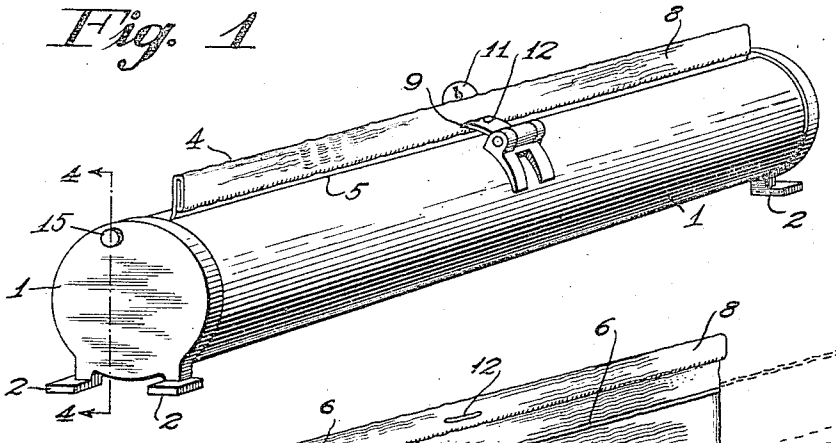
Jan. 30, 1923. 1,443,695.

G. C. McKIBBIN.

DEVICE FOR PROTECTING AUTOMOBILE ROBES.

FILED NOV. 16, 1921.

Fig. 1



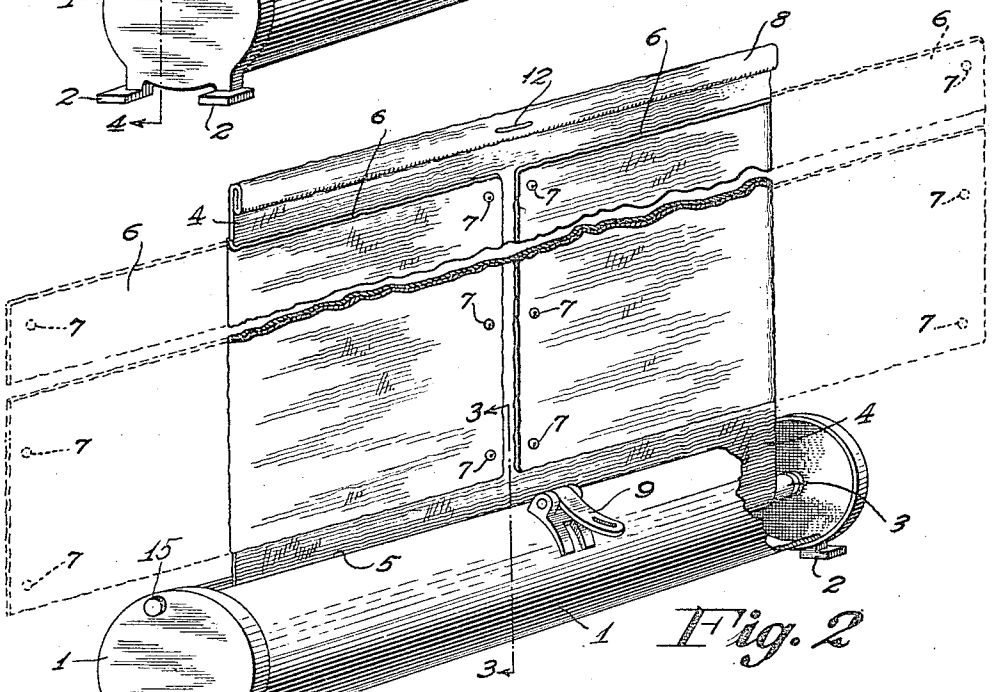


Fig. 2

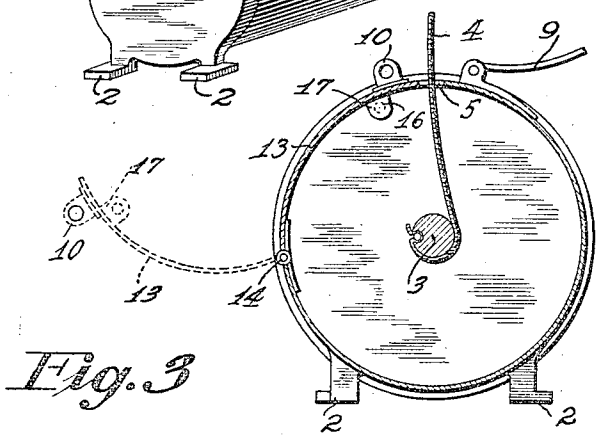


Fig. 3

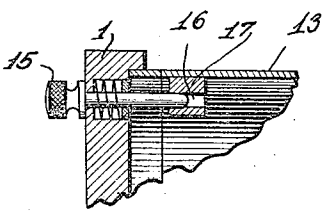


Fig. 4

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Patented Jan. 30, 1923. 1,443,695

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE C. McKIBBIN, OF WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR TO ROLZUP AUTO ROBE CORPORATION, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., A CORPORATION OF DELAWARE.

DEVICE FOR PROTECTING AUTOMOBILE ROBES.

Application filed November 16, 1921. Serial No. 515,675.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE C. McKIBBIN, a citizen of the United States, residing at White Plains, in the county of Westchester and State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Device for Protecting Automobile Robes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention, is primarily, a device for protecting automobile robes against theft but further serves to normally maintain the robe in the car in concealed position and in compact, sanitary condition.

It is a general practice of the more careful automobilists, when not using the lap robe, to hang it in folded condition over a rack usually provided on the back of the front seat, while the careless motorists not infrequently leave the robe lying in rumpled condition on the floor of the tonneau. In either instance, the robe becomes soiled and rapidly accumulates dust and impurities so that it becomes untidy and a menace to health.

With these considerations in mind, the object of the present invention is to provide a robe which will be normally concealed in compact condition within an attractive, sanitary and substantially dust proof casing, in which the robe may be normally locked against withdrawal to preclude theft thereof. When the robe is unlocked, however, it may be readily drawn from the casing and employed in the usual way, to be replaced after use in the casing in an easy and expeditious manner.

The present invention further contemplates the use of a relatively small casing for housing the robe, and the robe is of novel and unique construction which enables it to be folded and thereafter positioned within the casing. However, when withdrawn from the casing for use, the robe may be unfolded so as to provide a broad expanse of adequate size to enable one or more persons to comfortably use the same.

In its preferred practical form, the invention comprises a casing adapted to be mounted in substantially fixed position in the car body. In practice, the casing may be secured to the back of the front seat or on the floor of the vehicle, or may be supported in any other suitable and convenient manner. The casing is provided interiorly with a spring actuated roller to which one end of the robe is adapted to be fixedly secured. The body of the robe is substantially equal in width to the length of the casing, but said robe is provided with lateral projecting flaps which are adapted to be normally folded toward one another over the face of the body of the robe, and the robe thereupon rolled upon the spring actuated roller within the casing. When it is desired to use the robe, it is unrolled through a slot in the casing and the flaps are unfolded to impart the desired width to the robe. After use the flaps are again folded and the robe permitted to wind on the roll, after which the robe may be precluded from withdrawal through the slot of the casing by suitable locking means associated therewith.

Features of the invention, other than those adverted to, will be apparent from the hereinafter detailed description and claims, when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

The accompanying drawings illustrate one practical embodiment of the invention, but the construction therein shown is to be understood as illustrative, only, and not as defining the limits of the invention.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the device of this invention in one of its practical forms, illustrating the robe in normal concealed position.

Figure 2 is a like view showing the robe withdrawn from the casing.

Figure 3 is a section on the line 3—3 of Figure 2, and

Figure 4 is a section on the line 4—4 of Figure 1.

Referring to the drawings, 1 designates the casing which, in practice, is preferably metallic. The casing may be of any suitable shape and may be securely attached to the car in any desired manner. However, for the purpose of illustration, the casing is shown as substantially cylindrical and is provided with feet or brackets 2 through which bolts, screws or other fastening devices may be passed to mount the casing in position.

Positioned within the casing and coaxial therewith, is a spring actuated roller 3 which may be constructed in the same manner as a shade roller and supported from the opposite ends of the casing in any suitable way. To this roller 3 is firmly secured one end of the lap robe 4 and said lap robe is

adapted to be wound on said roller or off of the same through the slot 5 extending longitudinally of the casing.

The body of the lap robe 4 is substantially equal in width to the length of the slot 5 but is provided along its side edges with flaps 6. These flaps may be formed integral with the body of the robe or may be sewed thereto if desired, and are foldable from the full line positions of Figure 2 to the dotted line positions thereof. When in the full line positions they may, if desired, be secured in these positions by means of cooperating male and female snap fasteners 7. The male snap fasteners may be mounted on the flaps 6 and the cooperating female fasteners may be sewed or otherwise secured to the body of the robe so that when the flaps are turned in, said male and female fasteners may be brought into cooperative relation to maintain the flaps in folded condition. When in this latter condition, the overall width of the robe is sufficiently small to permit the robe to readily pass through the slot 5 and enable the robe to be rolled on or unrolled from the spring actuated roller 3. In practice, other forms of attaching means may be employed than snap fasteners 7, which are shown purely for illustrative purposes. Moreover, fastening means may be entirely dispensed with if desired.

The robe and its flaps may be constructed of any desirable material or fabric and this fabric may be waterproof or cravenetted. The edges of the robe may be suitably faced, but the top edge thereof is preferably provided with a relatively heavy facing or binding 8 of sufficient thickness to preclude this end of the robe being drawn through the slot 5 into the interior of the casing.

The normal position of the parts is as shown in Figure 1, wherein it will be seen that the robe is entirely concealed within the casing. but that the facing 8 extends in partially exposed position along the slot 5, thereby forming a substantially dust-proof seal for the slot and precluding the entrance of dust, dirt and other foreign matter into the casing. The casing is preferably provided at one side of the slot with a pivoted hasp 9 and juxtaposed therewith on the other side of the slot is a keeper 10, so that when the robe is coiled up within the casing, the hasp may be brought into cooperative relation with the keeper and the padlock 11 associated with the latter as shown in Figure 1. When the hasp is locked in place it will overlie the slot in such manner as to preclude the withdrawal of the robe therethrough. If desired, the facing or binding 8 may be provided with a slot 12 as shown in Figure 2 and the keeper may be passed through this slot. The use of a hasp and keeper enables the robe to be locked in the casing in such manner as to preclude theft and is exemplary of any suitable locking means for accomplishing this result. The present invention is not restricted to the specific construction described for accomplishing this end.

The robe normally occupies a concealed position within the casing as described and is locked in this position until such time as it is desired to use the robe, whereupon the person in possession of the proper key may unlock the padlock 11, release the keeper, and permit of the withdrawal of the robe into the position of Figure 2, whereupon the fastening members 7 may be released and the flaps folded out into the dotted line positions. The robe is now ready for use and may be employed in the usual manner. When it is desired to return the robe to concealed position, the flaps 6 are folded into the full line positions of Figure 2, secured in place by the fastening members 7, and the robe thereupon wound on the spring actuated roller 3 and after the manner employed in manipulating the shade on a conventional form of spring actuated shade roller.

In order that access may be had into the interior of the casing 1, to permit authorized removal of the robe from the roller 3 or to enable the removal of the roller, the portion 13 of the circumference of the casing 1 is preferably pivoted as at 14 so as to provide a hinged door. This door 13 may be normally maintained in closed position in any suitable manner, such, for example, as by spring pressed plungers 15 mounted in the opposite ends of the casing and adapted to normally project into pockets 16 formed in bosses or locks 17 positioned at the lateral edges of the door and near the slot 5 as shown best in Figures 3 and 4. The spring pressed plungers normally lock the door in closed position, but these plungers can be manually retracted to release the door so that it may be opened. It will be noted, however, that the free edge of the door forms one edge of the slot, and that the keeper 10 is carried by said door so that when the hasp is locked over the keeper, the door is also locked against opening, even though the spring pressed plungers are retracted. Thus, the door may be locked in closed position and the robe simultaneously locked against withdrawal by the same means exemplified by the hasp 9 and keeper 10.

It will be apparent from the foregoing detailed description that the present invention provides for the normal housing of an automobile robe in compact and concealed position so that it may be maintained in a sanitary and clean condition and ready at all times for use by an authorized person, though permitting a car owner to lock the

roller in such manner as to effectually preclude the theft thereof. By the formation of the robe, with foldable flaps, I am enabled to minimize the length of the casing so that it will not unduly encumber the car and at the same time a relatively large and comfortable robe may be had. In practice, the container is of finished, attractive appearance and adds to, rather than detracts from, the appearance of the car. In some cars, the casing may be mounted on the back of the front seats, while in others it may be mounted on the floor and form a foot rest. In some cases, I prefer to mount the casing on the ordinary foot rest supports and use the same in lieu of the conventional foot rest.

The foregoing detailed description sets forth the invention in its preferred practical form, but I am aware that the same is capable of modification in details of construction, such as by the substitution of equivalents, without departing from the present invention, which is to be understood as broadly novel as is commensurate with the appended claims.

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

1. A device for protecting automobile robes embodying an elongated slotted casing, a roll extending longitudinally within the casing and provided at its opposite ends with trunnions for mounting the roll for rotation, a spring housed within the roll and cooperating with one of the trunnions to rotate the roll in one direction, a lap robe extending through the slot in the casing and rolled upon the roll with the inner end of the robe secured to the roll, a door on the casing at one side of the slot to permit the roll to be inserted in and removed from the casing, means for normally maintaining the door in closed position, and locking members one of which is positioned on the door at one side of the slot and the other of which is positioned on the casing at the opposite side of the slot, said members being adapted to engage one another across the slot and extend through an opening in the robe for the purpose of locking the door in closed position and precluding theft of the robe.

2. A device for protecting automobile robes embodying a casing adapted to be mounted in fixed position on a car and a portion of the wall of which casing is hinged to permit of access into the interior of the casing, a roller mounted within the casing, a lap robe one end of which is secured to the roller and which lap robe is adapted to be withdrawn through a slot in the casing into exposed position, means for rolling said robe upon the roller and means for locking the robe against withdrawal from the casing and for simultaneously locking the hinged section of the casing against opening.

3. A device for protecting automobile robes embodying a slotted casing, a retainer mounted on the casing at one side of the slot and adapted to extend across the slot, means at the other side of the slot to lock the retainer in a position wherein it extends across the slot, a roll mounted to rotate within the casing, a robe one end of which is secured to the roll and the other end of which is apertured, spring actuated means for normally rolling the robe on the roll into a position wherein the retainer may be passed through the aperture in the robe and to the opposite side of the slot and there locked in position to preclude theft of the robe.

In testimony whereof I have signed the foregoing specification.

GEORGE C. McKIBBIN.