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71 Applicant: **SALDOFLEX S.P.A.**
Via Delle Forze Armate, 320
I-20152 Milan(IT)

72 Inventor: **Pirico', Giovanni**
Via Pisanello, 20
I-20146 Milano(IT)

74 Representative: **La Ciura, Salvatore**
Via Francesco Sforza 5
I-20122 Milano(IT)

54 **A semirigid briefcase.**

57 A briefcase including at least two wings (C and E) substantially identical in size, joined together through a main spine wall (D) and capable of being closed upon one another as a book.

On the inside of one of said wings (C or E) an expanding pocket (7) is provided for that is open on one side (B) thereof while the other of said wings (E or C) has two superposed pockets (9, 10) provided on it, these pockets (9, 10) being open on respective sides (11, 12) orthogonal to one another.

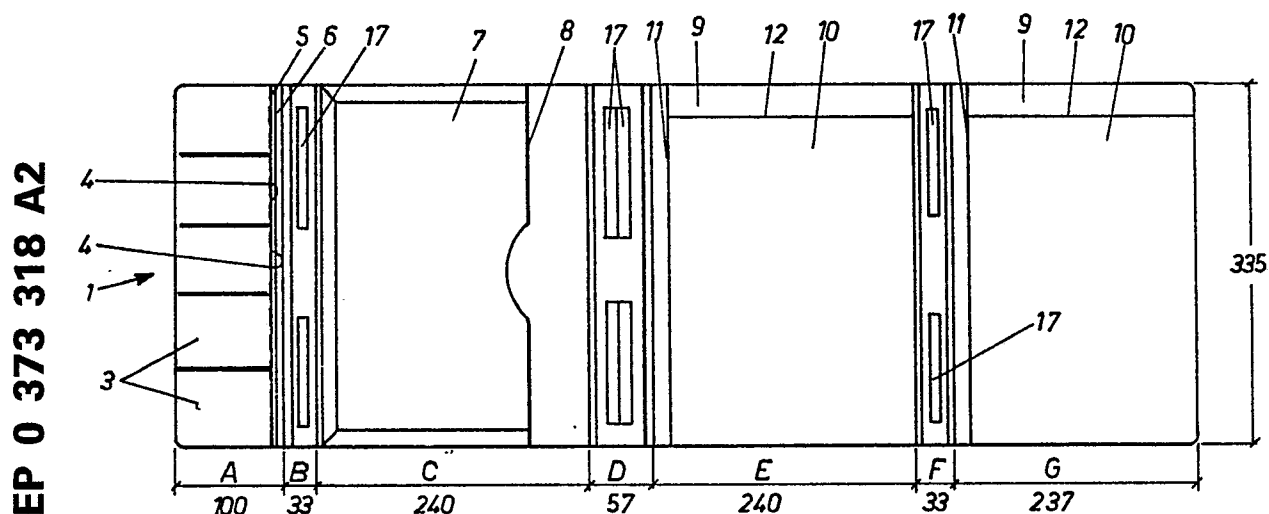


FIG. 1

A SEMIRIGID BRIEFCASE

This invention relates to a briefcase of semi-rigid material, such as plastics, fuller board, plastics covered cardboard and the like, intended for carrying writing pads, pamphlets, documents and others.

Conventional briefcases, especially when not provided with a closure system as proposed by this invention, are known to suffer from disadvantages in that they are rather impractical for receiving a variety of papers and in that difficulties are encountered in maintaining these papers in order inside the briefcase and preventing them from being lost therefrom.

It is the object of this invention to eliminate the above disadvantages by providing a semirigid briefcase capable of carrying a large variety of papers and other useful accessory articles in ordered and reliable manner.

The briefcase according to this invention includes at least two wing or quadrilateral members consisting of rectangular equal-size walls connected together through a spine wall and able to be closed onto one another as a book.

Connected to the end of one of said wings through a second spine wall smaller in width than the preceding or main spine wall, is a wing or flap member, the same in height as, but substantially narrower than the above-mentioned wings, this flap member being foldable onto the wing to which it is connected.

On the opposite side to said flap member, there is preferably provided a third wing member substantially of the same width as, or slightly smaller in width than the above mentioned two wings, which is connected to its adjacent wing by an intervening third spine wall substantially of the same width as the second spine wall. This third wing can be folded into the inside of its adjacent wing.

Provided on the inside surface of each wing member are a plurality of usually double pockets that are capable of receiving a large variety of articles.

Thus, for example, the end flap or wing member has on its inside a series of relatively small, inwardly open pockets designed to receive, for example, visit cards, credit cards, telephone cards, etc. A further pocket is provided underneath said pockets, is in turn open inwardly and extends over the height of the briefcase to receive such documents as passports, railroad tickets, etc..

Inside the wing adjoining the above-described flap member, there is preferably provided an expanding pocket that can contain as great a volume as the width or thickness of the spine wall connect-

ing together the wing and the flap. This expanding pocket preferably has a vertical opening extending all over its height on the opposite side to said spine wall and is intended for carrying, for example, newspapers, magazines, pamphlets, thumb indexes, and any other useful article, so that this pocket may serve as a bag. When said expanded pocket is filled with things, its expanded thickness entirely prevent the risk of papers escaping from the internal pockets provided in the flap folded thereupon.

On the inside of the other wing that can be closed onto the former wing as a book, there are two superposed pockets substantially occupying the entire surface of this wing and having on one side thereof a vertical opening and a horizontal opening, respectively, through which openings the corresponding pocket may receive the back-cover of a pamphlet or a writing-pad or the like, designed to be run through horizontally or vertically.

In particular, said pamphlet may be a folder having transparent envelopes sealed to its back, possibly with partitions provided therebetween for accomodation of multi-formats.

In the case of a third or further wing member, this can have inside it the same type of pockets as the just described wing.

Provided on the inside of the spine walls connecting the different wings together, are narrow pockets for carrying pens, felt-pointed pens, pencils, rules and the like.

The briefcase according to this invention is preferably made from plastics-covered cardboard having an outer bubble-studded surface, and the pockets provided on the inside surface of the different wing members are formed of transparent plastic sheets sealed onto three sides thereof.

The above and further features and advantages of a semirigid briefcase according to this invention will be better understood when reading the following detailed description made in connection with one embodiment thereof shown, by way of example only, in the accompanying drawing, wherein :

Figure 1 is a plan view of a briefcase comprising three wing members plus one narrow wing according to the invention, the briefcase being shown when in flat-open position; and

Figure 2 is a top plan view of the briefcase in figure 2 shown when in partially closed condition.

With reference to the above figures, it can be seen that a semirigid briefcase according to this invention is designated by numeral 1 as a whole.

In the embodiment shown, the briefcase 1 comprises three main wings or quadrilateral por-

tions C, E and G and an end wing or flap portion A. The intermediate wings C and E are equal in size and are connected together by a spine portion D of a certain thickness or width which will also be called as the main spine in the following. The end wings A and G are connected to their adjoining wings C and E respectively, through associated spine walls B and F substantially equal in width, which width is smaller than that of the central spine D.

Moreover, the end wing G is slightly smaller in width than the intermediate wings C and E.

Figure 1 gives preferred sizes in millimeters for the different portions of briefcase 1.

Thus, for example, the briefcase 1 is 335 mm in height, the intermediate wings C and E are 240 mm in width, the end wing G is 237 mm in width, the end wing A is 100 mm in width, the main spine wall D is 57 mm in width, and the spine walls B and F are both 33 mm in width.

However, it is to be understood that while preferred sizes have been given above by way of example, these may be changed according to particular requirements. Likewise, the briefcase wing portions could be different in number from those shown in the drawing. For example, the end wing G and, thus, the associated spine wall F, could be omitted, or additional wing portions could be provided.

The briefcase 1 is preferably made from plastics material such as PVC or the like, conveniently hard-backed on its inside and provided with an outside covering.

The outside of the briefcase 1 has, of preference, a bubble-studded surface 2, as schematically shown in figure 2, which besides imparting roughness to said surface, will also give the briefcase an attractive appearance.

On the other hand, provided on the inside of briefcase 1 are a plurality of pockets, to be described below, capable of receiving the most large variety of articles.

More precisely, the wing A has on its inside a number (five, in the example shown) of relatively small size, vertically arrayed pockets 3 having vertically extending openings 4 on their inner side permitting credit cards, visiting cards, telephone cards and the like to be introduced into pockets 3.

Provided underneath the pockets 3 is a further pocket 5 extending over the height of briefcase 1 and having, always on its inside, an opening 6 likewise extending throughout the height of briefcase 1. This pocket 5 can be utilized to carry passports, railroad tickets and other documents.

On the inside of wing C there is an expanding pocket 7 that can expand so as to contain a volume equaling the thickness of spine wall B.

The pocket 7 has an opening 8 on its vertical side adjacent the main spine wall D, through which

opening newspapers, magazines, pamphlets, thumb indexes and any other article can be put into pocket 7 whereby this pocket will function as a bag.

With the pocket 7 in its filled and expanded condition, the risk of documents in pockets 3 and 5 of wing A to fall out is entirely prevented when this wing A is folded onto wing C, as schematized in figure 2.

The other intermediate wing E has on its inside two superposed pockets 9 and 10 substantially covering the entire surface of wing E and having a vertical opening 11 on the side of spine wall D, and a horizontal opening 12 in proximity to the upper edge of the briefcase, respectively.

The endmost wing G has on its inside two superposed pockets that are substantially identical to the pockets inside the wing E and are, therefore, designated by the same reference numerals.

A pocket 9 having vertical opening 11, may receive the back-cover of an oblong-size writing-pad, pamphlet or folder 13 with this latter having transparent envelopes 14 sealed to its spine 15, possibly including partitions therebetween for accommodating multi-formats of smaller size than each envelope 14.

Figure 2 schematizes insertion of a pamphlet or folder 13 into pocket 9 of intermediate wing E, said folder being obviously able to be withdrawn from the corresponding pocket for consultation, by closing again the briefcase. 1.

Each pocket 10 provided with horizontal opening 12 can, on the other hand, receive the back-cover of an upright-format writing-pad 16 or the like, as schematized in figure 2 for the endmost wing G.

Provided inside the spine walls B, D and F are narrow pockets particularly intended for carrying such writing materials as pens, pencils, felt-pens, rules and the like. These narrow pockets are generally designated by reference numeral 17 in the drawing and shown as being doubled in number on main spine wall D. However, it is to be understood that pockets 17 on this wall D could also be single wider pockets when intended for articles larger in size.

The different pockets on the inside of briefcase 1 are preferably formed of transparent plastic sheets that are sealed on three sides thereof, the fourth unsealed side providing an opening for the respective pocket.

A preferred closure mode for the briefcase 1 according to the invention is as schematically shown in figure 2; it is achieved by successively folding the wing A onto the inner part of adjacent wing C, the endmost wing G onto the intermediate adjacent wing E, whereupon the two intermediate adjacent wings C and E are closed onto one an-

other as a book.

While the above is a preferred form of closure for the briefcase 1, it should be intended that other closure systems are possible; for example, the endmost wing G could be folded onto the outer side of wing C.

It should be also apparent that both the above-specified sizes and materials may be changed and several modifications made to the briefcase of the invention, as described herein before and shown in the accompanying drawing, without departing from the spirit and scope of this invention.

Claims

1. A briefcase including at least two wings (C and E) substantially identical in size, joined together through a main spine wall (D) and capable of being closed upon one another as a book, characterized in that provided on the inside of one of said wings (C or E) is an expanding pocket (7) that is open on one side (8) thereof, while the other of said wings (E or C) has two superposed pockets (9, 10) provided on it, these pockets (9,10) being open on respective sides (11, 12) orthogonal to one another.

2. The briefcase according to claim 1, wherein both the expanding pocket (7) and the pockets (9, 10) substantially occupy the entire inner surface of the respective wings (C or E), the open side (8) of the expanding pocket (7) being the vertical side adjoining the spine wall (D), while the open sides (11 and 12) of the superposed pockets (9 and 10) are the vertical side (11) adjacent the spine wall (D) and a horizontal side (12) in proximity to the upper edge of the briefcase, respectively.

3. The briefcase according to claims 1 or 2, wherein a wing (A) substantially smaller in width than the wings (C and E) is connected to one of said wings (C or E) through a spine wall (B) that is of smaller width than the main spine wall (D), said wing (A) having on its inside a plurality of small pockets (3) arraying in a direction of height of briefcase (1), and an underlying pocket (5) extending over the height of the briefcase, both the small pockets (3) and the pocket (5) having respective vertical openings (4 and 6) adjacent said spine wall (B).

4. The briefcase according to claim 3, wherein said wing (A) is adjacent to the wing (C or E) that is provided with the expanding pocket (7) whose capacity in volume when the pocket is filled with newspapers, magazines, thumb indexes and any other article, equals the thickness of spine wall (B), and wherein said array of pockets (3) in wing (A) are intended for carrying visiting cards, credit cards, telephone cards and the like, while the un-

derlying pocket (5) may carry passports, railroad tickets, and like documents.

5. The briefcase according to any preceding claims, wherein said superposed pockets (9 and 10) in one of the wings (C or E) are intended for receiving the back-cover of a writing-pad, pamphlet, folder and the like, which is of oblong-size or upright-size respectively.

6. The briefcase according to claim 5, wherein the pocket (9) in one of the two wings (C or E), which is the pocket having a vertical opening (11), is intended for carrying the back-cover of a folder (13) having transparent envelopes (14) sealed to its spine (15), possibly with partitions interposed there-between for accommodating multiple formats of smaller size than the largest size of each envelope.

7. The briefcase according to any claims 1 to 6, wherein provided on the remote side from wing (A), is at least a further wing (G) which is connected to one of the two wings (C or E) through a spine wall (F) substantially equal in size to spine wall (B) connecting the other wing (E or C) to wing (A).

8. The briefcase according to claim 7, wherein inside said further wing (G) there are two superposed pockets (9 and 10) having respective openings (11 and 12) and being substantially identical to the pockets provided on one of wings (C or E).

9. The briefcase according to any preceding claims, wherein narrow pockets (17) are provided on each, or any spine walls (B, D and F) and are intended for carrying such writing articles as pens, pencils, felt-pens, rules and the like.

10. The briefcase according to any preceding claims, wherein the briefcase is preferably made of internally hardbacked, externally covered plastic material, the outer side of the briefcase having a bubble-studded surface (2).

11. The briefcase according to any preceding claims, wherein said internal pockets are formed of sheets of transparent plastic material which are sealed on three sides thereof, the fourth unsealed side providing an opening for the respective pocket.

12. The briefcase according to any preceding claims, wherein preferred sizes for the briefcase are as follows :

- height : 335 mm
- width : wings (C and E) 240 mm
- wing (G) 237 mm
- wing (A) 100 mm
- main spine wall (D) 57 mm
- spine walls (B and F) 33 mm.

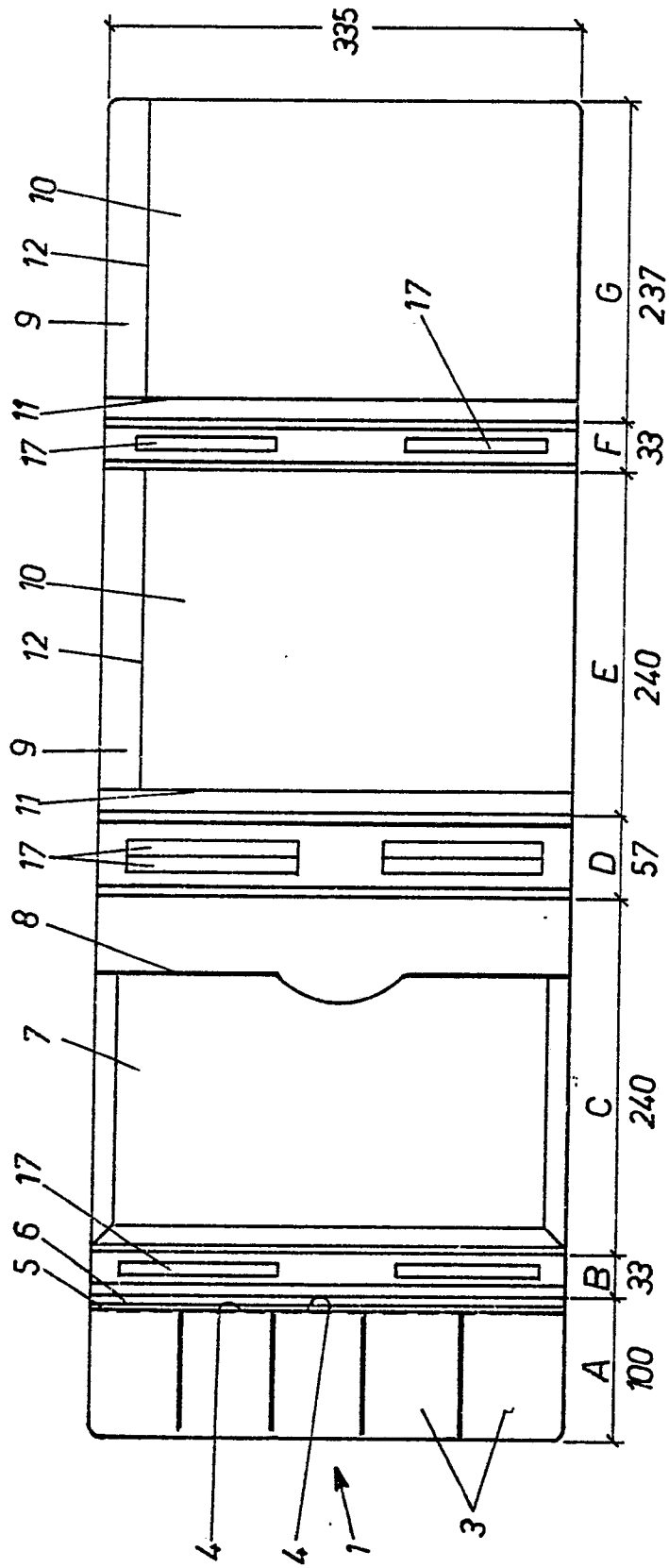


FIG. 1

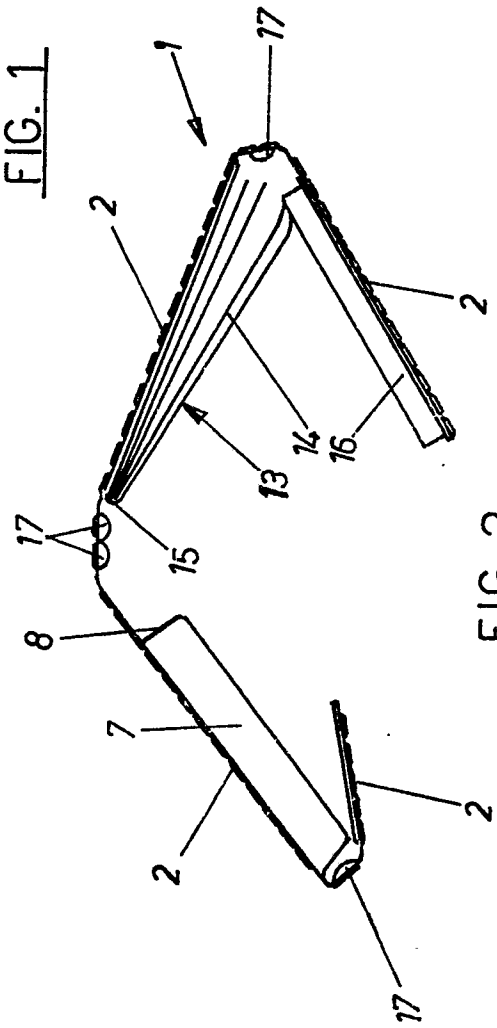


FIG. 2