Oct. 14, 1952 D. LEVINE 2,613,771

ARTICLE OF LUGGAGE HARDWARE

Filed April 29, 1949

Fig. 1.

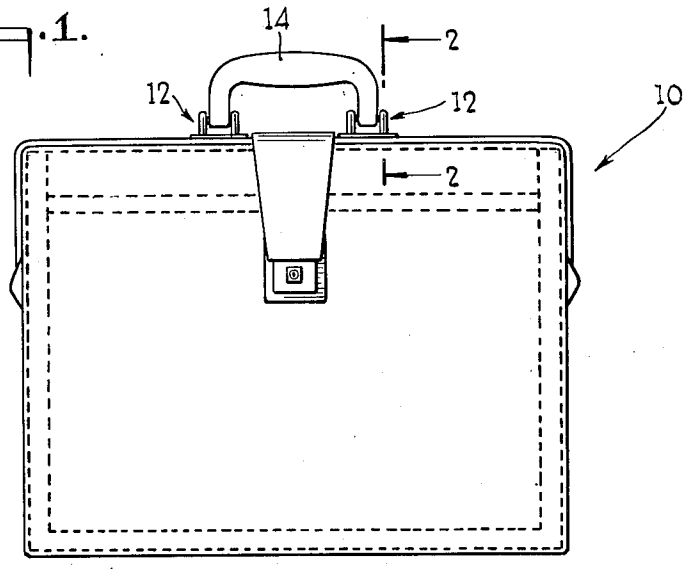


Fig. 3.

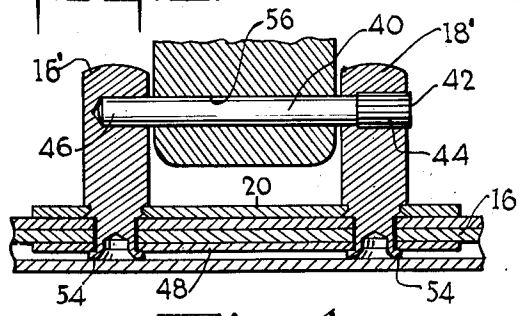


Fig. 6.

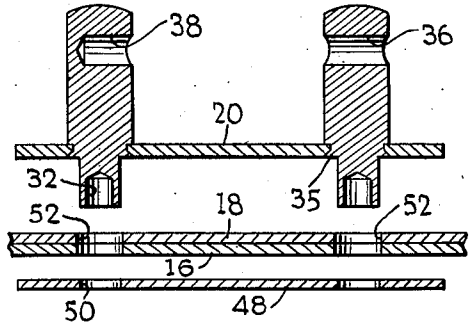


Fig. 4.

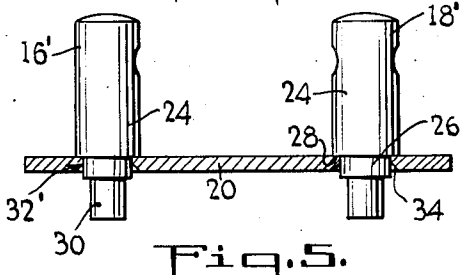


Fig. 5.

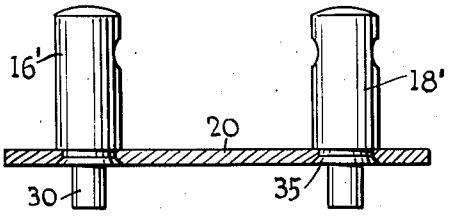


Fig. 7.

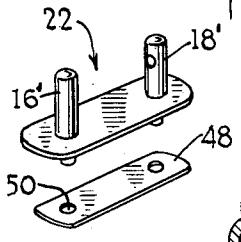
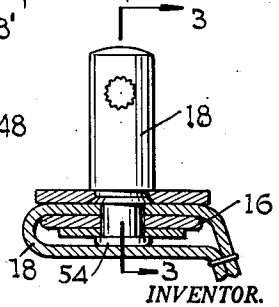


Fig. 2.



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Patented Oct. 14, 1952 2,613,771

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,613,771

ARTICLE OF LUGGAGE HARDWARE

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Application April 29, 1949, Serial No. 90,295

4 Claims. (Cl. 190—58)

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This invention relates to an article of luggage hardware, and more particularly pertains to a "post loop," this being the trade term for an assembly including a pair of posts, an escutcheon plate and a bar for securing an end of a handle to an article of luggage. The term "luggage" as used herein embraces ladies' handbags.

Heretofore luggage manufacturers conventionally have been supplied with post loops in which the posts, escutcheon plate and bar were separate from one another. The manufacturer assembled the various parts of the post loop on the piece of luggage and relied on the securement of the individual posts to the luggage permanently to hold the bar in position. This type of post loop has not been fully satisfactory since the posts could not be secured to the luggage with sufficient rigidity to prevent tilting after use and thereby allow the bar to work free. Furthermore, even when the bar did not become disengaged, the tilting of the posts permitted the post loop to wobble and therefore become unpleasant to use. In addition, mounting post loops of such construction on the luggage involved considerable skill and time so that the mounting constituted an appreciable factor in the cost of manufacturing the luggage.

It is an object of my invention to provide a post loop of improved construction through whose use all the foregoing defects are avoided.

It is a more specific object of my invention to provide a post loop wherein the posts are permanently and rigidly secured to the escutcheon prior to mounting on a piece of luggage so that a high degree of rigidity and permanency of mounting the posts can be obtained through the use of machinery and types of attachment which could not be employed by manual assemblers of luggage.

It is another specific object of my invention to provide a post loop wherein the bar can be secured to the posts after mounting of the posts and escutcheon on a piece of luggage.

It is another specific object of my invention to provide a post loop wherein the posts are permanently and rigidly secured to the escutcheon to form a pre-fashioned unit, said unit having integral mounting means for securing the same to a piece of luggage.

It is another specific object of my invention to provide a post loop in which the posts and escutcheon constitute a pre-fashioned unit and the posts have means in one piece therewith for attaching the unit to a piece of luggage.

It is a further object of my invention to provide a post loop which is strong and durable, is economical to produce and may be used to connect a handle to an article of luggage with ease, a minimum of force and effort and a substantial saving in time and labor.

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Other objects of my invention will in part be obvious and in part be pointed out hereinafter.

My invention accordingly consists in the features of construction, combinations of elements, and arrangements of parts which will be exemplified in the apparatus hereinafter described and of which the scope of application will be indicated in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings in which is shown one of the various possible embodiments of my invention,

Fig. 1 is a side elevational view of a piece of luggage including post loops constructed in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged sectional view taken substantially along the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a sectional view taken substantially along the line 3—3 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a side view in partial section of a pair of posts and escutcheon plate as they appear when assembled, but before interengagement;

Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 4, but showing the parts after interengagement when they constitute a pre-fashioned unit;

Fig. 6 is an exploded view of the pre-fashioned post loop unit and the associated parts of a piece of luggage immediately prior to mounting of the unit on the luggage; and

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of the pre-fashioned post loop unit and its associated attachment plate.

Referring now in detail to the drawings, the reference numeral 10 denotes a brief bag of generally conventional construction except for a pair of post loops 12 which connect a handle 14 to the bag. The bag has the usual front, back, side and bottom panels suitably connected to one another, and the upper edges of front and back panels may include a strip 16 of metal for reinforcement purposes. This strip is covered by a layer 18 of flexible material such as leather or the like which is suitably connected to the front or back panel.

In accordance with the present invention, each post loop 12 includes two posts 16', 18' permanently and rigidly connected to an escutcheon plate 20 and, as thus connected, constituting a pre-fashioned unit 22 which is adapted to be mounted on a piece of luggage. The posts and escutcheon plate may be made from any hard durable material, for instance metal, and the posts may be made solid so that they are less likely to be deformed accidentally. The escutch-

eon plate 20 may be fabricated from sheet metal.

Prior to assembly of the pre-fashioned unit, each post 16', 18' includes a bar-carrying portion 24 of maximum diameter, this being the portion which is located above the outer surface of the escutcheon plate. Extending away from the bottom of the bar-carrying portion is an escutcheon engaging stub portion 26 which is of somewhat lesser diameter whereby to provide an annular shoulder 28 connecting the two portions 24, 26. From the bottom of the stub portion 26 there extends a luggage attaching portion 30 which is of lesser diameter than the stub portion 26. This attaching portion 30 may be formed with an axial bore 32 (see Fig. 6). It may be mentioned here that the various portions 24, 26 and 30 of the posts can be of any cross-sectional configuration and are shown herein as circular only by way of example.

The escutcheon plate 20 is provided with two through openings 32' through which the escutcheon engaging stub portions 26 of the posts are designed to pass. These openings negatively match the configuration of the stub portions and, desirably, are so dimensioned that said stub portions are snugly received therein. The openings 32' are countersunk, as at 34, on the under surface of the escutcheon plate.

In making the pre-fashioned unit 22, the two posts 16', 18' have their shoulders 28 seated on the upper surface of the escutcheon plate with the portions 26 extending through the plate. The portions 26 are longer than the thickness of the escutcheon plate (see Fig. 4) so that the tips of the posts project beneath the plate. After the posts are thus disposed, the stub portions 26 are subjected to axial compression of sufficient force to flow the peripherally disposed metal thereof into the countersunk portions 34 of the openings 32'. Such operation can be performed in any conventional manner, as for example by setting the large diameter portion 24 of each post in a pocket of a stationary anvil with the escutcheon plate resting on the top flat surface of the anvil. A punch is provided having an opening which snugly accommodates the attaching portion 30. When the punch is brought down toward the anvil it will subject to compression the rim of the stub portion 26 and, since the post is solid, the metal of this portion will flow outwardly to fill the countersunk part of the opening 32'. This cold-flowed metal constitutes a second annular shoulder 35 which is abutted against the under surface of the escutcheon plate in the countersunk zone of the opening.

A pre-fashioned unit of this construction has its posts attached to the escutcheon plate very rigidly so that there is no danger of the posts tilting. It may be mentioned that it is not necessary to flow metal from around the entire peripheral zone of the stub portion into the countersunk zone of each opening 32'. Satisfactory results are obtained where such flow takes place at only a few points of each stub portion, such for example as by staking three or four points on the periphery of each stub portion. However, I prefer forcing the entire peripheral zone of the stub portion into the countersunk zone of each opening inasmuch as in this manner I am able to raise the bottom surfaces of the stub portions into the plane of the under surface of the escutcheon plate (see Fig. 5), this often being helpful when mounting the post loop, as will hereinafter appear.

One post, e. g. the post 18', is formed with a through opening 36 normal to its longitudinal axis and facing the opposite post. The other post is provided with an opening 38 in alignment with the opening 36. This second opening likewise can be a through opening. However, I prefer to have the outer end of this latter opening blocked.

The post loop includes a bar 40 which is designed to be received in the openings 36, 38. One end of this bar is fashioned with a head 42 which is slightly larger in diameter than the through opening 36. Said head has a roughened surface, for example being scored, closely splined or finely knurled around its periphery as indicated by score lines 44. The bar is of such length that its forward end 46 will be seated against the bottom of the blocked opening 38 when the outer end of its head 42 is approximately flush with the outer side of the post in which the opening 36 is provided. The bar, save for the head 42, is dimensioned to be snugly fitted in the openings 36, 38. The head 42, however, is a force fit in the opening 36.

Finally, the post loop includes an attachment plate 48 fabricated from a rigid self-form-maintaining material, such for example as sheet metal. This plate is formed with a pair of openings 50 spaced apart properly and suitably dimensioned to pass the luggage attaching portions 30.

The article of luggage to which the post loops are secured are, prior to mounting of the post loops, provided with a pair of through apertures 52. The attaching portions 30 are thrust through the openings 52, the tips of these portions projecing sufficiently far from the bottom of the escutcheon plate 20 to extend not only through the leather layer 18 and steel strip 16 but also through the attachment plate 48. These projecting tips of the attaching portions 30 are expanded, as for instance by staking, center punching or spinning. As a result of such operation the tips of the attaching portions have flanges 54 fashioned thereon which permanently and rigidly secure the post loop to the piece of luggage.

Optionally, the layer of leather 18 may be folded around the metal strip 16, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, so as to cover the attachment plate and flanges 54 and thus enhance the appearance of the bag.

After the post loops are positioned, the ends of the handles 14 are placed between the pairs of posts and the bars 40 slipped through the openings 36 and through openings 56 in the handle ends into the openings 38, the head 44 of the bar being forced into the opening 36 as by tapping the same with a suitable instrument such for instance as a hammer. The opening 38 is sufficiently deep to permit the head of the bar to be received entirely or substantially entirely within the opening 36.

By locating the second shoulder 35 within the countersunk zones of the openings 32', the under surface of the escutcheon plate is left free of projections, except for the attaching portions 30 which are received in the openings 52, so that said plate can be seated without difficulty on the leather layer 18.

It will thus be seen that I have provided a device which achieves the several objects of my invention and is well adapted to meet the conditions of practical use.

As various possible embodiments may be made of the above invention, and as various changes might be made in the embodiment above set forth, it is to be understood that all matter herein de-

scribed, or shown in the accompanying drawings, is to be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. A pre-fashioned article of luggage hardware comprising a pair of posts, an escutcheon plate having two through openings therein, said pair of posts extending through said openings and projecting to both sides of the escutcheon plate, each post having a shoulder in one piece therewith abutting against the outer surface of the escutcheon plate, each said post having a second shoulder in one piece therewith abutting against the under surface of the escutcheon plate, the upwardly projecting portions of the posts including means to engage a bar and the downwardly projecting portions of the posts including means independent of said shoulders to engage a piece of luggage.

2. A pre-fashioned article of luggage hardware comprising a pair of posts, an escutcheon plate having two through openings therein, said pair of posts extending through said openings and projecting to both sides of the escutcheon plate, each said post having a shoulder in one piece therewith abutting against the outer surface of the escutcheon plate, each said post having a second shoulder in one piece therewith abutting against the under surface of the escutcheon plate, the upwardly projecting portions of the posts including means to engage a bar, and the downwardly projecting portion of each post being hollow whereby the same is adapted to be expanded to engage a piece of luggage.

3. A pre-fashioned article of luggage hardware comprising a pair of posts, an escutcheon plate having two through openings therein, said pair of posts extending through said openings and projecting to both sides of the escutcheon plate, each of said posts having a shoulder in one piece therewith abutting against the upper surface of the escutcheon plate and holding the post against downward movement relative to the plate, means in one piece with each said post and cooperating with the walls of the associated opening and holding the post against upward movement relative to the plate, the upwardly projecting portions of the posts including means to engage a bar, and the downwardly projecting portions of the posts including means independent of the first-named means to engage an article of luggage.

4. A pre-fashioned article of luggage hardware comprising a pair of posts, an escutcheon plate having two through openings therein, said pair of posts extending through said openings and projecting to both sides of the escutcheon plate, each said post having a shoulder in one piece therewith abutting against the outer surface of the escutcheon plate, each said post having a second shoulder in one piece therewith abutting against the under surface of the escutcheon plate, the upwardly projecting portions of the posts including means to engage a bar, and the downwardly projecting portion of each post being hollow, and an attachment plate having a pair of openings therein to pass the hollow downwardly projecting portions whereby said hollow portions may be inserted through the openings in the attachment plate and the tips of said portions thereafter spread to permanently and rigidly secure the article of luggage hardware to a piece of luggage.

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