Description

The present invention relates to luggage cases of the type that have wheel rollers, casters or other rotational ground engaging means projecting from their outer shell such that the case can be rolled on the ground engaging means for ease of transport.

A suitcase of this type is shown in GB—A—2030966A. In this arrangement a wheel housing is formed by walls integrally moulded with the shell of the suitcase. The ends of the axle of the wheel pass through and are supported by the walls.

An alternative arrangement is shown in GB—A—2116149A in which a wheel axle is secured to a plate which is attached by screws to the shell of the suitcase.

A disadvantage of the known arrangements is that the mounting of the wheels rollers or casters to the suitcase is rigid. When the suitcase is wheeled over a bumpy surface vibrations are transmitted from the rotational ground engaging means to the case resulting in noisy running and a liability for the mountings for the ground engaging means to be damaged.

DE—A—3202007 discloses an assembly for mounting rotational ground engaging means to a case comprising:

an axle; ground engaging means mounted for rotation on the axle; and resilient shock absorbing means, said shock absorbing means being secured to the case on the one hand and to the axle on the other whereby the shock absorbing means absorbs the shock from the ground engaging means. The shock absorbing means is in the form of a specially shaped stirrup like member which extends to either side of and above the ground engaging means.

US—A—2272270 also describes an arrangement for mounting wheels. The wheels are of the castor type with the axle supported at both ends from mounting legs. Shock absorbing cushioning members are disposed between each mounting leg and a plate which supports the adjacent end of the axle. The cushioning members are laterally outside the overall width of the wheel making the overall assembly unsuitable for use in confined spaces. Tilting of the axle to absorb shocks is restricted because it is supported at both ends.

According to the present invention in a first aspect there is provided an assembly for mounting rotational ground engaging means to a case comprising: an axle; ground engaging means mounted for rotation on the axle; mounting means for securing the axles to the case, and resilient shock absorbing means, said shock absorbing means being secured directly to the mounting means on the one hand and directly to the axle on the other whereby in use with the assembly mounted on a case the shock absorbing means absorbs the shock from the ground engaging means known from US—A—2272270, characterised in that the rotational ground engaging means are cantilevered and at least a portion of the resilient shock absorbing means is positioned laterally within the overall width of the ground engaging means.

With this arrangement vibrations resulting from contact of the ground engaging means with the ground are absorbed before they reach the case. If the case starts to sway the shock absorbers serve to damp the swaying movement. As a result, the case is easier and more convenient to handle when rolling on the ground engaging means, the case is less noisy, and there is less tendency for the mounting to be damaged. The present invention permits the construction of a simple compact wheel assembly having relatively few parts.

Preferably the resilient shock absorbing means comprises a block of elastomeric material. For one particular design of case a rubber of Shore hardness 55 to 60 Shore A has been found suitable. Rubbers of different hardness will be found suitable for other cases depending on the size of the case and load it is likely to have to carry. The smaller the case and load, the lower the hardness may be.

The inner end of the axle may be widened to provide an extended mounting surface to which the resilient shock absorbing means is fixed. Preferably the axle is secured via its resilient shock absorbing means to a mounting plate which is fixed directly to the case.

We have found that vulcanisation is a convenient way of ensuring that a good bonding is achieved between an elastomeric shock absorbing means and the mounting means on the one hand and the axle on the other. Other suitable means for securing the shock absorbing means may be used, for example adhesive or screws.

According to the present invention in a second aspect, there is provided a luggage case comprising a shell, a wheel, an axle for rotatably mounting the wheel, resilient shock absorbing means secured directly to said axle, and means for mounting said shock absorbing means directly to an outer surface of said shell, known from US—A—2272270, characterised in that the wheel is cantilevered and at least a portion of said shock absorbing means is positioned laterally within the overall axial width of the wheel.

According to the present invention in a third aspect there is provided a luggage case comprising a shell having recesses located at a corner, wheels rotatably mounted to the shell, the wheels being mounted at the corner of the shell in the recess in the shell on axles passing through the centre of each wheel, and resilient shock absorbing means secured to the axle and the shell, a portion of the shell overhanging the ground engaging portion of said wheel, known from US—A—2272270, characterised in that each axle is a cantilever stub axle and has a flange positioned laterally inward from the innermost edge of each said wheel, the resilient shock absorbing member is attached to a surface of the flange, at least a portion of said resilient shock absorbing member being positioned laterally inward of the

inner edge of the wheel and within the overall axial width of the wheel, the resilient shock absorbing member is fastened in turn to a mounting plate for securing the wheel and axle to the shell, and the spacing between the shell and the ground engaging portion of the wheel is less than a maximum deflection of the wheel and axle assembly about the resilient shock absorbing means, whereby the wheel makes contact with the overhanging portion of the shell when the wheel is subjected to severe shock.

Embodiments of the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a suitcase fitted with a wheel assembly according to the invention;

Figure 2 is an enlarged detail of the wheel assembly of the case of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a cross section on the lines 3—3 of Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a cross section through a modified wheel assembly according to the invention; and

Figure 5 is a cross section through another wheel assembly according to the invention.

Referring to the drawings, a suitcase 10 consists of a rigid shell 11 formed in two halves for example, of plastics material. The case has a carrying handle 12.

For ease of transport when heavily loaded, the case is also provided with a pair of wheels 13 at one of its lower corners 14 and a hinged steering handle 15. Normally the steering handle is folded flat against the wall of the suitcase but it can be hinged away from the case for steering the case when the case is being rolled on the wheels 13 at the lower corner.

The suitcase is provided, on either side at the corner 14, with a recess 16 which accommodates a respective one of the wheels 13.

Each wheel assembly consists of a wheel hub 17 with a tyre 18 at its rim. The wheel hub 17 includes an outer rim 17a which, along with tyre 18, defines the overall axial width of wheel. Wheel hub 17 further includes a central axle sleeve 17b through which central axial opening 20 passes. The axle sleeve 17b terminates inwardly of the inner edge of the outer rim 17a.

The wheel is rotatably mounted on a cantilever stub shaft 19 which passes through central axial opening 20 in the wheel. The stub shaft has a circular flange 21 at its inner end adjacent the axle sleeve 17b and the wheel is held captive on the shaft by means of a clip 22 on the outer end of the shaft.

The stub shaft is secured by means of its flange 21 to a resilient shock absorbing means, in this embodiment a disc 23 of hard rubber. The disc in turn is secured to a generally sector shaped mounting plate 24. The flange 21 is positioned laterally inward from the inner edge of the wheel, more specifically from the inner edge of the outer rim 17a. Thus, at least a portion of the disc 23 is positioned laterally within the overall axial width of the wheel.

The wheel assembly is secured in the recess to the wall of the suitcase for example, by means of rivets or screws 25 which pass through the mounting plate 24 and a portion of the suitcase wall 26.

The mounting plate 24 and the stub shaft 19 may be made of metal. The rubber shock absorbing member is preferably secured to the stub shaft and the mounting plate by vulcanising. The stub shaft and mounting plate are degreased and coated with a bonding agent. The parts are then placed in a mould and vulcanised. We have found that this technique produces a strong bond between the rubber disc 23 and the stub shaft and mounting plate. Alternatively the parts may be secured to the rubber shock absorbing member with a suitable adhesive or using screws which pass through the flange on the stub shaft and through the mounting plate into the rubber.

The rubber is a hard rubber having a Shore hardness of between 55 and 60 Shore A. The rubber must not bend too much otherwise the suitcase would be difficult to wheel because the wheels would rub against the wall of the case. On the other hand the rubber must be sufficiently soft to absorb shocks. The portion of the suitcase wall 28 which overhangs the wheels in the recess may be spaced sufficiently close to the rim of the wheel that if the suitcase is dropped on the wheels the deflection of the wheels about the resilient shock absorbing disc 21 causes the periphery of the wheel to make contact with the wall 28. In this way the suitcase wall may be designed to limit the maximum deflection of the wheel on its mounting, transferring some of the shock to the suitcase directly through the overhanging portion and preventing severe shocks causing damage to the wheel mounting. It will be appreciated that the rubber disc must be sufficiently hard to prevent the normal deflection of the stub shaft on its mounting when the suitcase is rolled on the ground from causing the wheel to come into contact with the overhanging portion 28 of the wall.

In the preferred embodiment the rubber disc 23 is 3 mm thick and 25 mm in diameter, although other suitable dimensions will work.

When the suitcase fitted with the wheel assembly as described above is rolled on the ground the resilient shock absorbing means formed by the rubber disc 23 absorbs vibration of the wheels and reduces the amount of vibration transmitted to the suitcase. This causes the amount of noise generated by the wheels to be greatly reduced and makes the suitcase more comfortable to roll. The resilient mounting also reduces the shocks on the stub shaft and the case mounting. In this way the stub shaft and mounting are less likely to be damaged. In suitcases where the axles passes through the wall of the suitcase it is necessary to reinforce the suitcase in the region of the wheel mounting in order to prevent damage in use. In the embodiment described above the axle does not pass

through the suitcase wall and therefore this problem does not arise.

The shock absorbing mounting also tends to damp any swaying movement of the case which may start as the case is being rolled along, and thus prevent the suitcase getting out of control.

Referring now to Figure 4, this shows a modified form of mounting for a cantilever stub shaft. The resilient shock absorbing means in this embodiment comprises a block of hard rubber 123 has portions of two different diameters. The larger diameter portion is secured to the mounting plate 124 which is cup-shaped having a peripheral flange 130 which extends around the periphery of the larger diameter portion. The stub shaft 119 has a cup-shaped flange 121 which surrounds the smaller diameter portion The shock absorbing rubber block 123 may be secured to the stub shaft and the mounting plate in any of the ways described in relation to the embodiment of Figures 1 to 3. Here, as in the embodiment of Figures 1 through 3, the flange 121 is positioned laterally inward from the inward from the inner edge of the wheel so that at least a portion of the resilient shock absorbing means is positioned laterally within the overall width of the wheel.

In the embodiment of Figure 5 the shock absorbing block 223 is disc-shaped with a central opening 231. The stub shaft 219 is secured in the opening 231. In other respects the embodiment is the same as that of Figure 4 with at least a portion of the resilient shock absorbing means being positioned within the maximum width of the wheel.

Claims

1. An assembly for mounting rotational ground engaging means to a case comprising: an axle (19); ground engaging means (13) mounted for rotation on the axle (19); mounting means (24) for securing the axles (19) to the case, and resilient shock absorbing means (23) being secured directly to the mounting means (24) on the one hand and directly to the axle (19) on the other whereby in use with the assembly mounted on a case the shock absorbing means (23) absorbs the shock from the ground engaging means (13) characterised in that the rotational ground engaging means are cantilevered and at least a portion of the resilient shock absorbing means (23) is positioned laterally within the overall width of the ground engaging means (13).

2. An assembly according to claim 1 characterised in that the resilient shock absorbing means (23) is a piece of elastomeric material.

3. An assembly according to claim 1 or 2 further characterised in that the axle has a flange (21) at its inner end to which the resilient shock absorbing means (23) is fixed, the flange (21) being positioned laterally within the overall axial width of the ground engaging means (13).

4. A luggage case comprising a shell (11), a wheel (13), an axle (19) for rotatably mounting the wheel (13), resilient shock absorbing means (23) secured directly to said axle (19), and means (24) for mounting said shock absorbing means (23) directly to an outer surface of said shell (11), characterised in that the wheel is cantilevered and at least a portion of said shock absorbing means (23) is positioned laterally within the overall axial width of the wheel (13).

5. A case according to claim 4 characterised in that the resilient shock means is a piece of elastomeric material.

6. A case according to claim 5 characterised in that the elastomeric material is bonded to the mounting plate (24) which, in turn, is secured to the outer surface of the shell (11).

7. A case according to claims 5 or 6, wherein a flange is provided at the inner end of the axle positioned laterally inward from the inner edge of the wheel, said piece of elastomeric material being secured to the flange such that at least said portion of said piece of elastomeric material is positioned laterally inward of the inner edge of the wheel and thus, within the overall axial width of the wheel.

8. A case according to any of claims 4 to 7 characterised in that the axle does not extend into the elastomeric material.

9. A case according to any of claims 4 to 8 characterised in that the axle (19) is not rigidly attached to the shell (11) of the case.

10. A case according to any of claims 4 to 9 characterised in that the wheel (13) is mounted in a recess (16) in the shell of the case, a portion of the shell (11) overhanging the wheel means, the spacing between the shell (11) and the wheel (13) being less than the maximum deflection of the wheel (13) about the resilient shock absorbing means (23) whereby the wheel (13) makes contact with the shell (11) when the wheel is subjected to a severe shock.

11. A case according to any of claims 4 to 10 characterised in that the resilient shock absorbing means (23) is secured to the flange (21) by vulcanising.

12. A case according to any of claims 4 to 11 characterised in that the resilient shock absorbing means (23) is secured to the mounting plate (24) by vulcanising.

13. A case according to any of claims 4 to 12 characterised in that two wheels (13) are provided on the case each wheel having its own cantilever stub axle (19) secured to a respective resilient shock absorbing means (23) which in turn is secured to the outer surface of the case.

14. A luggage case comprising a shell (11) having recesses (16) located at a corner (14), wheels (13) rotatably mounted to the shell (11), the wheels being mounted at the corner of the shell in the recess in the shell on axles (19) passing through the centre of each wheel (13), and resilient shock absorbing means (23) secured to the axles and to the shell, a portion of the shell (11) overhanging the ground engaging portion (18) of said wheel (13), characterised in that each axle (19) is a cantilever stub axle (19) and has a flange (21) positioned laterally inward from the

through the suitcase wall and therefore this problem does not arise.

The shock absorbing mounting also tends to damp any swaying movement of the case which may start as the case is being rolled along, and thus prevent the suitcase getting out of control.

Referring now to Figure 4, this shows a modified form of mounting for a cantilever stub shaft. The resilient shock absorbing means in this embodiment comprises a block of hard rubber 123 has portions of two different diameters. The larger diameter portion is secured to the mounting plate 124 which is cup-shaped having a peripheral flange 130 which extends around the periphery of the larger diameter portion. The stub shaft 119 has a cup-shaped flange 121 which surrounds the smaller diameter portion The shock absorbing rubber block 123 may be secured to the stub shaft and the mounting plate in any of the ways described in relation to the embodiment of Figures 1 to 3. Here, as in the embodiment of Figures 1 through 3, the flange 121 is positioned laterally inward from the inward from the inner edge of the wheel so that at least a portion of the resilient shock absorbing means is positioned laterally within the overall width of the wheel.

In the embodiment of Figure 5 the shock absorbing block 223 is disc-shaped with a central opening 231. The stub shaft 219 is secured in the opening 231. In other respects the embodiment is the same as that of Figure 4 with at least a portion of the resilient shock absorbing means being positioned within the maximum width of the wheel.

Claims

1. An assembly for mounting rotational ground engaging means to a case comprising: an axle (19); ground engaging means (13) mounted for rotation on the axle (19); mounting means (24) for securing the axles (19) to the case, and resilient shock absorbing means (23) being secured directly to the mounting means (24) on the one hand and directly to the axle (19) on the other whereby in use with the assembly mounted on a case the shock absorbing means (23) absorbs the shock from the ground engaging means (13) characterised in that the rotational ground engaging means are cantilevered and at least a portion of the resilient shock absorbing means (23) is positioned laterally within the overall width of the ground engaging means (13).

2. An assembly according to claim 1 characterised in that the resilient shock absorbing means (23) is a piece of elastomeric material.

3. An assembly according to claim 1 or 2 further characterised in that the axle has a flange (21) at its inner end to which the resilient shock absorbing means (23) is fixed, the flange (21) being positioned laterally within the overall axial width of the ground engaging means (13).

4. A luggage case comprising a shell (11), a wheel (13), an axle (19) for rotatably mounting the wheel (13), resilient shock absorbing means (23) secured directly to said axle (19), and means (24) for mounting said shock absorbing means (23) directly to an outer surface of said shell (11), characterised in that the wheel is cantilevered and at least a portion of said shock absorbing means (23) is positioned laterally within the overall axial width of the wheel (13).

5. A case according to claim 4 characterised in that the resilient shock means is a piece of elastomeric material.

6. A case according to claim 5 characterised in that the elastomeric material is bonded to the mounting plate (24) which, in turn, is secured to the outer surface of the shell (11).

7. A case according to claims 5 or 6, wherein a flange is provided at the inner end of the axle positioned laterally inward from the inner edge of the wheel, said piece of elastomeric material being secured to the flange such that at least said portion of said piece of elastomeric material is positioned laterally inward of the inner edge of the wheel and thus, within the overall axial width of the wheel.

8. A case according to any of claims 4 to 7 characterised in that the axle does not extend into the elastomeric material.

9. A case according to any of claims 4 to 8 characterised in that the axle (19) is not rigidly attached to the shell (11) of the case.

10. A case according to any of claims 4 to 9 characterised in that the wheel (13) is mounted in a recess (16) in the shell of the case, a portion of the shell (11) overhanging the wheel means, the spacing between the shell (11) and the wheel (13) being less than the maximum deflection of the wheel (13) about the resilient shock absorbing means (23) whereby the wheel (13) makes contact with the shell (11) when the wheel is subjected to a severe shock.

11. A case according to any of claims 4 to 10 characterised in that the resilient shock absorbing means (23) is secured to the flange (21) by vulcanising.

12. A case according to any of claims 4 to 11 characterised in that the resilient shock absorbing means (23) is secured to the mounting plate (24) by vulcanising.

13. A case according to any of claims 4 to 12 characterised in that two wheels (13) are provided on the case each wheel having its own cantilever stub axle (19) secured to a respective resilient shock absorbing means (23) which in turn is secured to the outer surface of the case.

14. A luggage case comprising a shell (11) having recesses (16) located at a corner (14), wheels (13) rotatably mounted to the shell (11), the wheels being mounted at the corner of the shell in the recess in the shell on axles (19) passing through the centre of each wheel (13), and resilient shock absorbing means (23) secured to the axles and to the shell, a portion of the shell (11) overhanging the ground engaging portion (18) of said wheel (13), characterised in that each axle (19) is a cantilever stub axle (19) and has a flange (21) positioned laterally inward from the

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innermost edge of each said wheel (13), the resilient shock absorbing member (23) is attached to a surface of the flange (21), at least a portion of said resilient shock absorbing member (23) being positioned laterally inward of the inner edge of the wheel (13) and within the overall axial width of the wheel, the resilient shock absorbing member (23) is fastened in turn to a mounting plate (24) for securing the wheel and axle to the shell, and the spacing between the shell and the ground engaging portion (18) of the wheel (13) is less than the maximum deflection of the wheel and axle assembly about the resilient shock absorbing means (23), whereby the wheel makes contact with the overhanging portion of the shell when the wheel is subjected to severe shock.

15. A case according to any of claims 4 to 14 characterised in that the flange (21) lies in substantially vertical plane and the resilient shock absorbing means spaces the flange (21) horizontally from the mounting plate (24).

Patentansprüche

1. Eine Baugruppe für die Montage einer den Boden berührenden Dreheinrichtung an einem Behälter, wobei die Baugruppe umfaßt: eine Achse (19), eine den Boden berührende Einrichtung (13), die zur Drehung auf der Achse (19) angeordnet ist; eine Befestigungseinrichtung (24) zur Befestigung der Achsen (19) an dem Behälter und eine elastische stoßabsorbierende Einrichtung (23), die einerseits direkt an der Befestigungseinrichtung (24) und andererseits direkt an der Achse (19) befestigt ist, wodurch beim Gebrauch, wenn die Baugruppe an einem Behälter montiert ist, die stoßabsorbierende Einrichtung (23) den Stoß von der den Boden berührenden Einrichtung (13) absorbiert, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die den Boden berührenden Dreheinrichtungen als Ausleger vorgesehen sind und wenigstens ein Teil der elastischen Stoßabsorptionseinrichtung (23) seitlich innerhalb der Gesamtbreite der den Boden berührenden Einrichtung (13) angeordnet ist.

2. Eine Baugruppe nach Anspruch 1, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die elastische Stoßabsorptionseinrichtung (23) ein Teil aus einem elastomeren Material ist.

3. Eine Baugruppe nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, weiterhin dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Achse einen Flansch (21) an ihrem inneren Ende aufweist, an welchem die Stoßabsorptionseinrichtung (23) fixiert ist, wobei der Flansch (21) seitlich innerhalb der axialen Gesamtbreite der den Boden berührenden Einrichtung (13) angeordnet ist.

4. Ein Gepäckbehälter, der eine Schale (11), ein Rad (13), eine Achse (19) zum drehbaren Einbau des Rades (13), elastische stoßabsorbierende Einrichtungen (23) die direkt an der Achse (19) befestigt sind, und eine Einrichtung (24) für die Montage der Stoßabsorptionseinrichtung (23) direkt an der äußeren Oberfläche der Schale (11) umfaßt, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Rad als Ausleger vorgesehen ist und wenigstens ein Abschnitt der Stoßabsorptionseinrichtung (23) seitlich innerhalb der axialen Gesamtbreite des Rades (13) angeordnet ist.

5. Ein Behälter nach Anspruch 4, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die elastische Stoßeinrichtung ein Teil aus einem elastomeren Material ist.

6. Ein Behälter nach Anspruch 5, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das elastomere Material mit der Montageplatte (24) verbunden ist, welche ihrerseits an der äußeren Oberfläche der Schale (11) befestigt ist.

7. Behälter nach Anspruch 5 oder 6, wobei am inneren Ende der Achse ein Flansch vorgesehen ist, der seitlich einwärts von dem inneren Rand des Rades angeordnet ist, wobei das Teil aus einem elastomeren Material an dem Flansch befestigt ist, so daß wenigstens der Abschnitt des Teils aus dem elastomeren Material seitlich einwärts von dem inneren Rand des Rades und dadurch innerhalb der axialen Gesamtbreite des Rades angeordnet ist.

8. Behälter nach wenigstens einem der Ansprüche 4 bis 7, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Achse sich nicht in das elastomere Material hineinerstreckt.

9. Behälter nach wenigstens einem der Ansprüche 4 bis 8, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Achse (19) nicht starr an der Schale (11) des Behälters befestigt ist.

10. Behälter nach wenigstens einem der Ansprüche 4 bis 9, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Rad (13) in eine Nische (16) in der Schale des Behälters eingebaut ist, ein Teil der Schale (11) über die Radeinrichtung überhängt, der Abstand zwischen der Schale (11) und dem Rad (13) kleiner als die maximale Auslenkung des Rades um die elastische Stoßabsorptionseinrichtung (23) ist, wodurch das Rad (13) mit der Schale in Kontakt kommt (11), wenn das Rad einem scharfen Stoß unterworfen wird.

11. Ein Behälter nach wenigstens einem der Ansprüche 4 bis 10, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die elastische Stoßabsorptionseinrichtung (23) an dem Flansch (21) durch Vulkanisierung befestigt ist.

12. Ein Behälter nach wenigstens einem der Ansprüche 4 bis 11, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die elastische Stoßabsorptionseinrichtung (23), an der Montageplatte (24) durch Vulkanisieren befestigt ist.

13. Ein Behälter nach wenigstens einem der Ansprüche 4 bis 12, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß zwei Räder (13) an dem Behälter vorgesehen sind, wobei jedes Rad seinen eigenen Achsenstumpfausleger (19) umfaßt, der an einer entsprechenden elastischen Stoßabsorptionseinrichtung (23) befestigt ist, welche ihrerseits an der äußeren Oberfläche des Behälters befestigt ist.

14. Ein Gepäckbehälter, der eine Schale (11), die Nischen (16), die an einer Ecke (14) angeordnet sind, Räder (13), die drehbar an der Schale (11) angebracht sind, wobei die Räder an den Ecken der Schale in den Nischen in der Schale auf Achsen (19), die durch die Mitte von jedem Rad

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(13) hindurchtreten, montiert sind, und elastische Stoßabsorptionseinrichtungen (23), die an den Achsen und der Schale befestigt sind, umfaßt, wobei ein Teil der Schale (11) über den den Boden berührenden Teil (18) des Rades (13) überhängt, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß jede Achse (19) ein Auslegerachsenstumpf (19) ist, und einen Flansch (21) aufweist, der seitlich einwärts von dem innersten Rand von jedem der Räder (13) angeordnet ist, daß die elastische Stoßabsorptionseinrichtung (23) an einer Oberfläche des Flansches (21) befestigt ist, wobei wenigstens ein Teil der elastischen Stoßabsorptionseinrichtung (23) seitlich einwärts von dem inneren Rand des Rades (13) und innerhalb der axialen Gesamtbreite des Rades angeordnet ist, daß die elastische Stoßabsorptionseinrichtung (23) ihrerseits an einer Befestigungsplatte (24) zur Befestigung des Rades und der Achse an der Schale befestigt ist, und der Abstand zwischen der Schale und dem den Boden berührenden Teil (18) des Rades (13) kleiner als die maximale Auslenkung des Rades und der Achse um die elastische Stoßabsorptionseinrichtung (23) ist, wodurch das Rad mit dem überhängenden Bereich der Schale in Kontakt kommt, wenn das Rad einem starken Stoß unterworfen wird.

15. Ein Behälter nach wenigstens einem der Ansprüche 4 bis 14, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der Flansch (21) in einer im wesentlichen vertikalen Ebene liegt und die elastische Stoßabsorptionseinrichtung den Flansch (21) horizontal von der Befestigungsplatte (24) im Abstand hält.

Revendications

1. Dispositif pour le montage sur une valise de moyens rotatifs de contact avec le sol comprenant: un axe (19), un moyen de contact avec le sol (13) monté à rotation sur l'axe (19), un moyen de montage (24) pour fixer l'axe (19) à la valise, et un amortisseur élastique (23) directement fixé au moyen de montage (24), d'une part, et à l'axe (19), d'autre part, de sorte qu'en service avec le dispositif monté sur une valise, l'amortisseur (23) absorbe le choc provenant du moyen de contact avec le sol (13), caractérisé en ce que les moyens rotatifs de contact avec le sol sont en porte à faux et au moins une partie de l'amortisseur élastique (23) est positionnée latéralement à l'intérieur de la largeur totale du moyen de contact avec le sol (13).

2. Dispositif suivant la revendication 1, caractérisé en ce que l'amortisseur élastique (23) est un élément en matière élastomère.

3. Dispositif suivant la revendication 1 ou 2 caractérisé, en outre, en ce que l'axe présente une joue (21) à son extrémité intérieure à laquelle est fixé l'amortisseur élastique (23), la joue (21) étant positionnée latéralement à l'intérieur de la largeur axiale totale du moyen de contact avec le sol (13).

4. Valise comprenant une coque (11), une roue (13), un axe (19) sur lequel la roue (13) est montée à rotation, un amortisseur élastique (23) fixé directement à l'axe (19) et un moyen (24) pour monter l'amortisseur (23) directement sur une surface extérieure de la coque (11), caractérisée en ce que la roue est en porte à faux et au moins une partie de l'amortisseur (23) est positionnée latéralement à l'intérieur de la largeur axiale totale de la roue (13).

5. Valise suivant la revendication 4, caractérisée en ce que l'amortisseur élastique est un élément en matière élastomère.

6. Valise suivant la revendication 5, caractérisée en ce que la matière élastomère est reliée à la plaque de montage (24) qui, à son tour, est fixée à la surface extérieure de la coque (11).

7. Valise suivant la revendication 5 ou 6, dans laquelle une joue est prévue à l'extrémité intérieure de l'axe, disposée latéralement vers l'intérieur du bord intérieur de la roue, l'élément en matière élastomère étant fixe à la joue d'une manière telle qu'au moins ladite partie de l'élément en matière élastomère soit positionnée latéralement vers l'intérieur du bord intérieur de la roue et ainsi, à l'intérieur de la largeur axiale totale de la roue.

8. Valise suivant l'une quelconque des revendications 4 à 7, caractérisée en ce que l'axe ne se prolonge pas dans la matière élastomère.

9. Valise suivant l'une quelconque des revendications 4 à 8, caractérisée en ce que l'axe (19) n'est pas fixé rigidement à la coque (11) de la valise.

10. Valise suivant l'une quelconque des revendications 4 à 9, caractérisée en ce que la roue (13) est montée dans une évidement (16) prévu dans la coque de la valise, une partie de la coque (11) surplombant la roue, l'espacement entre la coque (11) et la roue (13) étant inférieur au débattement maximal de la roue (13) au niveau de l'amortisseur élastique (23), de sorte que la roue (13) entre en contact avec la coque (11) lorsqu'elle est soumise à un choc important.

11. Valise suivant l'une quelconque des revendications 4 à 10, caractérisée en ce que l'amortisseur élastique (23) est fixé par vulcanisation à la joue (21).

12. Valise suivant l'une quelconque des revendications 4 à 11, caractérisée en ce que l'amortisseur élastique (23) est fixé par vulcanisation à la plaque de montage (24).

13. Valise suivant l'une quelconque des revendications 4 à 12, caractérisée en ce que deux roues (13) sont prévues sur la valise, chaque roue présentant son propre bout d'axe en porte à faux (19) fixé à un amortisseur élastique (23) respectif qui, à son tour, est fixé à la surface extérieure de la valise.

14. Valise comprenant une coque (11) pourvue d'évidements (16) situés à un coin (14), des roues (13) montées à rotation dans la coque (11), ces roues étant montées au coin de la coque, dans l'évidement de celle-ci, sur des axes (19) traversant le centre de chaque roue (13), et des amortisseurs élastiques (23) fixés aux axes et à la coque, une partie de la coque (11) surplombant la partie (18) de contact avec le sol de la roue (13), caractérisée en ce que chaque axe (19) est un bout

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d'axe (19) en porte à faux et présente une joue (21) placée latéralement vers l'intérieur du bord le plus intérieur de chaque roue (13), l'amortisseur élastique (23) est fixé à une face de la joue (21), au moins une partie de cet amortisseur élastique (23) étant placée latéralement vers l'intérieur du bord intérieur de la roue (13) et à l'intérieur de la largeur axiale totale de la roue, l'amortisseur élastique (23) est fixé, à son tour, à une plaque de montage (24) destinée à fixer la roue et l'axe à la coque, et l'espacement entre la coque et la partie (18) de contact avec le sol de la roue (13) est inférieur au débattement maximal de l'équipage roue-axe au niveau de l'amortisseur élastique (23), de sorte que la roue entre en contact avec la partie surplombante de la coque, lorsque la roue est soumise à un choc important.

15. Valise suivant l'une quelconque des revendications 4 à 14, caractérisée en ce que la joue (21) se trouve sur un plan en substance vertical et l'amortisseur élastique sépare la joue (21) horizontalement de la plaque de montage (24).

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