W. R. ROBERTS.

TRUNK.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 31, 1913.

1,139,726.

Patented May 18, 1915.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

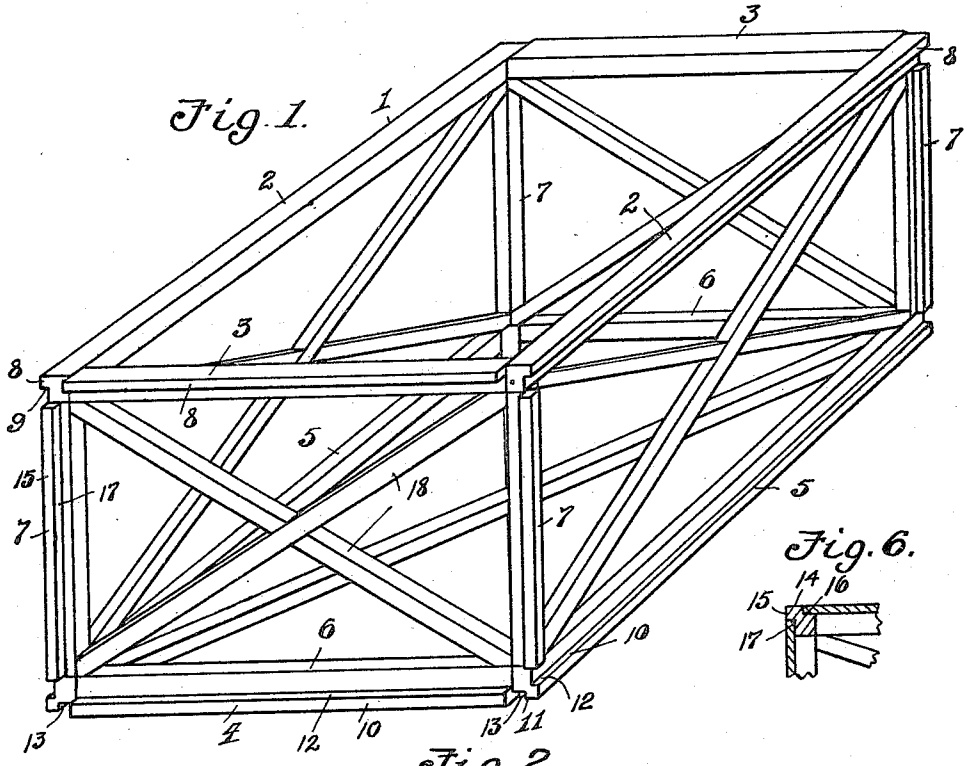
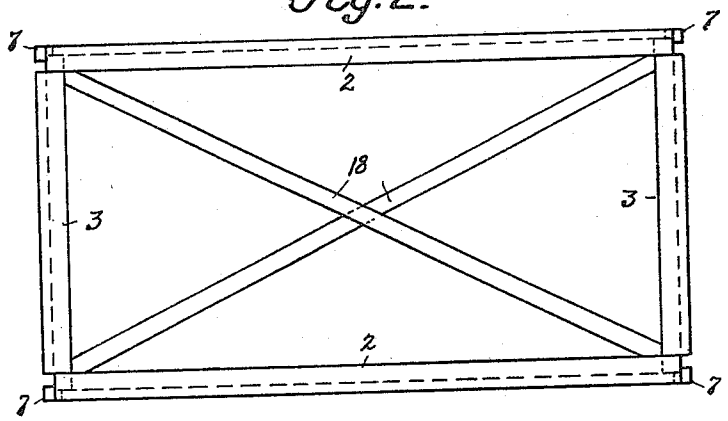


Fig. 6.

Fig. 2.



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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 3.

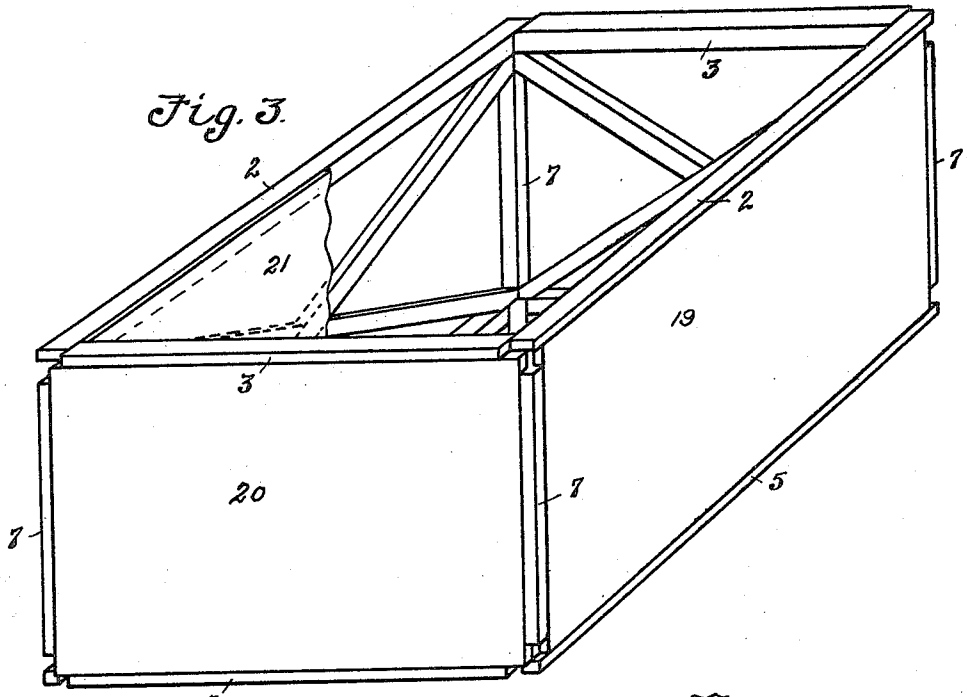


Fig. 4.

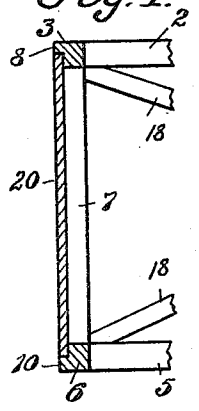
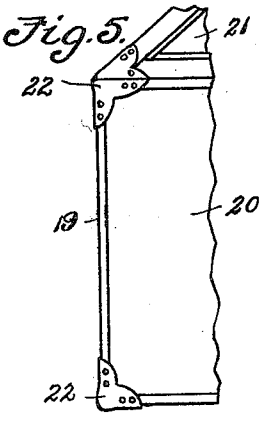


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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TRUNK.

1,139,726. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented May 18, 1915.

Application filed May 31, 1913. Serial No. 770,971.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILBERT R. ROBERTS, a citizen of the United States, residing at South Bend, in the county of St. Joseph and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Trunks, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates generally to an improvement in trunks, and particularly to a body frame for receiving and supporting the side and end pieces of the trunk, the said body frame being formed to present integral sections interfitting between the adjacent edges of the sides and ends, to utilize the frame as a direct support for the trunk and its contents in all positions of the trunk.

The main object of the present invention is the provision of a body frame for a trunk or similar structure in which all edge strips, both horizontal and vertical, are rabbeted to present projecting portions to interfit between the adjacent edges of the sides and ends of the trunk, the proximate surfaces of said projecting portions lying flush with the sides and ends, so that in effect the body frame structure forms in part, particularly at the corner edges, the sides and ends of the trunk.

The invention in its preferred form of details will be described in the following specification, reference being had particularly to the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing the improved body frame. Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the same. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the frame with the side and end strips in place, a portion of one of the inner lining strips being shown. Fig. 4 is a broken vertical section through the improved frame showing the end piece of the trunk in place. Fig. 5 is a broken perspective detail showing a corner of the completed article. Fig. 6 is a broken horizontal section illustrating the application of the side and end pieces to the upright of the frame.

The improved body frame comprises an upper rectangular frame 1 including side and end strips 2 and 3, each of appropriate length for the size of the desired structure, a lower rectangular frame 4 corresponding in size to that of the upper frame and including sides and end strips 5 and 6, and uprights 7 connecting the upper and lower frames at the corners, the whole forming a skeleton rectangular structure having the desired length, breadth and height.

The side and end pieces of the upper frame are of duplicate structure, being each undercut throughout their lengths to provide projecting ledges 8 throughout the upper portion of the outer surfaces of said strips, thereby providing shoulders 9, equal in thickness to and designed for the reception of the upper edges of the side and end pieces of the trunk, as will later appear.

The side and end strips 5 and 6 of the lower frame, are of identical construction, being rabbeted on their relatively outer and lower surfaces to form, with respect to the particular piece, lower and outer lips 10 and 11, providing shoulders 12 and 13 to receive the edges of the sides and bottom of the trunk, as will later appear.

The uprights 7 are of identical formation, being rabbeted on their relatively outer surfaces to provide lips 14 and 15 forming shoulders 16 and 17, to receive the side and end pieces of the trunk.

The lower frame, as well as the side frames, formed by the uprights and the side pieces of the respective upper and lower frames, and also the end frames formed by the uprights and the end pieces of the upper and lower frame, are braced by diagonally arranged strips 18, provided in pairs for each of the mentioned frames, and centrally interfitting, so that the appropriate surfaces of the brace strips lie flush with the inner surfaces and base surfaces of the rabbeted portions of each of the frame strips and uprights, whereby the brace strips form a support for the end pieces, side pieces, bottom, and lining sections of the trunk.

In securing the side pieces 19 in place, they are interfitted between the ledges 8 of the side strips 2 of the upper frame, the ledges 10 of the side strips 5 of the lower frame and the ledges 14 of the uprights, the marginal edges of the side pieces bearing snugly against the shoulders 9, 12 and 16. The end pieces 20 of the trunk interfit between the ledges 8 of the end pieces 3 of the upper frame, the ledges 10 of the end pieces 6 of the lower frame, and the lips 15 of the uprights 7, the marginal edges of the end pieces 20 bearing snugly against the shoulders 9, 12 and 17. The bottom piece (not shown) of the trunk interfits between the lips or ledges 11 of the side and end pieces 5 and 6 of the lower frame, bearing snugly against the shoulders 13.

The sides and ends, as also the bottom,

overlie and bear against the outer surfaces of the respective braces 18, whereby to further reinforce said parts.

The lining sections 21 are secured on the inner sides of the respective frames, the inner surfaces of the strips composing which, are flushed throughout with each other and with the inner surfaces of the brace strips, thereby affording a firm support for the lining section.

Subsequent to the application of an ornamental covering, if such is used, the corners formed at the juncture of the uprights with the respective upper and lower frames are preferably protected by the usual metal corner pieces 22, as shown in Fig. 5.

By the improved construction it will be apparent that the marginal edges of the sides, ends and bottom of the trunk are in effect formed by an integral portion of the brace body frame to which said sides, ends, and bottom are secured, and that by such interfitting, disconnection of the parts under tortional or lateral strain is practically impossible. Furthermore, the frame strips, which are of course of substantial material, will thus receive practically all of the strain incident to the handling or moving of the trunk and thus avoid breaking or splitting of the sides, ends and bottom, usually made of veneer.

While I have shown the body only of the trunk, in the accompanying illustration, it is to be understood that I contemplate the formation of the usual trunk top in a manner similar to that described for the body, the proportions of the various parts constituting the main variation from such body structure.

What is claimed is:—

1. A trunk including an upper rectangular frame comprising side and end strips, each of said strips being rabbeted on the outer surface to present an upper ledge, a lower rectangular frame comprising side and end strips, each of said strips being rabbeted on the outer and lower surfaces to form lower and outer ledges respectively, and uprights connecting the frames, said uprights being rabbeted on the relatively outer surfaces thereof to present outer lips for coöperation respectively with the lips of the side strips of the upper and lower frames and with the end strips of the upper and lower frames, the side and end strips of the respective frames and the uprights having their rabbeted portions equal in length to the full length of the respective strips and uprights, the meeting ends of the strips and uprights providing a square abutting edge of the full surface of the strip or upright beyond the rabbeted portion.

2. A trunk including an upper rectangular frame comprising side and end strips, each of said strips being rabbeted on the outer surfaces to present an upper ledge, a lower rectangular frame comprising side and end strips, each of said strips being rabbeted on the outer lower surfaces to form lower and outer ledges respectively, uprights connecting the frames, and brace strips diagonally connected to said frame strips, each of said brace strips having a width equal to the similar dimensions of the side and end strips beyond the rabbeted portion thereof, whereby the respective side surfaces of the brace strips aline with the outer surfaces of the frame portions.

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

WILBERT R. ROBERTS.

Witnesses:
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GEORGE J. OLTSCH.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."