June 4, 1963 L. T. MARTIN 3,092,223

CARRYING BAG

Filed July 11, 1960

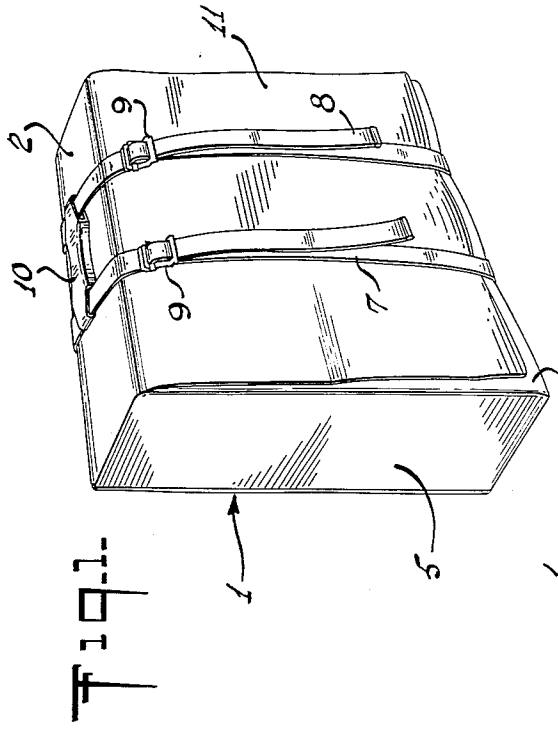


Fig. 1.

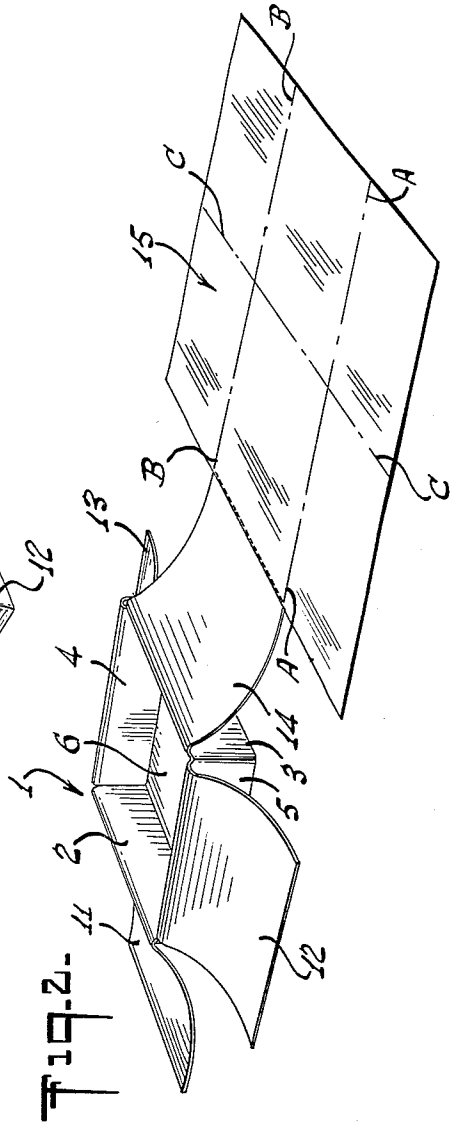


Fig. 2.

INVENTOR
LEO T. MARTIN
BY Roy C. Hopgood
ATTORNEY

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CARRYING BAG

Leo T. Martin, Brooklyn, N.Y., assignor to Abercrombie & Fitch Company, New York, N.Y.

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1 Claim. (Cl. 190—1)

This invention relates to a carrying bag and, more particularly, to a carrying bag for boots and the like, which has integrally formed with it a foot mat which is impervious to water.

The conventional or normal carrier for boots, of the type worn by fishermen, is limited in utility as it does not include a facility for permitting a fisherman to keep his feet dry while changing from the boots to regular footwear. Consequently, while changing from one type of footwear to another, he must provide some article to stand on, or he must stand on the ground surface, or he must balance himself on one foot and then the other. Obviously, this is most inconvenient.

Accordingly, it is a first object of the invention to provide a carrying case for boots which includes, as an integral part, a foot mat which is impervious to water and which is of sufficient size, at least, to accommodate a person in the standing position to permit him to change from one form of footwear to another.

It is another object of the invention to provide a carrying case for boots including a mat which is crack resistant, foldable and lightweight but durable enough to withstand the weight of a person.

In accordance with an aspect of the invention, there is provided a collapsible canvas bag of a generally rectangular parallelopiped shape. The bag is provided with sufficient space to accommodate a pair of boots. The invention is characterized by a mat, impervious to water, which is attached to an edge of a portion of the bag. When the bag is open, the mat, which is sufficient in size to accommodate a person in the standing position, may be unfolded outwardly from the bag to lay flat on a surface, such as the ground.

The above mentioned and other features and objects of this invention and the manner of attaining them will become more apparent and the invention itself will be best understood by reference to the following description of an embodiment of the invention taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of the carrying bag when closed; and,

FIGURE 2 is a perspective view of the carrying bag when open and with the mat unfolded.

Referring to the drawing, the novel carrying bag generally indicated at **1** is preferably made of a light-weight material, such as canvas. The bag has a top **2**, a bottom **3**, sides **4**, **5** and a back panel **6**. The forward portion of the bag is formed of overlapping flaps **11**, **12**, **13** and **14**, which are continuations of the portions **2**, **3**, **4** and **5**, respectively. Preferably, the inner walls of the bag are covered with a plastic material to render them leakproof.

When closed, as shown in FIGURE 1, the bag has a rectangular parallelopiped shape. A pair of spaced apart straps **7** and **8** are passed around the bag and the ends are secured together in the buckles **9**. At the top **2**, the straps **7** and **8** pass through a handle **10**, which is provided to facilitate carrying of the bag.

Referring now to FIGURE 2, the bag is opened by first opening the straps **7** and **8**, and then folding back the flaps **11**, **12**, **13** and **14**. A compartment or space is

provided behind the flaps for a pair of boots, which for simplicity is not shown.

A mat **15**, preferably rectangularly shaped, is secured along one edge to the outer edge of the flap **14**, for example, by stitching. While it is preferred permanently to retain the mat to the flap **14** by stitching, it may also be retained by fasteners, hooks and eyes, rivets, or zipper.

The mat is formed of a water impervious material, such as oilcloth. It is also lightweight, but of sufficient durability to withstand the weight of a person. Furthermore, it is crack resistant and foldable.

When unfolded, as shown in FIGURE 2, the area of the mat is approximately six times the area of the flap **14**. However, it may be larger or smaller, but should be of sufficient size to permit a person to stand on it. The person standing on the mat can remove his boots from his feet, place them in the compartment of the carrying bag and put his regular footwear on his feet without being required to place his feet on the ground, which may be damp or wet, or, without having to balance himself on one foot.

In closing the bag, the mat **15** is first folded along the dotted line A—A, then along the dotted line B—B, and then along the dotted line C—C. The mat is then folded on top of the flap **14**, which is in turn folded into the bag. The remaining flaps are folded into the bag in reverse order, **13**, **12** and **11**, and the straps are secured.

While the foregoing description sets forth the principles of the invention in connection with specific apparatus, it is to be understood that this description is made only by way of example and not as a limitation of the scope of the invention as set forth in the objects thereof and in the accompanying claim.

What is claimed is:

A boot carrier comprising a collapsible bag having a bottom and four sides defining an open container, overlapping flaps integrally extending from each of said sides, respectively, the overlapping flaps completely enclosing the open portion of said container thereby defining an enclosed hollow space for a pair of boots, the inside facing surfaces of said sides, bottom and overlapping flaps comprising a water impervious material, a foldable mat attached to one of said flaps for accommodating a person in the standing position while changing footwear, said mat being wider and longer than the connected flap and attached at an intermediate edge portion to said flap, the mat portions extending beyond said intermediate edge portion being foldable inwardly along respective lines constituting imaginary extensions of two opposite edges of said connected flap, the folded mat being further foldable towards said intermediate edge, whereby when said mat is fully folded, it occupies approximately the same flat area as said connected flap, the mat being folded on the inside of said connected flap and all of said flaps being folded in overlapping position to close said bag, and strap means extending completely around said bag to maintain it in the closed condition.

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