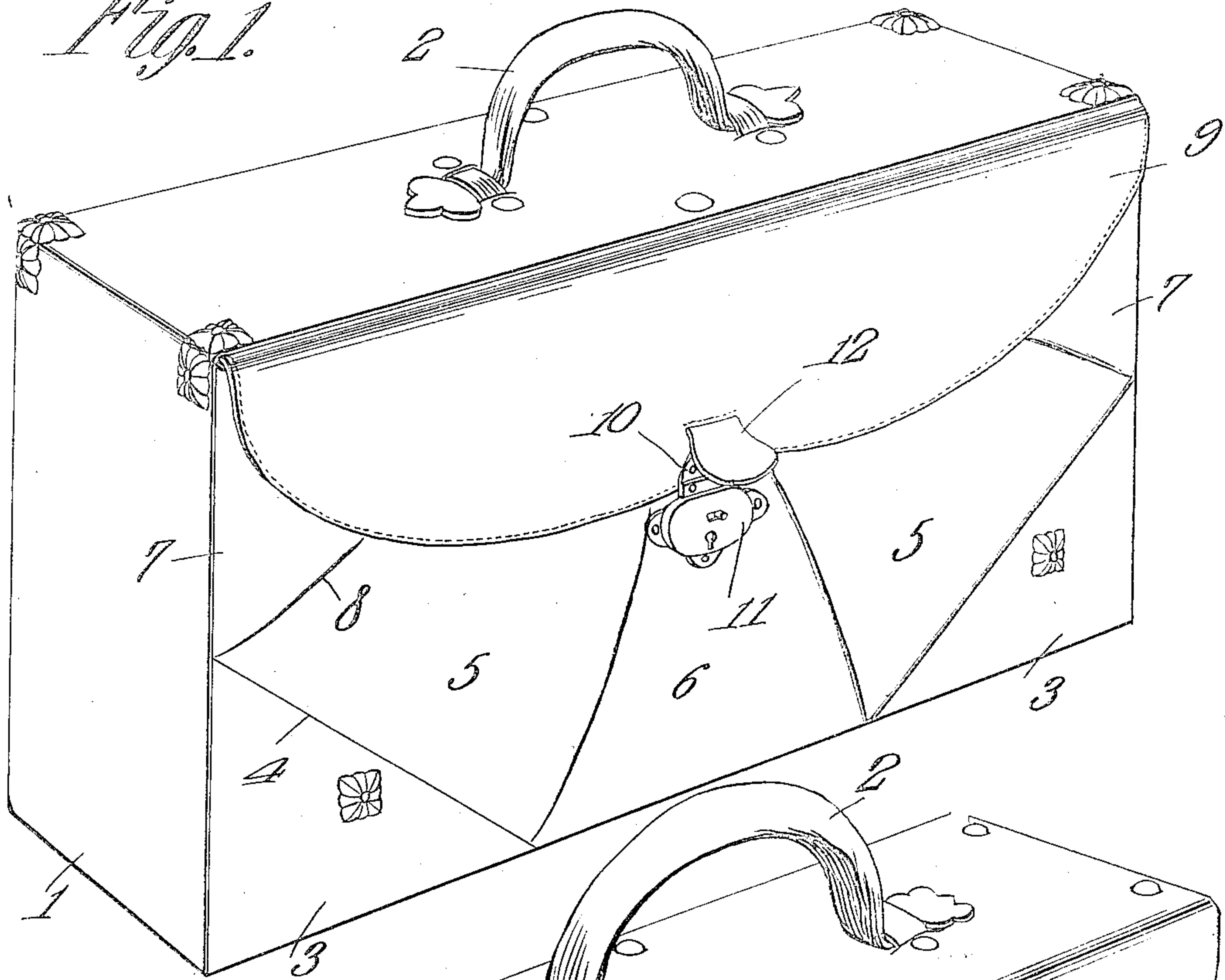


E. LUDESCHER.  
 SUIT CASE AND THE LIKE.  
 APPLICATION FILED NOV. 14, 1908.

943,753.

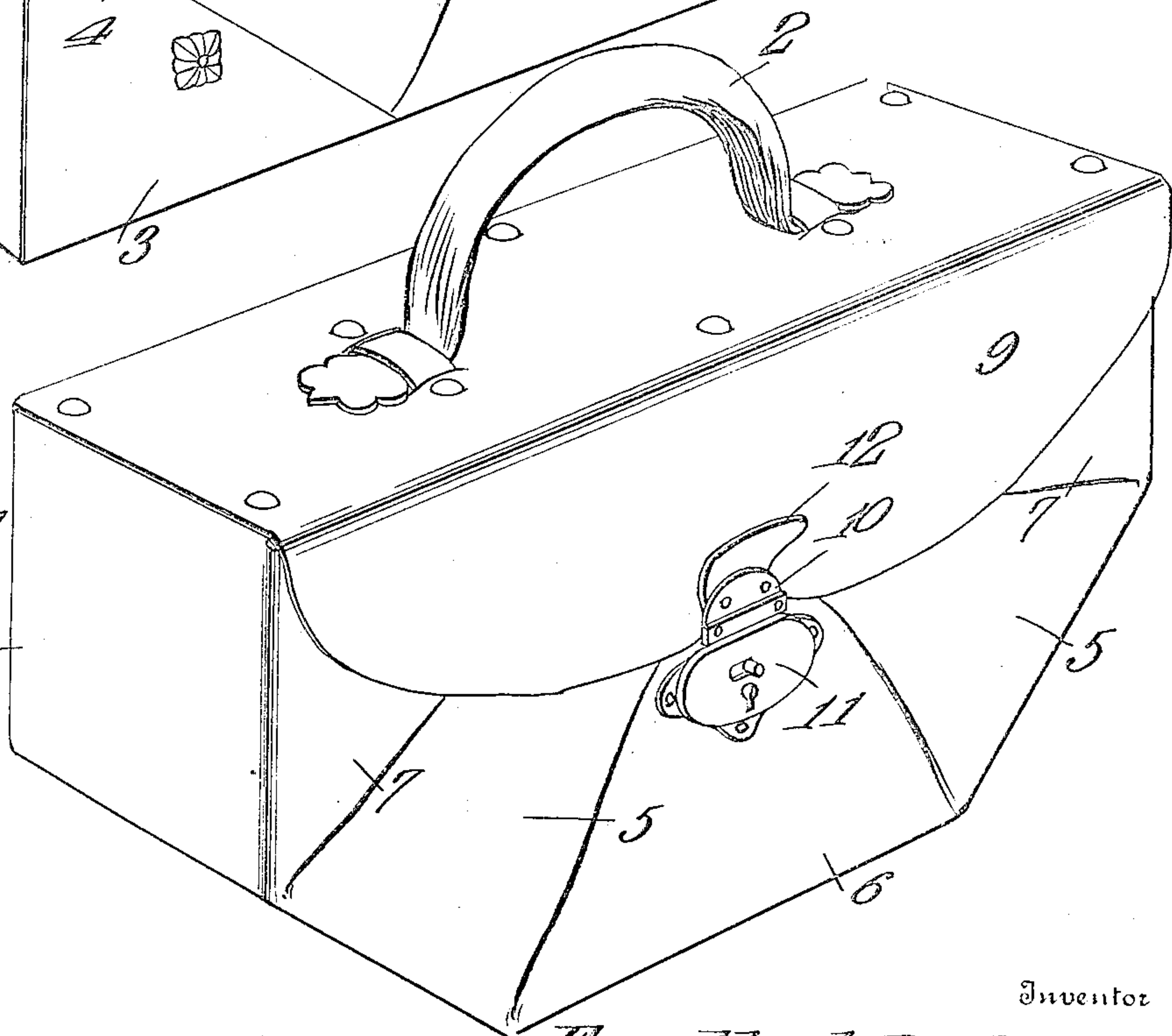
Patented Dec. 21, 1909.  
 2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 4.*

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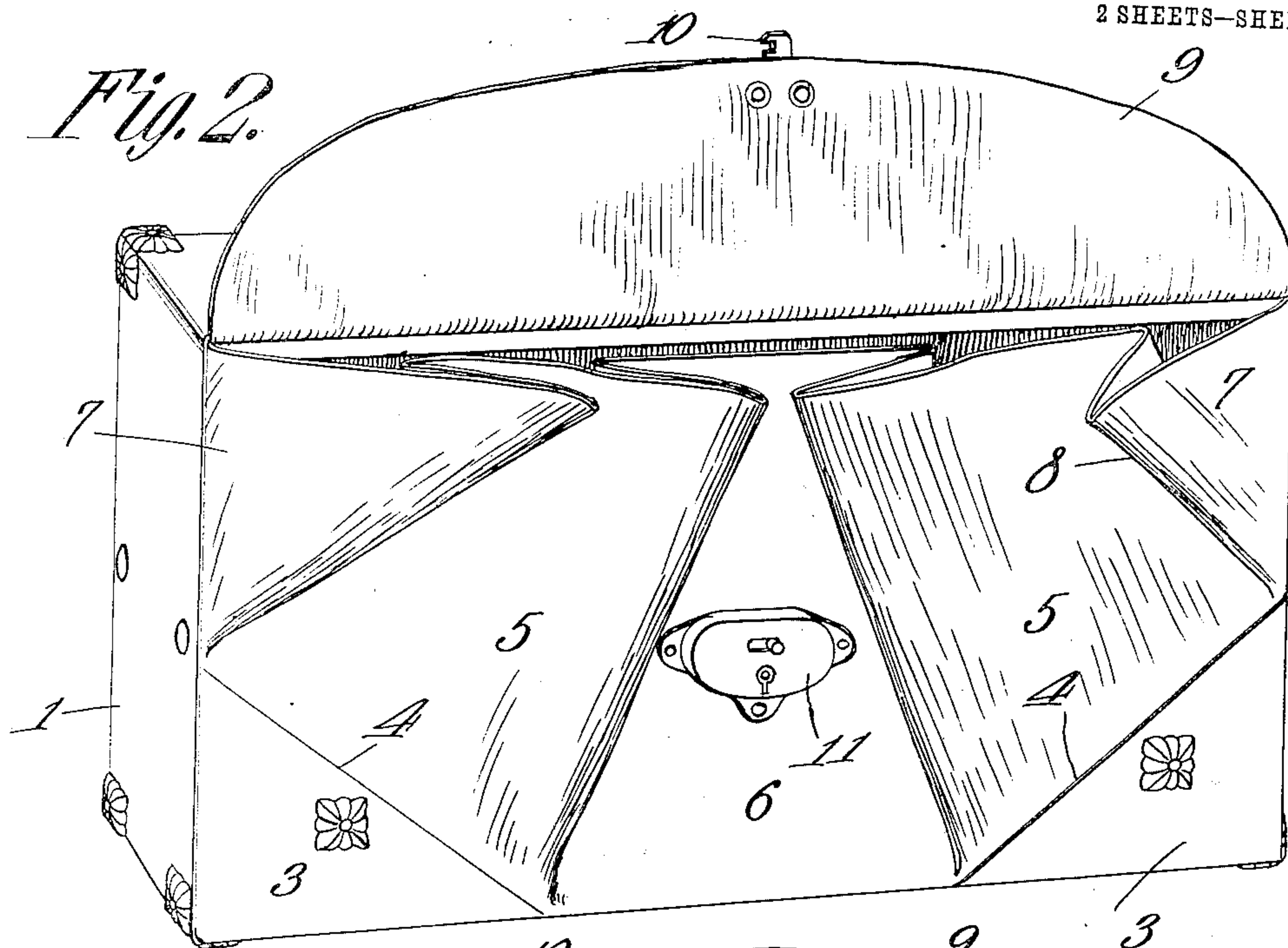
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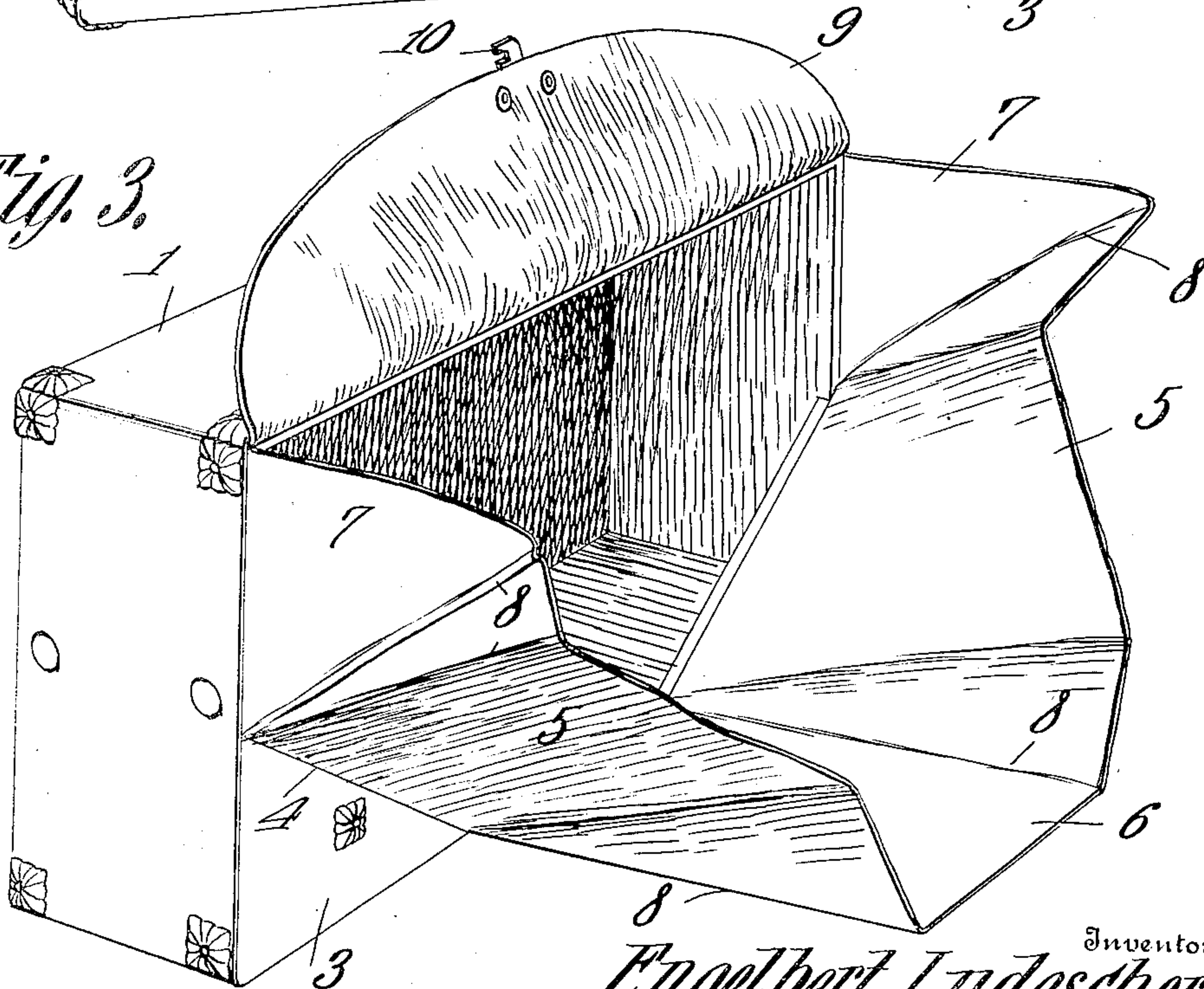
Patented Dec. 21, 1909.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 3.*



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ENGELBERT LUDESCHER, OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

## SUIT-CASE AND THE LIKE.

943,753.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Dec. 21, 1909.

Application filed November 14, 1908. Serial No. 462,653.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ENGELBERT LUDESCHER, a subject of the Emperor of Austria-Hungary, residing at Baltimore, in the State of Maryland, have invented a new and useful Suit-Case and the Like, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to suit cases and the like and more particularly to closures therefor.

The object of the invention is to provide a device of this character, one wall of which is made up either wholly or in part of a series of flaps arranged to fold together and form a substantially flat imperforate wall which will positively prevent the escape of any small articles from the case.

Another object is to provide a device of this character which, when opened outwardly to its greatest extent, exposes practically the entire interior of the case, and thus facilitates the operation of packing or unpacking the same.

Another object is to provide a closure which is attractive in appearance and which dispenses with the use of hinges such as heretofore ordinarily employed.

With these and other objects in view the invention consists of certain novel details of construction and combinations of parts hereinafter more fully described and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings the preferred form of the invention has been shown.

In said drawings:—Figure 1 is a perspective view of a suit case embodying the present improvements, said case being shown closed. Fig. 2 is a perspective view showing the case partly opened. Fig. 3 is a perspective view showing the case entirely opened. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a modified form of the case.

Referring to the figures by characters of reference 1 designates the box-like body of the case, the same being formed of leather or any other suitable material reinforced in any preferred manner and provided at the top, or at any other preferred point, with a handle 2. The closure constituting the present invention can be arranged upon any one of the walls of the case, and, in the present instance, it has been illustrated as constituting one of the side walls of the said case.

In the form of the invention shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3, the lower corners of said side walls are provided with angular non-

flexible portions 3, from the inclined edges 4 of which extend flexible flaps 5, preferably formed integral with an intermediate flap 6 extending from the bottom of the case between the corner pieces 3. The flaps 5 are also formed preferably integral with end flaps 7 extending from the end walls of the body 1, the flaps 5 and 7 being preferably substantially trapezoidal and triangular in outline respectively, while the middle flap 6 is preferably rectangular in outline. The various flaps may be formed from a single piece of leather or other material secured to and formed integral with the corner pieces 3 and the body 1, and having creases 8 produced therein in any preferred manner and so located as to cause said strip to properly fold to produce the flaps mentioned. All of the flaps are also so shaped that when they are folded together, they, together with the corner pieces 3, constitute the complete side wall of the body 1, the wall thus produced being free of all openings. The free upper edges of the flaps are designed to be held together and in proper relation to the body when the case is closed, by means of a covering flap 9, which is either integral with or secured to the top of the case body 1, and is formed of leather or any other suitable flexible material. This covering flap is designed to lap the upper portions of the flaps 5, 6 and 7, and is also preferably provided with one member 10 of a lock, the other member 11 of said lock being secured upon the exposed portion of the middle flap 6. A tab 12 may be attached to the covering flap 9, so as to facilitate the opening of the case.

When it is desired to open the case herein described the lock members 10 and 11 are disengaged and the covering flap 9 is swung out of position upon the flaps 5, 6, and 7. The upper or free edges of these flaps can then be grasped and pulled outwardly as indicated in Fig. 3. By reason of the peculiar shape and arrangement of the flaps 5, 6 and 7, it thus becomes possible for the flap 6 to assume a position substantially perpendicular to the plane occupied by the corner strips 3, and the flaps 5 and 7 also extend outwardly at such an angle that the contents of the body 1 are thus fully exposed and can be conveniently reached.

When it is desired to close the case it is merely necessary to press the middle flap 6 inwardly, whereupon the flaps 5 and 7 will fold into their normal positions, and the



covering flap 9 can then be swung into position thereover and secured by means of the fastening members 10 and 11.

It will be noted, by referring particularly to Fig. 3, that the creases 8 are arranged along diverging lines and are disposed in pairs extending from the terminals of the inclined edges 4 of the corner pieces 3, this arrangement of creases having been found most desirable in the construction of devices of this character.

Although the particular form of closure has been shown in connection with a suitcase, it is to be understood that the same may be applied equally as well to other forms of cases, satchels and the like. Also other arrangements of the flaps 5, 6 and 7 might be employed for producing the same result. Various other changes can also be made in the construction and arrangement of the parts without departing from the spirit or sacrificing the advantages of the invention. For example, and as shown in Fig. 4, instead of utilizing the corner pieces 3, the body 13 of the case can be formed with its corners removed so that said body will have the appearance of a semi-octagon. In this construction the flaps constituting the closure extend directly to the bottom and end walls of the said body, so that when the flaps are opened out the entire contents of the case are exposed to view and there is nothing to interfere with their removal.

In both of the constructions shown, and in all other structures which may be produced along the lines of the present invention, it is preferable to form the middle flap 6 so that it will be slightly less flexible than the other flaps, and thus constitute a more efficient backing for said flaps than would otherwise be the case. This flap 6 can be stiffened in any preferred manner.

What is claimed is:—

1. A device of the class described comprising a body of non-flexible material and a closure constituting one wall of the body, said closure consisting of a stiffened central flap and flexible flaps integral with and extending from opposite edges of the stiffened flaps and foldable relative thereto and upon the outer face thereof to constitute one wall of the body, and means for securing the flaps in folded positions.

2. A device of the class described comprising a body of non-flexible material and a flexible closure therefor consisting of folds the outer face of the central flap, the flexible flaps disposed to lap the side portion of the outer face of the central flap, the flexible flaps being integral with and extending from opposite edges of the stiffened flap, said closure when folded constituting a flat wall of the body.

3. A device of the class described comprising a body of non-flexible material, and a

flexible closure therefor consisting of connected flaps foldable together to constitute a flat wall of the receptacle, one of said flaps being stiffened and constituting an interior backing for the other flaps, and means engaging the stiffened flap for securing the flaps in folded positions, the flexible flaps being integral with and extending from opposite edges of the stiffened flap.

4. A device of the class described comprising a body of non-flexible material, and a flexible closure integral therewith and having one free edge, said closure being arranged in folds and comprising a central stiffened backing flap and flaps integral with and extending from opposite edges of the backing flap and foldable relative thereto, all of said flaps constituting a flat wall of the body, and means engaging the backing flap for securing the flaps in folded position.

5. A device of the class described comprising a body of non-flexible material having an opening therein substantially co-extensive with one wall of the body, and a closure for said opening and consisting of a stiffened flap and flexible connected flaps all formed in one piece and integral with the body and foldable together into a flat wall, said closure being separate from one wall of the opening and means for securing the flaps of the closure in folded positions said flap being extended from opposite edges of the stiffened flaps.

6. A device of the class described comprising a body of non-flexible material, and a closure constituting one wall of the body and consisting of a stiffened flap and connected flexible flaps all formed in one piece, said stiffened flap constituting a backing for the other flaps, and being partly concealed thereby, a covering flap, separate from said closure and means upon the covering flap and the exposed portion of the backing flap for securing all of the flaps in folded positions, said flexible flaps being extended from opposite edges of the stiffened flap.

7. In a device of the class described a body of non-flexible material, and a closure therefor having oppositely disposed sets of flexible folds and a stiffened central backing fold, said flexible folds being extended from opposite sides of the backing fold the folds of each set extending toward the center of and partly concealing the backing fold, said flexible folds being extended from opposite sides of the backing fold.

8. In a device of the class described a body of non-flexible material, and a flexible closure therefor and integral therewith, said closure having oppositely disposed sets of flexible folds and a stiffened backing fold, the folds of each set extending toward and partly concealing the backing fold, said



set of flexible folds being integral with and extended from opposite edges of the stiffened fold.

9. In a device of the class described a  
5 body of non-flexible material having an opening co-extensive with one wall of the body, and a flexible closure for the body and having oppositely disposed sets of flexible folds and a backing fold, the folds of each  
10 set extending toward and partly concealing the backing fold, said set of flexible folds being integral with and extended from opposite edges of the backing fold.

10. In a device of the class described a  
15 body, a flexible closure therefor and integral therewith, said closure having oppositely disposed sets of flexible folds and a backing fold, the folds of each set extending toward and partly concealing the backing  
20 fold, a covering flap and means upon the covering flap and exposed portion of the backing fold for holding the folds in closed position, said set of flexible folds being integral with and extended from opposite  
25 edges of the backing fold.

11. In a device of the class described a body, a closure integral therewith and constituting one wall thereof, said closure consisting of a centrally disposed stiffened  
30 backing fold and a series of flexible folds connecting opposite portions of the backing fold to opposed walls of the body, said flexible folds being foldable upon the outer face of the backing fold and extended, when thus  
35 folded, in the direction of the center of said backing fold.

12. In a device of the class described a body, a closure integral therewith and constituting one wall thereof, said closure comprising an intermediate stiffened backing  
40 fold and integral flexible folds connecting opposite portions of the backing fold to op-

posed walls of the body, said flexible folds being foldable on to the outer face of the backing fold and in the direction of the center thereof, the free edges of all the folds  
45 being disposed along a substantially straight line when the closure is shut.

13. In a device of the class described a body, a closure integral therewith and constituting one wall thereof, said closure consisting of a central stiffened flap and integral flexible flaps connecting opposite portions of the stiffened flap to opposed walls of the body, said flexible flaps being foldable  
55 on the outer face of the stiffened flap and in the direction of the center thereof, a covering flap integral with the body and foldable on to the folded flaps, and cooperating means upon the stiffened flap and the covering flap  
60 for holding the folds together in closed position.

14. In a device of the class described a body, one wall of the body having a flexible closure integral therewith and consisting of a central stiffened fold and integral flexible folds connecting opposite portions of the stiffened fold to opposed walls of the body, said flexible folds being foldable on to the outer face of the stiffened fold and in  
70 the direction of the center thereof, a covering flap integral with the body and foldable on to the folds when closed together, and cooperating means upon the stiffened fold and the covering flap for holding said folds together in closed position.  
75

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

ENGELBERT LUDESCHER.

Witnesses:

JAS. M. WALKER,

J. ROSS COLHOUN.