Nov. 11, 1952 L. J. BEHR 2,617,217

PANEL-SUPPORTING FRAME

Filed Dec. 26, 1946

3 Sheets-Sheet 1

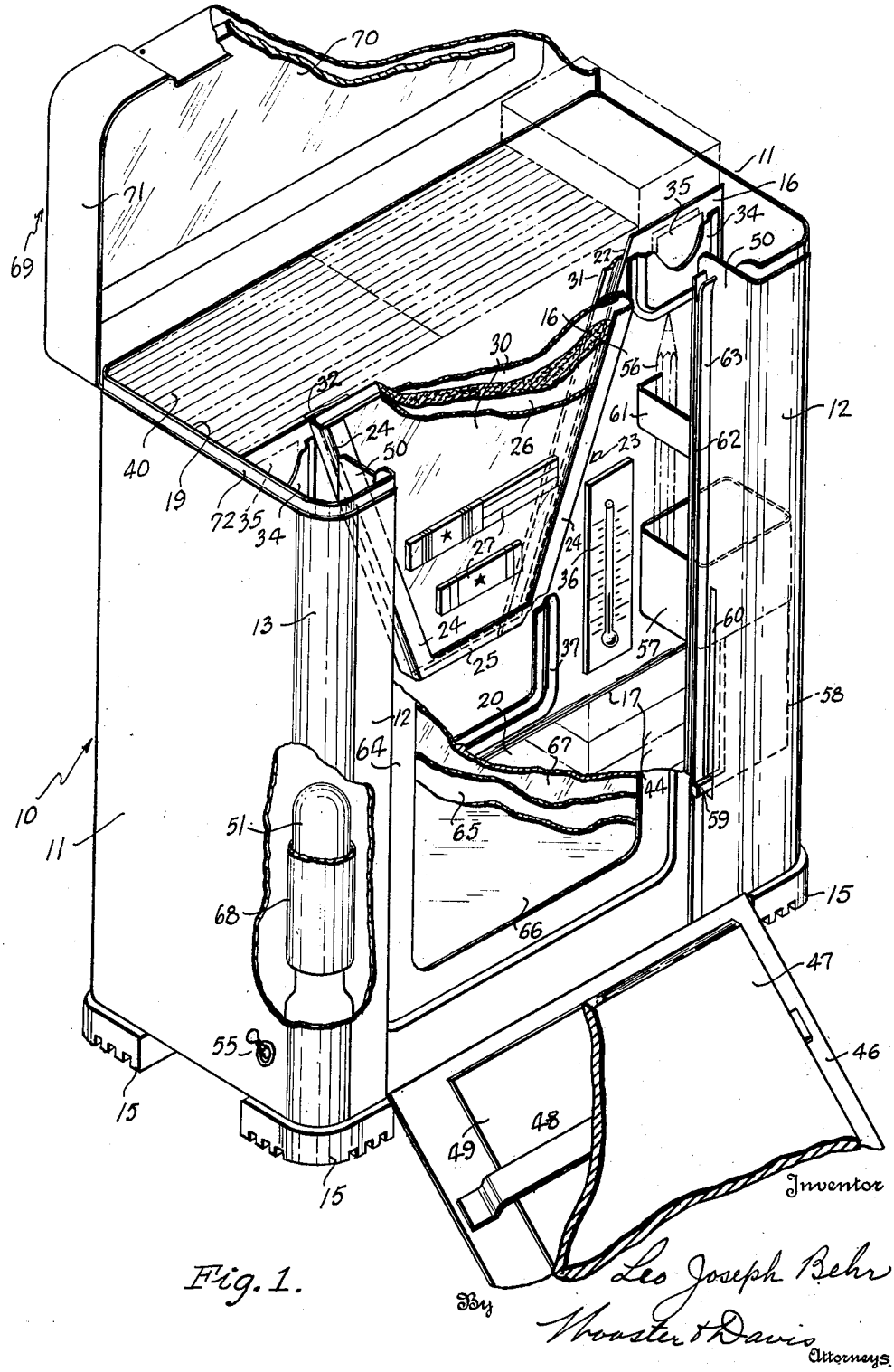


Fig. 1.

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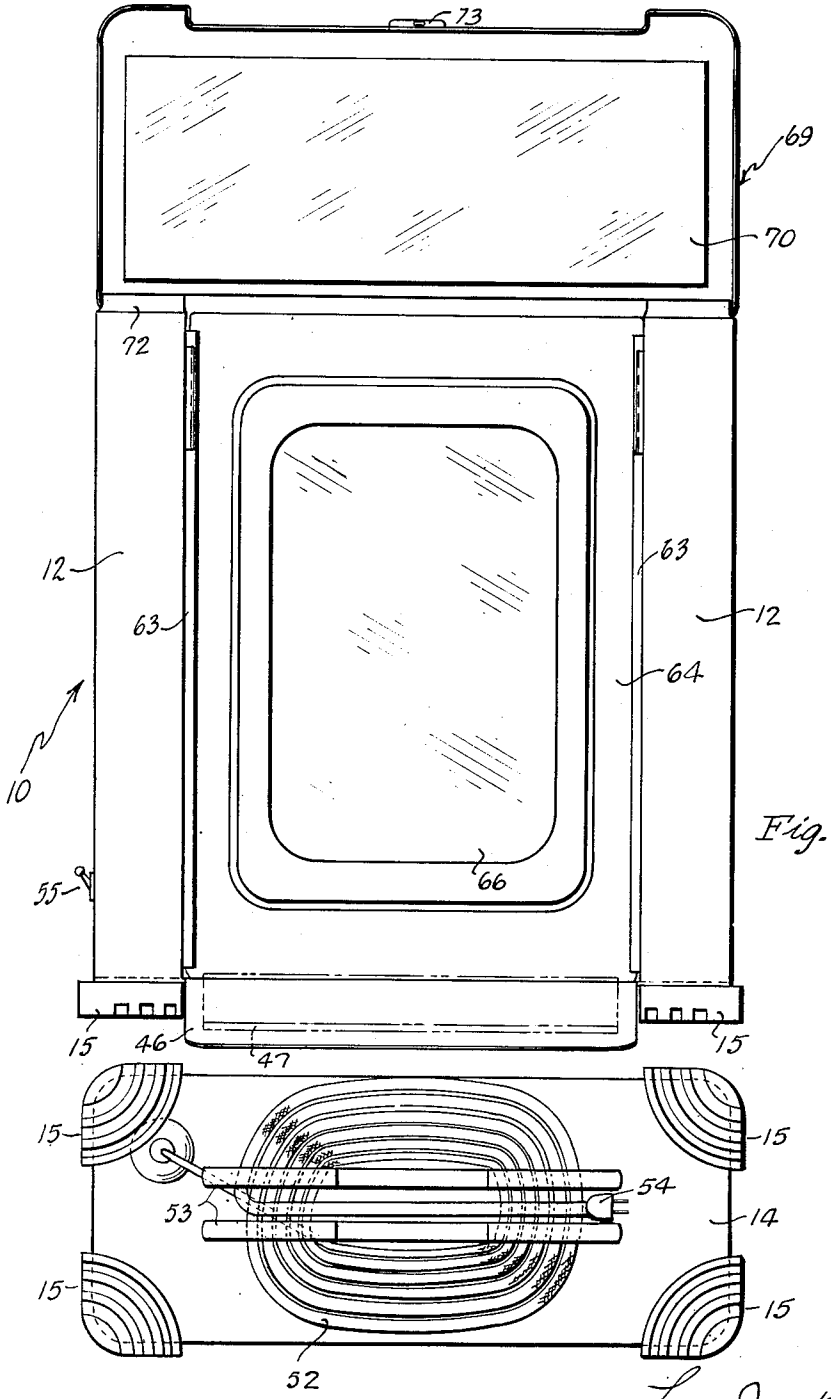


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

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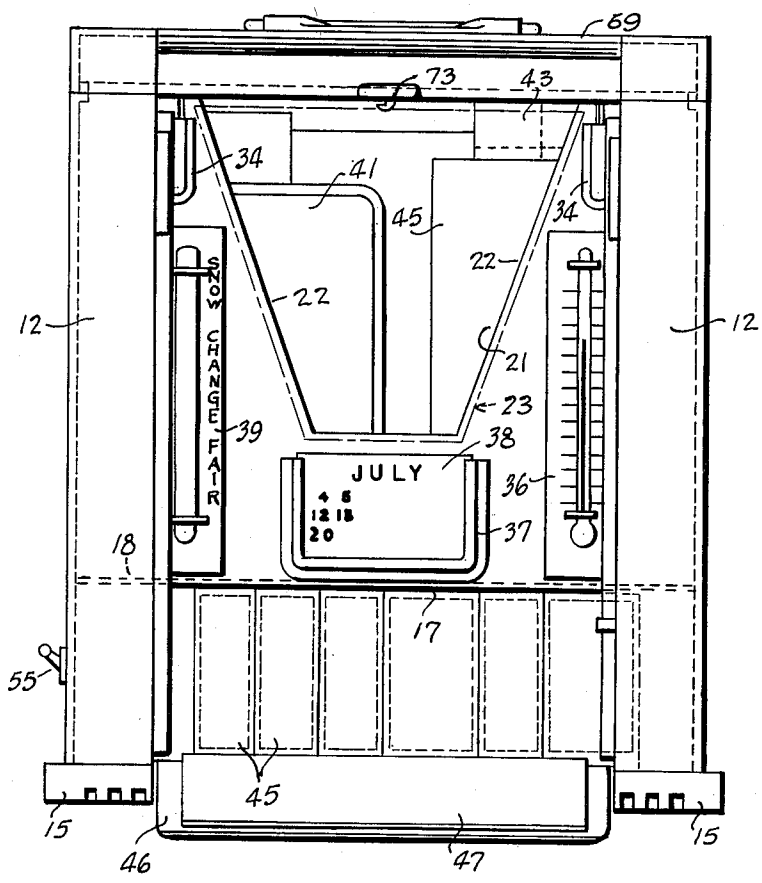


Fig. 4.

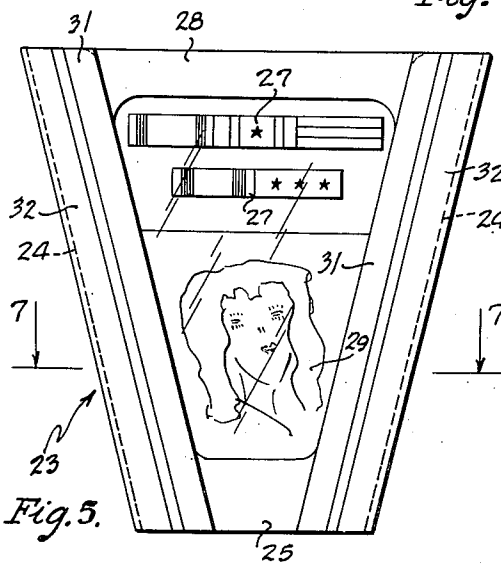


Fig. 5.

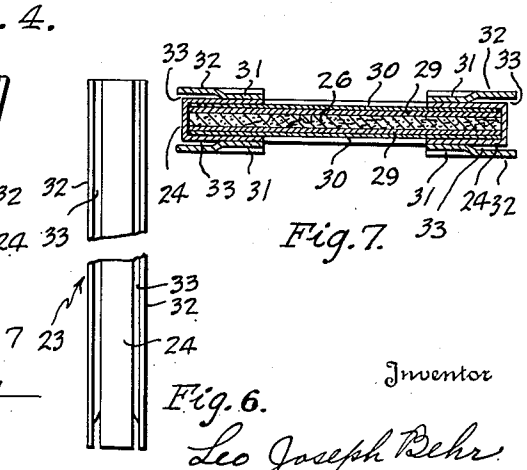


Fig. 6.

Fig. 7.

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Patented Nov. 11, 1952

2,617,217

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,617,217

PANEL-SUPPORTING FRAME

Leo Joseph Behr, Bridgeport, Conn.

Application December 26, 1946, Serial No. 718,553

2 Claims. (Cl. 40—16)

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This invention relates to a portable chest, and has for an object to provide a compact, light weight chest, attractive in appearance, adapted to carry a large number of articles, and to carry them in such a way that they are easily accessible, so that practically any article can be removed and used without disturbing the other articles, and especially a chest to carry a large number of such articles as one may use while travelling or away from home.

Another object is to provide a chest which will not only be ornamental, and in which not only treasured articles, such as photographs, service ribbons, various other insignia, and the like, may be carried, but also a large number of useful articles, such, for example, as writing paper, envelopes, stamps, pencils, pens, everything required for writing; various games, such as cards, checkers, dice and the like; various toilet articles, such as shaving paraphernalia, compacts, lipsticks, and smoking articles, such as cigarettes, lighters, and so forth.

A further object is to provide a device which is easily portable, which has means, either as a part of the device or as a removable element, for conveniently holding a writing pad or sheet of paper while writing, and will furnish illumination so that it may be used when the usual lighting is cut off, or in camp, for example.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, I have devised the construction illustrated in the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification. It is, however, to be understood the invention is not limited to the specific details of construction and arrangement shown, but may embody various changes and modifications within the scope of the invention.

In these drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of my improved chest with the front and top closures open to show the interior, and parts broken away to more clearly show the construction;

Fig. 2 is a front view thereof;

Fig. 3 is a bottom view;

Fig. 4 is a view with the secondary front closure removed, and also an inner frame removed;

Fig. 5 is a front view of this inner frame;

Fig. 6 is an edge view thereof looking from the right of Fig. 5, and

Fig. 7 is a cross section substantially on line 7—7 of Fig. 5.

The device comprises a chest or container 10 including a rear wall, side walls 11, and a front wall 12. Preferably the front corners are rounded, as indicated at 13, to give an improved and

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more attractive appearance and a more streamlined effect. These walls form an inner space closed at the bottom by the bottom wall 14 and which space is divided up into various compartments. The whole device may be supported on suitable cushioned feet 15 at the four corners, of any suitable material, such as rubber or the like. The chest may be made of wood, molded plastic, fiber or cardboard, light metal, or any other suitable material, but should preferably be of light weight.

Spaced backwardly from the front wall is an upright dividing wall 16 spaced at its lower edge 17 above the bottom 14, and extending rearwardly from this lower edge to the rear wall of the container is a horizontal wall 18 forming with the rear wall and the wall 16 a compartment 19 open at the top, and with the bottom wall 14 under this wall 18 a compartment 20 open at the front. In this upright wall 16, and extending downwardly from its upper edge, is a substantially V-shaped recess 21, so that the side edges 22 are inclined. Mounted in this recess is a frame 23, shown more in detail in Figs. 5, 6 and 7. This frame comprises substantially U-shaped side members 24 connected at the bottom at 25, with their open sides facing inwardly, and these sides are inclined substantially the same as the inclined edges 22 of the opening in the upright wall 16, and therefore this forms a substantially V-shaped frame open at least on one side, and preferably open on both sides. Within the frame is a preferably black pillow or pad 26 of preferably fibrous material, as felt or cloth covered felt, on which may be mounted various articles or insignia, such, for example, as service ribbons 27, which may be pinned to this pad or pillow, the edges of which extend into and are supported by the U-shaped frame members 24. These may also be connected at the top by a transverse piece 28. Other articles, such, for example, as photographs 29, may be mounted on the pad, and then these articles may be covered and protected by transparent sheets 30 of suitable plastic or other similar material, also extending at their edges into the U-shaped frame members 24. For mounting this device in the opening 22 in the upright wall 16, they are provided on at least one side of the frame member 24, but preferably on both sides, so that it may be mounted either side out, and reversed, with substantially flat strips 31 secured to the sides of the the frame members 24, as indicated in Fig. 7, and having free edge portions 32 spaced outwardly from the U-shaped members 24, as shown, to provide

grooves 33 along the edges of the frame which of the opening in the upright wall or partition 16 may receive and seat over the inclined edges 22 to mount this device in this opening. By providing members 32 on both sides of the frame it may be supported and reversed with either side facing toward the front. In this way, different articles may be mounted on the opposite sides of the pad 26, and either held concealed or turned for display, as desired. This frame when removed, with the photographs and other articles in it, may be used as an ornamental display device by itself and mounted in a plastic frame or stand or other device to hold it in an upright position on a dresser, table, shelf or the like.

Mounted on the front face of the upright wall or partition 16 are holders for various articles, such, for example, as holders 34 for postage stamps 35, a thermometer 36, holder or frame 37 for a calendar 38, means for mounting a barometer 39, and other articles, as desired. Within the large compartment between the upright wall 16 and the rear wall may be placed such articles as writing paper and envelopes 40, a memorandum and address book 41, postcards 42, Christmas seals 43, and a large number of other articles, as desired. In the lower compartment 20 opening to the front may be placed packages 44 of playing cards, cigarettes and the like, or there may be placed in this a series of upright boxes or containers 45 in which may be placed various articles in the nature of games, such as cards, dice, checkers and the like: toilet articles, such as razors, razor blades, lipsticks, compacts, and the like; any one of which containers may be readily removed to make all the articles easily accessible.

As will be seen in Fig. 1, the upright wall 16 is spaced rearwardly from the front wall 12. In this front wall is an opening, which may be closed by a closure 46 preferably hinged at its lower edge so that it may be swung downwardly and outwardly. This closure forms a convenient support for a pad or writing paper 47, and may be provided with a transverse bar or strap 48 on which the cardboard back 49 of the writing pad may be inserted, as shown in Fig. 1, to support the pad on this closure in convenient writing position. The chest may be held on the lap with this closure down to hold the paper sheets in convenient position for writing.

At the opposite sides of the opening the front walls 12 are extended backwardly and inwardly, as indicated at 50, providing spaces between the front wall and the upright wall 16 on opposite sides of the opening. These walls 50 do not extend back to the wall 16, but are spaced forwardly from it, as shown. In one side, preferably the left hand side, is mounted a small lamp 51, which throws light between the rear edge of the wall 50 and the upright wall 16, to illuminate the various articles in the chest, and also, by indirect illumination, the pad 47 for writing purposes. This light may be a small battery lamp operated by small dry cells in the chest itself, or it could be a type of lamp to be operated from any house wiring system. For this purpose an extension conductor cord 52 may be provided connected with the lamp and extending outwardly through the bottom wall 13 on the underside of which may be fastened one or more straps or spring clips 53 on which the cord may be wound, as shown in Fig. 3, when not in use, and the cord may have the usual attachment plug cap 54 to plug into the usual outlet receptacle in the house wiring system, and the lamp may be controlled by any suitable type of switch 55.

On the opposite side of the front opening between the front wall 12 and the upright wall 16 may be provided suitable holding devices for writing tools, such as pencils 56, pens, and the like, and to make them more readily accessible they are supported in a suitable elevator, comprising a cup 57 supported on an upright extension 58 having a lateral extension or grip 59 extending through a vertical slot 60, where it is accessible for raising the cup 57 and the pens, pencils, or similar articles supported therein, to carry them upwardly where they are easily accessible and removable for use. An angular guide and support 61 may be provided above the cup 57 to prevent the articles from falling out of the cup.

On the inner sides of the inwardly extending walls 50 is a guideway 62, one on each side. This is preferably formed by a pair of spaced strip members 63 secured at their outer edges to the walls 50. These provide vertical guideways for the opposite edges of a secondary or inner closure 64. This closure may be a frame carrying certain ornamental articles or a mirror, or it could be a frame for photographs 65 with a transparent or similar cover 66 over it, and it preferably has a rigid back 67 which will form a support for a writing pad or a sheet of paper. As this frame or closure is easily removable from the chest by simply sliding it upwardly, and out the top of the guides 62, it may be used independently and separately from the chest, and thus used, for example, by an invalid in a bed, as a tray or support for his writing paper, or held in the lap by one sitting in a chair, so that it is not necessary to hold the entire chest in his lap or on a support near him, as would be the case in using the front closure 46. The articles in this frame 64 are easily removable. Thus, if a red pane of glass which absorbs actinic rays is inserted in this frame instead of the other articles, this whole chest could be used as a darkroom lamp in developing films or prints from films, or, if preferred, a red transparent cylinder 68 could be placed around the lamp 51 to absorb the actinic rays, to permit the use of the device as a darkroom lamp. The whole upper part of the chest may be closed by a suitable closure or cover 69 in the inner side of which may be mounted a mirror 70. This closure is preferably hinged to the upper edge of the rear wall of the chest, and preferably has peripheral side walls 71 to enclose and seat on a rabbeted or reduced upper edge 72 of the body of the chest, so that when closed it forms a continuous outer surface for a better and more attractive appearance. Any suitable catch 73 is provided for the top and front closures to hold them in the closed position.

It will be apparent from the above that this novel construction and arrangement provides a very attractive compact chest, in which a large number of various types of articles may be packed for easy transportation and use as desired. Various writing articles, such as paper, pens, pencils, rulers, blotters, and so forth, may be easily carried where they are readily accessible, and various toilet articles, such as lipsticks, compacts, razors and other shaving necessities, combs, nail files and other toilet accessories, also various games, such as checkers, cards, dice and so forth; and if desired, the outer surface of the back wall

of the chest may be provided with the squares of a checkerboard. Not only may various useful articles, as enumerated, be carried in this chest, but various ornamental articles as well, such, for example, as photographs or certain prized pictures, military ribbons and various insignia, as described. As a matter of fact, it makes a substantially all-purpose chest which is readily carried, and in which any of the numerous articles contained in it are always accessible without disturbing the other articles. It may be carried by a hand strap provided over the top (not shown) or a longer strap to go over the shoulder in the manner common in carrying cameras, ladies' handbags, and the like. As it has a lamp of its own, various articles in the container are illuminated so that they may be readily located in the dark, and this lamp can also be used for illuminating writing paper while being used. It will be understood that only a small number of the various articles that can be placed and carried in this chest have been mentioned, and that an almost unlimited number of other articles may be provided, those mentioned being noted merely by way of example.

It is especially adapted for use by travelers in trains, airplanes and the like, invalids in bed or in hospitals, soldiers in camp, sailors on ships, or people in homes.

Having thus set forth the nature of my invention, I claim:

1. In a device of the character described, a substantially V-shaped frame comprising side members provided with longitudinal outwardly opening grooves in their outer side edges adapted to receive the similarly inclined edges of an opening in an upright wall to be supported thereby, and said side members also being provided with inwardly facing grooves in their inner side edges to receive a support in the frame adapted for mounting various articles.

2. In a device of the character described, a substantially V-shaped frame comprising side members of substantially U-shaped cross section arranged with their open sides facing inwardly, a support extending between the side members with its opposite side edges extending into and supported in said open sides of the U-shaped members and adapted to mount various articles, and a member extending along at least one side of each of said side members and spaced from them to form grooves with their open sides facing outwardly and adapted to receive the similarly inclined side edges of an opening in an upright wall to support said frame therein.

LEO JOSEPH BEHR.

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