

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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HATBOX.

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This invention relates to those hat boxes having the form of drums and designed to be carried in the hand. Hat boxes of this character heretofore have been made of a body portion and a lid, the lid being hinged to the body adjacent the flat side of the hat box. As a consequence it is difficult to open the lid when the hat box is set down on its flat side as the weight of the material packed within the hat box tends to prevent the opening of the lid and the act of opening the lid causes the hat box to be raised.

The general object of the present invention is to provide a hat box of this character with a lid which is hinged to the body of the hat box a distance above its flat lower face so that the lid may be opened without trouble and thus access may be had to the hat box without any particular effort and without tending to cause the disarrangement of the material within the hat box.

A further object is to provide means on the body of the hat box engaging the lid when it is closed and acting to prevent any lateral movement of the lid and thus take off any strain from the flexible hinge by which the lid is connected to the body of the hat box.

My invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings wherein:—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a hat box constructed in accordance with my invention;

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary side elevation showing the lid of the hat box open;

Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view with the lid closed;

Fig. 4 is a section on the line 4—4 of Figure 1;

Fig. 5 is a side elevation of the hat box with the lid closed.

Referring to these drawings, 10 designates the body of the hat box which has the usual drum-shape and the flat side face 11 upon which the hat box normally rests. This portion of the hat box is constructed in the usual manner and is covered with leather or imitation leather and at a point opposite the side 11 is provided with a handle 12. The wall of the body 10 is also provided with the usual latches 13 whereby the lid is held closed.

In the ordinary hat box the peripheral wall of the drum has its edge disposed en-

tirely in one plane but in my improved hat box the lower portion of the body 10 is laterally extended as at 14 and this lateral extension is closed by an end wall 15 which extends down to the flattened portion 11. This lateral extension at its upper edge is inclined as at 16 and hinged by a flexible hinge 17 to the wall 15 is the lid 18 which is approximately semi-circular in form and has a rim or flange 19, the ends of which are cut off on an incline as at 20, so as to abut against the inclined edges 16 of the extension 14 when the lid is closed.

In order to brace this lid against lateral movement when the lid is closed, the outside covering of the body 10 terminates short of the edge 21 as at 22, and at the ends of the extension 14 this outside covering also terminates short of the inside lining as at 23, and thus, when the lid is closed, the rim 19 fits down over these portions 21 and 23 and the lid is held against lateral movement.

In order to simulate the construction of the ordinary hat box, the outer covering of the body 10 and the extension 14 is made in two pieces so that there is an apparent joint 24 extending around the lower portion of the hat box in line with the edge 22 and the covering of the extension 14 is stitched at 25 so that when the lid is closed except for the inclined joint or line of separation at 20, the lid is apparently hinged to the lower end of the body 10 in the usual manner. The lower or flat end of the body 10 is provided with the knobs 26 in the usual manner and the lid is, of course, provided with keepers with which the latches 13 are adapted to engage. The lid is also provided with a hasp 27 engaging with a lock 28 mounted upon the body. Of course, the interior of the body of the hat box and the lid are suitably lined and provided with the usual pockets and hat holders.

I do not wish to be limited to the details of construction as these might be varied in many ways but it will be seen that by providing a lid which is not hinged to the lower end of the hat box that this lid may be readily opened without any tendency to lift the hat box itself and that the lid may be opened either slightly or all the way down and yet the articles packed within the hat box will be held in place by reason of the wall 17. Thus, articles may be taken out of

this hat box or inserted within it with much less tendency to disarrange the contents than is ordinarily the case.

I claim:—

- 5 1. A hat box having the form of a drum and comprising a body open at one end and closed at the other, said body having its lower portion laterally extended, the lateral extension being closed by a sector-shaped
- 10 wall, and a sector-shaped lid hinged along its straight edge to the end wall and having a rim as deep as the extension and complementary thereto, the body having an outer facing of material extending around
- 15 the perimeter of the body with an edge approximately coincident with the margin of the body above the extension, the extension having a separate outer facing separated slightly from the facing of the body to form
- 20 an apparent joint between the extension and the body and coincident with the joint between the rim and body when the lid is closed.

- 25 2. A hat box having the form of a drum, and comprising a body open at one end and closed at the other, said body having a flat

bottom, said body having its lower portion laterally extended, the lateral extension being closed by a sector-shaped wall, and a sector-shaped lid hinged along its straight edge to the end wall and having a rim as deep as said extension and complementary thereto, the body being composed of an inner thickness of material and an outer facing extending around the perimeter of the body, the inner thickness being laterally extended along the bottom and up for a distance on each side of the body, the facing of the body terminating short of the edge of the body and the facing of the extension terminating short of the ends of the extension, said extension facing being slightly separated from the body facing along a line extending around the perimeter of the body to thereby form an apparent joint between the extension and the body, the edge of the lid rim fitting against the edge of the body facing and against the ends of the extension facing when the lid is closed.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

HARVEY SEWARD.