My present invention is concerned primarily with improvements in brief cases although it may be embodied in other envelope type bags or cases of various descriptions.

The term "brief case" therefore is to be understood in the specification and claims as including all structures of a similar type.

An object of the invention is to provide a brief case which will not get out of shape even though carelessly handled and subjected to rigorous use.

Another object of the invention is to provide a brief case with a self-opening flap which when released will normally spring to open position so that material may be conveniently introduced into the case while the flap is out of the way.

Other objects of the invention are to provide a brief case of the reinforced type which will combine a neat and attractive appearance with ruggedness and durability in use, which is of simple, practical, inexpensive construction and which is well suited to meet the requirements of convenient and rapid manufacture.

Another more specific object is to provide a brief case reinforced by metallic reinforcing members within which the members are so designed and so mounted that they prevent each sharp edges or unprotected ends adapted to chafe or cut through the fabric of the case itself or to wear away the fabric which conceals them even after a prolonged period of use.

Another specific object of the invention is to so design the reinforcing members that by their own inherent resiliency they oppose permanent distortion of the brief case and tend to keep the case, when empty, always flat and uncreased.

Another specific object is to preform the fabric sections of the brief case so that the reinforcing elements may be simply emplaced in prepared grooves or channels and quickly secured in position.

The invention may be more fully understood from the following description in connection with the accompanying drawings wherein:

Fig. 1 is a front view of a brief case embodying the invention and showing the cover flap sprung to its normal open position.

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the brief case section which constitutes the back wall of the cover flap with parts broken away to expose the hinge springs and reinforcing members.

Fig. 3 is a similar view of the front section of the brief case,

Fig. 4 is an enlarged transverse sectional detail on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1,

Fig. 5 is a similar view on the line 5—5 of Fig. 3 and

Fig. 6 is an enlarged longitudinal sectional detail showing the manner in which one flap actuating spring is anchored to two of the reinforcing elements.

Referring to the drawing, I have used the reference numeral 10 to designate the sheet of material which constitutes the rear wall of the brief case and the top portion of which is adapted to be bent over to serve as a flap 11. The front wall of the brief case is indicated at 12 and the front and rear walls are adapted to be connected in a conventional manner by gussets 13 (Fig. 4), sewed by lines of stitching 14 and 15 to the sections 10 and 12 and to each other and to any suitably number of partition forming members 16 which divide the brief case into a plurality of compartments or pockets.

Many suitable means may be utilized for retaining the cover in closed position, such means constituting in part of the present invention and I have illustrated the use of conventional strips 17 and buckles 18 for the purpose. The front and rear brief case sections are made of any suitable material such as leather, "Fabricoid", artificial leather etc., the only requisite being that this sheet material is capable of being embossed in accordance with my invention by a suitable embossing process, the inner faces of both the member 10, the flap 11 and the front section 12 having receiving grooves 19 formed therein by an embossing or pressing out process, these grooves appearing as raised portions or beads 23 at the exterior of the brief case which serve to enhance the attractive appearance thereof.

Inasmuch as short lengths of reinforcing wire or other material are apt to chafe or cut the channels which house them and further since a great waste of material is involved in stamping U-shaped reinforcing portions out of sheet stock, I use U-shaped wire reinforcing members. The wire is preferably resilient and of course can be readily bent into the desired U-shape.

One U-shaped wire, indicated at 20, is laid in the U-shaped groove which follows the lower and side edges of the backing sheet 10. Another inverted U-shaped wire 21 is laid in a corresponding pressed out groove in the brief case flap, a third similar reinforcing member 22 of wire is emplaced in the corresponding groove in the inner face of the front brief case section 13.

As the wires are laid in position within the grooves 19, they may be quickly secured by the use of rivets 24 passed through the brief case
section which they reinforce, then through pref-
pared openings 26 in the wires. It will be ob-
served from Figs. 1 and 3 that only two rivets are
necessary to secure each U-shaped wire section
in position, these rivets being passed through
the wire near the free ends of the legs thereof.
The use of the rivets is optional but one ad-
antage of using them is the fact that by this
simple riveting operation, the reinforcing mem-
bers are permanently and quickly secured with
respect to the sections which they are to rein-
force and the application of a narrow cover strip
such as the strip 26 is thereby facilitated.
Preferably, as indicated in Fig. 4, the grooves
19 are of a depth corresponding to the diameter
of the wires so that the wires do not extend in-
wardly into the compartment forming portion
of the case. The wire concealing strips 26 fol-
low the contour of the wire, are secured by two
lines of stitching 27 at each side of the groove
19 and completely conceal the wire as well as
concealing the flap actuating springs 28 which
shall now describe.
The coiled springs 28 which serve to auto-
matically open the flap 11, preferably connect the
upwardly extending legs of the frame 20 and
the downwardly extending legs of the frame 21.
One convenient method of securing the springs to
these legs is to screw-thread the leg extremities
as indicated at 29 (Fig. 6) and then screw the
convolutions of the spring 28 onto these leg ends.
Thus the ends of the legs are concealed and the
spring is anchored. These springs may be
soldered to the legs if desired or they may be
permanently secured in any desired fashion, it
being preferable to connect the frames 20 and 21
with the springs 28 and then assemble the springs
and these two frames as a unit in the grooves 19
of the back forming and flap forming sheet 10, 11.
From the foregoing description it will be ob-
served that entirely independently of the spring
head, the brief case is effectively reinforced par-
ticularly against inward bending at the ends
thereof. The reinforcing members are so ap-
plied and so anchored that they cannot afford
or chafe through the fabric of the case. They
occupy none of the available compartment space
within the case and therefore receding grooves
define an ornamental bead or ridge about the
periphery of the case. Not only is the construc-
tion simplified but assembly is greatly facilitated
by pressing the grooves of the brief case sections,
dropping the reinforcing members of the grooves,
riveting them quickly in position and subse-
sequently applying the completing strips.
It will thus be seen that there is herein de-
scribed an article in which the several features
of this invention are embodied, and which article
in its action attains the various objects of the
invention and is well suited to meet the require-
ments of practical use.
As many changes could be made in the above
construction, and many apparently widely dif-
ferent embodiments of this invention could be
made without departing from the scope thereof,
it is intended that all matter contained in the
above description or shown in the accompanying
drawing shall be interpreted as illustrative and
not in a limiting sense.

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

1. A brief case including a front section and
a rear section connected together to define a
pocket the rear section being extended upwardly
to afford a flap foldable over the face of the front
section, reinforcing wires mounted at the side
edges of the rear section and its flap forming
portion and with their ends spaced apart and
axially aligned, coiled springs connecting the
ends of said reinforcing wires and affording a
spring hinge for the flap normally tending to
maintain the flap in open position.

2. A reinforced brief case construction in-
cluding a front section and a rear section, each of
relatively stiff flexible material, said sections
being connected together to form an envelope,
each of said sections having outwardly project-
ing ribs defining grooves in the inner faces of
the sections, said grooves following but spaced
from the side and bottom edges of the sections,
and reinforcing wires lying wholly within the
grooves, and means to prevent displacement of
the wires from the grooves.

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