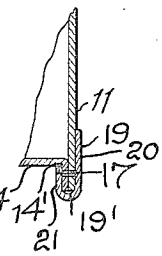


Fig. 4

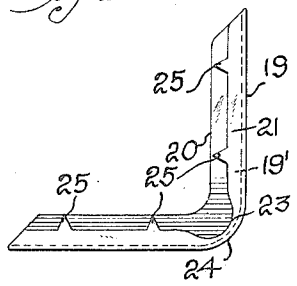


Fig. 2

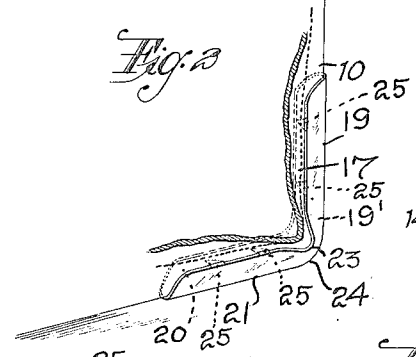


Fig. 6

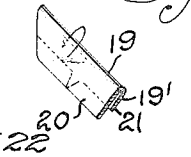


Fig. 5

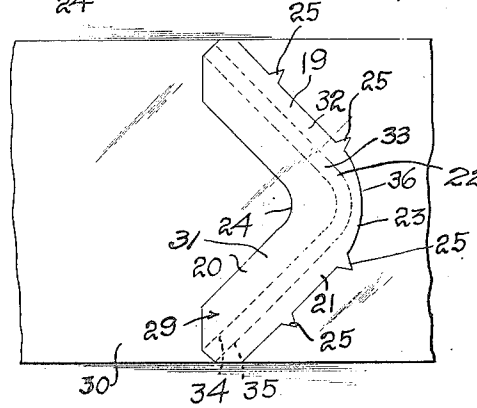
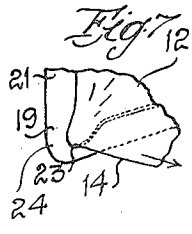


Fig. 7



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BRIEF CASE.

1,424,152. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Aug. 1, 1922.

Application filed November 2, 1921. Serial No. 512,267.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that BENJAMIN CHARSKY, a subject of Russia, and residing in Kings County, city of New York, and State of New York, has invented new and useful Improvements in Brief Cases, of which the following is a specification.

My present invention relates generally to expansible containers and more particularly to an arrangement for reinforcing the corners of such containers.

I have illustrated and described my invention as used in connection with a brief case, as it is this character of construction, for which my invention was particularly developed and is particularly intended, although as will be understood my invention can be used with other devices wherein it can function as it does in connection with a brief case.

The type of container for loose papers, used by professional men, and termed a brief case, is generally constructed of two cover or backing members connected by an expansible bellows like gusset, and has its interior partitioned to form a number of compartments.

Because of the manner in which this gusset is secured to the outer or cover members, and the way in which it is used, the brief case is generally subject to the great strains and wear and tear at the lower corners of both front and back cover members.

Among the objects of this invention therefore is the provision of a reinforce for such lower corners which is so associated with the brief case as to make provision for this particular type of construction in which a bellows action is present, and which is so constructed as to avoid any interference with such action and any other defect in operation or use; and the provision of a wear piece for the brief case which will reduce considerably the wear and tear upon the parts most likely subject to such action.

For the purpose of attaining these objects and such other objects as may appear or be pointed out, in the description, I have provided a construction, one embodiment of which is shown in the accompanying drawings wherein—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a lower corner of a brief case partly expanded;

Figure 2 is a view of one corner with parts broken away;

Figure 3 is a view in section through part of a corner with the gusset expanded;

Figure 4 is a view in elevation of a reinforcing member for a corner;

Figure 5 is a view of the stamping to form the reinforce;

Figure 6 is a view of an end fragment of the reinforcing member to illustrate the method of forming it;

Figure 7 is a view in perspective of portion of a corner to show the action of portion of the gusset.

Brief cases of the kind illustrated in the drawings, comprise generally the outer or cover members 10 and 11 made preferably of a sheet material such as leather with the gusset portion 12 intermediate the two. This intermediate gusset portion 12 is made preferably of a relatively soft sheet material such as soft leather and is shaped shown, with the side walls 13 (only one is shown in the drawing) and the bottom wall 14. The outer members 10 and 11 and the walls 13 and 14 define and form the receptacle or container which is open at the top.

The gusset portion 12 has its side walls 13 creased and folded as shown in Figure 1 to form the superposed portions 15 and the bottom wall 14 is similarly creased and folded, thus in effect producing the bellows action, which permits of the expansion and contraction of the container. The gusset portion 12 is secured to the cover members 10 and 11 by having the end portions 13′ and 14′ of both the end and side walls 13 and 14 folded into parallelism with the outer walls 10 and 11 and secured thereto preferably by the rows of vertical and horizontal stitches 16 and 17 respectively.

In making brief cases in the manner outlined above, there is formed at the meeting edges of the walls 13 and 14, the substantially triangular overlapped portions shown in the drawings, and in expanding the brief case I have found that in addition to the strain put on the rows of stitches 16 and 17 generally, there is an even greater strain placed on the corners where the stitches 16 and 17 meet and cross due to the action of these overlapped portions 18. These strains if they do not actually rip the seams formed by the stitches 16 or 17, have at all times a tendency to cause the corners to curl. This tendency to curl is enhanced materially by

the fact that the user frequently rests the brief case with its lowermost portion on the floor or similar base which furthermore tends to cause the superposed parts of the cover member and the portions 14′, outside the stitches to be distorted and spread.

I have found that by the use of the attachments by way of reinforcements, which I will now proceed to describe, the objects of my invention are satisfactorily attained. Figure 4 of the drawings shows the reinforcing element which I secure to each of the lower corners of the brief case two such corners being shown in Figure 1. This reinforcing element, referred to generally by the reference character 19, is preferably made of a fairly stiff sheet metal material stamped into the shape shown.

Each of the members 19 is L shaped for reasons that will be obvious and is the form of a channel member, the channel 19′ being defined by the side walls 20 and 21 and by an end or bottom wall. The wall 21 is made substantially narrower than the wall 20 and is still further narrowed as shown at 23 adjacent the curved elbow portion 24 of the channel member 19′, all for purposes that will shortly be pointed out. One of the walls preferably the wall 21 is provided with the prongs 25, each leg being illustrated in the drawings as having two such prongs.

Upon viewing Figure 1 of the drawings it will be seen that each reinforcing member is secured in position on a corner of the brief case, with the overlapping portions of the walls of the gusset and of the adjacent end or outer member 10 or 11 received in the channel 19′. Upon viewing Figures 1, 2 and 3 it will be observed that the wall 20 is positioned on the outside of the brief case and is of a width to cover the adjacent stitches 16 and 17, whereas the wall 21 is on the inside and its width is such that it does not reach or cover up the stitches. As a result of this arrangement, any cutting tendency by the outer free edge of the wall 21 is avoided when the gusset is expanded as can be seen from Figure 3 of the drawing. The further end as attained that the expansion of the gusset 12 will not tend to pull upon the wall 21 to cause a spreading action between this wall and the wall 20. Upon viewing Figure 1 it will be further observed that the narrowed portion 23 is positioned and receives within the cut out formed thereby the outer end part of the overlapped portion 18 previously referred to, so that no interference occurs at this point between the reinforcing element 19 and this flap when the flap moves angularly, with the contraction and expansion of the gusset member.

In assembling the reinforcing members on the brief case, the prongs 25 are driven into the material, and as these prongs are on the wall 21 which is described and shown as falling short of the stitches 16 and 17, it is obvious that these prongs will be outside of the stitches, so that they will on the one hand, not weaken the material of the gusset inside the stitches by forming a line of tear inside the stitches, but will on the other hand form a secondary means for connecting the gusset 12 to the outer members 10 and 11.

I preferably form the channel members 19 in the manner illustrated in Figures 5 and 6. The blanks 29 are stamped from the sheet of material 30, and are shaped as shown in heavy outline in Figure 5. The dotted lines 34 and 35 indicate the lines along which the blank 29 is bent to form the walls of the channel member 19′, the portion 31 forming the wall 20, the portion 32 forming the wall 21, and the portion 33 forming the end wall 22. Upon viewing Figure 5 it will be observed that the width of the part 32 at the point 36 is narrowest widening out in both directions until the full normal width of the part 32 is reached. When the blank 29 is folded along the lines 34 and 35, the narrowed portion at 36 of the blank in Figure 5 becomes the cut away portion 23 in Figure 4 of the finished article.

When the brief case constructed as described above, is placed on a desk or floor, the metal corner pieces will act as spacing members, and thus avoid the greater part of the wear and tear that arises from such contact.

Having thus described my invention and illustrated its use, what I claim as new and desire by Letters Patent is—

1. A channel member adapted to be placed about a lower corner of a brief case comprising an L shaped channel member, substantially U shaped in cross section throughout, one leg of the U being narrower than the other and securing prongs on the outer edge of the shorter leg.

2. A channel member adapted to be placed about a lower corner of a brief case comprising an L shaped channel member, substantially U shaped in cross section throughout, one leg of the U being narrower than the other and securing prongs on the outer edge of the shorter leg, said narrower leg being still further reduced in width adjacent the elbow of the L.

3. A channel member adapted to be secured about a lower corner of a brief case comprising an L shaped channel member, substantially U shaped in cross section throughout, one leg of the U being narrower than the other said narrower leg being still further narrowed opposite the elbow of the L.

4. In combination with a brief case comprising a back or outer cover member, an

expanding gusset member having portions thereof secured thereto by rows of stitches in overlapped relation along a side and bottom of the brief case, and having an overlap which produces a ridge of material leading to a lower corner of the brief case which ridge moves angularly as the brief case is expanded and contracted, of a corner piece arranged to be secured to said corner of the brief case, said corner piece being in the form of a channelled L, with its cross section through the channel generally U shaped and receiving within it, the overlapped portions of the gusset and cover member, one leg of said U being positioned on the outside and dimensioned to cover the aforementioned rows of stitches, said last mentioned leg being narrowed adjacent the elbow of the L, so as to permit free angular movement of said ridge of material.

5. In combination with a brief case comprising a back or outer cover member, an expanding gusset member having portions thereof secured thereto by rows of stitches, in overlapped relation along a side and bottom of the brief case, and having an overlap which produces a ridge of material leading to a lower corner of the brief case which ridge moves angularly as the brief case is expanded and contracted, of a corner piece arranged to be secured to said corner of the brief case, said corner piece being in the form of a channelled L, with its cross section through the channel generally U-shaped and receiving within it, the overlapped portion of the gusset and cover member, one leg of said U being positioned on the outside and dimensioned to cover the aforementioned rows of stitches, the other leg of the U being on the inside and dimensioned to fall short of said rows of stitches, and being further provided with securing prongs on its outer edge, said last mentioned leg being narrowed adjacent the elbow of the L, so as to permit free angular movement of said ridge of material.

In witness whereof, I have hereunder signed my name this 29th day of October, 1921.

BENJAMIN CHARSKY.