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H. BERG, JR

2,258,582

HATBOX

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Fig. 1

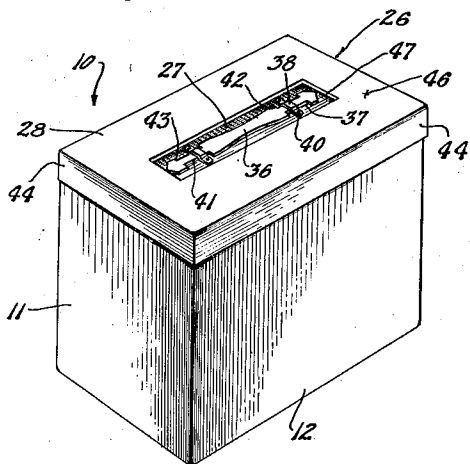


Fig. 2

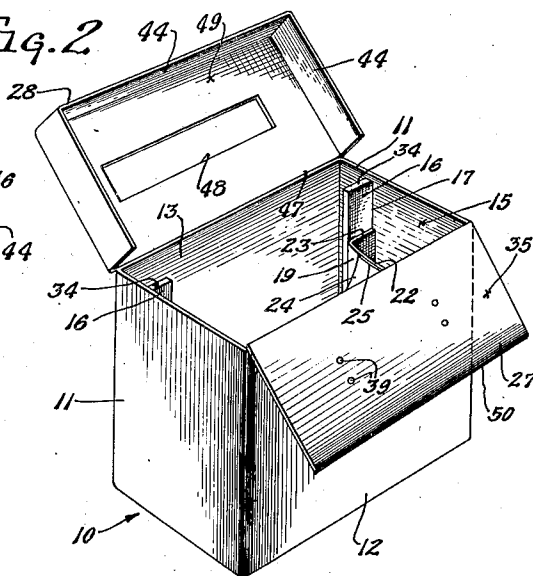


Fig. 3

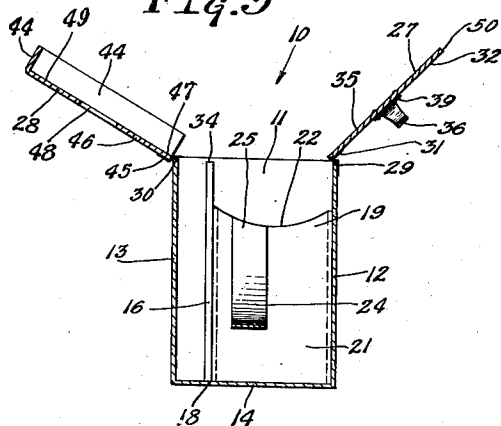


Fig. 4

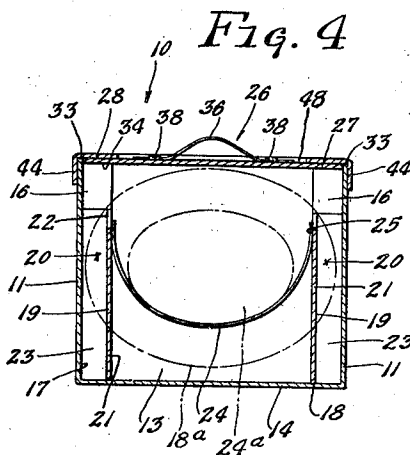
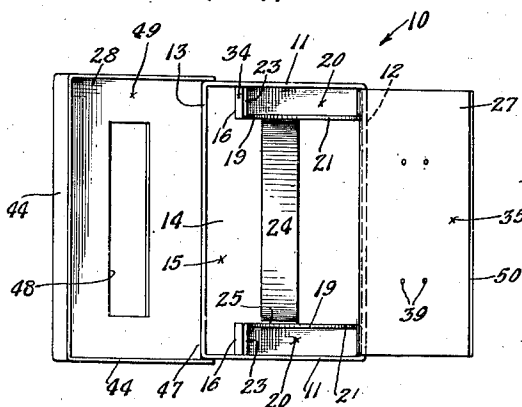


Fig. 5



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HATBOX

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1 Claim. (Cl. 206—8)

The present invention relates to novel improvements in hat boxes and particularly to cases for carrying hats, and other articles, especially when travelling.

A primary object of the invention is the provision of a hat box for storing hats in a dust-proof manner.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a rectangular container for shipping hats and which will support and protect a hat placed therein from being damaged.

A further object is the provision of a hat box made of inexpensive material but of such stability that it will not collapse even under considerable pressure.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a cover which protects the side walls of the box from being bent or crushed.

A feature of the invention, attaining these objects, is the provision of a rectangular box which is open at one end, with a cover which fits into said end intermediate the side walls of the box to close the same, and means for supporting the cover in closing position at right angles to the side walls.

A further feature of the present invention is the provision of a double cover for closing the hat box and increasing the strength and stability thereof.

Another feature of the invention is the provision of an inner lid hinged to one side wall of the box and an outer lid hinged to another side wall and completely covering the inner lid when they are both in closing position.

Another object is the provision of a box with a hinged cover and a grip thereon, which when carried by the grip, will remain in closed position without the use of any interengaging mechanical locking means on the cover and the side walls of the box.

A further object is the provision of a box with a grip for carrying the same which may be retracted so as not to project above the outer surface of the box.

A feature resulting from the attainment of this object is the provision of a grip on the inner lid and an aperture in the outer lid through which the grip extends when both lids are in closing position and one is superimposed upon the other.

A further feature is the provision of means for selectively holding the grip in a retracted position in which the grip is disposed substantially flat on the inner lid and within the aperture in the outer lid without projecting above the outer

surface thereof, and in an extended position in which the grip projects through the aperture in the outer lid and above the outer surface thereof.

A further object of the invention is the provision within a rectangular hat box of simple and inexpensive means for supporting both the crown and the brim of a hat.

This object is accomplished according to the invention by providing interior walls within the hat box forming pockets or fillers therein, and a curved band secured to said fillers for supporting the crown of a hat.

Another object is the provision of a hat box which may be easily converted into a travelling bag or the like.

A feature of the invention for attaining the latter object is the provision of hat-supporting means within the hat box which are easily removable therefrom so as to obtain a larger storage place therein, and which may be quickly replaced if the box is used for its primary purpose of supporting and protecting hats.

A further object of the invention is the provision of means within a hat box for supporting the cover thereof.

Another object is the provision of means for strengthening the cover and the side walls of the box to protect the same from being bent or crushed inwardly.

Still another object of the invention is the provision of means within a hat box for accommodating and lightly gripping the brim of a hat placed therein to prevent the hat from moving within the hat box.

An important feature of the present invention resides in the provision of a single pair of means for accomplishing all of the three last-mentioned objects simultaneously.

These and still other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will appear from the following detailed description and the drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the hat box according to the invention, in fully closed position.

Fig. 2 is a similar view of the box in open position.

Fig. 3 is a cross-section of the box in open position.

Fig. 4 is a cross-section of the box in closed position.

Fig. 5 is a top view of the open box shown in Fig. 2.

Before describing the present improvements and mode of operation thereof in detail it should

be understood that the invention is not limited to the details of construction and arrangement of parts shown in the accompanying drawing, which are merely illustrative of the present preferred embodiments, since the invention is capable of other embodiments, and the phraseology employed is for the purpose of description and not of limitation.

Referring to the drawing in detail, the hat box 10 comprises a pair of side walls 11, front and rear walls 12 and 13 and a bottom wall 14 all of which may consist of inexpensive material, such as cardboard or the like, and are secured together to form a solid rectangular box having an opening 15 at its top.

A pair of vertical uprights 16 are provided within the box and serve a three-fold purpose. First, they locate the hat and prevent movement thereof within the box 10 during shipping; second, they support and stabilize the side walls 11 so as to protect the same from being bent or crushed inwardly; and, third, they support and protect the cover of the box as will be later described.

For accomplishing the first two purposes, uprights 16 are fixedly secured along one of their narrower sides 17 to the inner surface of side walls, and preferably also at their lower ends 18 to the bottom wall 14, and are positioned an equal distance from the rear wall 13 which corresponds substantially to the thickness of the brim of a hat and the curl of such brim. By such spacing of uprights 16 from the rear wall 13, a hat may be inserted therebetween so that the lower surface of its brim 18a rests against the rear wall 13, where it is maintained in substantially fixed position by uprights 16 acting upon the upper surface of the hat brim 18a. Of course, uprights 16 may be spaced sufficiently from rear wall 13 to permit the insertion of cushioning materials, such as tissue paper, soft felt or the like, between the hat brim 18a and the uprights as also between the brim and the rear wall 13.

For supporting the crown of a hat, a pair of U-shaped members 19 of cardboard or similar light and inexpensive material are provided at the opposite side walls 11 of the box 10 so as to form fillers or pockets 20. These members 19 which are of a height approximately three-quarters of the height of side walls 11, each consists of a central portion 21 the upper edge 22 of which is curved downwardly to facilitate insertion and particularly removal of the hat from the box, and a pair of side arms 23. Members 19 may be secured within the box either removably or permanently. For example, as shown in the drawing, they may either be fitted tightly but removably between uprights 16 and the front wall 12 and be normally maintained in holding contact therewith by their own resiliency; or they may be permanently secured by any suitable means connecting their side arms 23 with the uprights 16 and the front wall 12.

A semicircular downwardly curved band or strap 24 of relatively stiff but resilient material is secured at its outer ends 25 to the central portion 21 of pockets 19 adjacent the upper edge 22 thereof, and, as shown in Fig. 4, serves to support the crown of a hat 24a when placed thereon. If, as previously indicated, members 19 and strap 24 constitute a removable unit so that the box 10 may either be used for storing and transporting hats or as a travelling case, such unit may be maintained in a fixed position within the box 10

by the resilience of the strap 24 urging the members 19 outwardly and the outer ends of their arms 23 against the side walls 11, as also by the resilient pressure exerted by side arms 23 against uprights 16 and front wall 12. Members 19 together with strap 24 may then be easily removed from the box 10 by withdrawing them in upward direction. However, any other suitable kind of disengageable securing means may be provided in addition to those mentioned above for normally maintaining the members 19 and strap 24 in their proper position within box 10.

The pockets 20, which are formed intermediate the side walls 11 of the box and the U-shaped members 19, are provided for storing therein various articles, particularly when the box 10 is to be used during travelling. Scarves, caps, handkerchiefs and other articles, and even a hat which has been folded or rolled together, may conveniently be placed into these pockets and out or contact with the hat which rests on the strap 24.

For closing the opening 15 at the top of the box 10, the present invention provides a double cover 26 consisting of an inner lid 27 and an outer lid 28 which are pivotally secured to the upper edges 29 and 30 of the front and rear walls 12 and 13, respectively, and are superimposed one upon the other when in closing position. As clearly shown in the drawing, inner lid 27 is of a size substantially equal to the size of the opening 15 and fits between the inner surfaces of the side, front and rear walls 11, 12 and 13. A strip of tape 31 or the like is cemented to the upper surface of the lid 27 adjacent the forward edge thereof and to the upper end 29 of the front wall 12 at the outer face thereof, as shown particularly in Fig. 3, to form a hinge for pivoting the lid 27 into opening and closing positions.

For supporting the inner lid 27 in a closing position within the opening 15 with its upper surface 32 in a level plane with the upper edges 29, 30 and 33 of the front, rear and side walls 12, 13 and 11, the invention extends the uprights 16 upwardly so that their upper surfaces 34 are spaced from the upper edges of the side walls 11 a distance substantially equal to the thickness of the inner lid 27. Thus, if lid 27 is pivoted into a closing position, its lower surface 35 is laterally supported by the upper ends 34 of uprights which protect not only the inner lid 27 but also the outer lid 28 from being bent or crushed.

For carrying the hat box 10 and for opening the inner lid 27, a grip 36 is secured to the upper surface 32 thereof and preferably consists of a thin strip of leather or similar material which may be pressed flat upon the upper surface 32 of the lid, for example during shipping of the hat box, or be extended into a curved shape as shown in Fig. 4, for carrying the box 10 thereby. For this purpose, grip 36 is provided with a pair of U-shaped cut-out portions 37 at opposite sides and near both ends of the grip 36. A pair of short straps 38 of narrower width than the width of the cut-out portions 37 extend transversely over grip 36 at the cut-out portions 37 thereof and are tightly applied and secured to the lid 27 for example by rivets 39, the upper heads 40 of which are positioned closely to the walls 41 of the cut-out portions. Thus, each end of the grip 36 is capable of sliding relative to straps 38 a distance substantially equal to the difference between the width of the cut-out portions 37 and the width of straps 38 from a flat position shown in Fig. 1 in which the inner end walls 42 of the cut-outs 37

substantially about the inner edges of the straps 38, to an extended and arched position shown in Fig. 4 in which the outer walls 43 of the cut-outs 37 abut against the outer edges of the straps 38.

The outer lid 28 is provided with front and side walls 44 which, when the lid is in closing position, overlie the upper ends of the front and side walls 12 and 11 so that no dust can enter into the box 10. A strip 45 of tape or the like is cemented to the upper end 30 of the rear wall 13 at the outer face thereof, and to the upper surface 46 of the outer lid 28 adjacent the rear edge 47 thereof to form a hinge for pivoting the lid 28 into opening and closing positions. An aperture 48 is provided in the outer lid 28 of a size to accommodate and receive the grip 36 including the fastening straps 38 so that the outer lid may fully overlie and be substantially in contact along its lower surface 49 with the upper surface 32 of the inner lid 27 when both lids are in closed position. Inasmuch as the outer lid 28 is of a thickness at least equal to or even greater than the thickness of the grip and the height of the straps 38 and rivets 39 from the upper surface of the inner lid 27, none of these elements project above the upper surface of the outer lid 28 when the grip is in retracted position. Therefore, a plurality of hat boxes 10 may be placed solidly one upon the other as there are no projections on the outer surfaces of either the cover 26 or the bottom 14. A large number of hat boxes can thus be stored and transported within a limited space without requiring special means for fastening the individual boxes to each other.

Inasmuch as the pivotally secured edge 47 of the outer lid overlies the free edge 50 of the inner lid 27 when the cover 26 is in a fully closed position, the outer lid 28 serves as a locking element for the inner lid 27 and a considerable pull may be exerted upon the grip 36 without danger that either of the lids might be opened thereby. Such arrangement of the lids 27 and 28 has a decided advantage over a box with a single lid which is secured in closed position by a mechanical lock, in that the box according to the invention can be opened or closed considerably quicker, and merely by flipping the lids in one direction or the other. On the other hand, the two elements of a mechanical lock often do not register when the lid

is brought down upon the box, and require a time-wasting effort for both closing and opening the same.

Furthermore, mechanical locks usually project above the outer surface of the respective element to which they are secured, and therefore, if a plurality of hat boxes provided with such locks are closely packed together, the lock of one box may easily damage the adjacent box and pierce through the walls thereof. Because of the absence of any such mechanical locks on the outer surfaces of the hat box according to the invention, a plurality of such boxes may be packed closely against each other without danger that the appearance of any of the boxes may thereby be damaged.

Variations and modifications may be made within the scope of this invention and portions of the improvements may be used without others.

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

A dustproof box comprising a bottom; upright walls having top edges, said walls forming a top opening of a predetermined size; inner and outer lids pivoted respectively to the upper edges of opposite walls for closing said opening, said inner lid when in closed position resting snugly within said top opening in such a manner that the top surface of said lid is substantially flush with the top edges of the upright walls and the inner lid edges are contiguous to the wall inner surfaces; supporting and reinforcing means, comprising rigid upright supports mounted upon the inside surfaces of the box walls and terminating short of the plane of the top opening a distance substantially equal to the thickness of the inner lid to support the inner lid in the said closed position; a flexible handle on the inner lid; said outer lid when in closed position closely engaging said inner lid and the top edges of said upright walls in order to retain dust-excluding engagement even when the box is lifted, said outer lid having flanges for snugly touching the external surfaces of some of the upright walls, and said outer lid having an upper surface defining a plane constituting the upper extremity of said box; said outer lid having a recess for positioning said handle below said plane when the handle is in inoperative position.

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