April 26, 1938. F. CHRISTOFFERSEN 2,115,253

SEPARATELY LOCKABLE COMPARTMENT TRUNK

Filed Feb. 18, 1937

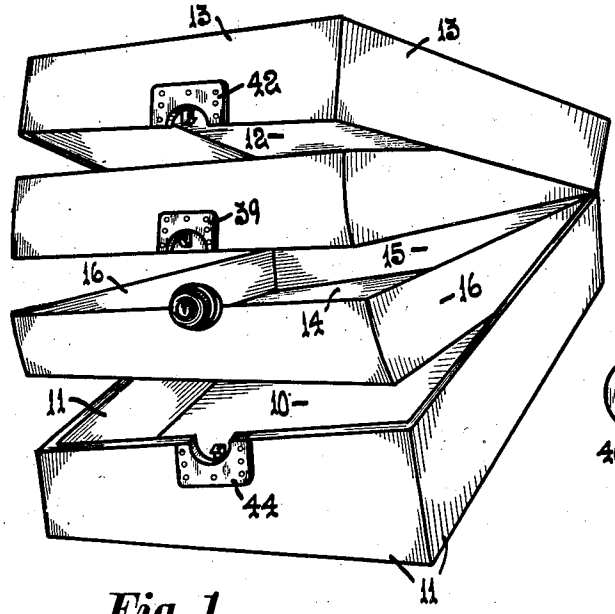


Fig. 1.

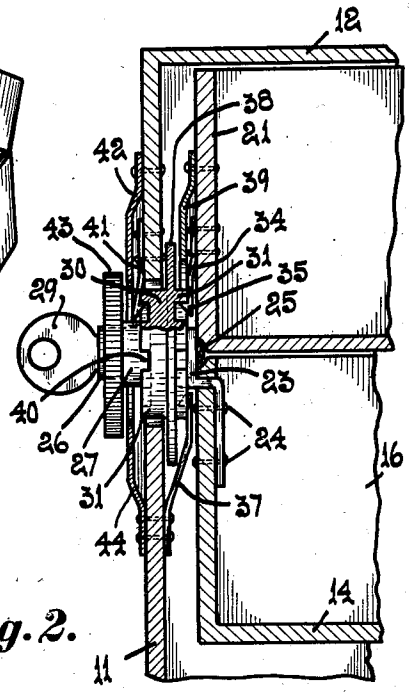


Fig. 2.

Fig. 4.

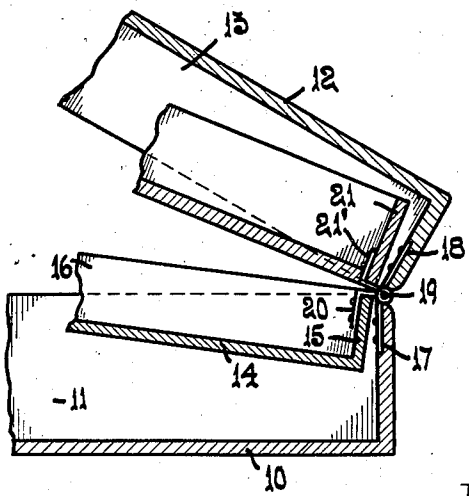
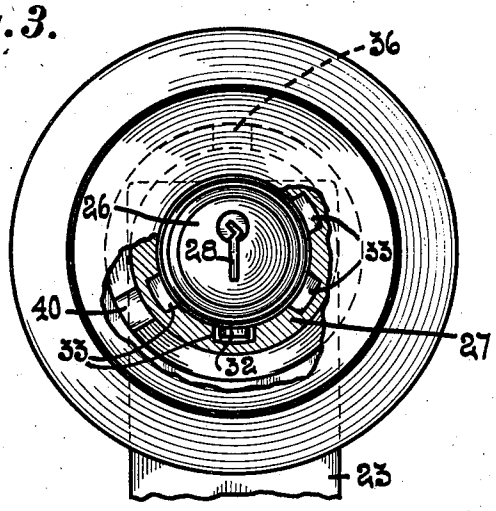


Fig. 3.



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Patented Apr. 26, 1938 2,115,253

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,115,253

SEPARATELY LOCKABLE COMPARTMENT TRUNK

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Application February 18, 1937, Serial No. 126,374

2 Claims. (Cl. 190—16)

This invention relates to containers and more particularly to luggage trunks, tool boxes and the like, and has for an object to provide a container having a plurality of compartments which may be locked simultaneously with a mechanism serving all of the compartments.

A further object of the invention is to provide means serving all of said compartments whereby one or more of said compartments may be closed and locked while other compartments are unlocked as may be selected.

Other and further objects and advantages of the invention will be understood from the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a container embodying the present invention.

Figure 2 is a sectional view of a fragment of the container and a lock mechanism employed showing partly in section and partly in side elevation.

Figure 3 is a face view of the lock mechanism, certain portions thereof being broken away and showing in section.

Figure 4 is a sectional view of a fragment of the container shown in Figure 1 showing the application of certain hinge members employed.

Heretofore traveling salesmen and the like transporting their valuable samples in automobiles have usually placed said samples in sample cases or trunks positioned in the body of said vehicles and in the case of valuable samples such as jewelry or the like it has been found necessary to maintain the sample container locked to prevent unauthorized persons from tampering and pilfering. The conventional container trunk being provided with trays, it has been found inconvenient to lift one tray from another for displaying samples disposed in the bottom or lower portions of such trunk. Also when lifting a tray of samples from the trunk it must be necessarily placed somewhere before the next tray of samples can be removed whereby sample trays become distributed upon the ground or side walk adjacent to the vehicle, causing the curious to congregate and augmenting the chances of said pilfering. The present invention contemplates the provision of a compartment sample case which is particularly adapted to be disposed upon the platform of the rear closeable compartment of a modern stream-lined automobile, whereby when the cover of said automobile compartment is maintained in an up and open position the cover of the sample case of container of the present invention may also be similarly swung up and open together with its several compartments, whereby all of the goods remain in front of a prospective purchaser and the salesman thereof, thereby prohibiting said pilfering. Also the present invention providing means whereby any selected compartment or compartments may remain unlocked and openable while the other compartments may remain locked, makes it possible to display only such samples as are of immediate interest and to the exclusion and protection of other samples.

Referring now to the drawing for a more particular description and first to Figure 1 wherein is shown a hollow trunk or the like which when closed is of substantially rectangular hexahedron shape, provided with a plurality of compartments, said trunk having a base 10 providing one of its sides, said base being provided with a perimetrical rim flange 11 extending therefrom and thereabout. The flange 11 may be of any width desired extending from the base 10 any selected distance in accordance with the number of later described trays carried within the trunk, said base and its flange constituting the base portion of the trunk. A cover member 12 provides a side for the trunk or container which is oppositely disposed to the base 10 at times when the trunk is closed, said cover member 12 also having a perimetrically disposed rim flange 13 extending therefrom and therearound similar to the rim flange 11, said cover 12 and its rim flange constituting the cover portion of the trunk. The rim flange 13 may be of any selected width and is adapted to abut against the rim flange 11 at times when the trunk is closed. At least one tray is disposed within the trunk and preferably at least two trays are provided. Said trays are of slightly less area in plan than the area between the several portions of the rim flange 11 for disposing the trays snugly within the trunk in stacked relation between said base 10 and said cover 12.

The bottom member 14 of the tray 15, in use, is spaced away from the base 10 a sufficient distance to provide a suitable compartment thereby, said tray 15 being provided with a perimetrically disposed rim flange 16. The base portion of the trunk is provided with a hinge-wing 17, as best shown in Figure 4, and the cover portion is provided with a similar wing-hinge 18, said wings being secured together, by means of an axle pin 19 which may be extended against one side of the trunk, if desired, and said hinge-wings may be also similarly of elongated character. The rim flange of the tray 15 is provided with a hinge-

wing 20 which is also pivotally mounted on the axle 19, a plurality of compartments being thereby provided at times when the trunk is closed.

If desired, an additional tray 21 is employed having a like rim flange, the hinge-wing 21' thereof also being pivotally mounted on the axle pin 19 whereby the base portion and the cover portion are adapted to have relative swinging movements, said tray or trays being adapted to have similar relative movements either with respect to each other or with respect to either of said portions.

The rim flange of the tray 14 carries a lock mechanism although said lock mechanism may be carried by any of the trays employed as may be selected. The lock mechanism is preferably of barrel and key type. The lock mechanism includes conventional pins and springs, not shown, which operate in a well known manner. If desired, the lock may be of the keyless permutation type.

As best shown in Figure 2, the flange of the tray 15 which is oppositely disposed with respect to its hinge-wing 20 is provided with an arm 23 secured thereto by means of suitable rivets or the like 24, said arm carrying one or more rivets or a fastening device 25 which may consist of welding whereby the said fastening device provides such an attaching means that the barrel 26 of the lock mechanism is immovable with respect to the arm 23. The revoluble sleeve 27 is mounted on said barrel and extends beyond the flange 11 of said base 10 whereby the key way 28 of the barrel is accessible from the outside of the trunk at times when the latter is closed and locked as later described, said key way being adapted to receive the key 29 for actuating the pins of the lock mechanism and freeing the sleeve 27 from the barrel 26 whereby the operator may impart revoluble movements to the sleeve when it is unlocked.

The sleeve 27 is provided with an annular disc 30 formed integral therewith, the latter being provided with an annularly disposed flange 31 and it will be understood that when the sleeve 27 is rotated the flange 31 is provided with corresponding movements.

As best shown in Figure 3, the pin or pins 32 of the lock mechanism are adapted to be received in any of the slots 33 formed on the inner annular wall of the sleeve, whereby the sleeve is prevented from rotary movements with respect to the stationary barrel of the lock at times when the pin 32 is extended into any of said slots, the latter being spaced apart.

The flange 31 of the sleeve preferably extends outwardly from and beyond both sides of the disc 30. The flange of the tray 21, as best shown in Figure 2, is provided with a resilient spring arm 34 secured thereto, said arm having at its free end a beveled hook 35 and as there shown at times when the trays are moved into abutting relation with respect to each other, the hook 35 will pass the flange 31 of the disc, the resiliency of the arm causing the hook to move towards the disc whereby the hook engages with said flange for locking the two trays together, whereby the compartment within the lower tray 15 is closed and locked, said disc-flange cooperating with the hook to snap-lock said parts together.

The annular flange of the sleeve is provided with a notch 36 shown in dotted lines in Figure 3 and at times when said annular flange is rotated the oppositely disposed walls of said notch may be thereby brought into parallelism with the arm 34 whereby the said notch registers with the hook of said arm and in alignment therewith; whereupon the tray 21 may be swung away from the tray 15 for opening the compartment of the latter.

The base portion of the trunk is similarly provided with a resilient spring arm 37 having a like hook at its free end adapted to engage the flange of the disc whereby the compartment between the bottom member 14 of the tray 15 and the base 10 of the trunk may be made inaccessible while at the same time the compartment within the tray 15 may be similarly made inaccessible or accessible as may be desired, and at times when the notch 36 of the annular flange is rotated to register with the hook of the arm 37, the base portion of the trunk may be released from the tray 15.

The annular flange of the disc is provided with an outwardly extending annular guard collar 38, the outer perimeter of which extends beyond the accessible portions of the spring arms 37 and 34 for the purpose of preventing an unauthorized person from tampering with or releasing the detent hooks. The tray 21 is further provided with a guard plate 39 which cooperates with the collar 38 in guarding against any tampering with the spring arm 34 particularly.

That edge of the annular flange 31 which is outwardly disposed with respect to the trunk is provided with a notch 40, as best shown in Figures 2 and 3 which is adapted to be brought in register with the hook of the spring arm 41 carried by the cover portion of the trunk for releasing said cover portion at authorized times.

A guard-plate 42 is carried by and upon the outside of the cover portion, as best shown in Figure 1, which in conjunction with the dial plate 43 guards against tampering with the spring arm 41. The dial plate 43 is preferably provided with a milled annular edge for facilitating rotating the sleeve to which it is rigidly secured. A further guard plate 44 is preferably provided, as best shown in Figures 1 and 2, upon the outside of the perimetrical flange 11 of the base portion of the trunk.

In operation the pin 32 of the lock mechanism being retracted, the sleeve is then rotated whereby a selected notch is placed in register with a selected hook for opening a selected compartment and said pin 32 is released into a corresponding slot locking the other compartments, said unlocked compartment permitting a swinging movement of its walls and it will be noted that any of said compartments may be opened or unlocked irrespective of the condition of the other compartments, the mechanism permits the merchandise, tools or the like within the compartment of the tray 21 to become accessible by releasing the hook of the spring arm 41 only, the cover portion thereupon being freely swingable for said purpose. If it is desired to also expose to view the contents of the compartment between the bottom 14 of the tray 14 and the base 10 while at the same time the compartment within the tray 15 remains closed and locked, the mechanism is manipulated to release the spring arm 37 from the lock mechanism for said purpose; whereupon both the cover portion and base portion are movable away from or with respect to the trays which are latched together by means of the spring arm 34 at said time.

Similarly the lock mechanism may be manipulated to provide other combinations of locked, closed and unlocked, openable or open compartments. The trunk may be provided with a suit-

able leather or the like covering material on the outside thereof.

It will be understood that certain features and sub-combinations are of utility and may be employed without reference to other features and sub-combinations. This is contemplated by and is within the scope of my claims. It is further obvious that various changes may be made in details within the scope of my claims without departing from the spirit of my invention. It is therefore, to be understood that my invention is not to be limited to the specific details shown and described.

I claim:

1. A hollow rectangular hexahedron multiple compartment trunk or the like, comprising a base portion having a perimetrical rim flange extending therefrom, a cover portion provided with a similar flange, said flanges adapted to abut each other when the trunk is closed, at least one tray within the trunk having a perimetrical rim flange, said base, cover and tray hinged to a common axle for relative swinging movements, the base of the tray being spaced from the base of the trunk, when the latter is closed, a sufficient distance to provide a storage compartment therebetween, key controlled means for selectively securing the tray to said base portion or to said cover portion or to both portions for preventing said swinging movements, said means comprising a sleeve lock mechanism and barrel secured to the rim flange of the tray, said lock having a key-way accessible from the exterior of the trunk when the latter is closed, a flanged disk mounted for revoluble movements axially with respect to said barrel, said mechanism arranged to prevent and to permit movement of the disk, said flange having a plurality of notches, resilient latch arms provided with beveled detent hooks carried by the base and cover portions, said hooks adapted to engage said flange of the disk for securing the arms to the flange, said flange adapted to be rotated for bringing the oppositely disposed walls of each selected notch into parallelism with selected hooks to permit said relative swinging movements.

2. In a luggage trunk or the like having a body portion and a cover portion, hinge-wings for said portions, an axle pin for said wings, trays stacked within the trunk providing a plurality of normally closed compartments, hinge-wings for the trays pivotally mounted on said pin, said portions and trays adapted to have relative swinging movement on their common axle for opening or closing said compartments, a lock mechanism carried by one of said trays, a revoluble disk provided with an annular flange axially disposed with respect to said lock, said lock adapted to control the revoluble movements of said disk, a resilient detent hook carried by the other tray adapted to engage against said flange for securing the trays together, resilient detent hooks carried by the cover and body portions adapted to engage against said flange for locking said portions and trays together, said flange provided with a plurality of release notches for the hooks, said flange adapted to be manually rotated, when permitted by said lock mechanism, for causing said hooks to register with selected notches for permitting any of the said relative swinging movements for opening any or all of said compartments.

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