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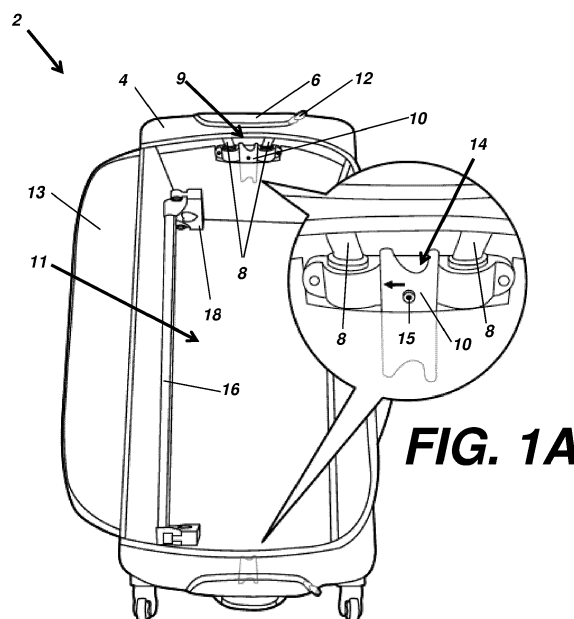
• **McKelvey, Sanni****Lee's Summit, MO 64082 (US)**• **McKelvey, Stephen****Lee's Summit, MO 64082 (US)**(30) Priority: **27.02.2020 US 202016802971**(74) Representative: **Williams Powell****11 Staple Inn****London WC1V 7QH (GB)**

(71) Applicants:

• **McKelvey, Sanni****Lee's Summit, MO 64082 (US)****(54) LUGGAGE STABILIZER SYSTEM AND METHOD OF USE**

(57) A luggage system with a wardrobe element which extends from the luggage portion and supports a crossbar for hanging clothing or costumes. An arm extends away from the crossbar for supporting a privacy curtain. The wardrobe element is secured within the sides of the luggage, and the opening of the luggage can be

opened and closed without needing to store the wardrobe element. In a preferred embodiment, the wardrobe element includes two pairs of structural legs extending out of respective pockets within the luggage, the legs terminating at the crossbar.

**FIG. 1A****FIG. 1****EP 3 871 555 A1**

## Description

### CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

**[0001]** This application is related to U.S. Patent Application No. 16/683,650 (US Patent Application Publication No. 2020007776), which is a continuation-in-part of and claims priority in U.S. Patent Application No. 15/946,138 filed April 5, 2018, now U.S. Patent No. 10,512,318, which claims priority in U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 62/481,746 filed April 5, 2017, all of which are incorporated herein by reference.

### Field of the Invention

**[0002]** The present invention relates generally to a stabilizer system for a collapsible wardrobe and luggage system and method for use thereof, and more specifically to a stabilizer for use with the telescoping handle arms of a wardrobe and luggage system and storage thereof.

### Background to the Invention

**[0003]** Dancers, performers, travelers, or anyone else often need to quickly change clothing or costumes in public places. Typical luggage requires the user to sift through piles of clothing to find the correct article. Existing luggage with wardrobe attachments require the wardrobe bar to extend from the storage compartment of the luggage, rendering the luggage unable to close while the wardrobe feature is in use. Further, these wardrobe features are typically made to be as lightweight and cheaply as possible, typically having a single structural post extending away from the luggage on either side of the crossbar. While the luggage is open, contents stored within are susceptible to theft. These also lack the ability to provide privacy to the user when changing outfits or costumes.

**[0004]** What is needed is a structurally superior wardrobe element for luggage which allows the luggage to remain fully functional while the wardrobe is in use, while the wardrobe further provides privacy to the user. What is further needed is a stabilizer system for increasing the structural superiority of such wardrobe elements.

**[0005]** Heretofore there has not been available a stabilizer system for a luggage wardrobe system or method of use with the advantages and features of the present invention.

### Statement of Invention

**[0006]** According to an aspect of the present invention, there is provided a wardrobe system comprising: a luggage wardrobe having a lid, a base, two side walls, and two end walls, said base, side walls, and end walls creating an interior space. A structural support is extendable upwardly (upwardly when the wardrobe system is in use and the wardrobe system is laid on its base) from said

base of said storage compartment; said structural support comprised of a pair of telescoping legs configured to be transformed from a first, stored position to a second, deployed position. A stabilizer is configured (when the legs are deployed) to be removably inserted between said pair of telescoping legs of said structural support, thereby stabilizing said structural support; and said stabilizer comprising a pair of notches, each one of said pair of notches configured to engage one of said pair of telescoping legs.

**[0007]** The present invention generally provides a stabilizer device for a luggage system with a wardrobe element which extends from the luggage portion and which can support a crossbar for hanging clothing or costumes. Optional arms can extend away from the crossbar for supporting a privacy curtain as defined in U.S. Patent Nos. 10,506,856 and 9,820,542, which are commonly owned by the Applicant of the present invention and are incorporated herein by reference. The wardrobe element is secured within the sides of the luggage, and the opening of the luggage can be opened and closed without needing to store the wardrobe element. In a preferred embodiment, the wardrobe element includes two pairs of structural legs extending out of respective pockets within the luggage, the legs terminating at the crossbar. The stabilizer element is used between each pair of supports forming the legs, and when not in use is stored within a pocket adjacent to the stored location of the legs. The preferred embodiment is ideal for use when traveling or performing, which may require the user to change multiple outfits or costumes in an otherwise public area.

### Brief Description of the Drawings

**[0008]** The drawings constitute a part of this specification and include exemplary embodiments of the present invention illustrating various objects and features thereof, by way of example only.

Fig. 1 is a top plan view of a preferred embodiment of the present invention showing a stabilizer element in a stored orientation.

Fig. 1A is a detailed view taken about the indicated portions of Fig. 1.

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of a pair of stabilizer elements thereof.

Fig. 3 is a partial three-dimensional isometric view of the embodiment of Fig. 1A showing the stabilizer element in an engaged orientation.

Fig. 3A is a detailed view taken about the indicated portion of Fig. 3.

Fig. 4 is a three-dimensional frontal view of the luggage wardrobe system with which the present em-

bodiment interacts.

Fig. 5 is a side elevational view of the embodiment thereof shown tipped on an end and storing a portable stool.

## Detailed Description

### I. Introduction and Environment

**[0009]** As required, detailed aspects of the present invention are disclosed herein, however, it is to be understood that the disclosed aspects are merely exemplary of the invention, which may be embodied in various forms. Therefore, specific structural and functional details disclosed herein are not to be interpreted as limiting, but merely as a basis for the claims and as a representative basis for teaching one skilled in the art how to variously employ the present invention in virtually any appropriately detailed structure.

**[0010]** Certain terminology will be used in the following description for convenience in reference only and will not be limiting. For example, up, down, front, back, right and left refer to the invention as orientated in the view being referred to. The words, "inwardly" and "outwardly" refer to directions toward and away from, respectively, the geometric center of the aspect being described and designated parts thereof. Forwardly and rearwardly are generally in reference to the direction of travel, if appropriate. Said terminology will include the words specifically mentioned, derivatives thereof and words of similar meaning.

### II. Preferred Embodiment of a Stabilizer System

**[0011]** Fig. 1 shows a preferred luggage wardrobe stabilizer system 2 in a stored position, with a pair of supports 9 each having telescoping legs 8 which extend outward from within the luggage storage compartment 26 of the luggage wardrobe 4, such as taught by U.S. Patent Nos. 10,506,856 and 9,820,542, which are commonly owned by the Applicant of the present invention and are incorporated herein by reference. The luggage wardrobe 4 generally comprise a suitcase or other typical luggage device having a storage compartment, a closeable lid, various handles for carrying the luggage. Side handles 28 are also included and cap the telescoping legs 8 to help the user carry the luggage wardrobe 4.

**[0012]** Each of the pair of supports 9 extend through separately enclosed side passages 26 having their own flaps 6 which seal using a zipper 12 or other closure device, allowing the supports 9 to remain extended while the main compartment 11 of the luggage wardrobe 4 remains closed. This allows the lid 13 to be securely locked or otherwise fastened shut to protect the contents of the luggage wardrobe 4 while the supports 9 are extended upward.

**[0013]** A rod 16 may be connected to the top of the supports 9 using a storage crown 18 or other element,

such as taught by U.S. Patent No. 10,512,318 and U.S. Patent Application no. 16/683,650, which are commonly owned by the Applicant of the present invention and are incorporated herein by reference. This allows the rod 16 to be placed at an elevated position ideal for receiving clothing or costumes placed on clothes hangers or other hanging elements. An optionally removable privacy curtain arm connects to one or both ends of the rod, allowing a privacy curtain to be extended out and away from the luggage for privacy while the user is changing clothing. The rod 16 may be a telescoping rod for easy storage. The lid 13 could attach to the rod 16 and/or the supports 9 for additional functionality and privacy. A storage crown 18 could be placed atop each handle 28 and the rod 16 extended between two crowns. The crowns include features as taught in U.S. Patent No. 10,512,318 and U.S. Patent Application no. 16/683,650, incorporated herein by reference, which add additional storage and functionality to the present application.

**[0014]** A stabilizer 10 is shown in Fig. 1 in a stored position, where a hole 24 through the stabilizer body 20 is connected to a connector 15 within the compartment 26 where the supports 9 are stored. The stabilizer 10 can be removed from the compartment and from the connector 15 and placed between the two telescoping legs 8 as shown in Fig. 3 to support the legs and add stability to the entire system. Notches 14 on the stabilizer receive the telescoping legs 8 when the stabilizer 10 is inserted between the legs in the direction of the arrow 27. In a piece of luggage where the legs 8 are round or another shape, the notches 14 would reflect the shape of the legs, and therefore the arrow 27 may not be required. A customized logo 22, such as the Glam'r Gear® logo, owned by the Applicant of the present application, shown in Fig. 2, may be applied to the stabilizer 10 body 20 if desired to customize the stabilizer.

**[0015]** Fig. 5 shows how a portable stool 30 can be secured to the side of the luggage wardrobe 4 using a strap 36 having a buckle 38 to hold the legs 32 of the stool 30, and a corner pocket 40 storing a portion of the seat 34 of the stool 30 within an opening 42. This makes it easy for the user to bring a portable stool with their luggage wardrobe for preparing or relaxing before or after an event.

**[0016]** It is to be understood that while certain embodiments and/or aspects of the invention have been shown and described, the invention is not limited thereto and encompasses various other embodiments and aspects.

## Claims

1. A wardrobe system comprising:

a luggage wardrobe having a lid, a base, two side walls, and two end walls, said base, side walls, and end walls creating an interior space; a structural support extending upwardly from

said base of said storage compartment;  
 said structural support comprised of a pair of  
 telescoping legs configured to be transformed  
 from a first, stored position to a second, de-  
 ployed position;  
 a stabilizer configured to be removably inserted  
 between said pair of telescoping legs of said  
 structural support, thereby stabilizing said struc-  
 tural support; and  
 said stabilizer comprising a pair of notches, each  
 one of said pair of notches configured to engage  
 one of said pair of telescoping legs.

2. The wardrobe system of claim 1, further comprising:

a connector located within said interior space of  
 said luggage wardrobe in proximity with said  
 structural support; and  
 said stabilizer having a hole configured to be  
 receive said connector, thereby storing said sta-  
 bilizer within said interior space of said luggage  
 wardrobe.

3. The wardrobe system of claim 1 or 2, further com-  
 prising:

a storage crown configured to be placed atop  
 said structural support;  
 said storage crown configured to receive cloth-  
 ing hangers; and  
 said storage crown configured to receive a hor-  
 izontal rod configured for hanging clothing.

4. The wardrobe system of claim 1, 2 or 3, further com-  
 prising:

an opening located in said luggage wardrobe,  
 said opening corresponding with said structural  
 support; and  
 said opening configured to allow access to said  
 structural support without opening said lid of said  
 luggage wardrobe.

5. The wardrobe system of claim 4, wherein said open-  
 ing is sealed with a zipper.

6. The system of any preceding claim, further compris-  
 ing:

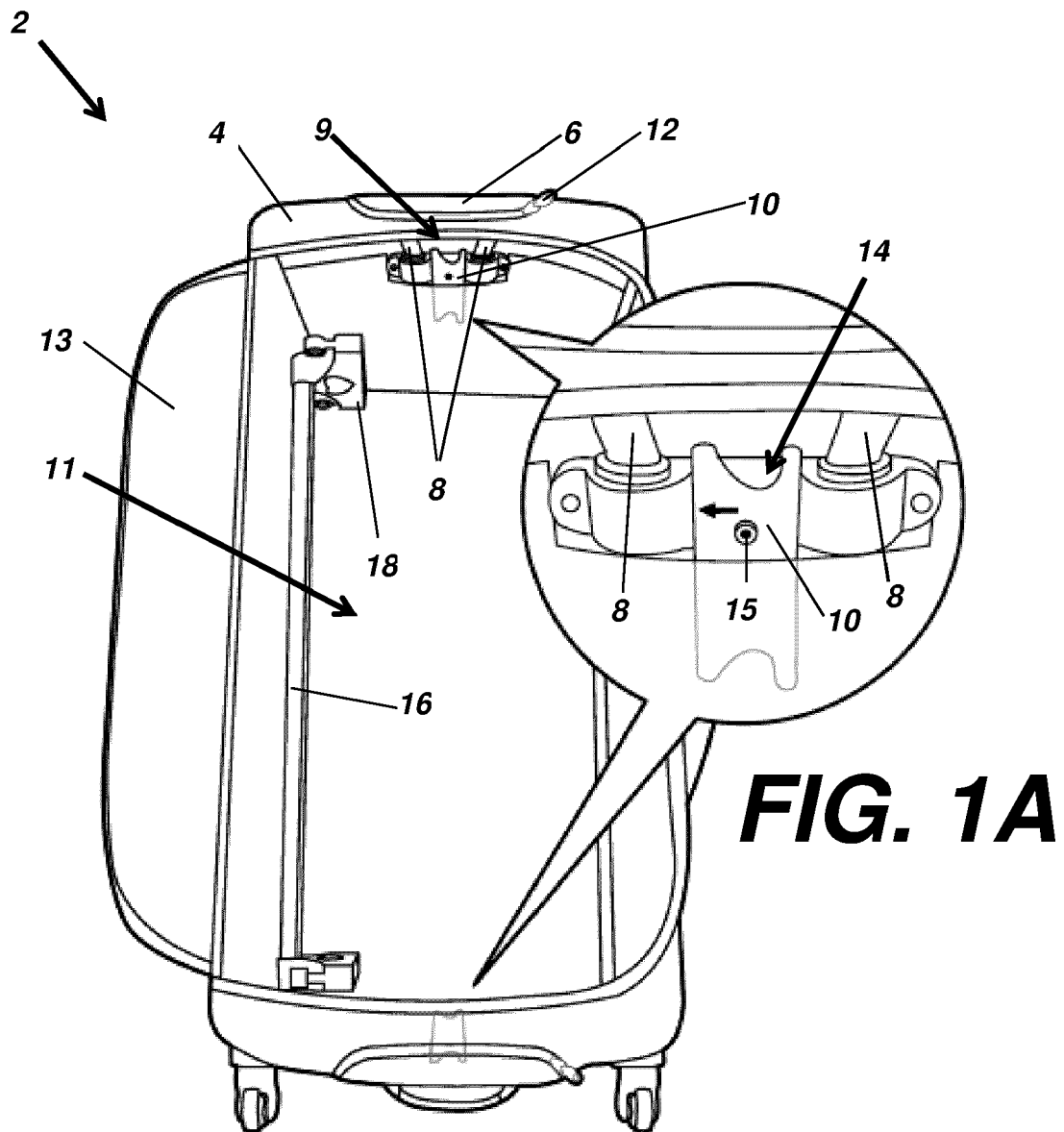
a strap having a buckled configured for securing  
 said strap about a body; and  
 a side pocket locating on an exterior of one of  
 said side walls of said luggage wardrobe, said  
 side pocket configured for receiving and secur-  
 ing a portion of said body.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein said body comprises  
 a foldable stool having legs and a seat.

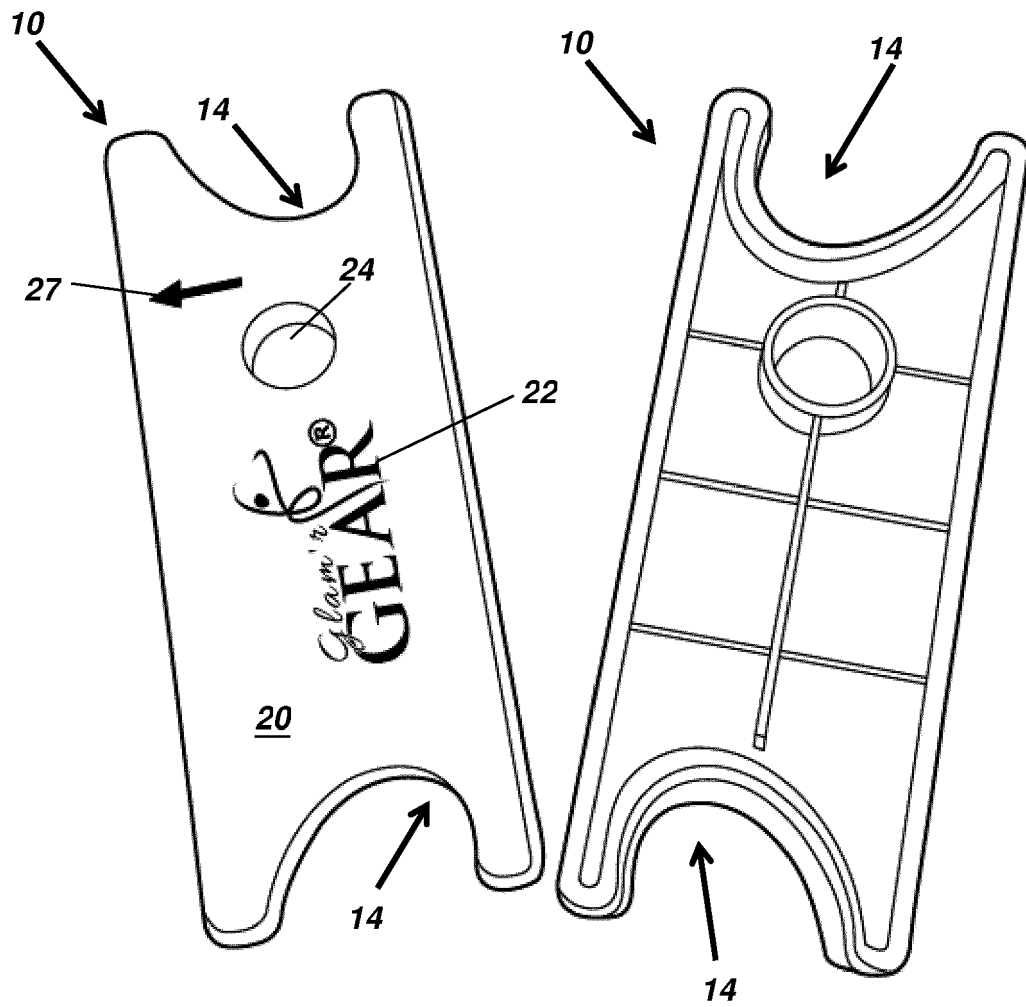
8. The system of claim 7, wherein said side pocket com-  
 prises a diagonal opening and wherein said portion  
 of said body comprises a portion of said seat.

9. The system of any preceding claim, further compris-  
 ing at least two wheels affixed to an exterior of said  
 storage compartment.

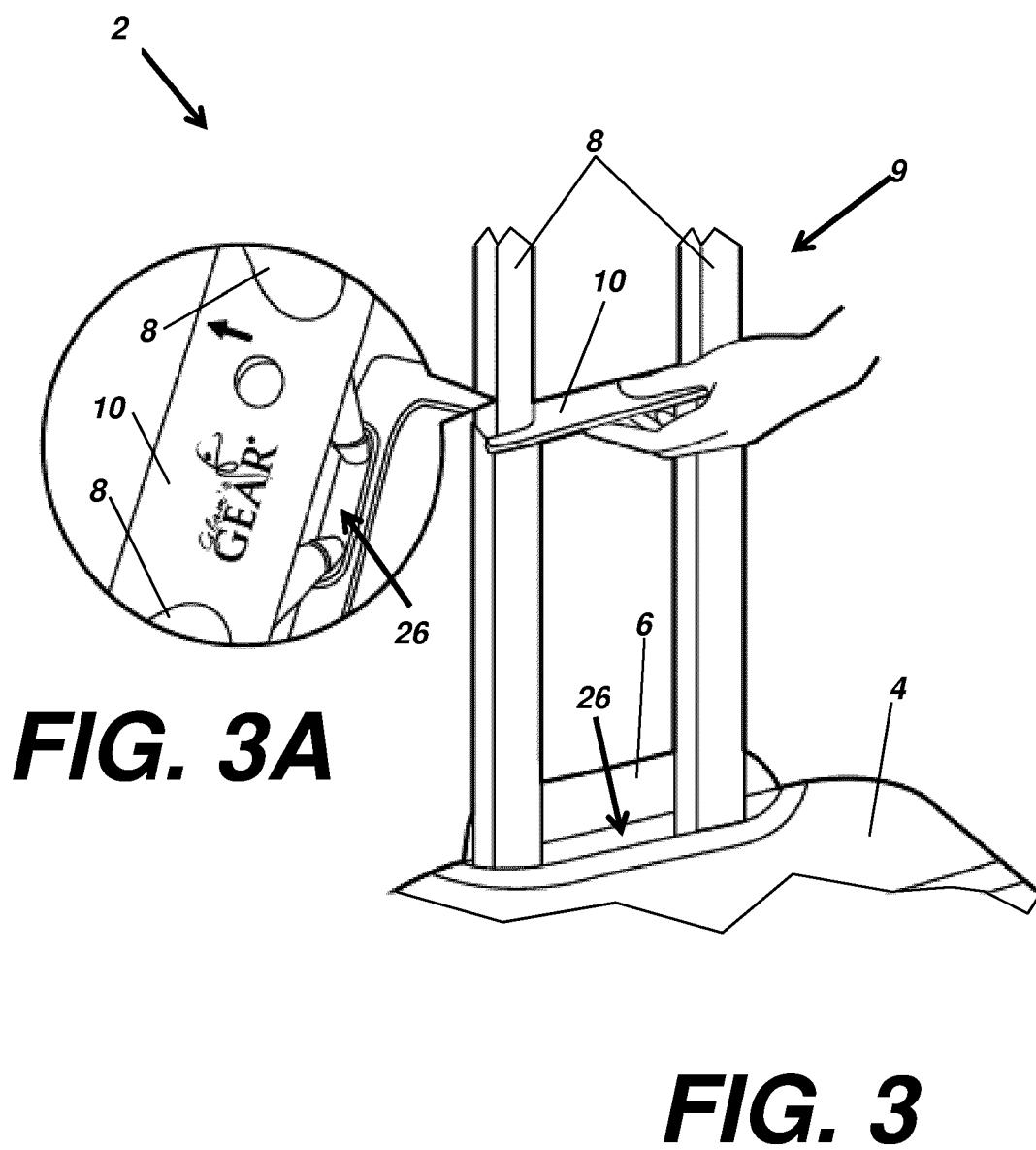
10. The system of any preceding claim, further compris-  
 ing a plurality of storage compartments affixed to an  
 exterior of said storage compartment.

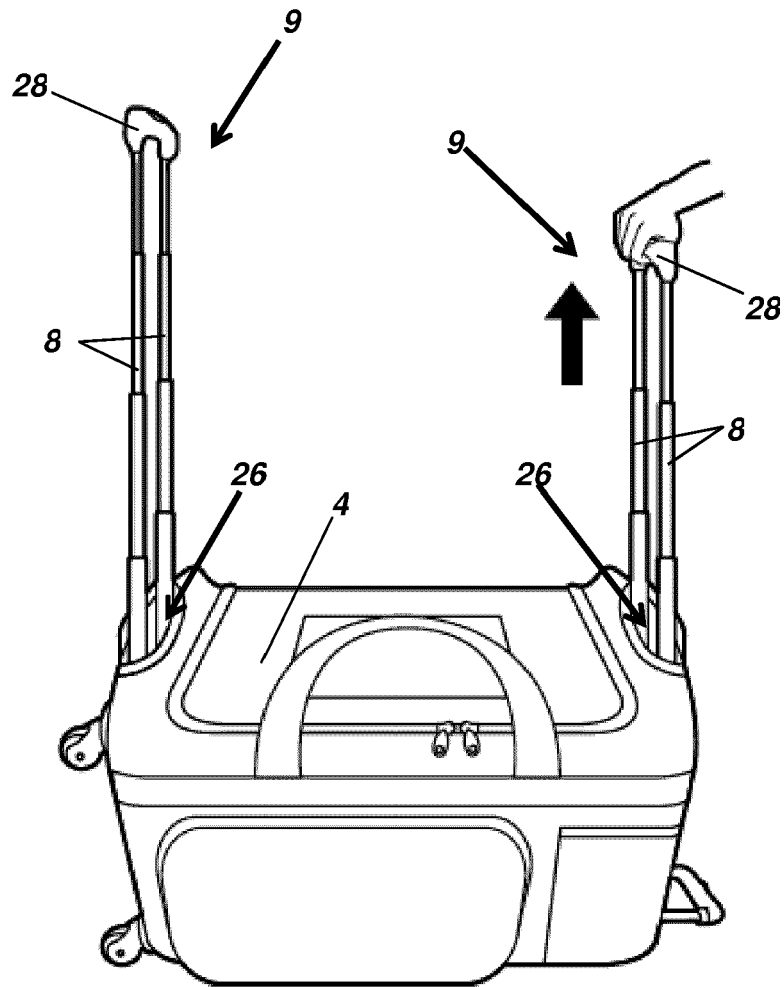


**FIG. 1**



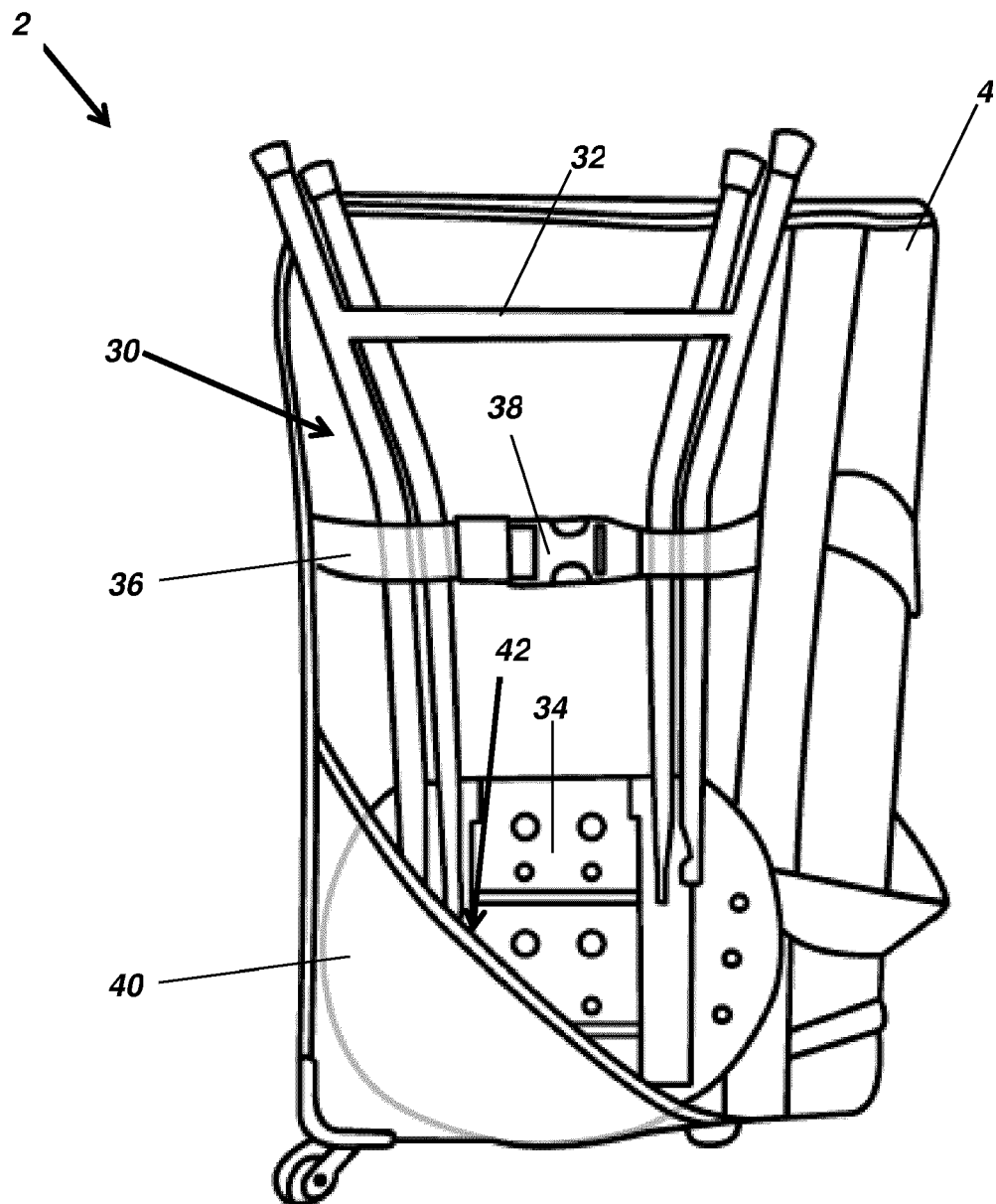
**FIG. 2**





**FIG. 4**





**FIG. 5**



## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

 Application Number  
 EP 20 27 5070

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	GB 2 490 957 A (DALTON JULIE-ANNE [ES]) 21 November 2012 (2012-11-21)	1,9,10	INV.
A	* page 7, line 14 - page 11, line 2; figures *	2	A45C5/03 A45C5/06 A45C5/14 A45C9/00
A	US 2006/076861 A1 (BAUGHMAN JOE D [US]) 13 April 2006 (2006-04-13) * paragraph [0050] - paragraph [0053]; figure 1C *	1-5,9,10	A45C15/00 A47B61/06
X	US 2017/071302 A1 (MCKELVEY SANNNI [US]) 16 March 2017 (2017-03-16)	1	
Y	* paragraph [0021] - paragraph [0026];	3-5,10	
A	figure 1 *	2	
Y	US 2018/289127 A1 (MCKELVEY SANNNI [US]) 11 October 2018 (2018-10-11)	3-5,10	
A	* paragraph [0014] - paragraph [0018]; figures 2, 4 *	2	
A	CN 204 812 504 U (SHANGHAI JINMING LEATHER CO LTD) 2 December 2015 (2015-12-02) * figures *	1-5,9,10	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
A	US 10 271 644 B1 (JOHNSON BARBARA [US]) 30 April 2019 (2019-04-30) * figures *	1-5,9,10	A45C A45F A47B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague		17 September 2020	van de Beek-Duijker
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)



Application Number

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**CLAIMS INCURRING FEES**

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing claims for which payment was due.

☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due.

**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION**

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.

☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

☒ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

1-5, 9, 10

☐ The present supplementary European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims (Rule 164 (1) EPC).



**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION  
SHEET B**

Application Number  
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The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-5, 9, 10

Wardrobe system with stabilizer for structural support.

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2. claims: 6-8

Wardrobe system with strap and pocket for holding a foldable stool.

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.  
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
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17-09-2020

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CN 204812504 U	02-12-2015	NONE	
US 10271644 B1	30-04-2019	NONE	

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EPO FORM P0459

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

**REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION**

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- US 10506856 B [0007] [0011]
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