

June 7, 1955

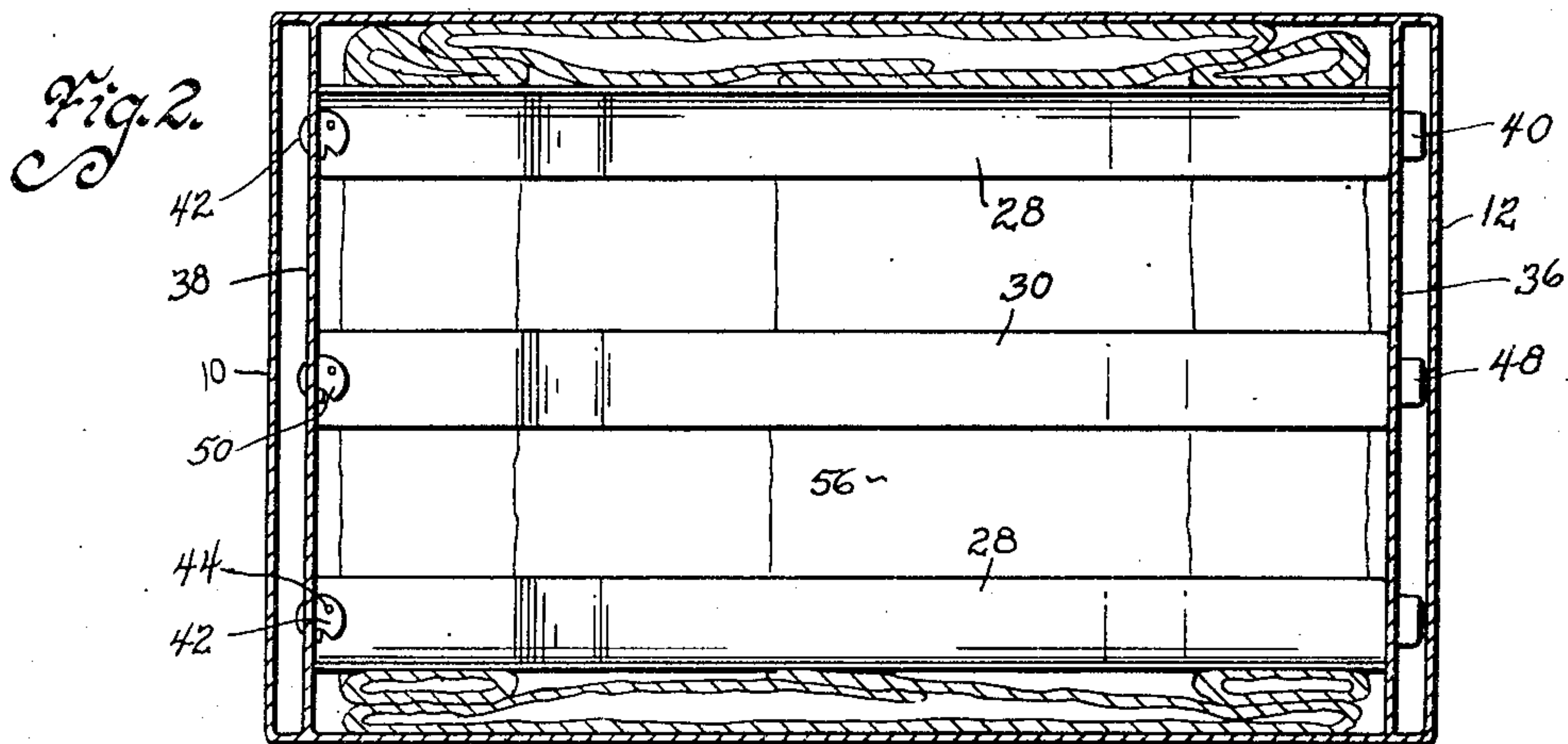
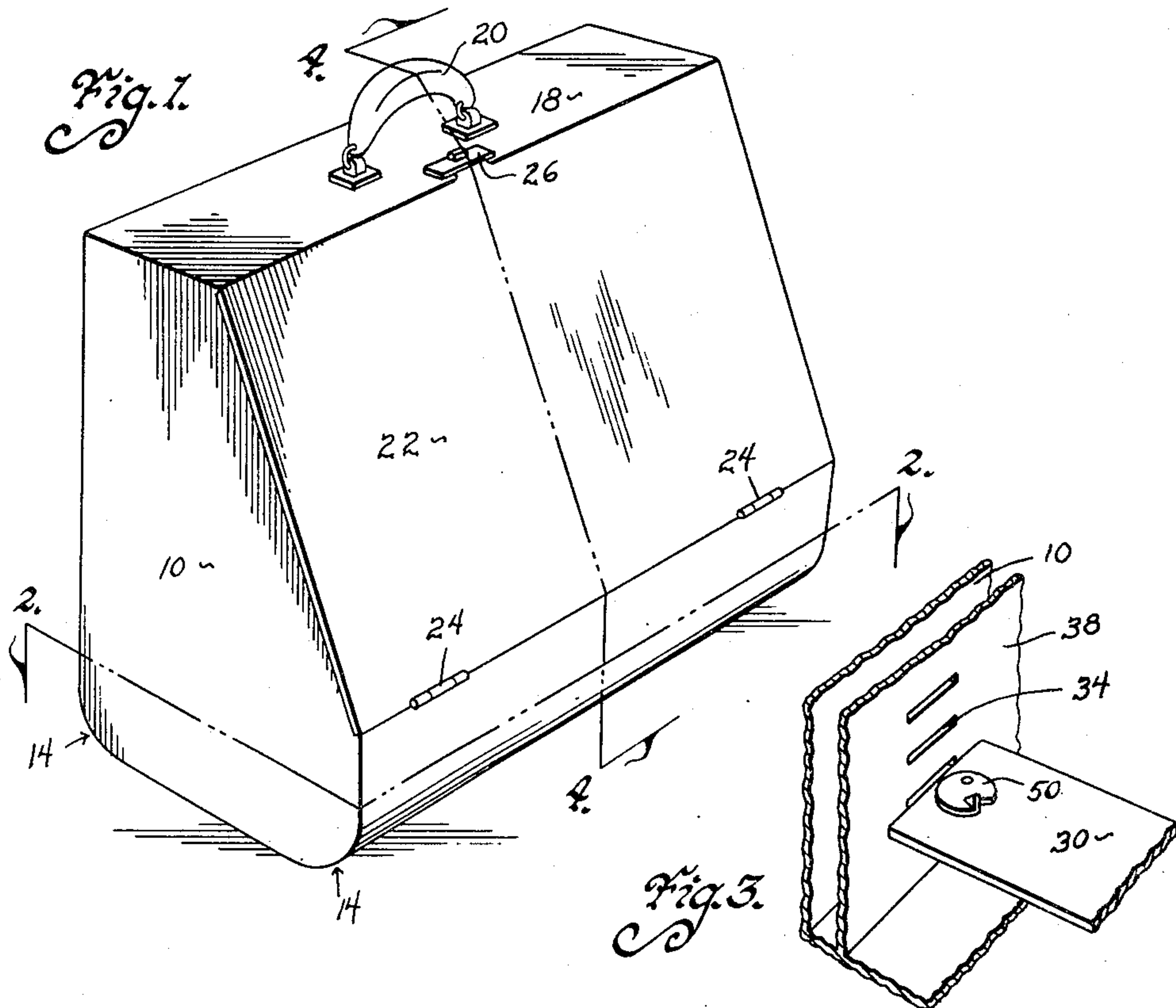
W. A. RUGE

2,710,082

VALISE

Filed Nov. 10, 1951

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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Edward P. Seely

Inventor  
William A. Ruge  
by Talbert Dick & Adler  
Attorneys

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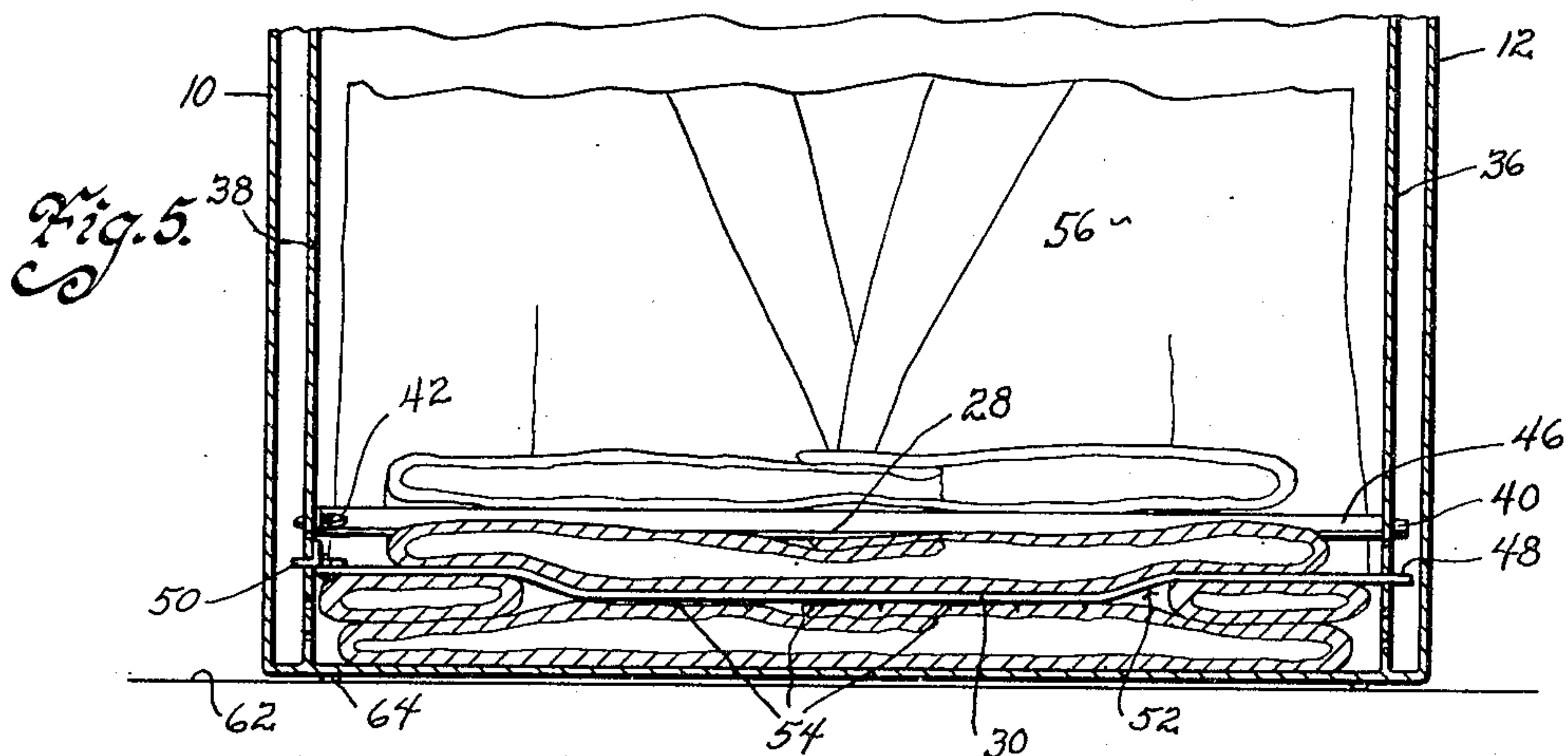
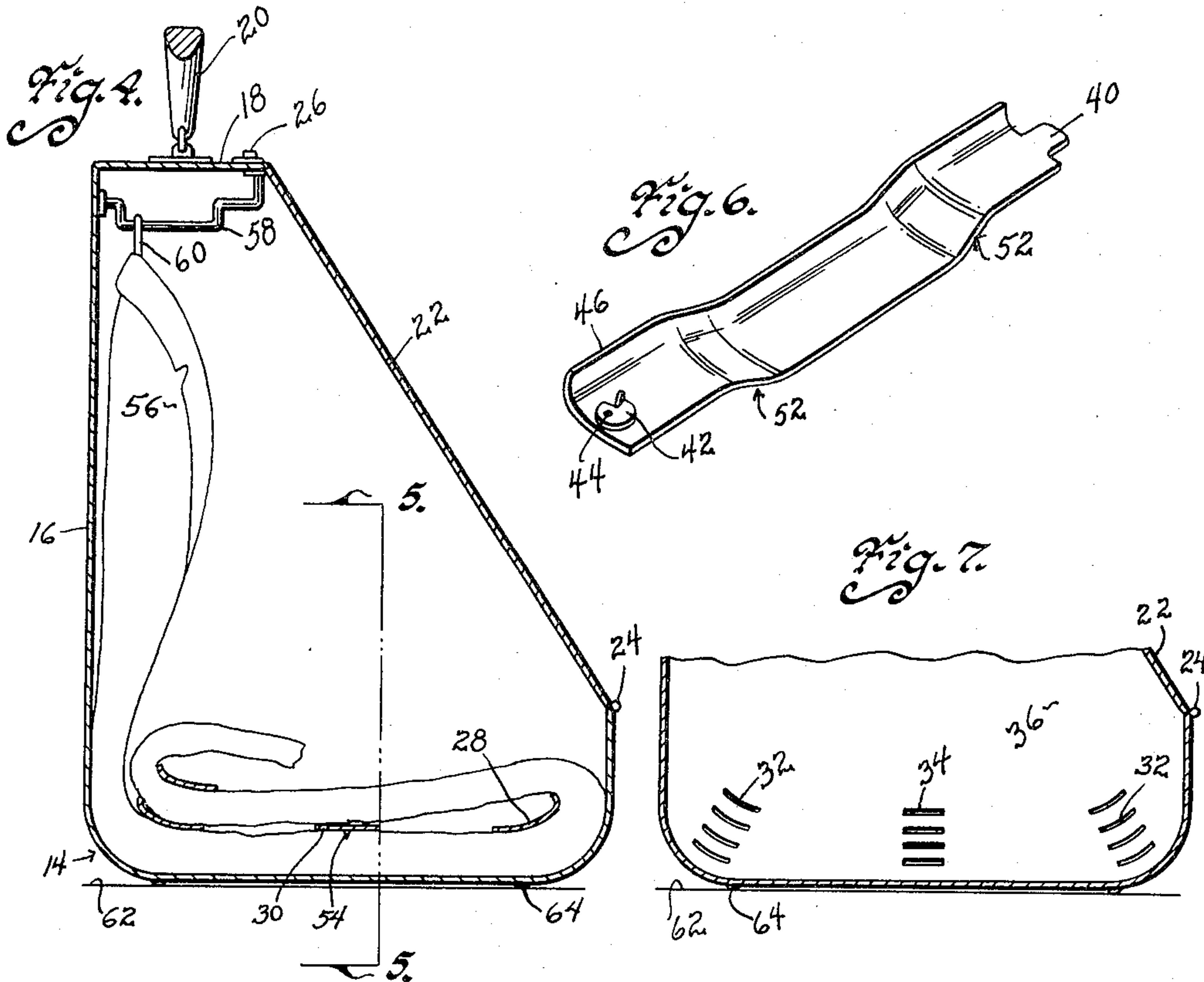
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VALISE

William A. Ruge, Fulda, Minn.

Application November 10, 1951, Serial No. 255,800

5 Claims. (Cl. 190—41)

My invention relates to cases for carrying clothes while traveling. Specifically, I have invented a suit case that will transport clothes in a wrinkle free condition.

One of the problems that has plagued man throughout his civilized history has been the difficulty he has always had in keeping himself presentable while traveling. With the advent of relatively fast, clean forms of transportation, such as the present day stream-liner trains, automobiles and aircraft, the problem has resolved itself largely into one of packaging clothes to keep them free from the harmful effects of excessive moisture in the air and particularly to protect clothes against wrinkling. Many attempts have been made to devise suitcases or valises that will carry clothes in a wrinkle free condition. Some of these valises have hangers of special construction that support the clothes before the bag is closed. The two ends of the bag are brought together and secured for carrying which folds the clothes in their longitudinal center. There is no support for the center portions of the clothes, however, and if they are packed into the bag tightly at all, wrinkles are placed in the clothes which wrinkles are very difficult to get out. On the other hand, if the bag is packed loosely to avoid pressing wrinkles into the clothes by reason of being tightly packed, a different problem presents itself. People who handle baggage professionally are not famous for the care they exercise in handling and stacking bags. I have observed bags stacked upside down, sideways and in every other conceivable position. I have seen this done on trains, taxicabs and baggage rooms. When a bag of the type I described above is stacked on its end and it is not tightly packed, the clothes in it slide to the bottom end in a heap. Obviously clothes that have been in such a condition for any length of time will not be fit to wear until they have been pressed and made presentable. Also this style of bag is not well adapted to carrying anything longer than a suit coat or the like.

Other types of bags that are aimed at wrinkle free transportation of clothes, support the shoulders on a special hanger and cause the garment to lie flat except for the very end of a suit coat or the like which folds over at ninety degrees into a small well at one end of the bag. This valise has several drawbacks which tend to counteract the fact that it generally holds the clothes nearly flat and wrinkle free. It is a large awkward case for one thing which makes it unpopular with many travelers who are not robust enough to handle it easily. In the second place it has the same shortcomings as the previously discussed bag as to the piling of the clothes if the bag is placed on a supporting surface in any position other than an upright one. It will also crush and crease the clothes if it is packed beyond the anticipated capacity. Even a wardrobe trunk will not keep clothes free from wrinkling if the trunk is placed on its side, unless the clothes are so closely packed as to make it likely that the garments would become wrinkled as a result of over packing. In short I know of no bag prior to the one of my present invention that is nearly fool proof in

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maintaining clothes in a wrinkle free condition. All of the traveling bags known to me prior to my present invention are also subject to the drawback which requires clothes to be packed in a certain order. In bags prior to my invention, heavy garments are necessarily placed in the bottom or back of the bag to prevent them from mashing lighter, more delicate garments. Thus a woman taking an evening dress and a coat on a trip would necessarily place the coat under the dress. The likely order of use of the coat and the evening dress are just the reverse of this order of packing, however. While the evening dress would be used only for limited periods and under controlled circumstances, the coat might be in demand numerous times during the trip. To get the coat out of the bag requires removing the evening dress also, when a conventional bag is used. Obviously, it would be very advantageous to reverse the conventional order of packing if that could be done without crushing the delicate lighter garment.

In view of the foregoing, it is the principal object of my invention to provide a valise that will keep clothes in a wrinkle free condition, regardless of the way the valise is handled or positioned.

It is a further object of my invention to provide a valise that avoids wrinkling as a result of overpacking or crowding the case.

It is a further object of my invention to provide a valise that will hold long garments in a wrinkle free condition and in a relatively restricted space.

It is a still further object of my invention to provide a valise which permits garments to be packed in any order without fear of crushing lighter garments.

It is a further object of my invention to provide a valise that will accomplish the objects above indicated, but which will be easy to pack and unpack.

It is a still further object of my invention to provide a valise that will accomplish the objectives hereinbefore indicated and which will still be durable in use, inexpensive to manufacture and refined in appearance.

These and other objects will be apparent to those skilled in the art.

My invention consists in the construction, arrangement, and combination of the various parts of the device, whereby the objects contemplated are attained as hereinafter more fully set forth, pointed out in my claims, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the exterior of my new valise.

Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional view of my new valise taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1,

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary detailed view of one interior side portion of my new valise together with a fragment of one of the transverse securing bars,

Fig. 4 is a vertical sectional view of my valise taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1,

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary longitudinal sectional view of my new valise taken on the line 5—5 of Fig. 4.

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of one of the transverse holding bars, and

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary view of the interior of one side of my valise to fully illustrate the slots in the sides.

Referring to the drawings, I have used the numeral 10 to designate one exterior end of my valise and the numeral 12 to designate its counterpart at the other end. The lower corners 14 of the ends 10 and 12 are rounded on a two to three inch diameter to provide the inside of the case with a similar contour. The exterior could be made with square corners and the curve on the inside formed by a separate piece, of course, but the only result of so doing would be the use of extra material. The lower front, bottom and back may be easily formed from a single piece of material 16 by reason of these rounded



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corners. The top is designated 18 and is equipped with a suitable handle 20. The handle 20 is so positioned on the top of the valise as to place a majority of the weight of a packed bag to the left of the handle as viewed in Fig. 4 so that any tipping of the bag tends to cause the bulk of the bag to move away from the legs of the person carrying it. As shown in Fig. 1, the upper portion of the forward side is sloped back at an angle to the vertical. This portion of the front is opened or closed at will by means of a door 22 which is secured to the valise by suitable hinges 24 at the bottom of the door. The door is also provided with a suitable catch 26 at its top. Thus far my bag is rather similar to many known structures. On the inside of my valise, however, is an entirely new and different structure for securing clothes for wrinkle free transportation, which structure is my invention.

At each end of the valise at the lower inside is some means for securing the fold former bars 28 and the lateral position holder bar 30. The means for securing the holding bars, as both elements 28 and 30 are referred to generally, are the curved slots 32 and straight slots 34 in false end 36 at end 12. Similar slots are also provided at the other end. The false wall adjacent end 10 is designated 38. Fold formers 28 have a tongue or boss 40 at one end to engage the slots 32 in end 36. At the other end the former is provided with the eccentric 42 that is pivotally secured to the former in any suitable manner as by the rivet 44. The formers are curved up at one side to make a rolled edge 46. The holders 30 are provided with tongues designated 48 and eccentrics indicated with the numeral 50. All of the holding bars are also provided with off-set bends 52 as shown in Figs. 5 and 6 which cause the ends of the bars to be at a higher elevation than the center portion of the bars. On the underside of the center portion of the lateral position holder 30 are sharpened projections or piercing points 54. These points engage the material of a garment such as the coat 56 shown in Fig. 5 to secure it against lateral sliding movement. Near the top inside of the valise is the hanging rod 58 which receives the hooks 60 of a hanger on which the top of coat 56 is supported. If desired, the bottom of the bag may be held above a supporting surface such as the one designated 62 by means of metal buttons or glides 64.

A person who wishes to pack a garment in my valise first opens door 22 which makes the interior of the valise accessible. A hanger provided for use in the valise is inserted into the shoulders of the garment. After the garment shoulders are on the hanger, it is hung on the rod 58. A fold former is then used to urge the garment back into the bag. When the garment has reached a point that approximates its natural uncompressed position against the rear curve of the bag bottom, the fold former tongue is inserted in an appropriate slot on one side of the bag and the opposite end of the former is depressed until it aligns with the corresponding slot on the other side of the bag. The eccentric is then rotated to engage its slot and the former is secured in position. A similar procedure is followed with the lateral position holder 30. It will be seen by examining Fig. 5 that the off-set bends in the holder bars provide extra space for the sleeves of the garment, if it is a bulky one such as a coat or the like. Although these off sets are not necessary for short-sleeved or long-sleeved light weight garments, they do no harm and are available when needed with long-sleeved garments made from heavy material. In the case of a very long garment such as an evening dress or a long coat, the lower portions are sinuously twined back and forth over the fold formers as shown in Fig. 4. The fold formers and the lateral position holder not only hold the layers of clothing under them down, but also support the upper layers of clothing to prevent the upper layers from bearing down on the lower ones. For this reason, the order in which

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garments are packed in my valise is entirely unimportant as far as causing any one of them to be crushed and wrinkled is concerned. This leaves the packer absolutely free to pack the bag in any way that appeals to him. The garments that will be in most demand may be placed to the front without fear of crushing delicate clothes in the rear.

If desired, a pants or skirt press may be used to grip the lower end of a long garment after it has been folded over the third fold former and thereby suspend the lower end of the garment adjacent the upper portion. This suggested method of securing the lower portion of garments is not considered inventive, however, and is neither shown nor claimed. The invention resides in the fold formers which make possible these various forms of suspending garments in a wrinkle-free crush-proof manner. The lateral position of the garments is retained by the piercing points on the lateral position holder 30. These piercing points also may be used on the fold formers if desired. My experience has been that these piercing points are necessary only on one of these transverse elements to hold the clothes in a fixed position laterally in the suitcase. It should be clear that I have provided means for holding the clothes in my valise against wrinkling by reason of sliding in any direction and regardless of the position or attitude the bag assumes in the course of being handled. Furthermore, I have provided a bag that will handle long garments in a relatively small space without wrinkling. In addition, I have made provision in my new bag for preventing clothes in the back and bottom of the bag from being crushed by other clothes in front or on top of those first placed in the bag. The area in the bag directly in the rear of door 22 and above the clothes folded over the fold formers is available for use as a place to pack accessories such as shoes and the like. The exact structure for supporting these accessories in this space does not constitute part of this invention, however, and is neither shown nor claimed.

From the foregoing it is clear that I have invented a valise that will accomplish all the objects of my invention as set out above.

Some changes may be made in the construction and arrangement of my valise without departing from the real spirit and purpose of my invention, and it is my intention to cover by my claims, any modified forms of structure or use of mechanical equivalents which may be reasonably included within their scope.

I claim:

1. In a valise, a container with a closable opening and having its two bottom side edges curved on a radius of at least two inches, a hanger support secured near the inside top of said container, and a bar detachably secured near one of the curved bottom side edges of said container; said bar secured on the inside of said container and extending across substantially the entire width of said container.

2. In a valise, a container with a closable opening and having its two bottom side edges curved on a radius of at least two inches, a hanger support secured near the inside top of said container, and a bar member detachably secured at its ends to the inside ends of said container and extending parallel to the bottom thereof, at least one sharpened projection secured to the bottom of said bar and extending downwardly therefrom.

3. In a valise, a container with a closable opening and having its two bottom side edges curved on a radius of at least two inches, a hanger support secured near the inside top of said container, and a bar detachably secured near one of the curved bottom side edges of said container; said bar secured on the inside of said container and extending across substantially the entire width of said container; said bar having its edge portion nearer said curved bottom side edges curved.

4. In a valise, a container with a closable opening and having its bottom side edges curved on a radius of at



least two inches, a pair of slots one in each end of said container, a bar of a length to substantially extend from one inside end of said container to the other, a plurality of piercing points secured to and extending down from the bottom of said bar, a tongue formed on one end of said bar to slidably engage one of said slots, and a member movably secured to the other end of said bar for movement selectively beyond the other end of said bar to engage the slot in the other end of said container and retracted from beyond the other end of said bar to disengage said member from the slot in the other end of said container.

5. In a valise, a container having an open side, a means for closing said open side at times, a plurality of bars, and a means for detachably securing said bars in said container parallel to and spaced from the bottom and sides thereof; said detachable securing means securing different ones of said bars spaced from the bottom and sides of said container at various distances, at least some of said bars having piercing points rigidly secured to the bottom thereof.

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