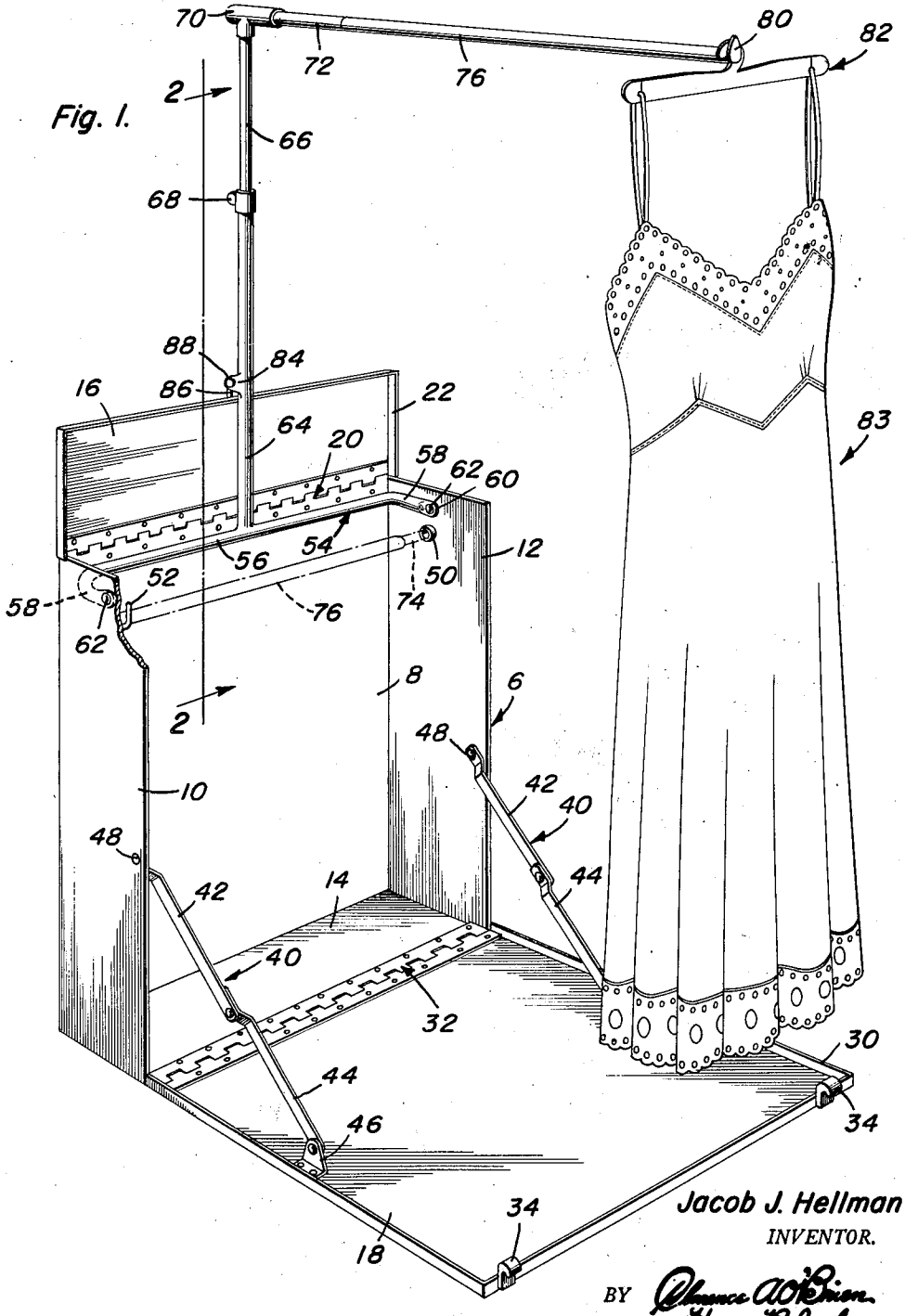
May 26, 1953 J. J. HELLMAN 2,639,793

PORTABLE SAMPLE CASE WITH COLLAPSIBLE DISPLAY RACK

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Fig. 1.



Jacob J. Hellman
INVENTOR.

BY Clarence A. O'Brien and Harvey B. Jacobson
Attorneys

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Fig. 2.

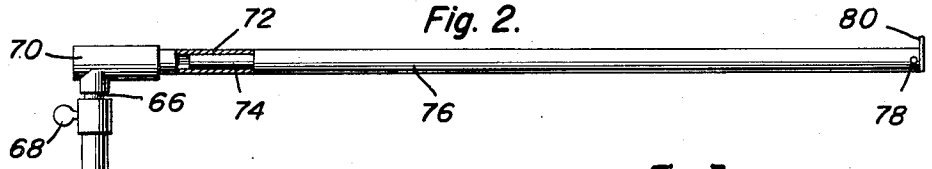
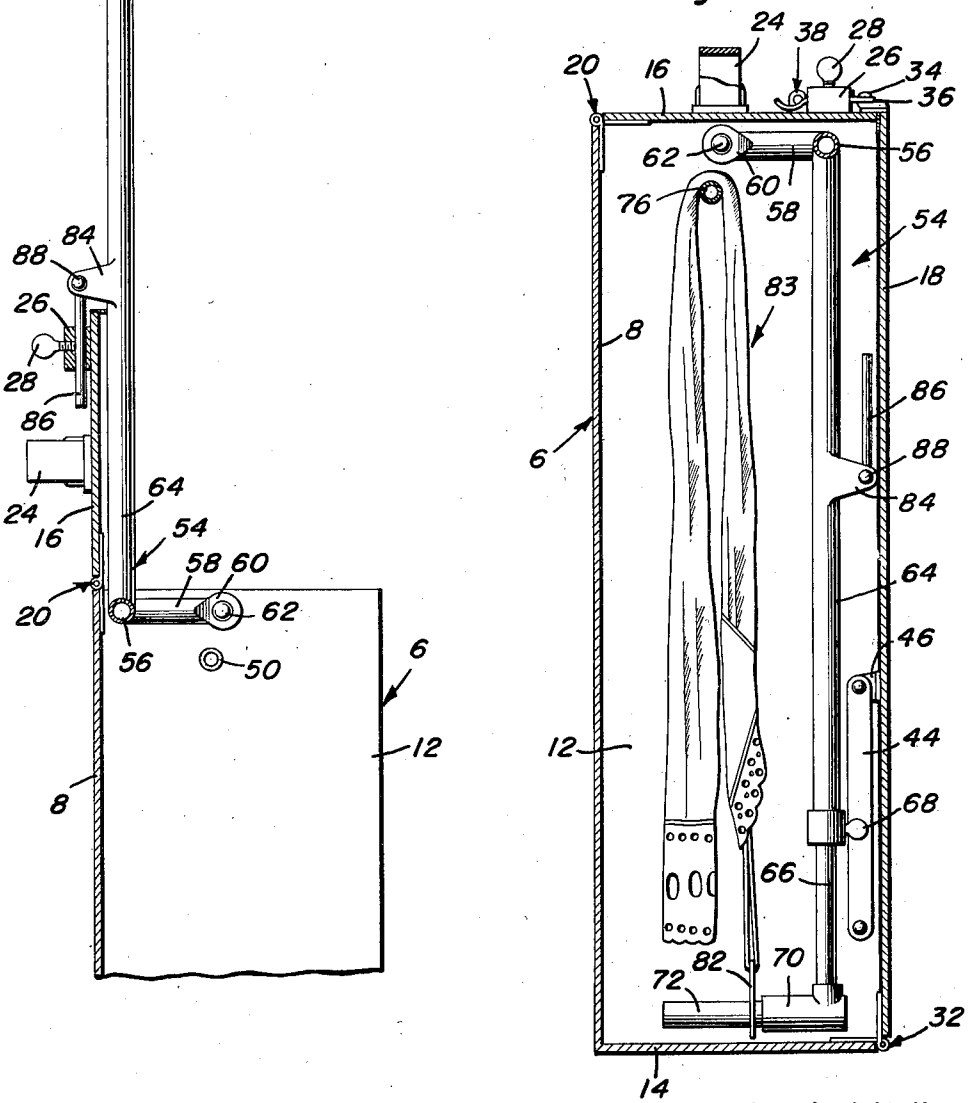


Fig. 3.



Jacob J. Hellman

INVENTOR.

BY Clarence A. O'Brien and Harvey B. Jacobson
Attorneys

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PORTABLE SAMPLE CASE WITH COLLAPSIBLE DISPLAY RACK

Jacob J. Hellman, Atlanta, Ga.

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3 Claims. (Cl. 190—13)

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The present invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in portable sample cases such as are currently used by traveling salesmen and others for conveniently transporting and displaying articles of apparel and has more particular reference to a novel display rack which is built into and forms a permanent part of the over-all case construction.

More specifically, the invention appertains to a folding display rack of an extensible and contractible type which is conveniently and compactly housed in the sample case when the latter is in ready-to-transport form and which utilizes the case as an adequate supporting base when the display rack is swung out and up to its erected displaying position.

A general object of the invention is to structurally, functionally and otherwise improve upon similar prior art construction by providing a construction which is comparatively simple, easy to set up, equally easy to fold and collapse and is otherwise possessed of special adaptations and refinements in which manufacturers and users will find their essential needs fully met and satisfactorily contained.

Another object of the invention is to provide a sturdy and reliable sample case of a portable type which is of general rectangular form and is characterized by a hingedly mounted front wall which swings down to a horizontal base forming position, a hingedly mounted top wall which swings up to allow the display rack to be swung out and erected, and suitable fastening devices for securing said front and top walls releasably with one another when they are in case-forming relationship.

Another object has to do with means on the rack and complemental means on the hinged top wall which coact in steadying and aptly retaining the rack in its erected ready-to-use position.

Novelty, in addition, is predicated on a simple and practical folding display rack which is characterized by a yoke hingedly mounted between the side walls of the case and provided at its center with an upright, said upright being vertically extensible and constructed to accommodate an attachable and detachable reach arm which extends out over the outswung front wall and serves to accommodate and amply support a plurality of garment hangers for effectively displaying the sample garments.

Another object of the invention has to do with a rack construction whose reach arm may be detached, when the rack is folded, and suspended within the confines of the sample case to provide

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a so-called "pole" over which garments may be draped and conveniently carried when the case is closed for carrying.

Other objects and advantages will become more readily apparent from the following description and the accompaning sheets of illustrative drawings.

In the drawings, wherein like numerals are employed to designate like parts throughout the views:

Figure 1 is a perspective view, with the portions broken away and shown in section, of a combination carrying and display case for sample garments, showing the manner in which the structure is set up and erected for garment displaying purposes;

Figure 2 is a fragmentary view, in section and elevation, taken approximately on the plane of the vertical line 2—2 of Figure 1, looking in the direction of the arrows; and

Figure 3 is a central vertical sectional view, with parts in elevation, showing the case closed and the built-in rack in its folded out-of-the-way position.

Referring now to the drawings by way of reference numerals and accompanying lead lines, the sample case, as a unit is denoted by the numeral 6. It is of suitable material and proportions and is of general rectangular form. It comprises a flat back wall 8, longitudinal sides or vertical walls 10 and 12, a bottom or end wall 14, a similar end or top wall 16 and a front wall 18. The top wall 16 is hingedly connected as at 20 to the upper end of the back wall and has flanged means 22 which swings down over the adjacent ends of the side walls 10 and 12. This top wall is provided at its center with an exteriorly disposed hand-grip 24 (see Figures 2 and 3) of any suitable construction. It also has affixed thereto a socket member 26 carrying a set screw 28 which serves a purpose hereinafter described. The front panel or wall 18 has marginal flange means 30, if desired, and is hingedly joined at its inner end to the bottom wall 14 as denoted at 32. Thus, the walls 8, 10, 12 and 14 are fixed and the top wall 16 and front wall 18 are hinged to be swung to the open positions illustrated in the drawings. The front wall is provided with suitable keeper hooks 34 and these serve to accommodate wire fastener loops 36 forming portions of appropriate fasteners 38 mounted on the exterior of the top wall. These means 34, 36 and 38 are not detailed and may be of any suitable construction sufficient to hold the walls 16 and 18 in closed relationship.

Referring to Figure 1, the numerals 40 designate folding stay devices. These are of any suitable construction and include links 42—42 pivotally connected with complemental links 44—44, the links 44 being joined with brackets 46 on the lid or front wall 18. The links 42 are pivotally joined with the side walls 10 and 12 as at 48. These stay devices, or braces as they are sometimes called, obviously serve to sustain the front wall in its open base forming position as illustrated in Figure 1. There is a socket member 50 mounted on the interior of the upper portion of side walls 12. A hook 52 is secured to the interior of the other side walls 10 and these parts 50 and 52 are directly opposite one another. They serve a purpose hereinafter described.

The built-in folding or collapsible display rack means comprises a horizontally disposed U-shaped yoke 54. This has a central or bight portion 56 and lateral end portions 58—58 which have flattened terminals 60 which are hinged, as at 62, to the side walls 10 and 12. The rack comprises a tube 64 which stands upright after the rack has been moved to display position, which is integral with the yoke, and which extends from the center of the bight portion 56 at right angles to the plane of the yoke 54. It serves to accommodate a telescoping extensible and retractible complemental tube 66 held in adjusted position by a set screw 68. A T-head 70 is secured on the upper end of the tube 66 and is provided with a lateral tubular extension 72 constituting a socket member. This is adapted to accommodate a reduced end portion 74 (see Figure 2) which is formed integral with the attachable and detachable reach arm 76. The outer end of the arm is provided with aperture means 78 and a stop lug 80. This lug serves to prevent the outermost garment hanger 82 from slipping off of the reach arm, in an obvious manner. The garment is detachably connected with the garment hanger, said garment being denoted by the numeral 83. Referring in particular to Figure 2, it will be seen that the intermediate portion of the upright tube 64 is provided with lugs 84 and that a coupling pin 86 is hingedly mounted between the lugs as at 88. This pin is adapted to fit telescopically into a bore in the aforementioned socket member or bracket 26. The set screw 28 is tightened to hold the pin 86 in place. The pin, bracket and hinged top wall 16 coordinate in maintaining the upright means in perpendicular or erected position as shown in Figures 1 and 2.

When the rack means is folded into the closed case as shown in Figure 3, the reach arm 76 is detached from the socket member 72. The extension 74 is fitted into the aforementioned socket 50 and the apertured end 78 is engaged over the hook 52. The reach arm thus has the double purpose of serving as a "reach arm" and also as a garment hanger "pole" when the case is closed and ready to be carried from place to place.

Referring to Figure 3, and assuming that the user is ready to travel to a given destination, it will be noted that the so-called upright means of the display rack depends vertically within the confines of the closed walls of the case. That is to say, tube 64 hangs down and tube 66 has been fastened therein by the set screw 68 so as to position the head means close to the bottom wall 14. The stay devices 40 are, of course, folded within the case in an obvious manner. The "reach arm" 76 in this particular arrangement is suspended between the socket member 50 and the hook 52

where it functions as a "pole" and the garments (dresses, slips, and the like) are draped over it somewhat in the manner illustrated. The fastening devices 36 and 34 are, of course, now connected to keep the two swingable walls 18 and 16 closed.

When the salesman reaches a store to demonstrate and display his merchandise, he swings the cover or front wall 18 down and fastens it in the "down" position by the stay devices 40 as illustrated in Figure 1. He then swings the rack means up and out through the open front of the case, fits pin 86 in bracket 26, and continues to swing the rack and top wall until they take the position shown in Figure 1. The brace rod or pin 86 is then fastened with the set screw 28. Thus, the top wall 16 and means 26, 28 and 84 to 88 will hold the upright in its erected position. The arm 76 is detached from the socket member 50 and hook 52 and the extension 74 is telescoped into the socket member 72. The rack is now ready for use. The garments with their garment hangers are strung in an obvious fashion on the reach arm as shown in Figure 1.

It is believed that the reader will appreciate that the convertible carrying and transporting case and complemental rack means provides a structure in which manufacturers and users will find their essential needs fully met, contained and effectively available.

It is thought that persons skilled in the art to which the invention relates will be able to obtain a clear understanding of the invention after considering the description in connection with the drawings. Therefore, a more lengthy description is regard as unnecessary.

Minor changes in the shape, size, materials and arrangement of parts may be resorted to in actual practice without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention, as claimed.

Having described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. A portable convertible-type travelling salesman's sample storing, carrying and sample displaying case set up for display use comprising a rectangular case embodying flat top, bottom, back, front and side walls, said bottom wall supported on a stationary horizontal support surface, said front wall hingedly attached at one end to the adjacent front edge of said bottom wall and occupying a horizontal position coplanar with said bottom wall and resting in firm contact with said support surface, folding stay devices operatively attached to said side walls and front wall respectively, and maintaining said front wall in said coplanar position with said bottom wall, whereby said case is caused to stand in an open front upright position on said support surface, said top wall being hinged to the upper end of said back wall, a horizontal U-shaped yoke embodying a bight portion paralleling the upper end of said back wall in closed spaced relationship and lateral ends hingedly mounted between the upper end portions of said side walls, an upright secured at its lower end to the central portion of said bight portion and rising perpendicularly to a position above said case, means affording a separable operating connection between said upright and top wall and supporting the latter wall in an upstanding position coplanar with said back wall, a head carried by the upper end of said upright, and a horizontal reach arm overlying said front wall and detachably connected at one end to said head.

2. A portable convertible-type travelling sales-

man's sample storing, carrying and sample displaying case set up for display use comprising a rectangular case embodying flat top, bottom, back, front and side walls, said bottom wall supported on a stationary horizontal support surface, said front wall hingedly attached at one end to the adjacent front edge of said bottom wall and occupying a horizontal position coplanar with said bottom wall and resting in firm contact with said support surface, folding stay devices operatively attached to said side walls and front wall repectively, and maintaining said front wall in said coplanar position with said bottom wall, whereby said case is caused to stand in an open front upright position on said support surface, said top wall being hinged to the upper end of said back wall, a horizontal U-shaped yoke embodying a bight portion paralleling the upper end of said back wall in closed spaced relationship and lateral ends hingedly mounted between the upper end portions of said side walls, an upright secured at its lower end to the central portion of said bight portion and rising perpendicularly to a position above said case, means affording a separable operating connection between said upright and top wall and supporting the latter wall in an upstanding position coplanar with said back wall, said upright being vertically extensible and retractible and, when retracted, being capable of storage within the confines of the case after the walls are closed for conveniently carrying the case, an angular head secured to the upper end of said upright, said head embodying a lateral socket at right angles to said upright and parallel to and overlying said bottom wall, and a horizontal reach arm having one end detachably joined with said socket, said arm overlying the central portion of said front wall in vertically spaced parallelism.

3. A portable convertible-type travelling salesman's sample storing, carrying and sample displaying case set up for display use comprising a rectangular case embodying flat top, bottom, back, front and side walls, said bottom wall supported on a stationary horizontal support surface, said front wall hingedly attached at one end to the adjacent front edge of said bottom wall and occupying a horizontal position coplanar with said bottom wall and resting in firm contact

with said support surface, folding stay devices operatively attached to said side walls and front wall respectively, and maintaining said front wall in said coplanar position with said bottom wall, whereby said case is caused to stand in an open front upright position on said support surface, said top wall being hinged to the upper end of said back wall, a horizontal U-shaped yoke embodying a bight portion paralleling the upper end of said back wall in closed spaced relationship and lateral ends hingedly mounted between the upper end portions of said side walls, an upright secured at its lower end to the central portion of said bight portion and rising perpendicularly to a position above said case, a socket member secured to an exterior centrally located surface of said top wall, a vertical depending brace rod pivotally connected at one end to said upright, said top wall being in a vertical position coplanar with said back wall, the other end of said brace rod fitting telescopically and removably in said socket member whereby said top wall occupies a vertical position between said upright and brace, and a horizontal reach arm overlying said front wall in vertically spaced parallelism and having one end detachably connected with the upper end of said upright.

JACOB J. HELLMAN.

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