April 16, 1957 E. B. BANNER 2,788,828

FLATWARE CASE

Filed June 26, 1953 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

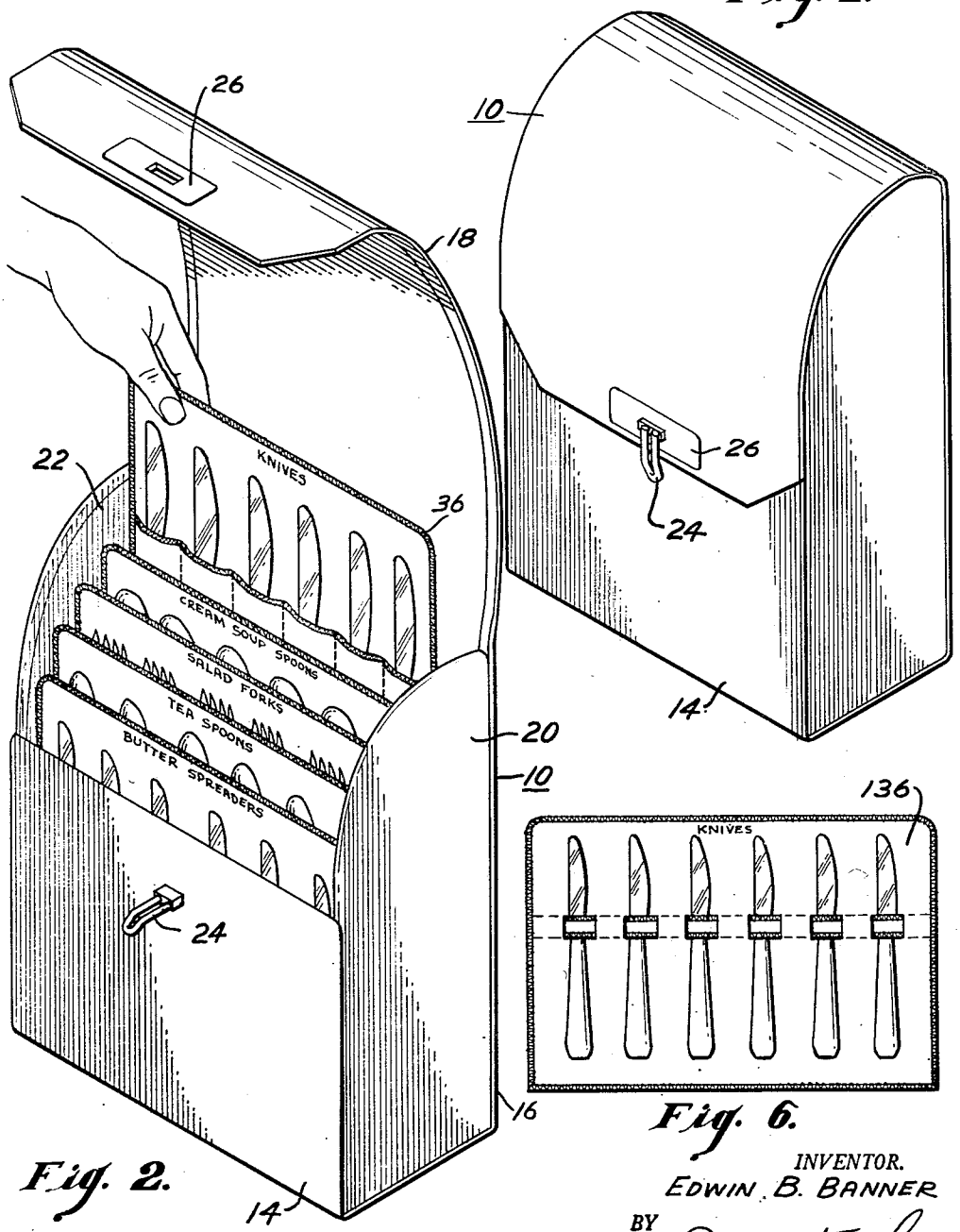


Fig. 2.

Fig. 6.

INVENTOR.
EDWIN B. BANNER
BY Leonard L. Kalish
ATTORNEY.

April 16, 1957 E. B. BANNER 2,788,828

FLATWARE CASE

Filed June 26, 1953 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

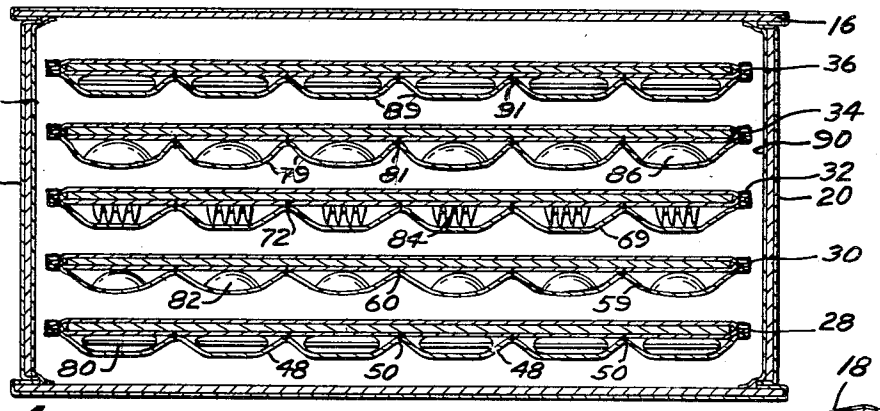


Fig. 4.

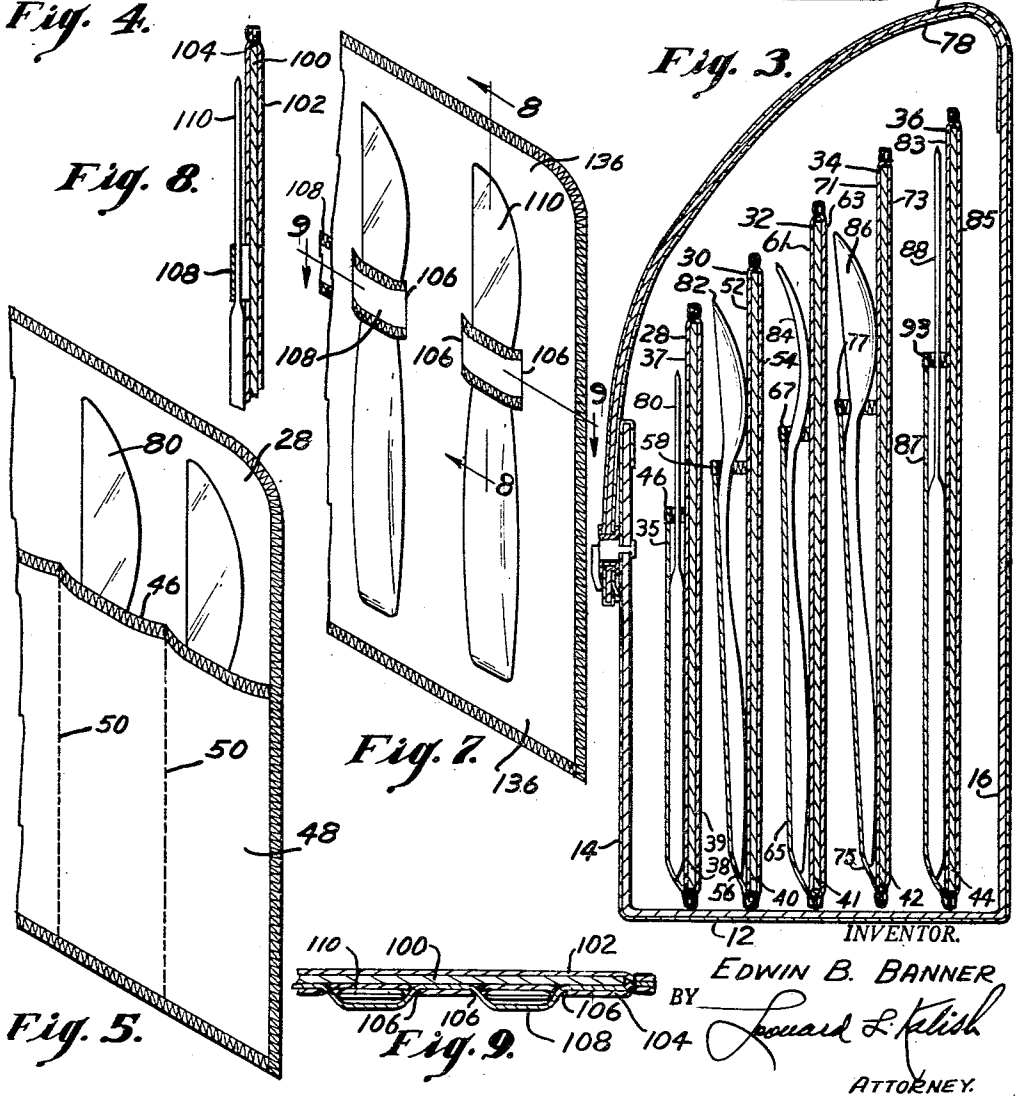


Fig. 3.

Fig. 8.

Fig. 7.

Fig. 5.

Fig. 9.

INVENTOR.
EDWIN B. BANNER
BY Leonard L. Kalish
ATTORNEY.

United States Patent Office 2,788,828 Patented Apr. 16, 1957

2,788,828

FLATWARE CASE

Edwin B. Banner, Haddonfield, N. J., assignor, by mesne assignments, to Reeve & Mitchell Mfg. Co., Inc., New York, N. Y., a corporation of New York

Application June 26, 1953, Serial No. 364,245

8 Claims. (Cl. 150—52)

The present invention comprises a flatware case for all types of flatware and relates more particularly to a flatware case for silver flatware, such as sterling silver or palted flatware, readily subject to tarnishing wherein multiple place-settings may be conveniently stored and retained when not in use.

One of the objects of the present invention is to provide a flatware case for domestic use in which a plurality of place-settings may be stored and encased.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a flatware case which will permit convenient and ready access to its contents.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a flatware case in which the contents thereof can be maintained in a tarnish-free condition, and in which scratching and abrasion of the flatware contents are avoided.

With the above objects in view, together with other objects which will appear more fully from the following description and accompanying drawings, the present invention contemplates a flatware case having a generally rectangular base of form-retaining material, front and rear walls, preferably of form-retaining material extending upward from the base, and side walls extending upward from the base intermediate said front and rear walls. Positioned within the case are a plurality of flatware-retaining partitions, each of said partitions having a width dimension somewhat less than the internal width of the case and being individually-movable within the case. Each partition comprises a separator of form-retaining material and is provided with flatware-retaining elements such as pockets or loops, the flatware-retaining elements being fashioned from fabric positioned on the front face of the separator. A preferred fabric for this purpose, particularly where the flatware is subject to tarnishing, is tarnish-inhibiting silver cloth. The case is provided with a case-closing cover extending from the rear wall over the tops of the flatware-retaining partitions and engaging with the front wall of the case. The number of flatware-retaining partitions within the case should be such that when the partitions are operatively positioned within the case with flatware retained thereon, the partitions are in a generally vertical position when the case is closed. Preferably, each partition should be provided with a labeling area on its upper portion bearing printed matter indicative of the flatware to be retained on said partition and the respective heights of the partitions should be such that when the partitions are operatively positioned in progressively increasing size within the case the labeling area on each partition is visible when the case is open.

For the purpose of illustrating the invention, there are shown in the accompanying drawings forms thereof which are at present preferred, although it is to be understood that the various instrumentalities of which the invention consists can be variously arranged and organized and that the invention is not limited to the precise arrangements and organizations of the instrumentalities as herein shown and described.

Figure 1 represents a perspective view of a flatware case, embodying the present invention, in closed position.

Figure 2 represents a perspective view of the flatware case of Figure 1 in open position.

Figure 3 is a side cross-sectional view of the flatware case of Figure 1 showing the flatware-retaining partitions carying flatware (the flatware being shown in perspective).

Figure 4 is a plan cross-sectional view of the flatware case of Figure 1, the flatware not being shown in section but in perspective view as seen from above.

Figure 5 is a fragmentary perspective view of a flatware-retaining partition carrying flatware.

Figure 6 is a front perspective view of the forward face of another embodiment of the flatware-retaining partition of the present invention carrying flatware.

Figure 7 is a fragmentary perspective view of the embodiment of the flatware-retaining partition of the present invention shown in Figure 6.

Figure 8 is a cross-sectional view taken on line 8—8 of Figure 7.

Figure 9 is a cross-sectional view taken on line 9—9 of Figure 7.

As seen in Figures 1 through 5 the flatware case of the present invention comprises a box or case 10, prepared from form-retaining material, such as cardboard, paperboard or the like having its external surface covered with a fabric or covering such as colored cloth or paper, or having its external surface painted or dyed. Case 10 has a generally rectangular base 12 having a relatively wide front wall 14 extending generally perpendicularly therefrom. As seen in Figures 2 and 4, front wall 14 is of generally co-extensive width as base 12 and is integral with base 12. Extending generally perpendicularly from the rear of base 12 is rear wall 16 which is likewise co-extensive with and integral with base 12. Of course, if desired, front wall 14 or rear wall 16 can be fabricated of separate pieces, and be non-integral with base 12.

As seen in Figures 2 and 3, rear wall 16 is substantially higher than front wal 14 and is provided with an integral cover or flap 18 extending therefrom. Front wall 14 and rear wall 16 are joined by side walls 20 and 22 which likewise extend generally perpendicularly upward from base 12. Side walls 20 and 22 may be of form-retaining material, as in the instant embodiment or may be of cloth or other flexible material. In the latter case, the cloth may be gusseted, permitting front wall 14 to be pivoted frontwardly from its perpendicular position (front wall 14 being perpendicularly-positioned when the case is closed). While side walls 20 and 22 may be integral with base 12 and coextensive with the edges thereof, it is preferable for the reasons indicated below to position side walls 20 and 22 somewhat within the marginal edges of base 12 as shown in Figures 2 and 4.

The upper edge of each of side walls 20 and 22 is curved to form a pleasing design, with the lower edge abutting front wall 14 and the uppermost edge abutting rear wall 16. The cover 18 extends downwardly from the rear wall 16 over the upper edge of each of side walls 20 and 22 and overlaps the upper portion of front wall 14. By having side walls 20 and 22 positioned somewhat within the margins of base 12, as heretofore indicated, the cover 18 also overlaps the upper edge of side walls 20 and 22 yielding a better seal. A locking member 24 is provided on the upper portion of front wall 14 and is aligned and adapted to engage with a slot or recess in a corresponding clasp member 26 on cover 18 to permit the cover to be locked in position as shown in Figure 1.

Positioned within flatware case 10 are flatware-retaining partitions 28, 30, 32, 34 and 36 formed of form-retaining material such as cardboard or the like. As seen in Figure 4, the partitions are slightly narrower than the

internal width of flatware case 10, having a relatively small clearance between their peripheral edges and the inner surfaces of side walls 20 and 22, and are of pleasing design with their upper corners rounded. Each of flatware-retaining partitions 28, 30, 32, 34 and 36 comprise a form-retaining separator or wall of flexible cardboard or the like, namely, respective separators 38, 40, 41, 42 and 44 encased in a flatware-retaining fabric covering.

Thus, in the case of flatware-retaining partitions 28, separator 38 is completely enclosed within front fabric 37 and rear fabric 39 which are merrow-stitched together along their edges. A separate fabric 35 is sewn on the front face of flatware-retaining partition 28 over front fabric 37 and extends upward for a major portion of the height of flatware-retaining partition 28. The bottom and side edges of separate fabric 35 are joined with the merrow-stitching of the bottom and side edges of front and rear fabrics 37 and 39 and the upper edge of the separate fabric 35 is merrow-stitched at 46. The separate fabric 35 is divided into a series of six flatware-retaining elements or compartments or pockets 48 by means of vertical stitches 50.

In the case of flatware-retaining partition 30, which is similar to partition 28 but somewhat larger, separator 40 is completely enclosed within front fabric 52 and rear fabric 54 which are merrow-stitched together along their edges. A separate fabric 56, is sewn on the front face of flatware-retaining partition 30 over front fabric 52, and extends upward for a major portion of the height of flatware-retaining partition 30. The bottom and side edges of separate fabric 56 are joined with the merrow-stitching of the bottom and side edges of front and rear fabrics 52 and 54, and the front edge of separate fabric 56 is merrow-stitched at 58. Separate fabric 56 is divided into a series of six flatware-retaining elements or compartments or pockets 59 by means of vertical stitches 60.

In the case of flatware-retaining partition 32, which is similar to partition 30 but somewhat larger, separator 41 is completely enclosed within front fabric 61 and rear fabric 63, which are merrow-stitched together along their edges. A separate fabric 65 is sewn on the front face of flatware-retaining partition 32 over front fabric 61 and extends upward for a large portion of the height of flatware-retaining partitions 32. The bottom and side edges of separate fabric 65 are joined with the merrow-stitching of the bottom and side edges of front and rear fabrics 61 and 63, and the upper edge of separate fabric 65 is merrow-stitched at 67. Separate fabric 65 is divided into a series of six flatware-retaining elements or compartments or pockets 69, by means of vertical stitching 72.

In the case of flatware-retaining partition 34, which is similar to partition 32 but somewhat larger, separator 42 is completely enclosed within front fabric 71 and rear fabric 73, which are merrow-stitched together along their edges. Separate fabric 75 is sewn on the front face of flatware-retaining partition 34 over front fabric 71, and extends upward for a major portion of the height of flatware-retaining partition 34. The bottom and side edges of separate fabric 75 are joined with the merrow-stitching of the bottom and side edges of front and rear fabrics 71 and 73, and the upper edge of separate fabric 75 is merrow-stitched at 77. Separate fabric 75 is divided into a series of six flatware-retaining elements or compartments or pockets 79 by means of vertical stitches 81.

In the case of flatware-retaining partition 36, which is similar to partition 34 but somewhat larger, separator 44 is completely enclosed within front fabric 83 and rear fabric 85, which are merrow-stitched together along their edges. A separate fabric 87, is sewn on the front face of flatware-retaining partition 36 over front fabric 83 and extends upward for a major portion of the height of

flatware-retaining partition 36. The bottom and side edges of separate fabric 87 are joined with the merrow-stitching of the bottom and side edges of front and rear fabrics 83 and 85, and the upper edge of separate fabric 87 is merrow-stitched at 93. Separate fabric 87 is divided into a series of six flatware-retaining elements or pockets 89 by means of vertical stitches 91.

In place of a separate fabric the pockets on the front face of each flatware-retaining partition can be fabricated by overlapping the front fabric and merrow-stitching it at the basal crease.

As seen in Figures 2 and 3, the flatware-retaining partitions 28, 30, 32, 34 and 36 are of progressively increasing height from front to rear with progressively increasing flatware pieces being contained in each partition. Thus, flatware-retaining partition 28 is adapted to receive the smallest of the flatware, namely butter spreaders 80; flatware-retaining partition 30 is adapted to receive a larger size of flatware, namely tea spoons 82; flatware-retaining partition 32 is adapted to receive a still larger size of flatware, namely salad forks 84; flatware-retaining partition 34 is adapted to receive a still larger size of flatware, namely cream soup spoons 86 and flatware-retaining partition 36 is adapted to receive the largest size flatware, namely knives 88. As seen in Figure 2, each of the flatware-retaining partitions has a labeling area at its upper portion bearing printed matter designating the type of flatware to be carried by the partition, which labeling area on each flatware-retaining partition is visible when the case is open.

As seen in Figures 2, 3 and 4, when each of partitions 28, 30, 32, 34 and 36 are carrying flatware and are positioned within the case 10 they substantially occupy the internal volume of case 10 and stand upright. As indicated heretofore, the clearance at their edges with side walls 20 and 22 is relatively small so that rotational motion of the partitions within the case is prevented when the case is being moved. Moreover, any slight movement of the partitions and contact with each other will not produce scatching or abrasion of the flatware since metal-to-metal contact is absent.

As heretofore indicated, the preferred flatware-retaining fabric or cloth for use on flatware-retaining partitions 28, 30, 32, 34 and 36 is conventional silver cloth which comprises a tarnish-inhibiting fabric. However, in some constructions, such as those contemplating non-tarnishing flatware like stainless steel, other types of fabric can be used.

Such silver cloth is conventionally prepared by immersing a relatively heavy and durable cloth such as flannel, in an aqueous solution containing a water-soluble salt of a heavy material such as lead or zinc which preferentially absorbs hydrogen sulphide from the atmosphere in respect to metallic silver, and subsequently drying the impregnated cloth. Thus, such cloth may be prepared by impregnating flannel with a solution of lead acetate, and permitting the lead acetate to dry and be retained in the fibers of the flannel. The use of such cloth on flatware-retaining partitions 28, 30, 32, 34 and 36 serves to eliminate or substantially retard the tarnishing of silver flatware. This anti-tarnishing action is supplemented by surfacing the inner surface of the upper portion of rear wall 16 and cover 18 with tarnish-inhibiting silver cloth 78 and surfacing the inner surface of side walls 20 and 22 with respective tarnish-inhibiting silver cloths 90 and 92. Moreover, if desired the inner surface of front wall 14, and/or the remaining inner surface of case 10 can likewise be surfaced with tarnish-inhibiting silver cloth.

While the instant embodiment illustrates the use of six flatware-retaining elements or pockets, permitting six-place settings to be retained in the case, it is, of course, to be understood that a larger or smaller number of pockets can be provided so that a larger or smaller number of place settings can be retained in the case.

In place of, or in conjunction with, the flatware-retaining partitions shown in Figures 2, 3, 4 and 5 in which the flatware-retaining element comprises a pocket, the embodiment shown in Figures 6 through 9 can be utilized. In this embodiment the flatware-retaining partition **136** comprises a separator or wall of form-retaining material **100** having a rear fabric or silver cloth **102** covering its rear surface. The front surface of flatware-retaining partition **136** is provided with a front fabric or silver cloth **104** which is slitted at **106**. A flatware-retaining band **108** comprising a relatively thin strip of silver cloth having upper and lower merrowed edges is interwoven in and out of slits **106** as shown in Figures 6, 7 and 9. Thus, the flatware-retaining band **108** is alternately positioned between front silver cloth **104** and form-retaining separator **100**, and in front of front silver cloth **104** as shown in Figure 9. The peripheral edges of flatware-retaining band **104** are merrow-stitched in conjunction with the edge merrow-stitching of front silver cloth **104** and rear silver cloth **102**. Flatware, namely knives **110** are retained between flatware-retaining band **108** and the surface of front silver cloth **104**.

The present invention permits a plurality of place-settings to be stored and encased in an attractive fashion with convenient and ready access to the flatware. Moreover, scratching and abrasion of the flatware is prevented notwithstanding the transporting or moving of the case since metal-to-metal contact is avoided. In addition, the flatware contents, in particular, silver flatware in the preferred embodiment employing silver cloth, are maintained in tarnish-free condition rendering their polishing to remove discoloration due to atmospheric oxidation unnecessary or infrequent. Furthermore, the individual flatware-retaining partitions can be removed from the case, permitting the removal of the entire number of settings of a given flatware piece without disturbing any of the other flatware pieces.

The present invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from the spirit or essential attributes thereof, and it is therefore desired that the present embodiments be considered in all respects as illustrative and not restrictive, reference being had to the appended claims rather than to the foregoing description to indicate the scope of the invention.

Having described my invention, I claim:

1. A multi-compartmented flatware case comprising a generally rectangular base of form-retaining material, a rear wall extending generally perpendicularly upward from said rectangular base, a front wall extending upward from said base, side walls extending upward from said generally rectangular base intermediate said front and rear walls, a plurality of separately removable flatware-retaining partitions of progressively increasing height from front to rear positioned within said case, each flatware-retaining partition comprising a separator of form-retaining material, a fabric covering on at least the front face of each separator, said fabric covering forming relatively flexible flatware-retaining elements on each separator, each flatware-retaining partition having a width dimension somewhat less than the internal width of the case, the flatware-retaining partitions within said case when operatively positioned carrying flatware retained thereon being in a generally vertical position when the case is closed, a case-closing cover extending from the rear wall over the tops of said flatware-retaining partitions and engaging with the front wall of said case.

2. A multi-compartmented flatware case comprising a generally rectangular base of form-retaining material, a rear wall of form-retaining material extending generally perpendicularly upward from said rectangular base, a front wall of form-retaining material extending generally upward from said base, side walls extending generally upward from said generally rectangular base intermediate said front and rear walls, a plurality of separate individually-removable flatware-retaining partitions of progressively increasing height from front to rear positioned within said case, each flatware-retaining partition comprising a separator of form-retaining material, a fabric covering on at least the front face of each separator, said fabric covering forming relatively flexible flatware-retaining elements on each separator, each flatware-retaining partition having a width dimension somewhat less than the internal width of the case, the number of flatware-retaining partitions within said case being such that when said partitions are operatively positioned within said case with flatware retained thereon said partitions are in a generally vertical position when the case is closed, a case-closing cover extending from the rear wall over the tops of said flatware-retaining partitions and engaging with the front wall of said case.

3. A multi-compartmented flatware case comprising a generally rectangular base of form-retaining material, a relatively wide rear wall extending generally perpendicularly upward from said rectangular base, a relatively wide front wall extending upward from said base, said front wall being substantially lower than said rear wall, relatively narrow side walls extending upward from said generally rectangular base intermediate said front and rear walls, a plurality of separate individually removable flatware-retaining partitions of progressively increasing height from front to rear positioned within said case, each flatware-retaining partition comprising a separator of form-retaining material, a fabric covering on at least the front face of each separator, said fabric covering forming relatively flexible flatware-retaining elements on each separator, each flatware-retaining partition having a width dimension somewhat less than the internal width of said case, the flatware-retaining partitions within said case when operatively positioned carrying flatware retained thereon being in a generally vertical position when the case is closed, a case-closing cover extending from the rear wall over the tops of said flatware-retaining partitions and engaging with the front wall of said case.

4. A multi-compartmented flatware case comprising a generally rectangular base of form-retaining material, a rear wall of form-retaining material extending generally perpendicularly upward from said rectangular base, a front wall of form-retaining material extending generally perpendicularly upward from said base, side walls extending upward from said generally rectangular base intermediate said front and rear walls, a plurality of separate individually-removable flatware-retaining partitions of progressively increasing height from front to rear positioned within said case, each flatware-retaining partition comprising a separator of form-retaining material, a tarnish-inhibiting silver cloth covering on at least the front face of each separator, said tarnish-inhibiting silver cloth covering forming a like number of relatively flexible flatware-retaining elements on each separator, tarnish-inhibiting silver cloth on the inner surface of said case, each flatware-retaining partition having a width dimension somewhat less than the internal width of the case, the number of flatware-retaining partitions within said case being such that when said partitions are operatively positioned within said case with flatware retained thereon said partitions are in a generally vertical position when the case is closed, a case-closing cover extending from the rear wall over the tops of said flatware-retaining partitions and engaging with the front wall of said case.

5. A multi-compartmented flatware case comprising a generally rectangular base of form-retaining material, a rear wall of form-retaining material extending generally perpendicularly upward from said rectangular base, a front wall of form-retaining material extending generally perpendicularly upward from said base, side walls extending upward from said generally rectangular base intermediate said front and rear walls, a plurality of separate individually-removable flatware-retaining partitions of progressively increasing height from front to

rear positioned within said case, each flatware-retaining partition comprising a separator of form-retaining material, a tarnish-inhibiting silver cloth covering on at least the front face of each separator, said tarnish-inhibiting silver cloth covering forming a like number of relatively flexible flatware-retaining elements on each separator, tarnish-inhibiting silver cloth on the inner surface of said side walls, each flatware-retaining partition having a width dimension somewhat less than the internal width of the case, the number of flatware-retaining partitions within said case being such that when said partitions are operatively positioned within said case with flatware retained thereon said partitions are in a generally vertical position when the case is closed, a case-closing cover extending from the rear wall over the tops of said flatware-retaining partitions and engaging with the front wall of said case.

6. A multi-compartmented flatware case comprising a generally rectangular base of form-retaining material, a relatively wide rear wall of form-retaining material extending generally perpendicularly upward from said rectangular base, a relatively wide front wall of form-retaining material extending generally perpendicularly upward from said base, said front wall being substantially lower than said rear wall, relatively narrow side walls extending upward from said generally rectangular base intermediate said front and rear walls, a plurality of separate individually removable flatware-retaining partitions of progressively increasing height from front to rear positioned within said case, each flatware-retaining partition comprising a separator of form-retaining material, a tarnish-inhibiting silver cloth covering on at least the front face of each separator, said tarnish-inhibiting silver cloth covering forming a like number of relatively flexible flatware-retaining elements comprising silver cloth pockets on the forward face of each separator, the top of each of said pockets terminating below the top of its separator, each flatware-retaining partition having a width dimension somewhat less than the internal width of said case, a labeling area on the upper portion of each flatware-retaining partition bearing printed matter indicative of the flatware to be retained on said partition, the respective heights of the flatware-retaining partitions within said case being such that when said partitions are operatively positioned in progressively increasing size within said case the labeling area on each partition is visible when the case is open, a case-closing cover extending from the rear wall over the tops of said flatware-retaining partitions and engaging with the front wall of said case.

7. A multi-compartmented flatware case comprising a generally rectangular base of form-retaining material, a relatively wide rear wall of form-retaining material extending generally perpendicularly upward from said rectangular base, a relatively wide front wall of form-retaining material extending generally perpendicularly upward from said base, said front wall being substantially lower than said rear wall, relatively narrow side walls extending upward from said generally rectangular base intermediate said front and rear walls, a plurality of separate individually removable flatware-retaining partitions of progressively increasing height from front to rear positioned within said case, each flatware-retaining partition comprising a separator of form-retaining material, a tarnish-inhibiting silver cloth covering on at least the front face of each separator, said tarnish-inhibiting silver cloth covering forming a like number of relatively flexible flatware-retaining elements comprising an interwoven tarnish-inhibiting silver cloth band on the forward face of each separator, the top of each of said bands terminating below the top of its separator, each flatware-retaining partition having a width dimension somewhat less than the internal width of said case, a labeling area on the upper portion of each flatware-retaining partition bearing printed matter indicative of the flatware to be retained on said partition, the respective heights of the flatware-retaining partitions within said case being such that when said partitions are operatively positioned in progressively increasing size within said case the labeling area on each partition is visible when the case is open, a case-closing cover extending from the rear wall over the tops of said flatware-retaining partitions and engaging with the front wall of said case.

8. A multi-compartmented flatware case comprising a generally rectangular base of form-retaining material, a relatively wide rear wall of form-retaining material extending generally perpendicularly upward from said rectangular base, a relatively wide front wall of form-retaining material extending generally perpendicularly upward from said base, said front wall being substantially lower than said rear wall, relatively narrow side walls extending upward from said generally rectangular base intermediate said front and rear walls, a plurality of separate individually removable flatware-retaining partitions of progressively increasing height from front to rear positioned within said case, each flatware-retaining partition comprising a separator of form-retaining material, a tarnish-inhibiting silver cloth covering on at least the front face of each separator, said tarnish-inhibiting silver cloth covering forming a like number of relatively flexible flatware-retaining elements comprising an interwoven tarnish-inhibiting silver cloth band on the forward face of each separator, tarnish-inhibiting silver cloth on the inner surface of said side walls, the top of each of said bands terminating below the top of its separator, each flatware-retaining partition having a width dimension somewhat less than the internal width of said case, a labeling area on the upper portion of each flatware-retaining partition bearing printed matter indicative of the flatware to be retained on said partition, the respective heights of the flatware-retaining partitions within said case being such that when said partitions are operatively positioned in progressively increasing size within said case the labeling area on each partition is visible when the case is open, a case-closing cover extending from the rear wall over the tops of said flatware-retaining partitions and engaging with the front wall of said case.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

1,729,126	Reimer	Sept. 24, 1929
1,747,010	Keller	Feb. 11, 1930
1,791,594	Herring	Feb. 10, 1931
1,991,306	Woolsey	Feb. 12, 1935
2,403,530	Holtzman	Sept. 30, 1944
2,729,258	Pentland et al.	Jan. 3, 1956