

No. 736,871.

PATENTED AUG. 18, 1903.

J. J. O'BRIEN.
FOLDING CASE.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 15, 1902.

NO MODEL.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

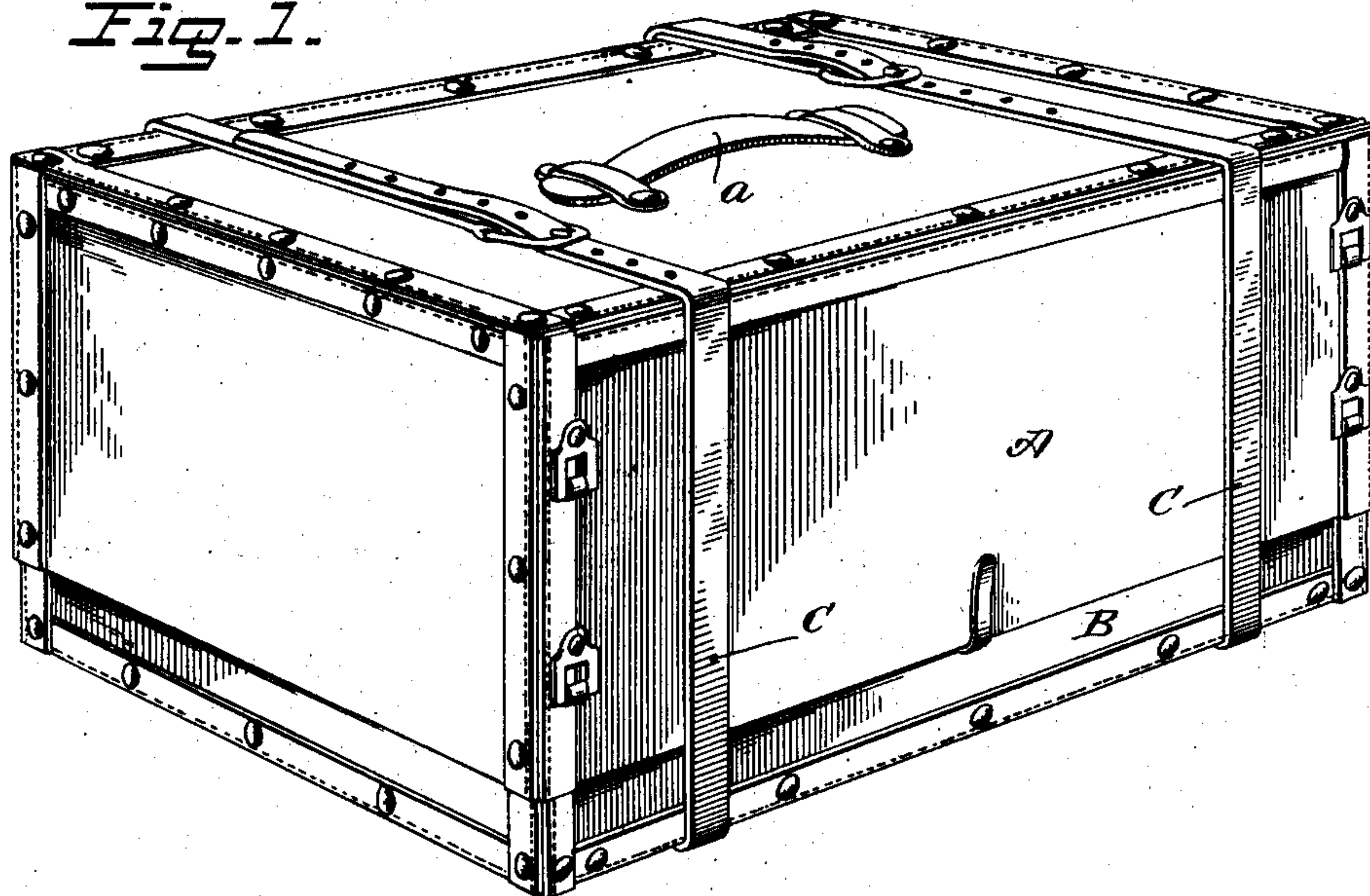
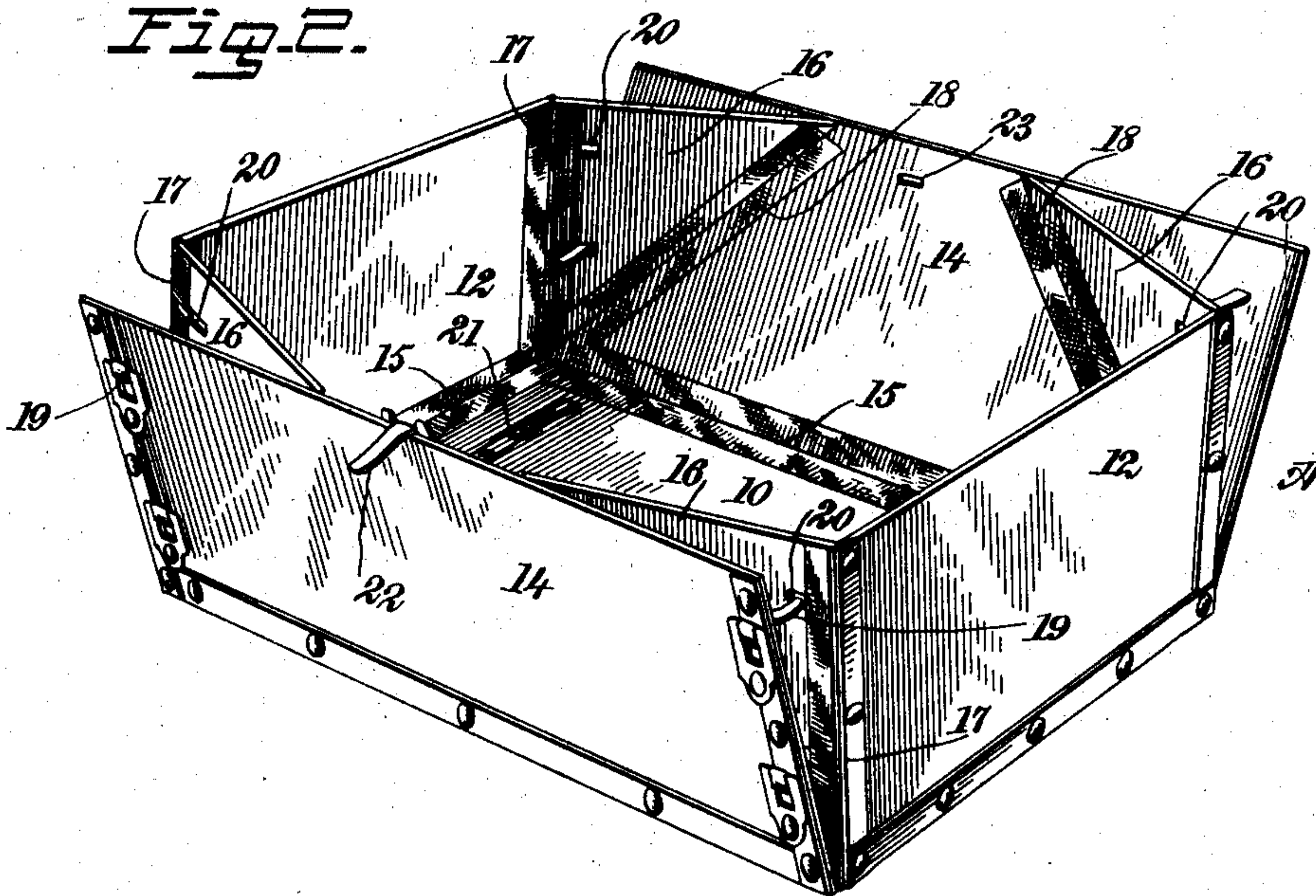


Fig. 2.



WITNESSES:

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JOSEPH JOHN O'BRIEN, OF SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA.

FOLDING CASE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 736,871, dated August 18, 1903.

Application filed September 15, 1902. Serial No. 123,510. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH JOHN O'BRIEN, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of San Jose, in the county of Santa Clara and State of California, have invented a new and Improved Folding Case, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

The purpose of this invention is to provide a case which may be conveniently folded into compact form without in any way detracting from the durability and neatness of appearance of the case and without materially increasing the cost thereof.

The invention is especially designed for application to the usual telescopic valises, although it is apparent that it may be used in many other connections.

This specification is a specific description of one form of the invention, while the claims define the actual scope thereof.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a telescopic valise constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is an inverted perspective view of the top or outer section of the valise, said view showing said section in the act of folding or unfolding. Fig. 3 is a plan view of the section partly folded, and Fig. 4 is a view of the section completely folded.

The two sections of the case are of course duplicates, excepting that the outer section must be more completely reinforced than the inner section.

A indicates the upper or outer section, which I prefer to provide with a handle *a* after the usual custom. B indicates the lower section, and C indicates the straps which are passed around the two to hold them together.

In the other views I have shown only one section, since, as before intimated, the two sections are essentially duplicates.

In Figs. 2, 3, and 4, 10 indicates the top of the section, which is formed, preferably, relatively rigid—that is to say, this section is not intended to fold on itself. 12 indicates the end walls, and 14 indicates the side walls.

The end and side walls are connected to the corresponding edges of the top 10 by means

of hinges 15, which may be of any desired form, and the end and side walls are connected to each other by means of essentially triangular flaps 16, connected to the end walls by vertically-extending hinges 17 of any suitable form and to the side walls by diagonally-extending hinges 18. These hinges 18 also may be of any form desired. 19 indicate clasps which are mounted on the ends of the side walls and which are adapted to engage openings 20, formed in the flaps 16, directly adjacent to the hinges 17. The clasps 19 are preferably of the construction shown—that is to say, comprising a swinging spring-pressed finger which enters the openings 20 and is then drawn laterally to hold the flap 16 snugly against the inner sides of the side walls 14. These clasps may, however, be changed in form as desired. I do not wish to be limited to the precise form of the clasps.

Fastened to the inner side of the top 10, at each end thereof, are springs 21, which are adapted to engage the end walls 12 when folded, these springs tending to throw up said walls and facilitate opening the case. One side wall is provided at its lower edge with a clasp 22, and this clasp is adapted to work with an opening 23, formed in the edge of the other side wall. Said clasp 22, like the clasps 19, may be of any desired construction.

In manipulating the folding section when said section is extended into an operative position the clasp 22 is inactive, but the clasps 19 are engaged with the flaps 16, and these flaps are therefore held firmly against the inner sides of the walls 14, thus keeping the case in proper form. In order to fold the section, the clasps 19 should be released and the side walls 14 thrown downward on the top, the case being reversed or turned upside down, as shown in Figs. 1, 2, and 3. This places the parts in the positions shown in Fig. 3, the end walls 12 swinging outward and the flaps 16 swinging down on their hinges 18. The end walls 12 are then thrown inward over the side walls and the clasp 22 should be engaged with the opening 23, thus firmly locking the sections of the case together and holding said sections folded in flat or knockdown form. To open the case it is only necessary to reverse the above-described operation. When

the sections A and B are extended in operative position, they are used exactly the same as the sections of the usual telescopic case.

I desire it distinctly understood that I am not limited to the precise construction and arrangements of the parts as shown in the drawings, these drawings merely representing an example of a practical embodiment of the invention. Hence I consider myself entitled to all such variations as may lie within the scope of my claims.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. A folding case comprising a main section, end and side walls hinged thereto, and triangular flaps connecting said walls, said flaps having their diagonal edges hingedly connected with one wall and their vertical edges hingedly connected with the adjacent wall.

2. In a folding case, the combination of the body member and two members swinging thereon, said members moving around crossing axes, and a flap connecting the said swinging members, the flap having a diagonal edge hinged on one member, and a second edge hinged on the second member, the second edge extending approximately at right angles to the axis of said second member.

3. A folding case comprising a main section, end and side walls hinged thereto, triangular flaps connecting said walls, said flaps having their diagonal edges hingedly connected with one wall and their vertical edges hingedly connected with the adjacent wall, and a clasp for removably holding the flaps snugly against the side walls.

4. In a folding case, the combination of the body member and two members swinging

thereon, said members moving around crossing axes, a flap connecting the said swinging members, the flap having a diagonal edge hinged on one member, and a second edge hinged on the second member, the second edge extending approximately at right angles to the axis of said second member, and a clasp for removably holding the flap snugly against the side of the first-named swinging member.

5. A folding case comprising a main portion, end walls hinged thereon, side walls hinged thereon, flaps connecting said end and side walls, each flap having a square and a diagonal edge, and said edges being respectively hinged to the end and side walls.

6. A folding case comprising a main portion, end walls hinged thereon, side walls hinged thereon, flaps connecting said end and side walls, each flap having a square and a diagonal edge and said edges being respectively hinged to the end and side walls, and clasps for removably holding the flaps snugly against the inner sides of the side walls.

7. A folding case comprising a main portion, end walls hinged thereon, side walls hinged thereon, flaps connecting said end and side walls, each flap having square and diagonal edges, and said edges being respectively hinged to the end and side walls, a spring arranged to bear against the flaps when folded for the purpose specified, and means for releasably holding the flaps closed.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOSEPH JOHN O'BRIEN.

Witnesses:

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FRANK P. RICHARDS.