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2,218,665

CONTAINER

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Fig. 1.

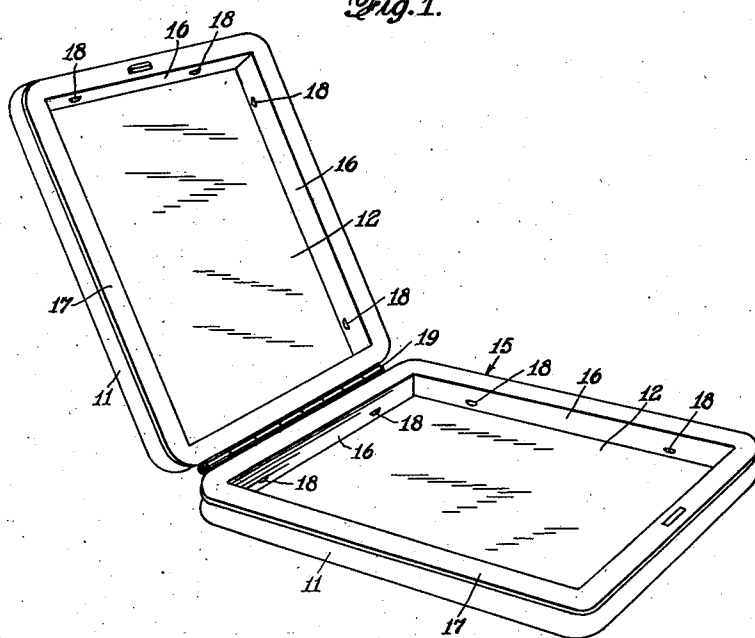


Fig. 2.

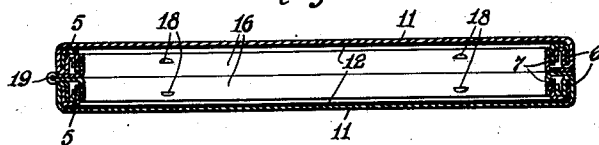
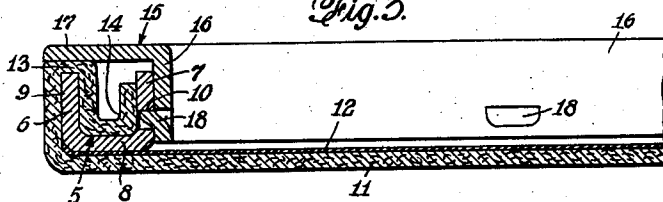


Fig. 3.



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CONTAINER

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4 Claims. (Cl. 150—46)

This invention relates to containers, such as cigarette cases, vanity cases or the like, and has for its general object and purpose to provide a case of this character having certain novel structural features whereby a facing sheet of leather or other decorative flexible material may be easily, securely and expeditiously attached at its marginal edges to the case structure by unskilled labor, and without the use of adhesives.

It is a more particular object of the invention to provide a case or container as above characterized embodying a continuous sheet metal frame member of channel-shaped form in cross section, a flexible decorative facing sheet tightly stretched over said frame member and having its marginal edges inwardly turned over the outer frame wall and extended into the channel thereof, and a clamping member of angular cross sectional form assembled under pressure with said frame member and having an inner flange provided with means to interlock with complementary means on the inner wall of the frame member and a laterally extending flange disposed over the open side of the frame channel and exerting a tight compressing pressure upon the flexible material to securely clamp the same against the edge of the outer frame wall and effectually prevent the loosening or disconnection of said flexible sheet from the frame member, when subjected to excessive strain.

It is also a further object of the invention to provide a container or case having similar complementary sections each of which includes a frame and clamping member and in which the clamping members are hingedly connected with each other so that the facing sheets may first be separately assembled with and applied to the respective frame members, and the latter then easily assembled and secured interlocking relation with the respective hinged clamping members.

With the above and other objects in view, the invention consists in the improved container in the form, construction and relative arrangement of its several parts, as will hereinafter be more fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawing and subsequently incorporated in the subjoined claims.

In the drawing wherein I have shown one simple and practical embodiment of the invention and in which similar reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout the several views:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing the container open and illustrating one practical embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view, the container being closed, and

Fig. 3 is a similar fragmentary sectional view of one of the container sections on an enlarged scale.

For purposes of illustration, I have shown a familiar type of container such as is used as a holder or case for cigarettes, cosmetics, or other articles, in which the case or container comprises two complementary hingedly connected sections. While in the present instance, I have illustrated these container sections as being of rectangular form, and of equal capacity, it will of course, be understood as the description proceeds that the invention is not restricted in its practical use to this specific form of the container sections, or that the complementary container sections shall be exact structural counterparts of each other.

Referring now in detail to the drawing, as herein shown either one or both of the container sections comprises the continuous comparatively narrow sheet metal frame member 5. This frame member is of U-shaped form in cross section to provide outer and inner side walls or flanges 6 and 7 respectively and a connecting base wall 8 which define a continuous channel 9 of uniform width and depth. The inner side wall 7 of the frame member is provided, adjacent to the base wall 8 thereof, with suitably spaced openings 10 therethrough, for a purpose which will be presently explained.

11 designates a facing sheet of leather, fabric or other suitable decorative material which is adapted to be tightly stretched over the frame member 5. Preferably, a thin liner sheet 12 of silk or other suitable material extends over the inner surface of the facing sheet 11 and has its marginal edges extended between said facing sheet and the base wall 8 of the frame member.

As clearly shown in Fig. 3 of the drawing, the marginal edge portions of the flexible sheet 11 are stretched over the outer faces of the frame wall 6 and turned inwardly over the edges of said walls as at 13, the edge portions of the flexible sheet being folded downwardly into the frame channel as at 14 and pressed closely against the inner faces of the side wall 6 and 7 and the base wall 8 of the frame. The flexible material has sufficient stiffness so that said folded edge portions will remain in snug fitting engagement with the channel walls of the frame during assembly with the hingedly connected elements of the frame sections. Thus the use of adhesives or other holding means for the edge portions of the flexible sheet is dispensed with

and with the assurance that the said sheet will remain in its taut or stretched condition over the frame 5.

Each container section also includes a clamping member 15 of similar configuration to the frame member 5. This clamping member is also in the form of a continuous sheet metal strip bent to provide an inner vertical flange 16 and the laterally and outwardly extending flange 17. The inner flange 16 adjacent its lower edge is provided at suitably spaced points with the short outwardly struck lugs 18. The flanges 17 of the two clamping members 15 are connected by means of a conventional form of hinge 19 so that when said clamping members are assembled with the frame members 5, the two case sections are connected for relative movement to open and closed position.

After the flexible facing sheets 11 have been applied to the respective frame members 5 and their edge portions folded into the frame channels as above explained, said frame members are then fitted over the inner flanges 16 of the respective clamp members 15. When pressure is now applied from relatively opposite directions against the frame and clamping members, as the lugs 18 strike the edge of the inner frame wall 7 when the flanges 16 are slightly sprung inwardly. These lugs are in alignment with the respective openings 10 in the frame wall 7 and in the final application of pressure against said frame and clamping members, they register with and enter said openings as seen in Fig. 3 of the drawing, to thereby securely interlock the frame and clamping member with each other. As the lugs 18 are thus brought into interlocking relation with openings 10 the outer edge of the laterally extending flange 17 of the clamping member exerts a tight compressing pressure against the part 13 of the facing sheet 11 which extends inwardly over the edge of the outer frame wall 6, thus securely and immovably clamping said flexible sheet between the under surface of said flange 17 and the edge of the frame wall. In this manner, loosening of the connection of the facing sheet with the frame member 5, and its outward movement from the frame channel over the edge of the wall 6 is effectually precluded, even though unusually severe strain may be placed upon the inner unsupported area of the facing sheet 11.

The assembly operations as above described, are of course exceedingly simple and may be expeditiously performed by unskilled labor and since the use of adhesives or other preliminary holding means for the edge of the flexible sheet is avoided, it will be evident that by means of the present invention, the manufacturing or production costs of cases or containers of this character will be appreciably reduced. It will of course be apparent that if desired, the edge of the outer frame wall 6 may be roughened or provided with short teeth or serrations for gripping engagement with the flexible material. This would of course involve a slight extra expense, and for most purposes is unnecessary, if the openings 10 and lugs 18 are properly located so that the frame and clamping members are assembled in interlocked relation under heavy pressure.

The two sections of the case or container, are of course provided with appropriate coacting latch means to releasably retain the two case sections in closed relation, and it will be noted from reference to Figs. 1 and 2, that when the case is closed all parts of the frame members 5 are completely covered and concealed by the decorative

flexible material, and that the only exposed or visible metallic parts are the thin meeting edges of the flanges 17. These edges and the inner faces of the flanges 16 and outer surfaces of the flanges 17 are highly polished or burnished so that such visible surfaces, when the case is opened will present a pleasing appearance. Also the ornamental contrast between the decorative flexible covering material and the exposed metal surfaces materially enhances the attractive appearance of 10 cases or containers of this character.

In the foregoing description of the accompanying drawing, I have given one example of a practical embodiment of my present improvements. However, as above indicated, many changes in 15 structural detail might be incorporated without sacrifice of the commercial or utilitarian advantages of the invention. Accordingly, it is to be understood that I reserve the privilege of resorting to all such legitimate modifications in the form, construction and relative arrangement of the various mechanical parts, as may fairly be comprehended as within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In a container of the class described, a frame member having a continuous channel, a side wall comprising a sheet of flexible material extending across said frame member and having marginal edge portions over-lying the outer side and edge 20 surfaces of the frame member and turned inwardly and downwardly into the frame channel, and a clamping member having an inner vertical flange and an outwardly extending lateral flange, said frame and clamping members being assembled under pressure to cause the latter flange of the clamping member to tightly compress the in-turned part of the flexible material upon said frame member at the outer side of the channel therein with the vertical flange of said clamping member in direct bearing contact with the inner wall of the frame member, and said vertical flange of the clamping member and the frame member having coacting interlocking parts to retain said members in assembled relation.

2. In a container of the character described, a continuous sheet metal frame member of U-shaped form in cross section, a side wall comprising a sheet of flexible material tightly stretched across said frame member and having its marginal portions extended around the outer edge walls of the frame member and turned inwardly over said walls into the frame channel, and a clamping member of angular form in cross section having a vertical flange insertable within said frame member in direct bearing contact with the inner wall thereof and a lateral outwardly extending flange to close the open side of the frame channel, said frame and clamping members being assembled under pressure to cause the outer edge of said latter flange of the clamping member to exert a tight compressing pressure upon the flexible material and confine the same against movement between said flange and the edge of the outer wall of the frame member, and the inner wall of said frame member and the vertical flange of the clamping member having coacting interlocking parts to retain said members in assembled relation.

3. In a container of the character described, a 70 continuous sheet metal frame member of U-shaped form in cross section, a side wall comprising a sheet of flexible material tightly stretched across said frame member and having its marginal portions extended around the outer 75

edge wall of the frame member and turned inwardly over said walls into the frame channel, and a clamping member of angular form in cross section having a vertical flange insertable within said frame member and a lateral outwardly extending flange to close the open side of the frame channel, said frame and clamping members being assembled under pressure to cause the outer edge of said latter flange of the clamping member to exert a tight compressing pressure upon the flexible material and confine the same against movement between said flange and the edge of the outer wall of the frame member, the inner wall of the frame member being provided adjacent the base of the frame channel with longitudinally spaced openings therein, and the vertical flange of said clamping member having correspondingly spaced outwardly struck lugs for interlocking engagement in said openings to retain the frame and clamping members in assembled relation.

4. In a container of the class described, a sheet metal frame member of U-shaped form in cross

section, a side wall for the container comprising a sheet of flexible material tightly stretched across said frame member and having its marginal portions extended over the outer edge walls thereof, inwardly turned over the edges of said walls and folded into the frame channel in contact engagement with the opposite side walls and the base wall thereof, and a clamping member of angular form in cross section having an inner vertical flange insertable within the frame member in direct bearing contact with the inner wall thereof and a lateral outwardly extending flange, said frame and clamping members being assembled under pressure and said latter flange of the clamping member closing the open side of the frame channel and tightly compressing the flexible material between itself and the edge of the outer frame wall, and said vertical flange of the clamping member and the inner wall of the frame member having coacting interlocking means to retain said frame and clamping members in assembled relation.

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