

W. SCHWEITZER & H. H. LABADIE.
 COMBINED EXTENSION TRAY AND BAG.
 APPLICATION FILED JUNE 22, 1908.

906,568.

Patented Dec. 15, 1908
 2 SHEETS—SHEET 1

FIG. 1.

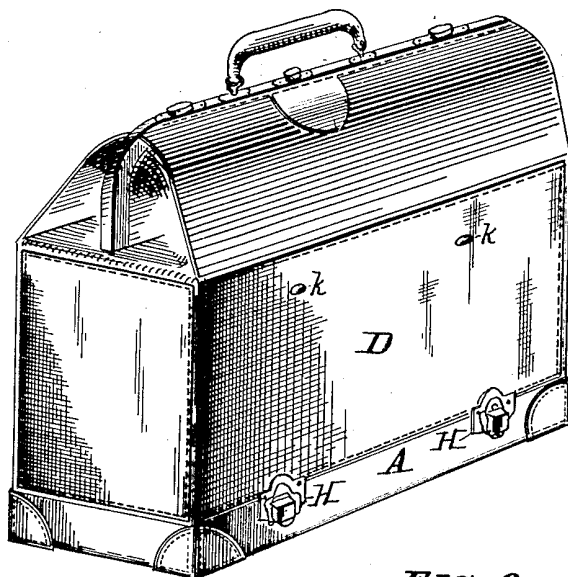


FIG. 2.

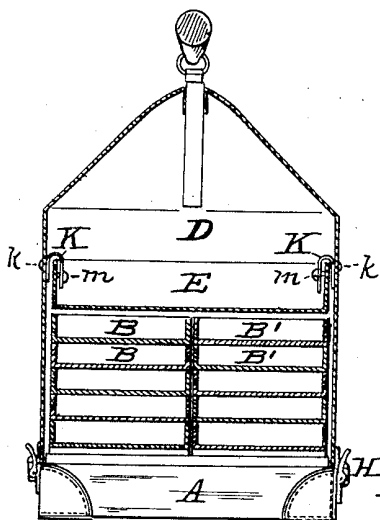
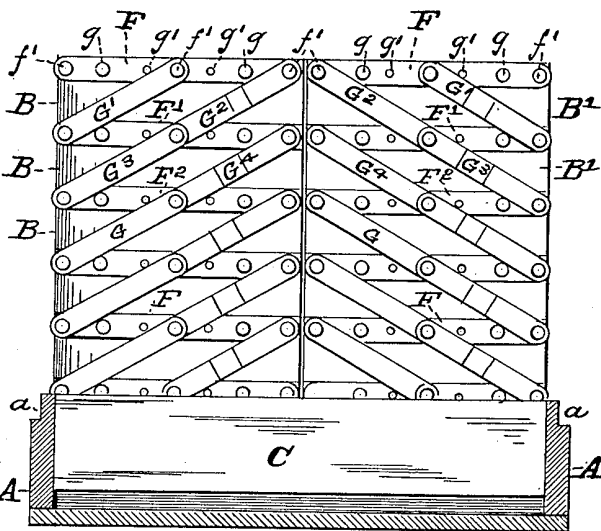


FIG. 3.



Witnesses:

E. B. Knudsen,
A. S. Peterson.

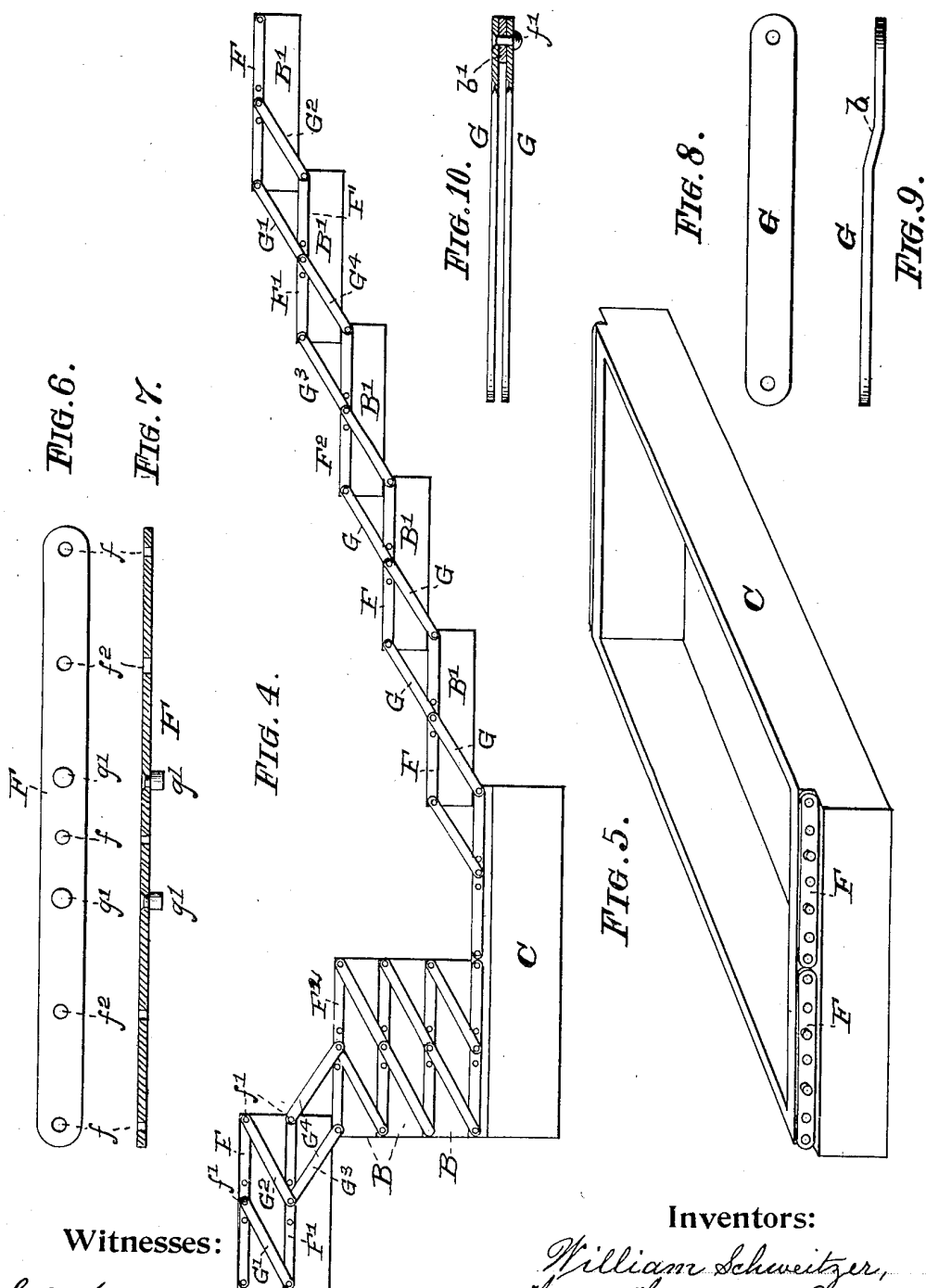
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 Attorneys.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM SCHWEITZER AND HARRY H. LABADIE, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

COMBINED EXTENSION-TRAY AND BAG.

No. 906,568.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Dec. 15, 1908.

Application filed June 22, 1908. Serial No. 439,802.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, WILLIAM SCHWEITZER and HARRY HAMILTON LABADIE, citizens of the United States, and residents of Chicago, in the county of Cook, in the State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in a Combined Extension-Tray and Bag; and we do hereby declare that the following description of our said invention, taken in connection with the accompanying sheets of drawings, forms a full, clear, and exact specification, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention has general reference to improvements in combined extension-tray and bag; and it consists, essentially, in the novel and peculiar combination of parts and details of construction, as hereinafter first fully set forth and described and then pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings already mentioned, which serve to illustrate our invention more fully, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a traveling bag embodying our improvements. Fig. 2 is a transverse-sectional-elevation of the extension trays as they appear when inclosed in their covering, the lower portion of the bag or bottom thereof being shown in elevation. Fig. 3 is an end-elevation of the extension trays, the bottom of the bag being shown in section. Fig. 4 is an end-elevation of the trays partly extended. Fig. 5 is a perspective-view of the lowest section of the trays. Fig. 6 is a plan, and Fig. 7 a longitudinal-section of one of the plates which are attached to the opposite ends of the trays and the bottom section or frame. Fig. 8 is a plan, and Fig. 9 a side-elevation of one of the links. Fig. 10 is a similar view of the same slightly modified.

Like parts are designated by corresponding letters and symbols of reference in all the figures.

This invention has for its object the production of an efficient, serviceable, and convenient combined sample-case and traveling-bag or case, in which the sample-case consists of a series of trays which, when contracted, shall occupy the lower portion of the traveling-bag and which, when removed therefrom, may be extended so that the contents of the trays or the samples contained therein can be conveniently exhibited and examined. In order to accomplish these results we construct this sample-

case of a box-shaped base A, the sides and ends of which are rabbeted or off-set at their upper edges at *a*, a series of trays B, B', a bottom tray or frame C, and a cover or bag D, said cover consisting, preferably, of a "Gladstone" or so-called "Oxford style" of bag and having within its interior, a removable tray E, said trays B, B' occupying the lower half of the bag D and the tray E a portion of the upper half of the same.

The trays B and B' are approximately the length of the bag D but slightly less than one-half of its width, and they are arranged one above the other in two tiers as clearly shown in Figs. 2 and 3. Each of these trays has on opposite ends and flush with the upper edge thereof, plates F, one of which is clearly and fully illustrated in Fig. 6; said plates consisting of strips of metal having at their outer ends and in their center, holes *f*, which serve to receive pivots *f*¹, Figs. 3 and 4, and further holes *f*² through which rivets, *g*, are passed, by means of which the plates are securely fastened to the trays, and also holes for the reception of studs or stops, *g*¹, the object of which will hereinafter more fully appear.

C is a rectangular frame of a width, length, and depth, corresponding with the dimensions of the trays B when used either in a single or double tiers, as the case may be, except that it is longer than these trays so as to afford rabbets at the ends and upper edges of said frame for the attachment of the lowermost bars F; it being understood that the longitudinal distance between the rabbeted ends equals the length of the trays B, while the entire length of the frame C equals the interior length of the base A, into which said frame C fits snugly, but removably.

G are a series of links of substantially the same width and thickness as the plates F, but shorter than these plates. They are pivoted with their ends to the plates so as to form parallelograms, the links G¹ and G² on the uppermost tray being pivoted with one end to the middle, and right-hand end, of the uppermost plate F; and connecting with the other end with the left-hand end, and the middle of, the next succeeding lower bar F¹ while a similar set of links G³ and G⁴ connects with the next lower plate F², this arrangement being continued down to the lowermost tray-frame C; a pair of the plates being shown attached to one end of the tray-frame C in Fig. 5. This arrangement of links and

plates is also placed on the opposite tier of trays B¹ except that in this tier of trays the links G slant in the opposite direction. These links are all flat strips of metal except where two links are pivoted to the same pivot in which case one series of links is offset, as shown at *b* in Fig. 9, or a washer *b*¹ of the same thickness as the links may be placed between the respective links and bars to compensate for the additional thickness of the links, such a construction being clearly illustrated in Fig. 10.

The lowermost tray or tray-frame C fits snugly into the base or bottom of the bag D and this bottom is attached to the bag D by means of catches H, Figs. 1 and 2, in any desirable and approved manner, it being understood that the bag D is open at its lower end for the reception of the sample-trays B.

The bag D has in its interior a series of straps K, fastened to the walls of the bag by rivets, eyelets, or similar fastening *k*, said straps being arranged to hold the tray E in suspension by engaging buttons *m*, as shown in Fig. 2. In all other respects this bag D is identical with, or may be of any special construction of, traveling-bags, and we desire it distinctly understood that we do not wish to confine ourselves to any particular design of bag aside from the essential features heretofore described, in fact, a plain jacket &c., may be placed over the extension-trays and secured thereto by catches H without departing from our invention. It is, furthermore, evident that the trays B and B¹ may be made of any desired length, width and depth, and of any suitable material, and that instead of a double tier of trays B and B¹ we may use a single tier only, and that any number of trays may be used in a single or double tier without changing or modifying our invention.

It is a well-known fact that salesmen who have to carry samples of the goods which they show and for which they solicit orders are loth to carry more than one sample-case, traveling-case or suit case, and that a sample-case which has sufficient space to contain the most necessary wearing-apparel, is a desideratum: Our sample-case combines these features because the samples are carried in the trays, in the lower part of our device, and the toilet, and wearing-articles in the tray E in the upper part of the bag D. To show these samples, a salesman needs not, therefore, expose his wearing apparel to view because the sample-case is removed from the bag by disengaging the catches H and withdrawing the same from the bag through the lower end thereof. In order to unfold or extend the trays B, B¹ to disclose their contents, the uppermost trays B, B¹ are pulled in opposite directions until the links G assume an inclination opposite to their normal

position, as shown in Fig. 4, while an opposite movement of the trays B, B¹ will return them to their normal or closed position. We now call attention to the fact that in this device it is not necessary, in order to show the contents of a single tray, the entire tier of trays be extended or unfolded, but that by taking hold of the tray next above the respective tray which it is desired to exhibit, and pulling it laterally, this tray only will then swing around its respective links G, and in said Fig. 4 we have shown, on the left of said figure, the third tray exposed to view.

It is evident that with this device a salesman can show the contents of the trays one after the other which is quite an advantage because he can hold the attention of a prospective customer for a longer time and explain the merits of the goods more fully by concentrating the attention of his client to the particular tray, than if the entire tier of trays is exposed to view at the same time. Thus a salesman can, after having shown the goods in the uppermost tray, unfold the next succeeding lower tray (or any other lower tray, for that matter), and cover up the exhibited tray, or not, as occasion may require. It will thus be seen that this device possesses merits not found in any other sample-case with which we are acquainted. It is also evident that the trays and the bag may be covered with cloth, leather and all the other materials now employed in trunks, suit-cases, traveling bags, &c., to satisfy the requirements of the purchaser.

In order that the trays, when extended, may be supported sufficiently to prevent the outer ones of the series from sagging, we have located the studs *g*¹ in the bars F adjacent to the pivotal points of the links G so that, when extended as shown in Fig. 4 these links will rest upon said studs or stops and thereby sustain the trays, at the same time limiting the movement of the trays so that one tray cannot pass beyond the edge of the lower tray which would interfere with the rapid and successful closing of the trays after having been unfolded or extended. This is an essential feature of our present device and overcomes the troubles and vexations inherent to similar devices now in use. It will be further observed that in this device there are but one kind of plates and links, that is to say, all the plates and links are duplicates so that the cost of manufacture of these parts and their assembling is reduced to a minimum for the reason that there are multiples of but two parts required to produce the mechanism for hinging or linking the trays together.

Having thus fully described our invention, we claim as new and desire to secure to us by Letters Patent of the United States—

1. As an improved article of manufacture, a stepped display tray consisting, essentially,

of a rectangular frame having rabbets on the upper edges of its two ends; bars in said rabbets and secured to said frame; pivots on said bars; a series of superimposed trays above said frame, and of a length equal to the distance between said rabbets; a series of bars at the upper edges and ends of said trays and secured thereto; a series of pivots secured to said plates; a series of links secured to said pivots, one half of said links being offset to overlap the opposing set of links; studs, projecting from said bars adjacent to said pivots and in line therewith and serving as stops for said links; a base wherein said frame is permanently affixed, and a suitable cover for said trays.

2. In a stepped display tray, a frame having its two ends rabbeted at the upper edges; metallic bars in said rabbets and secured to said frame; pivots secured to said bars; a series of trays of a length equal to the distance between the rabbets of said frame; narrow bars at the ends of said trays and flush with the upper edges thereof; pivots in said last-

mentioned bars corresponding in position with that of the pivots in the bars that are located in the rabbets of said frame; a series of links mounted upon said pivots; studs, projecting from said bars adjacent to said pivots and in line therewith and serving as stops for said links; said bars and links being made from rods of substantially the same width and thickness, and one half of the links being offset to overlap the opposing links as described, whereby the manufacture of said bars and links is facilitated by their being duplicates and made from the same material, as set forth.

In testimony that we claim the foregoing as our invention we have hereunto set our hands in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

W. SCHWEITZER.
H. H. LABADIE.

Attest:

MICHAEL J. STARK,
WILLIAM O. STARK.