

PATENT SPECIFICATION

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(54) IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO UMBRELLAS

(71) We, BREMSHEY & Co., a German Kommanditgesellschaft, 5—7 Ahrstrasse, Solingen-Ohligs, Germany, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted 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 a case for a shortenable umbrella, more particularly to a case for a collapsible umbrella of the so called "flat" type, having a substantially rectangular cross-sectional shape transverse to the stick axis when closed.

In order to give cushioning against shocks and to provide an umbrella case which can be resiliently folded up, it is known to construct an umbrella case having a laminated wall, formed from three fabric and/or plastics material layers fastened together, the middle layer being a resilient protective layer made of shock-absorbing material such as a foamed plastics material.

Known cases for umbrellas of round cross-sectional shape transverse to the stick axis when closed or collapsed has a sliding-clasp fastener extending all the way down the side, which fastener is used for closing them. This fastening is particularly disadvantageous. The main danger is that the umbrella covering will be caught in the fastener and be torn.

"Carry-cases" for pocket umbrellas are known which do not have a sliding-clasp fastener and thus avoid the associated difficulty in handling the liability to breakage. The carry-cases are preferably made of a thermoplastics material. In order to facilitate the insertion of the umbrella therein and to improve their appearance, the open end of the case is formed with extensions separated by slots which are parallel to the longitudinal axis of the case. More particularly a reinforcing strip passes round the extensions, to prevent the slits from tearing. Such carry-cases are expensive to manufacture and, above all, do not have any means of ensuring that the um-

brella, when inserted therein, is gripped in the case at its handle, so as to ensure that the umbrella is held securely in the case when carried, the umbrella being carried preferably by means of a loop on the handle.

An object of the invention is to provide an umbrella case which is simple to construct and to handle, more particularly when the umbrella is inserted or taken out, and also to ensure that, even when the umbrella is being carried on a loop attached to the umbrella handle, the handle cannot be pulled out of the case either by an inadvertent extension of the umbrella stick or by pulling out the complete umbrella without extending the stick.

According to the present invention, a case for a shortenable flat umbrella comprises a base portion, an opening at the top through which an umbrella may be inserted, two opposed wide longitudinal sides which are at least semi-rigid and two opposed narrow longitudinal side portions of the wide sides extending down from the opening for a part of the length of the sides being normally substantially coplanar with the remainder of the wide sides and being capable of being resiliently parted away from one another, and the narrow sides being capable of being resiliently extended laterally adjacent to the opening to accommodate the parting of the wide sides.

In one example, the narrow sides are capable of being stretched elastically adjacent to the opening to accommodate the parting. For example, each of the narrow sides may have a longitudinal insert made of a resilient material adjacent to the opening.

In another example, each of the narrow sides has an inward fold adjacent to the opening and a spring which tends to maintain the fold but which can be overridden to accommodate the parting. It is advantageous for the narrow sides to each have a reinforcing wall in two sections adjacent to the opening which

sections may be resiliently spread apart adjacent to the opening.

5 It is also advantageous if each of the wide sides is provided on its inside face adjacent to the opening with a plurality of rubber strips to assist retention of an umbrella in the case.

10 A shortenable umbrella case according to the invention is easy to manufacture and to use. The umbrella can be inserted into the case very easily, through the opening at one end. If necessary, the umbrella stick can be further telescoped after it has been partly inserted, so that the rib ends are caught and adjusted in known manner in one or more external recesses in the umbrella handle. The wide sides of the case can be slightly spread apart adjacent to the opening, in order to insert the umbrella. If necessary or desired, rib ends which have not yet been folded can automatically open out the case. When the umbrella handle fills the insertion opening, it may be held by the resilient pressure of the wide sides so that it cannot be pulled out accidentally. More particularly, if additional frictional means are provided, the umbrella and case can be held from a loop on the handle, without any danger of pulling the handle or the complete umbrella out of the case. On the other hand, the umbrella can easily be taken out of the case, even without using the carrying loop. The wide case sides can be pushed apart with the fingers along the said portions, the fingers being inserted into the opening to grip the sides of the umbrella handle. The fold in the narrow sides is advantageously disposed inside the case, thus giving a smooth, compact external shape. The wide sides of the case hold the umbrella efficiently, particularly if the sides of the handle taper towards its free bottom end.

Some examples of umbrella cases constructed in accordance with the invention are illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of one case, with the wide sides opened out;

Figure 2 is a similar perspective view of the umbrella case of figure 1, with the wide sides pressed together, an umbrella being partially shown in dot-dash lines;

Figure 3 is a partial cross-section of the umbrella case of Figure 2, near one of the folds;

Figure 4 is a partial side elevation of one of the folds of the umbrella case of Figure 2;

Figure 5 is a perspective view, similar to Figure 1, of a second umbrella case;

Figure 6 is a view, corresponding to that of Figure 2, of the umbrella case of Figure 5; and,

Figure 7 is a perspective view of the upper end section of a third umbrella case.

The illustrated cases have wide sides 1 and 2, a bottom 3 and narrow sides 4 and 5,

with an opening 6 at one end for inserting an umbrella. The wide sides 1 and 2 are semi-rigid, but may be rigid.

The wide sides 1 and 2 of the case can be resiliently spread out over a portion A adjacent to the opening 6. In the first two examples, the resilience is provided by a fold 7 formed in each of the two narrow sides 4 and 5. Each fold is inside the case (see Figure 3) and in the first example comprises a supporting plate 8, the fold being ripped by a spring 9. Preferably, as shown in Figure 3, the spring 9 is embedded in the material of the sides 4 and 5. An umbrella handle 10, which is attached to a stick 11 and is formed with recesses 12 to receive rib ends 13, almost completely fills the end opening 6 (see Figure 2).

The example of Figures 1 to 4 has longitudinal sides which are rounded, whereas the examples of Figures 5, 6 and 7 have sharp edges. In the Figures 5 and 6 example, double walls are provided for strength, at least along the section extending along the fold 7. A reinforcing wall 14 on each narrow wall branches into two in the neighbourhood of the fold 7. The wall is made of a material such that the sections 14' and 14'' formed by the two branches can be spread out against the action of the intrinsic resilience of the material. The umbrella handle 10 can have a carrying loop 18.

In the Figure 7 example, the fold 7 is replaced by an inserted piece 7' made, for example, of elastic fabric and shaped like a wedge between regions 15 and 16 of the narrow sides 4 and 5. If no force is applied to the walls adjacent to the opening 6 so as to spread the wide walls apart, the wedge-shaped piece of elastic fabric holds the sides 1 and 2 substantially parallel.

At least one or possibly more of the inner surfaces of the case, which will face an umbrella handle therein, have rib-shaped means, preferably in the form of rubber ribs 19 adjacent to the opening 6. Owing to the resilient force acting on wide sides 1 and 2 over the portion A, the ribs press against the sides of handle 10, which preferably taper towards the free bottom end of the handle and the friction between the ribs and the sides of the handle is sufficient to prevent accidental removal of the umbrella from the case.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A case for a shortenable flat umbrella having a substantially rectangular cross-sectional shape transverse to the stick axis when closed, the case comprising a base portion, an opening at the top through which an umbrella may be inserted, two opposed wide longitudinal sides which are at least semi-rigid and two opposed narrow longitudinal sides, portions of the wide sides extending down from the opening for part of the length of

sections may be resiliently spread apart adjacent to the opening.

It is also advantageous if each of the wide sides is provided on its inside face adjacent to the opening with a plurality of rubber strips to assist retention of an umbrella in the case.

A shortenable umbrella case according to the invention is easy to manufacture and to use. The umbrella can be inserted into the case very easily, through the opening at one end. If necessary, the umbrella stick can be further telescoped after it has been partly inserted, so that the rib ends are caught and adjusted in known manner in one or more external recesses in the umbrella handle. The wide sides of the case can be slightly spread apart adjacent to the opening, in order to insert the umbrella. If necessary or desired, rib ends which have not yet been folded can automatically open out the case. When the umbrella handle fills the insertion opening, it may be held by the resilient pressure of the wide sides so that it cannot be pulled out accidentally. More particularly, if additional frictional means are provided, the umbrella and case can be held from a loop on the handle, without any danger of pulling the handle or the complete umbrella out of the case. On the other hand, the umbrella can easily be taken out of the case, even without using the carrying loop. The wide case sides can be pushed apart with the fingers along the said portions, the fingers being inserted into the opening to grip the sides of the umbrella handle. The fold in the narrow sides is advantageously disposed inside the case, thus giving a smooth, compact external shape. The wide sides of the case hold the umbrella efficiently, particularly if the sides of the handle taper towards its free bottom end.

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Figure 3 is a partial cross-section of the umbrella case of Figure 2, near one of the folds;

Figure 4 is a partial side elevation of one of the folds of the umbrella case of Figure 2;

Figure 5 is a perspective view, similar to Figure 1, of a second umbrella case;

Figure 6 is a view, corresponding to that of Figure 2, of the umbrella case of Figure 5; and,

Figure 7 is a perspective view of the upper end section of a third umbrella case.

The illustrated cases have wide sides 1 and 2, a bottom 3 and narrow sides 4 and 5,

with an opening 6 at one end for inserting an umbrella. The wide sides 1 and 2 are semi-rigid, but may be rigid.

The wide sides 1 and 2 of the case can be resiliently spread out over a portion A adjacent to the opening 6. In the first two examples, the resilience is provided by a fold 7 formed in each of the two narrow sides 4 and 5. Each fold is inside the case (see Figure 3) and in the first example comprises a supporting plate 8, the fold being ripped by a spring 9. Preferably, as shown in Figure 3, the spring 9 is embedded in the material of the sides 4 and 5. An umbrella handle 10, which is attached to a stick 11 and is formed with recesses 12 to receive rib ends 13, almost completely fills the end opening 6 (see Figure 2).

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In the Figure 7 example, the fold 7 is replaced by an inserted piece 7' made, for example, of elastic fabric and shaped like a wedge between regions 15 and 16 of the narrow sides 4 and 5. If no force is applied to the walls adjacent to the opening 6 so as to spread the wide walls apart, the wedge-shaped piece of elastic fabric holds the sides 1 and 2 substantially parallel.

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WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A case for a shortenable flat umbrella having a substantially rectangular cross-sectional shape transverse to the stick axis when closed, the case comprising a base portion, an opening at the top through which an umbrella may be inserted, two opposed wide longitudinal sides which are at least semi-rigid and two opposed narrow longitudinal sides, portions of the wide sides extending down from the opening for part of the length of



- the sides being normally substantially coplanar with the remainder of the wide sides and being capable of being resiliently parted away from one another, and the narrow sides being capable of being resiliently extended laterally adjacent to the opening to accommodate the parting of the wide sides. 25
- 5 2. A case according to Claim 1, wherein the narrow sides are capable of being stretched elastically adjacent to the opening to accommodate the parting. 30
- 10 3. A case according to Claim 2, wherein each of the narrow sides has a longitudinal insert made of a resilient material adjacent to the opening. 35
- 15 4. A case according to Claim 1, wherein each of the narrow sides has an inward fold adjacent to the opening and a spring which tends to maintain the fold but which can be overridden to accommodate the parting. 40
- 20 5. A case according to Claim 4, wherein an internal strengthening plate is provided in each fold.
6. A case according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein each of the narrow sides is provided with a reinforcing wall branching into two parts adjacent to the opening, the parts being capable of being parted.
7. A case according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein each of the wide sides is provided on its inside face adjacent to the opening with a plurality of rubber strips to assist retention of an umbrella in the case.
8. A case in accordance with Claim 1, substantially as described with reference to Figures 1 to 4, or to Figures 5 and 6, or to Figure 7, of the accompanying drawings.
9. A shortenable flat umbrella having a case according to any one of the preceding claims.

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