

Aug. 9, 1955

G. FONTANA
TRAVELING CASE OR THE LIKE

2,714,911

Filed Jan. 21, 1953

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

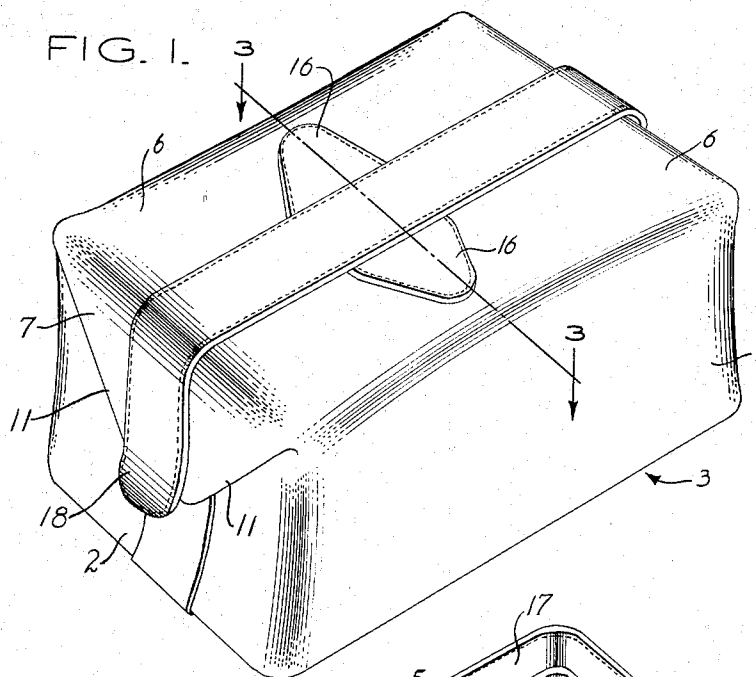
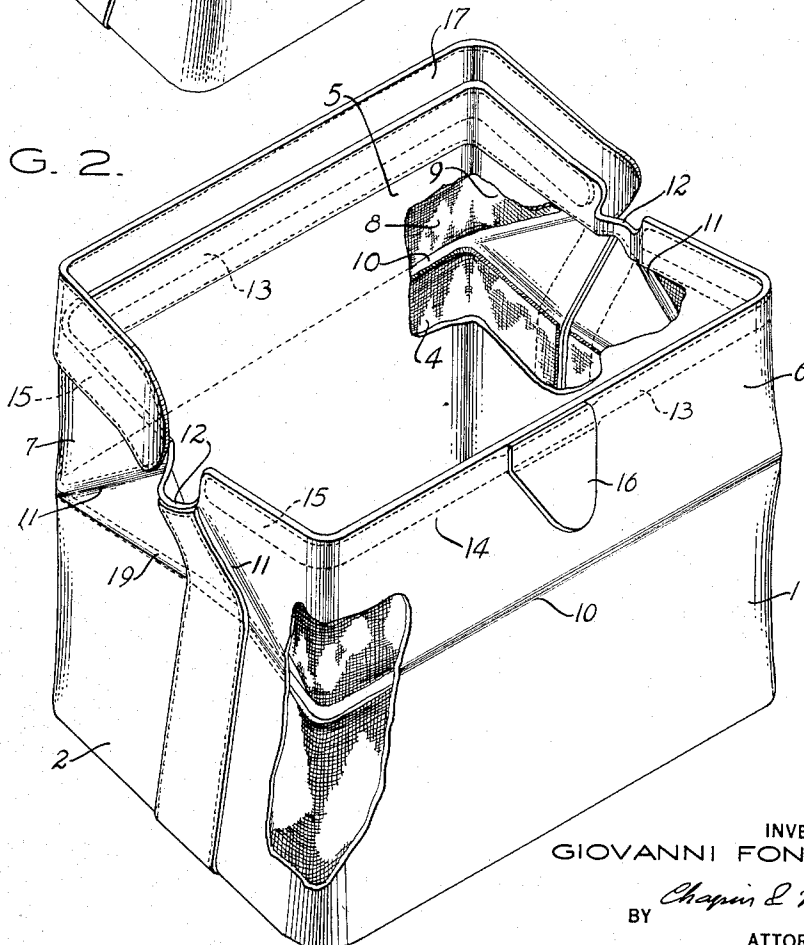


FIG. 2.



INVENTOR
GIOVANNI FONTANA

BY *Chapin & Neal*
ATTORNEYS

Aug. 9, 1955

G. FONTANA

2,714,911

TRAVELING CASE OR THE LIKE

Filed Jan. 21, 1953

2 Sheets-Sheet 2

FIG. 3.

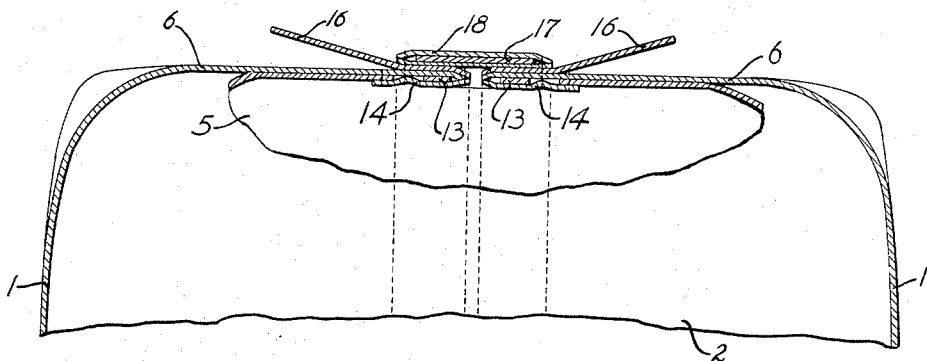


FIG. 4.

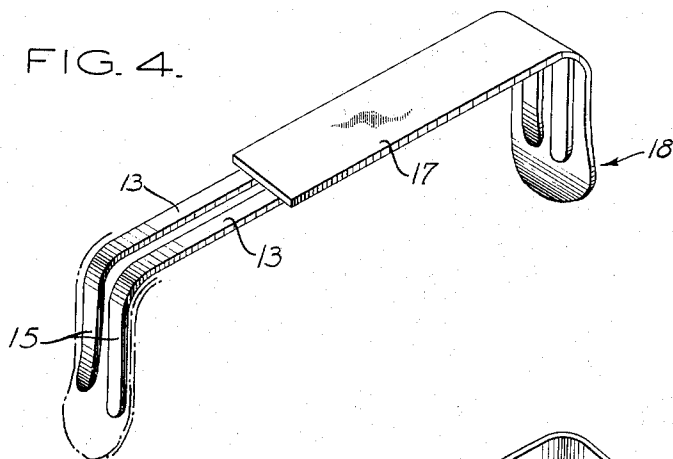
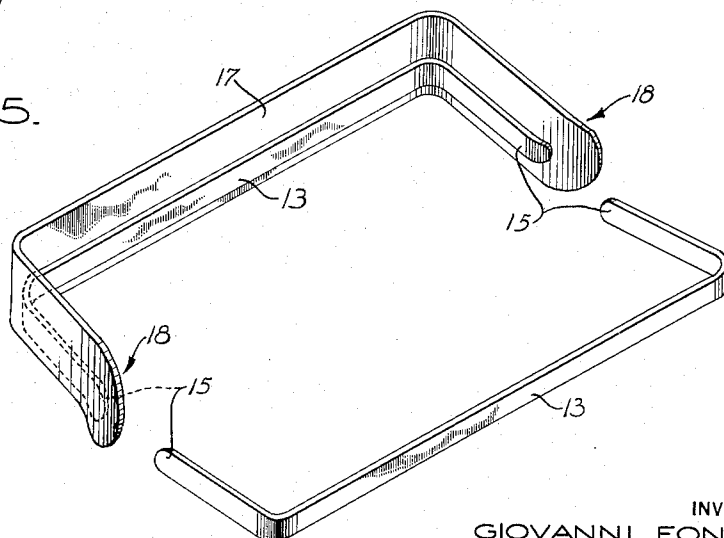


FIG. 5.



INVENTOR
GIOVANNI FONTANA

BY *Chapin & Neal*
ATTORNEYS

United States Patent Office

2,714,911

Patented Aug. 9, 1955

1

2,714,911

TRAVELING CASE OR THE LIKE

Giovanni Fontana, Milan, Italy, assignor to Buxton, Incorporated, Springfield, Mass., a corporation of Massachusetts

Application January 21, 1953, Serial No. 332,329

2 Claims. (Cl. 150—3)

This invention relates to traveling cases, brief cases and the like formed of leather or similar materials and more particularly to an improvement in the closure of such cases.

One object of the invention is to provide a simplified construction which utilizes the stiffness of the leather, or other material, of which the case is made in the operation of the closure and which avoids complicated metal fabrications in the closure.

A further object is to provide a case having the above advantages and which when opened exposes the full cross section of the case, which will remain in fully opened position until intentionally closed, and which may be opened by a simple separating pull on the closure members and closed by pressure on the sides of the closure members.

Other and further objects will be made apparent in the disclosure of the accompanying drawings and in the following specification and claims.

In the accompanying drawings:

Fig. 1 is a generally perspective view of a closed traveling case embodying the invention;

Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the case open;

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary sectional view on a larger scale taken substantially on line 3—3 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a diagrammatic view showing certain of the closure elements in closed position; and

Fig. 5 is a view of the elements of Fig. 4 in open position.

Referring to the drawings the case is shown as comprising side walls 1, end walls 2 and a bottom wall 3, formed of leather or other suitable material. Preferably the side and end walls are re-enforced or stiffened with fabric, card board or the like as indicated at 4 and the case is provided with a flexible lining 5.

The side and end walls have extending portions 6 and 7 respectively which extend above the upper edges of the end and side walls a distance approximately equal to one half the transverse dimension of the bottom wall 3. The extensions 6 are preferably re-enforced with fabric, card board or the like, as indicated at 8, said re-enforcements having triangular portions 9 which extend onto the end extensions 7. The re-enforcements 4 and 8 are spaced from each other to provide zones of fold 10 and the end extensions are provided with diagonal zones of fold 11 along the inclined edges of portions 9.

Two opposed U-shaped members 13 are stitched in hems 14 or otherwise secured to the upper edges of the extensions 6 and 7. The members 13 are formed of spring metal or plastic and the side arms 15 thereof extend along the end extensions 7, the ends of said side arms being spaced from each other to provide for a fullness at 12.

Oppositely directed pull tabs 16 are stitched to the hems 14. A U-shaped member 17 preferably of relatively soft metal or plastic and encased in leather or other suitable material as indicated at 18 in Fig. 3, is stitched or otherwise secured in superposed relation to one of the members 13, member 17 being of a width to extend over the opposite member 13 when the case is closed, as shown in Figs. 1 and 3. The free ends of member 17 are flared outwardly, as indicated at 18, for a purpose later explained.

2

The fold zones 10 and 11 are biased for inward folding while the folding zone 19 between the end walls 2 and their extensions 7 are biased for outward folding as is apparent from Figs. 1 and 2.

As is shown in Fig. 2 the members 13 cooperating with the inherent stiffness of the wall material hold the case open for its entire cross section facilitating insertion and removal of articles into and from the case. To close the case it is only necessary to press the members 13 toward each other. Such pressure causes the free ends of members 13 to swing downwardly, as the extensions 6 move toward each other into closing position. The fullness at 12 permits the free ends of members 13 to pass each other, the outward flaring of the ends of member 17 facilitating and guiding this movement. As the members 13 approach the position of parallelism, best shown in Fig. 4, the pull of the leather at the folds 11 tends to snap the parts into closed position. Since the width of extensions 6 substantially equal half of the width of the bottom wall the case when closed is of parallelepiped form. To open the case the tabs 16 are grasped and pulled outwardly to bring the parts to open position as shown in Fig. 2.

While as stated members 13 and 17 are preferably formed of metal, these members may be formed of plastic, thick leather or other material having sufficient stiffly yielding properties to perform their described function.

What is claimed is:

1. A traveling case or the like, which comprises a bottom and side and end walls forming a rectangular compartment, said side and end walls having portions extending upwardly therefrom a distance substantially equal to one half the width of said compartment, the side walls and their respective extensions being connected together by inwardly biased zones of fold and the end walls and their respective extensions being connected together by outwardly biased zones of fold, and stiffly yielding members secured to the upper edges of the side wall extensions, said members having side arms extending toward each other and secured to the upper edges of said end extension, the free ends of said arms being spaced from each other, said end extensions being provided with inwardly biased zones of fold extending from the ends of said arms to the upper corners of said end walls, said side wall extensions being swingable about said first mentioned zones of fold to close the case and bring said members into closely adjacent parallel position with said arms in closely adjacent parallel position at the ends of the case and outwardly of said compartment, said side and end walls and said extension being provided with respective interior surface stiffening members including triangular portions defining and limiting the width of said inward and outward zones of fold at the ends of the case whereby said stiffly yielding members are maintained in closed position in the absence of closure fastening means.

2. A traveling case as in claim 1 having a U-shaped member secured outwardly of one of said members and of a width to overlap the other of said members when the case is closed.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

909,815	O'Brien	Jan. 12, 1909
2,123,454	Doppelt	July 12, 1938
2,346,563	Doppelt	Apr. 11, 1944
2,561,042	Arnold et al.	July 17, 1951
2,634,836	Warren	Apr. 14, 1953

FOREIGN PATENTS

538,261	Great Britain	July 25, 1941
---------	---------------	---------------