

PATENT SPECIFICATION (11)

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(54) IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO BRIEFCASES

(71) I, NORBERT DOMES, 111 Mount-
 tainview Road, North Balwyn, Victoria,
 Australia, an Australian citizen, do hereby
 declare the invention, for which we pray
 5 that a patent may be granted to me, and
 the method by which it is to be performed,
 to be particularly described in and by the
 following statement:—

This invention relates to briefcase and
 10 umbrella combinations.

During winter months it is customary for
 salesmen, business representatives, and other
 people who are required to move from one
 building to another during their working
 15 hours, to carry an umbrella for protection in
 the event of unexpected rain. As such people
 normally also carry a briefcase, both of their
 hands are occupied in carrying these two
 articles, and thus they do not have a free
 20 hand to carry other articles or to carry out
 normal operations such as boarding buses or
 trains, buying tickets and the like. In addi-
 tion, after the umbrella has been in use it
 cannot be conveniently folded and placed in
 25 the briefcases, as the rain on the umbrella
 may damage papers or other articles within
 the briefcase.

According to the present invention there is
 provided a briefcase and umbrella combina-
 30 tion including a compartment adapted to
 house the umbrella, an opening in the brief-
 case communicating with said compartment
 and shaped and located to permit insertion
 into, and removal from, said compartment
 35 of the umbrella, a first locking element on
 the umbrella, and a second locking element
 within the briefcase, said first and second
 locking elements being arranged to interlock
 40 to retain the umbrella when housed in the
 compartment and to be releasable for re-
 moval of the umbrella.

The wall of the compartment can be made
 of any suitable material provided it will
 prevent moisture on the umbrella damaging
 45 the contents of the briefcase. Also the com-
 partment wall is preferably formed of a rigid
 or semi-rigid material so that the wall will
 not become deformed or mis-shapen by the
 presence of articles within the briefcase. The

wall may be made of metal, for example 50
 aluminium, a rigid thermoplastic material,
 or another rigid material coated or impreg-
 nated to render it water-resistant.

As a normal briefcase is not large enough
 to incorporate a compartment which would 55
 receive an umbrella of the non-telescopic
 type, umbrellas employed in the present in-
 vention will usually be of the now widely
 known telescopic type, which reduce in
 length to approximately half their normal 60
 lengths.

The briefcase can be of the type com-
 prising two substantially rigid tray-like sec-
 tions hinged together along one side and
 carrying co-operating fastening devices on 65
 the opposite side. A suitable handle can
 also be provided on the opposite side. The
 fastening devices and the handle are pre-
 ferably located within recesses in the tray-
 like sections so that there is normally no
 70 protuberance above the surface of the tray-
 like sections. To this end, the handle can
 be spring-loaded so as to withdraw into the
 recess when not in use.

Briefcase and umbrella combinations em- 75
 bodying the invention will now be described,
 by way of example, with reference to the ac-
 companying diagrammatic drawings in
 which:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of one such 80
 combination;

Figure 2 is a section through the lower
 portion of the briefcase of Figure 1 into
 which the umbrella is fitted;

Figure 3 is a view similar to that of 85
 Figure 2 of another combination embodying
 the invention;

Figure 4 is a view similar to that of
 Figure 2 of a further combination embody- 90
 ing the invention; and

Figure 5 is a partial section view of a yet
 further combination embodying the inven-
 tion.

Referring to Figures 1 and 2, the brief- 95
 case 10 is generally of conventional con-
 struction having a lid 11, fastenings 12, and
 a handle 13. An umbrella receiving com-
 partment 15 is provided adjacent one longi-

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tudinal wall of the briefcase, and it extends between the two opposite end walls 16 and 17. The wall of the compartment 15 may be made of any suitable material such as a plastic moulding or extrusion, a metal tube, or any other suitable material, and it is preferably of a material that will not be damaged by water. In the embodiment shown the compartment 15 is formed by a tapered cylindrical tube 20 having a flange 21 at one end secured, such as by bonding, to the end wall 16 of the briefcase, and received at the other end in a socket 22 secured to the end wall 17 of the briefcase by bonding, riveting or other suitable securing means.

The umbrella 25 is of generally conventional construction having a handle 26, a shaft 27, and a collapsible cover section 28 of any suitable known construction. The handle 26 of the umbrella is provided adjacent the end thereof with a thread formation 30 which may be engaged with a complementary thread formation 31 formed on the internal surface of the sleeve 20. When the two thread formations are engaged the umbrella is held within the compartment so that in use the umbrella cannot freely dislodge from the compartment.

In the end portion 33 of the compartment there is provided a locating member 34 having a cavity 35 to receive an enlarged end portion 36 of the shaft 27 of the umbrella. The locating member is urged by a spring 37 against an annular shoulder 38, and in that position is spaced from the thread formation 31 a distance so that when the umbrella is placed in the compartment 15 and the thread formations 30 and 31 are fully engaged, the spring 37 is further compressed from its normal condition. This results in an axial force being applied to the shaft of the umbrella to produce additional friction between the engaging thread formations to prevent accidental unscrewing.

Referring now to Figure 3 the construction of the compartment 15 and of the umbrella 25 is substantially the same as previously described in respect of Figure 2, except for the absence of the complementary thread formations 30 and 31. In this embodiment, the handle 26 of the umbrella is provided with an annular recess 40 and a pair of oppositely disposed arcuate elements 41 are secured in the open end of the sleeve 20. The arcuate elements are preferably bonded in position and are made of a resilient material which may be compressed to facilitate entry and withdrawal of the umbrella with respect to the compartment 15. In a variation of this construction the recess 40 may be replaced by two oppositely-located arcuate recesses in the handle 26 of the umbrella of a length equal to or slightly greater than the arcuate length of the elements 41. The remainder of the periphery of

the umbrella handle, in the plane of the arcuate recesses, is of the normal contour of the handle so that upon rotation of the handle through approximately 90° the elements 41 are disengaged from the arcuate recesses and contact the plain surface of the umbrella to thereby permit withdrawal of the umbrella from the compartment. This construction has the advantage of requiring less effort on the part of the user to axially withdraw the umbrella from the compartment 15.

The embodiments shown in Figures 4 and 5 employ a bayonet and socket type locking device to hold the umbrella in position. The embodiment shown in Figure 4 employs a projection or pin 45 projecting inwardly from the wall of the sleeve 20, and an elongate slot 46 in the handle 26. The slot 46 extends from an inner end face of the handle and at the opposite end is provided with a lateral extension so that when the umbrella is fully inserted into the sleeve 20, the handle may be rotated to a small degree so that the pin 45 is out of alignment with the slot 46, and thus the umbrella cannot be directly withdrawn from the sleeve 20. The embodiment shown in Figure 4 also incorporates a locating plate 34 and spring 37 as shown in Figure 2, and the arrangement of the pin 45 and lateral projection of the slot 46 are such that the spring must be compressed to permit the pin 45 to enter the lateral projection.

Figure 5 shows a variation from the embodiment shown in Figure 4 wherein a lateral projection or pin 51 is provided on the end of the umbrella shaft 27 remote from the handle which engages with a slot in the spring-loaded locating plate 52 in the manner of a bayonet and socket connection as previously described with reference to Figure 4.

WHAT I CLAIM IS:—

1. A briefcase and umbrella combination including a compartment adapted to house the umbrella, an opening in the briefcase communicating with said compartment and shaped and located to permit insertion into, and removal from, said compartment of the umbrella, a first locking element on the umbrella, and a second locking element within the briefcase, said first and second locking elements being arranged to interlock to retain the umbrella when housed in the compartment and to be releasable for removal of the umbrella.

2. A combination as claimed in claim 1, wherein the locking elements comprise respective thread formations formed on the umbrella and the briefcase.

3. A combination as claimed in claim 1, wherein the locking elements comprise a pin and socket, bayonet-type coupling with the pin formed on one and the socket on the



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tudinal wall of the briefcase, and it extends between the two opposite end walls 16 and 17. The wall of the compartment 15 may be made of any suitable material such as a plastic moulding or extrusion, a metal tube, or any other suitable material, and it is preferably of a material that will not be damaged by water. In the embodiment shown the compartment 15 is formed by a tapered cylindrical tube 20 having a flange 21 at one end secured, such as by bonding, to the end wall 16 of the briefcase, and received at the other end in a socket 22 secured to the end wall 17 of the briefcase by bonding, riveting or other suitable securing means.

The umbrella 25 is of generally conventional construction having a handle 26, a shaft 27, and a collapsible cover section 28 of any suitable known construction. The handle 26 of the umbrella is provided adjacent the end thereof with a thread formation 30 which may be engaged with a complementary thread formation 31 formed on the internal surface of the sleeve 20. When the two thread formations are engaged the umbrella is held within the compartment so that in use the umbrella cannot freely dislodge from the compartment.

In the end portion 33 of the compartment there is provided a locating member 34 having a cavity 35 to receive an enlarged end portion 36 of the shaft 27 of the umbrella. The locating member is urged by a spring 37 against an annular shoulder 38, and in that position is spaced from the thread formation 31 a distance so that when the umbrella is placed in the compartment 15 and the thread formations 30 and 31 are fully engaged, the spring 37 is further compressed from its normal condition. This results in an axial force being applied to the shaft of the umbrella to produce additional friction between the engaging thread formations to prevent accidental unscrewing.

Referring now to Figure 3 the construction of the compartment 15 and of the umbrella 25 is substantially the same as previously described in respect of Figure 2, except for the absence of the complementary thread formations 30 and 31. In this embodiment, the handle 26 of the umbrella is provided with an annular recess 40 and a pair of oppositely disposed arcuate elements 41 are secured in the open end of the sleeve 20. The arcuate elements are preferably bonded in position and are made of a resilient material which may be compressed to facilitate entry and withdrawal of the umbrella with respect to the compartment 15. In a variation of this construction the recess 40 may be replaced by two oppositely-located arcuate recesses in the handle 26 of the umbrella of a length equal to or slightly greater than the arcuate length of the elements 41. The remainder of the periphery of

the umbrella handle, in the plane of the arcuate recesses, is of the normal contour of the handle so that upon rotation of the handle through approximately 90° the elements 41 are disengaged from the arcuate recesses and contact the plain surface of the umbrella to thereby permit withdrawal of the umbrella from the compartment. This construction has the advantage of requiring less effort on the part of the user to axially withdraw the umbrella from the compartment 15.

The embodiments shown in Figures 4 and 5 employ a bayonet and socket type locking device to hold the umbrella in position. The embodiment shown in Figure 4 employs a projection or pin 45 projecting inwardly from the wall of the sleeve 20, and an elongate slot 46 in the handle 26. The slot 46 extends from an inner end face of the handle and at the opposite end is provided with a lateral extension so that when the umbrella is fully inserted into the sleeve 20, the handle may be rotated to a small degree so that the pin 45 is out of alignment with the slot 46, and thus the umbrella cannot be directly withdrawn from the sleeve 20. The embodiment shown in Figure 4 also incorporates a locating plate 34 and spring 37 as shown in Figure 2, and the arrangement of the pin 45 and lateral projection of the slot 46 are such that the spring must be compressed to permit the pin 45 to enter the lateral projection.

Figure 5 shows a variation from the embodiment shown in Figure 4 wherein a lateral projection or pin 51 is provided on the end of the umbrella shaft 27 remote from the handle which engages with a slot in the spring-loaded locating plate 52 in the manner of a bayonet and socket connection as previously described with reference to Figure 4.

WHAT I CLAIM IS:—

1. A briefcase and umbrella combination including a compartment adapted to house the umbrella, an opening in the briefcase communicating with said compartment and shaped and located to permit insertion into, and removal from, said compartment of the umbrella, a first locking element on the umbrella, and a second locking element within the briefcase, said first and second locking elements being arranged to interlock to retain the umbrella when housed in the compartment and to be releasable for removal of the umbrella.

2. A combination as claimed in claim 1, wherein the locking elements comprise respective thread formations formed on the umbrella and the briefcase.

3. A combination as claimed in claim 1, wherein the locking elements comprise a pin and socket, bayonet-type coupling with the pin formed on one and the socket on the



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other one of the umbrella and briefcase.

3. 4. A combination as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the locking elements comprise an
5 inwardly directed projection on the well of
the compartment, and a slot in the handle
of the umbrella located so that the projec-
tion enters the slot as the umbrella is in-
serted into the compartment, said slot hav-
ing a portion transverse to the direction of
10 insertion of the umbrella arranged to re-
ceive the pin upon partial rotation of the

umbrella after insertion into the compart-
ment.

5. A combination of a briefcase and an
umbrella, the combination being substan- 15
tially as herein described with reference to
the accompanying drawing.

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