Aug. 27, 1935. A. J. PRATT 2,012,829

SPECTACLE AND EYEGLASS CASE

Filed March 16, 1934

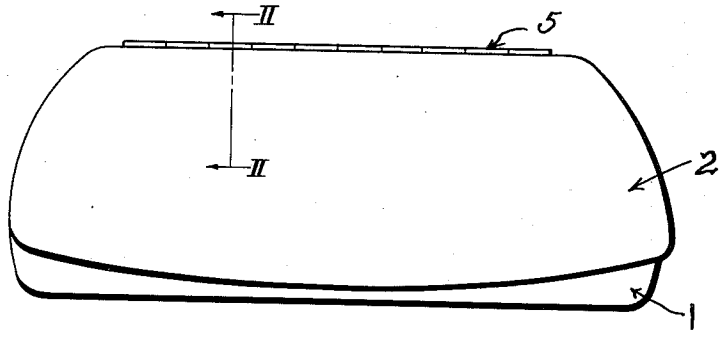

FIG. I

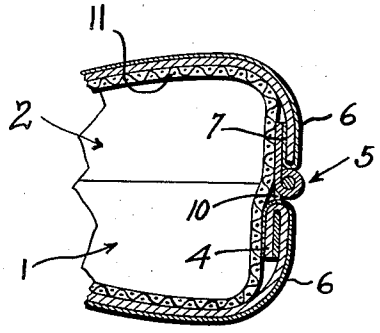

FIG. II

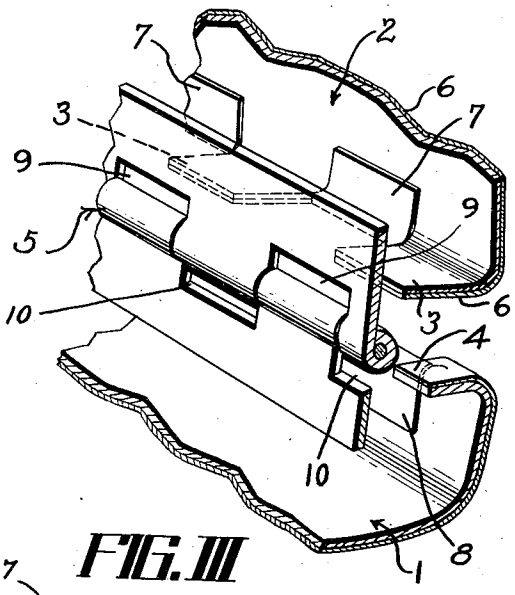

FIG. III

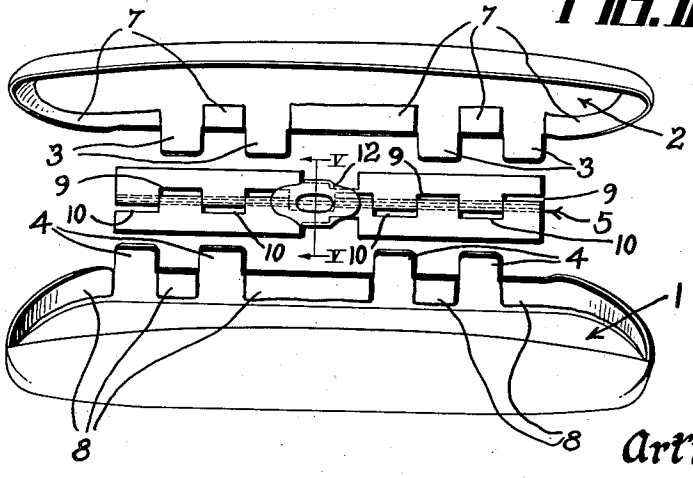

FIG. IV

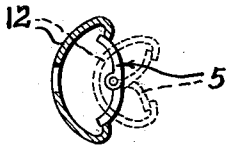

FIG. V

INVENTOR
Arthur J. Pratt.
BY
Harry H. Stifel.
ATTORNEY

Patented Aug. 27, 1935 2,012,829

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,012,829

SPECTACLE AND EYEGLASS CASE

Arthur J. Pratt, Belmont, Mass., assignor to American Optical Company, Southbridge, Mass., a voluntary association of Massachusetts

Application March 16, 1934, Serial No. 715,956

14 Claims. (Cl. 206—6)

This invention relates to improvements in receptacles and has particular reference to improved cases for spectacles and eyeglasses, and method of making the same.

One of the principal objects of the invention is to provide improved means and method of making a spectacle or eyeglass case wherein the main box portion and cover portion of the case may be formed to the required finished shape and be provided with the usual flexible case covering material separately of each other and may thereafter be secured to a separate hinge member without in any way injuring the covering material.

Another object is to provide improved means and method of attaching the main box portion and cover portion of a spectacle or eyeglass case of the above character to a separate hinge member whereby the covering material on said portions may be simultaneously anchored against becoming loose and fraying during the use of the case.

Another object is to provide improved means and method of forming and attaching the separate parts of a spectacle or eyeglass case to a hinge member without the use of separate attaching means.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, and it will be apparent that many changes in the steps of the process and the arrangement of parts and details of construction shown and described may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention as expressed in the accompanying claims. I, therefore, do not wish to be limited to the exact steps of the process and details of construction shown and described as the preferred form only has been shown by way of illustration.

Referring to the drawing:

Fig. I is a plan view of a case embodying the invention;

Fig. II is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view taken on line II—II of Fig. I;

Fig. III is a fragmentary perspective view showing the parts at the hinged end of the case in separated relation with each other;

Fig. IV is a front elevation of the case showing the parts separated; and

Fig. V is an enlarged sectional view taken on line V—V of Fig. IV, and showing the relation of the spring means with the hinge member in opened and closed positions.

It has been usual in the past, in spectacle and eyeglass cases of the above nature, to provide the main box portion and the cover portion with an integral hinge member by means of which the cover is secured to the main box portion prior to placing the flexible covering material on said case and thereafter putting a lining in said case. Due to the fact that the cover had to be secured in hinged relation with the main box portion prior to performing the case covering operation it was quite difficult and costly to place the covering on said portions. Another difficult and costly operation was in forming the integral hinge and of providing suitable means for attaching the hinged end of said portions in cooperative relation with each other, so that the cover portion would be in proper relation with the main box portion when the case was finished and ready for use.

It, therefore, is one of the primary objects of this invention to provide a case of the above character wherein the cover portion and main box portion may be completed as regards their shape and covering material prior to their being attached together, and which will permit the use of a separate commercial hinge member to which the cover portion and main box portion may be easily attached without the use of solder or other separate attaching means and which will obviate the difficult and expensive hinge forming and case covering operations of the past.

Another object is to provide novel means whereby the case covering material adjacent the hinged end of the case will be securely held against loosening and fraying during use.

Referring more particularly to the drawing wherein like characters of reference designate like parts throughout the several views, the device embodying the invention comprises a main box portion 1 and a cover portion 2, which as shown in Figures III and IV are formed separately of each other and are provided with projecting attaching portions 3 and 4 by means of which they may be attached to a separate hinge member 5. The main box portion 1 and the cover portion 2 are formed from a sheet of material such as aluminum, steel, silver, gold, or other suitable means, which is blanked to the desired contour shape and is then pressed or otherwise formed to its desired finished shape such as shown in Figures I and IV. After the parts have been properly shaped, a flexible covering 7 of genuine leather, imitation leather, fibre, cloth, or other suitable material is cut or otherwise formed to the desired contour shape and size, and is secured throughout the entire outer area of the main box portion 1 and the cover portion 2

by an adhesive or other suitable means in the usual prior art manner with the exception that the main box portion 1 and cover portion 2 are provided with the flexible covering separately of each other, and at the hinge end of said portions, the covering material 6 is secured to the projecting portions 3 and 4 and is adapted to be held by said portions when they are in fitted and attached relation with the hinge member 5. The covering 6 is turned inwardly of the main box portion 1 and cover portion 2 as illustrated at 7 and 8 throughout their peripheral edges, and is secured throughout said turned-in edges by adhesive or other suitable means.

The projecting portions 3 and 4 on the main box portion 1 and cover portion 2 are then fitted within recesses 9 and 10 formed between the hinge tongues of the hinge member 5. After the projecting portions 3 and 4 have been fitted within the openings 9 and 10 they are pressed to overlie and be in rigid contact with the plates of the hinge as shown in Fig. II. This attaches the main box portion 1 and cover portion 2 rigidly with the hinge member 5. After the main box portion 1 and cover portion 2 are in secured relation with the hinge member 5, a flexible lining of velvet or other suitable means is secured throughout the interior of said main box portion and cover portion 2 by a cement or other suitable adhesive.

Attention is directed to the fact that when the projecting portions 3 and 4 are pressed into secured relation with the hinge member 5, the covering material 6, as shown at 7 and 8 in Figures II and III, will be simultaneously anchored between the plates of the hinge member 5 and the rear interior walls of the cover portion 2 and main box portion 1. The material 6 on the projections 3 and 4 will be carried by said projections interiorly of said main box portion 1 and cover portion 2 and will lie between said projections and the inner velvet lining 11. This completely covers the hinged edge of the main box portion 1 and cover portion 2 throughout the hinged side of the case. The hinge member 5 is provided with a spring member 12 of the usual prior art type which resiliently holds the cover both in opened and closed position in the usual prior art manner.

Attention is directed to the fact that in attaching the hinge member 5 to the main box portion 1 and the cover portion 2, there are no solder or separate connecting members used. The projecting portions 3 and 4 are merely inserted through the openings 9 and 10 in the hinge member, and the portions 3 are turned upwardly and the portions 4 are turned downwardly to overlie the plate members of said hinge and are thereafter pressed into secured relation therewith. In this manner the main box portion 1 and cover portion 2 may be formed to their desired finished shapes and provided with their covering material ready to be attached to the hinge as described above. Due to the fact that the main box portion 1 and cover portion 2 may be formed and covered separately of each other and thereafter connected with the hinge member 5, much difficulty in the production of cases of this character is overcome and the cost is greatly reduced. This is particularly true with regard to the forming and hinging of the cover portion to the main box portion and in the covering of said portions with the flexible covering material which in the past extended over the hinged side of the case and was formed of a single piece of material extending over both the main box portion and the cover portion to conceal the hinge.

The structure shown and described by applicant permits the use of a standard commercial hinge member and thereby obviates the necessity of having to have expensive hinge forming apparatus as has been usual in the past. This also greatly reduces the cost of such articles.

From the foregoing description it will be seen that simple, efficient and economical means and process have been provided for accomplishing all of the objects and advantages of the invention, particularly that of providing means whereby a spectacle or eyeglass case may be formed with its main box portion and cover portion separate of each other and having the desired flexible covering material thereon, and which may thereafter be secured to a separate hinge member in a simple and efficient manner wherein the edges of the main box portion and cover portion at the hinged side of the case will be completely covered with the flexible covering material without in any way injuring or marring said covering material.

Having described my invention I claim:

1. In a device of the character described, a box portion having a plurality of integral projections on one of its longitudinal edges, a cover portion having a plurality of integral projections on one of its longitudinal edges and a separate plate type hinge member having a plurality of openings therein secured to the box portion and cover portion with the projections on said portions extending through the openings in the hinge and overlying the plates thereof to anchor said plates between the inner walls of the box and cover portions and the said overlying portions of the projections.

2. In a device of the character described, a box portion having a plurality of peripheral projections on one side thereof and having a covering of flexible material on its outer surface and the outer surface of its projections, a separate cover portion having a plurality of peripheral projections on one side thereof and having a covering of flexible material on its outer surface and the outer surface of its projections and a separate plate type hinge member having openings therein for securing the cover portion to the box portion, said hinge member being attached to the box portion and the cover portion with the projections of said portions and flexible covering material on said projections extending through the openings in the hinge and overlying the plates thereof to anchor the said plates between the inner walls of said box and cover portions and the said overlying portions of the projections.

3. In a device of the character described, a box portion having a plurality of peripheral projections on one side thereof and having a covering of flexible material on its outer surface and the outer surface of its projections, a cover portion having a plurality of peripheral projections on one side thereof and having a covering of flexible material on its outer surface and the outer surface of its projections and a separate plate type hinge member having a plurality of openings therein secured to the box portion and cover portion by the projections which extend through the openings in the hinge and overlying the plates thereof internally of the box portion and cover portion, the flexible covering material on said projections and which extends through the openings in the hinge member being adapted to form an edge covering over a portion of the hinged

edges of said box and cover portions and the remaining portions of the covering material adjacent the hinge being turned inwardly between the hinge plates and the inner walls of the main box portion and cover portion to complete the edge covering of said portions.

4. In a device of the character described, a box portion having a plurality of spaced projections on one of its longitudinal edges and having a covering of flexible material on its outer surface and the outer surface of its projections, said flexible material overlying and being turned inwardly of the peripheral edges of the box portion on all sides thereof except the side having the projections thereon wherein it is only turned inwardly between said projections, a cover portion having a plurality of spaced projections on one of its longitudinal edges and having a covering of flexible material on its outer surface and on the outer surface of its projections, said flexible material overlying and being turned inwardly of the peripheral edges of the cover portion on all sides thereof except the side having the projections thereon wherein it is only turned inwardly between said projections, and a separate plate type hinge member having openings therein attached to the box portion and cover portion with the projections on said portions and the flexible material on said projections extending through its openings and overlying the plates thereof with the turned in portions of the flexible covering material along said hinged edges lying between the plates of the hinge and the inner walls of the main box portion and cover portion.

5. In a device of the character described, a box portion having a plurality of peripheral projections on one side thereof and having a covering of flexible material on its outer surface and the outer surface of its projections, a separate cover portion having a plurality of peripheral projections on one side thereof and having a covering of flexible material on its outer surface and the outer surface of its projections, a separate plate hinge member having openings therein for securing the cover portion to the box portion, said hinge member being attached to the box portion and cover portion with the projections on said portions and flexible covering material on said projections extending through the openings in the hinge and overlying the plates thereof to anchor the said plates between the inner walls of said box and cover portions and the said overlying portions of the projections and a flexible lining secured internally of said box portion and cover portion and overlying the hinge member connecting said portions.

6. In a device of the character described, a box portion having a plurality of spaced projections on one of its longitudinal edges and having a covering of flexible material on its outer surface and the outer surface of its projections, said flexible material overlying and being turned inwardly of the peripheral edges of the box portion on all sides thereof except the side having the projections thereon wherein it is only turned inwardly between said projections, a cover portion having a plurality of spaced projections on one of its longitudinal edges and having a covering of flexible material on its outer surface and on the outer surface of its projections, said flexible material overlying and being turned inwardly of the peripheral edges of the cover portions on all sides thereof except the sides having the projections thereon wherein it is only turned inwardly between said projections, a separate plate type hinge member having openings therein attached to the box portion and cover portion with the projections on said portions and the flexible material on said projections extending through its openings and overlying the plates thereof with the turned in portions of the flexible covering material along said hinged edges lying between the plates of the hinge and the inner walls of the box portion and cover portion and a flexible lining secured internally of said box portion and cover portion with its peripheral edges overlying the turned in portions of the flexible covering material and with a portion thereof overlying the hinge member connecting said box portion and cover portion.

7. In a device of the character described a box portion having a plurality of spaced integral projections on one of its longitudinal edges, and having a covering of flexible material on its outer surface and the outer surface of its projections, said flexible material overlying and being turned inwardly of the peripheral edges of the box portion, a cover portion having a plurality of spaced projections on one of its longitudinal edges, and having a covering of flexible material on its outer surface and on the outer surface of its projections, said flexible material overlying and being turned inwardly of the peripheral edges of the cover portion, a separate plate type hinge member having openings therein attached to the box portion and cover portion with the projections on said portions and the flexible material thereon extending though the openings in the hinge and overlying the plates thereof to securely attach the box portion and cover portion to the hinge.

8. The process of making a receptacle case comprising making a box portion with spaced projections on one of its sides, securing a covering of flexible material on the box portion and on its projections, making a cover portion with projections on its side corresponding to that of the box portion having the projections thereon, securing a covering of flexible material on the cover portion and on its projections, providing a separate plate type hinge member with a plurality of openings to receive said projections, placing the projections of said box portion and cover portion and the flexible covering material thereon through the openings and bending the portions of said projections which are extended through the openings to overlie the hinge plates to rigidly secure the said plates between the said bent portions and the inner walls of the box portion and cover portion and thereby rigidly secure the said portions to the hinge.

9. The process of making a receptacle case comprising making a box portion with spaced projections on one of its sides, securing a covering of flexible material on the box portion and on its projections, making a cover portion with projections on its side corresponding to that of the box portion having the projections thereon, securing a covering of flexible material on the cover portion and on its projections, providing a separate plate type hinge member with a plurality of openings to receive said projections, placing the projections of said box portion and cover portion and the flexible covering material thereon through the openings, bending the portions of said projections which are extended through the openings to overlie the hinge plates to rigidly secure the said plates between the said bent portions and the inner walls of the box portion and cover portion and thereby rigidly secure the said portions to the hinge, and securing a

flexible lining in said box portion and cover portion with a portion thereof overlying and concealing the hinge.

10. The process of making a receptacle case comprising making a box portion with spaced projections on one of its sides, securing a covering of flexible material on the box portion and on its projections and turning its edges over and inwardly of the peripheral edges of said box portion on all sides thereof except the side having the projections wherein it is only turned inwardly between said projections, making a cover portion with spaced projections on one of its sides, securing a covering of flexible material on the cover portion and on its projections and turning its edges over and inwardly of the peripheral edges of said cover portion on all sides thereof except the side having the projections, wherein it is only turned inwardly between said projections, providing a plate type hinge member with a plurality of openings to receive the projections, placing the projections and the covering material thereon through the openings and bending the portions of said projections which extend through the openings into overlapped relation with the plates of the hinge and to secure the turned in portion of the flexible covering material along the hinged edges of the box portion and cover portion between the plates of the hinge and the internal walls of said box portion and cover portion.

11. The process of making a receptacle case comprising making a box portion with spaced projections on one of its sides, securing a covering of flexible material on the box portion and on its projections and turning its edges over and inwardly of the peripheral edges of said box portion on all sides thereof except the side having the projections wherein it is only turned inwardly between said projections, making a cover portion with spaced projections on one of its sides, securing a covering of flexible material on the cover portion and on its projections and turning its edges over and inwardly of the peripheral edges of said cover portion on all sides thereof except the side having the projections wherein it is only turned inwardly between said projections, providing a plate type hinge member with a plurality of openings to receive the projections, placing the projections and the covering material thereon through the openings, bending the portions of said projections which extend through the openings into overlapped relation with the plates of the hinge and to secure the turned in portion of the flexible covering material along the hinged edges of the box portion and cover portion between the plates of the hinge and the internal walls of said box portion and cover portion, and securing a flexible lining internally of said box portion and cover portion with its peripheral edges overlying the turned in portions of the flexible covering material and with a portion thereof overlying and concealing the hinge member.

12. The process of making a receptacle case comprising making a box portion with spaced projections on one of its sides, securing a covering of flexible material on the box portion and on its projections and turning its edges over and inwardly of the peripheral edges of said box portion, making a cover portion with spaced projections on one of its sides, securing a covering of flexible material on the cover portion and on its projections and turning its edges over and inwardly of the peripheral edges of said cover portion, providing a plate type hinge member with a plurality of openings to receive the projections, placing the projections and the covering material thereon through the openings and bending the portions of said projections which extend through the openings into overlapped relation with the plates of the hinge and to secure the turned in portions of the flexible covering material along the hinged edges of the box portion and cover portion between the plates of the hinge and the internal walls of said box portion and cover portion.

13. The process of making a receptacle case comprising making a box portion with spaced projections on one of its sides, securing a covering of flexible material on the box portion and on its projections and turning its edges over and inwardly of the peripheral edges of said box portion, making a cover portion with spaced projections on one of its sides, securing a covering of flexible material on the cover portion and on its projections and turning its edges over and inwardly of the peripheral edges of said cover portion, providing a plate type hinge member with a plurality of openings to receive the projections, placing the projections and the covering material thereon through the openings, bending the portions of said projections which extend through the openings into overlapped relation with the plates of the hinge and to secure the turned in portions of the flexible covering material along the hinged edges of the box portion and cover portion between the plates of the hinge and the internal walls of said box portion and cover portion, and securing a flexible lining internally of said box portion and cover portion with its peripheral edges overlying the turned in portions of the flexible covering material and with a portion thereof overlying and concealing the hinge member.

14. In a device of the character described, a box portion having a plurality of integral projections adjacent one of its sides, a cover portion having a plurality of integral projections adjacent one of its sides and a separate hinge member having a plurality of openings therein secured to the box portion and cover portion with the projections on said portions extending through the openings of the hinge and overlying portions thereof to anchor said portions between the inner walls of the box and cover portions and said overlying portions of the projections.

ARTHUR J. PRATT.