943,138

# PATENT SPECIFICATION

DRAWINGS ATTACHED

943,138

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

## Improvements in or relating to Luggage Fittings

We, C. W. CHENEY & SON LIMITED, a British Company, of Factory Road, Hockley, Birmingham, 19, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to luggage fittings of the kind comprising an attachment plate having a hinged hasp which is formed of a pair of metal pressings, one of which (called the cover) is visible when the hasp is engaged with a latch or bolt and the other of which carries a staple or loop (and is called the loop plate) and is secured to and within the cover.

The object of the present invention is to provide an improved fitting which is cheaper to manufacture and stronger in use.

In accordance with the invention, the pair of metal pressings forming the hasp of a fitting of the kind referred to each include a base, side and end-walls, the end-walls of the loop plate fit between the side-walls of the cover, the cover having integral tabs extending from the free edges of its side-walls which are folded into recesses in the base of the loop plate and pass over slots formed in said recesses and extending across the recesses so that the edges of the tabs abut edges of the recesses which are perpendicular to the base of the plate and are produced by the slots.

By these means, relative movement of the two pressings is prevented, and it is possible to make the loop plate relatively short in the direction of the length of the end-walls, instead of making the two pressings of substantially equal length.

In order that the invention may be better understood and carried into practice, reference will now be made to the accompanying drawing, wherein:—

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a set of luggage fittings;

Figure 2 is a rear elevation of one of the fittings alone;

Figure 3 is a side elevation of the fitting as shown in Figure 2;

Figures 4 and 5 are perspective views of two parts of the hasp, forming part of the fitting shown in Figs. 2 and 3, prior to assembly;

Figure 6 is a fragmentary rear elevation of the loop plate of the hasp, on an enlarged scale;

Figure 7 is a section on the line VII—VII of Figure 6; and

Figure 8 is an end elevation looking in the direction of arrow VIII of Figure 6.

The luggage fitting shown in the drawing comprises an attachment plate 10 which is generally rectangular and has a side-wall 11 extending along one longer edge and two end edges, and is formed with a pair of holes 12 to receive fixing screws or rivets. The end edges are formed into eyes adjacent the second long edge to journal a pivot pin 13 extending between the eyes.

A hasp, generally indicated at 14, is hinged to the pivot pin and comprises a cover 15 having a base with integral opposed side-walls 16 and an end wall 17. The side-walls are formed into eyes 18 (Figure 4) at their ends opposite to the end-wall 17 and the pin 13 fits through these eyes.

A coiled spring 19 with opposite end legs 20, 21 splayed radially of the spring fits on the pin and one leg 20 engages the inside of the base of the cover between the side-walls, whereas the other 21 engages the outside of the base of the attachment plate, and urges the two parts 10, 14, which are metal pressings, away from a closed position in which the hasp overlies the attachment plate, to an open position in which the two parts make an angle with one another, e.g. 170°, as shown most clearly in Figure 3.

Marginal zones 22, 23 (Figs. 2 and 4) of the two parts 10, 14 adjacent the pin are curved so as to surround the pin and spring and substantially hide them from view.

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The hasp also comprises a pressed metal loop plate generally indicated at 25 which fits inside the cover, occupying the full width thereof between side-walls 16 but extending from the end wall 17 substantially less than half way towards the hinge pin 13. The loop plate 25 has side-walls 26 and end-walls 27 formed integrally therewith which, in the case of the end-walls 27 fit snugly against and between the cover side-walls 16, the free edges 28 (Figure 8) of the said side-walls and end-walls of the loop plate seating against the inside of the base of the cover.

The loop plate carries a staple 30 in the form of an arched strip of metal having ends spigoted through holes in its base and rivetted over. The said base of the loop plate is formed with two D-shaped pressed recesses 31 (Figures 5—8) having their straight edges aligned with the end-walls and lying close thereto, and with two slots 32 pierced through the metal prior to pressing up the side and end-walls so as to remove material lying between the straight edge of each recess and the adjacent end-wall: the slots extend parallel to the end-walls 27 and are of equal length to the said straight edges and their width is such that the surface 33 of the base of each recess can and does lie wholly in the plane containing the remainder of the inner surface 34 of the base, as best seen in Figure 7.

The cover of the hasp is formed with a pair of D shaped tabs 36 formed integrally with the side-walls 16 of the part 15, and these tabs are folded into the recesses in the base of the loop plate passing over the slots so as to lie on the outside of the loop plate, but with the upper and lower surfaces of the tabs lying in the same planes as the upper and lower surfaces of the base of the said loop plate. This means that relative movement between the two parts (as for example when the fitting is assembled to a suitcase and the staple is engaged by a bolt in a lock part 37a, Figure 1, and strain is put on the staple) is prevented not only by the edges of the tabs 36 abutting the walls of the recesses (for such walls are necessarily inclined slightly to the normal of the base and, under load, would permit some movement if not otherwise restricted) but also by these edges of the tabs making edge-to-edge contact with the edges 37 (Figure 8) left by the piercing operation when the slots are formed. The latter edges are easily made perpendicular to the planes of the base surfaces, and resist movement without any tendency for the edges to slide on one another.

It will be noted that in the Figure 1 position, the attachment plate 10 is accommodated substantially wholly within the cover plate of the hasp. By arranging for the widths of plates 10 and 25 to equal the length of the hasp, additional strength is imparted to the fitting: however, due to the advantages of the perpendicular edges which promote strength, this is not essential, and both plates 10 and 25 can be of minimum widths.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A fitting of the kind referred to, wherein the pair of metal pressings forming the hasp each include a base side and end-walls, the end-walls of the loop plate fitting between the side-walls of the cover, the cover having integral tabs extending from the free edges of its side-walls which are folded into recesses in the base of the loop plate and pass over slots formed in said recesses and extending across the recesses so that the edges of the tabs abut edges of the recesses which are perpendicular to the base of the plate and are produced by the slots.

2. A fitting as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the upper and lower surfaces of the tabs lie in the same planes as the upper and lower surfaces of the bases of the recesses.

3. A fitting as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the slots extend parallel and adjacent to the end-walls.

4. A fitting as claimed in any of Claims 1—3 wherein the attachment plate of the fitting is accommodated substantially wholly in the cover of the hasp when the hasp is closed.

5. A fitting as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the hasp and attachment plate are spring-urged to an open position.

6. A fitting substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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