

CARRYING HANDLE

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The present invention relates generally to a carrying handle assembly, and, more particularly, to an improved carrying handle assembly for use on luggage, so-called beauty or vanity cases, attache cases or the like.

In accordance with the invention, there is provided a carrying handle, comprising a rigid member, including an elongated plate, an upstanding wall extending longitudinally of one major surface of the plate and integral with said plate, and a plurality of spaced transverse walls on the same major surface of the elongated plate as said wall and integral therewith, said member being elongate with a central straightline portion and two end portions extending angularly from the central portion in the same direction, the longitudinal axes of all of said portions lying in the same plane; an

elongate resilient grip formed about said rigid member and having a corresponding straightline central portion with two end portions angularly extending from said central portion leaving the rigid member terminal ends free, said grip including a pair of longitudinal grooves on an outer surface; an elongate metal cover of generally U-shaped cross-section received onto the grip with edges lying in the grooves of the grip and partially enclosing

the rigid member end portions; and first and second mounting means each having a stub shaft rotatably received within a respective opening in the terminal ends of the rigid member, the axis of the stub shaft being generally parallel to the straight-line portion.

The resilient grip may for example be of soft vinyl or foam rubber. The longitudinally-extending grooves may be parallel and extend along an upper surface of the grip, one adjacent each of the grip sides.

An embodiment of the invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, of which:-

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the top surface of one form of luggage case showing a handle assembly in accordance with this invention mounted thereon;

Fig. 2 is a sectional, elevational view of the handle assembly taken along the line 2-2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is an end elevational, sectional view taken through a handle mounting stanchion along the line 3-3 of Fig. 2; and

Fig. 4 is a further end elevational, sectional

view taken along the line 4-4 of Fig. 2.

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With reference now to the drawings and particularly Fig. 1, a luggage case top to which the handle assembly 10 of the invention is to be affixed is identified generally as at 11, and which can be any of the usual forms of luggage, including beauty cases, attache cases, or any other form of luggage. The handle assembly 10 to be described is secured to the luggage top 11 and its general shape is that of three sides of a trapezium with the major handle gripping portion being straightline and parallel to the luggage case cover, and with two end portions extending angularly downwardly from the gripping portion for rotative securement to mounting stanchions affixed to the cover.

The handle assembly 10 includes in its various major components, a gripping member or grip 12, a reinforcing member 13 located within the grip, a half-shell metal frame 14 received over the top and partway down the sides of the grip, and a pair of mounting pedestals or stanchions 15 secured to the top of the cover and each including stub shafts rotatively received within the ends of the handle assembly for rotatively mounting the handle assembly to the luggage case cover.

The grip or gripping member 12 is elongate and has, in the elevational view, the general appearance of three sides of a trapezium. The grip lower surface is rounded-off to a substantially circular periphery as can be seen best in Figure 4. A pair of grooves 16 and 17

extend longitudinally throughout substantially the entire length of the grip on its upper surface, one closely adjacent each of the lateral sides. The portion of the grip lying between the grooves extends upwardly above the grooves with a somewhat rectangular cross-sectional appearance. The ends of the grip are faced off as at 19 parallel to each other and presenting a pair of planes at substantially 90 degrees to the central straightline portion of the grip. The grip is constructed of a flexible pliant material, such as vinyl or foam rubber, adding to the comfort of the user by being exceptionally soft and pliable to the touch.

The reinforcing member 13 is molded or encapsulated within the grip 12 and extends throughout the full length of the grip providing a rigid support or reinforcement for the grip. Constructionally, the reinforcing member includes a flat plate-like base 20 which, as can be seen in Figure 4, has a width approximately one-half that of the grip and extends along or slightly below the grip longitudinal axis. A continuous upstanding wall 21 extends along the centerline of and is integral with the base 20. At spaced intervals throughout the length there are a plurality of transverse walls 22, also integral with the base and the center wall and the shape of three sides of a trapezium. The terminal end portions 23 of the reinforcing member extend outwardly of the respective faced-off grip ends 19 and include walls defining an opening 24. The end portions

also have a pair of recessed shoulders 25 for a purpose to be described.

In manufacture of the parts described to this point, first the reinforcing member is individually
5 molded from a suitable rigid hard plastic (e.g. thermoplastic polyester). Next, the grip 12 constructed of a soft vinyl or pliant rubber is molded about the reinforcing member completely enclosing it except for the terminal end portions 23. Molding the grip about the
10 upstanding wall 21 and transverse walls 22 of the reinforcing member, anchors it securely within the grip ensuring that the grip and reinforcing member will remain engaged throughout use.

The metal frame 14 is received onto the grip
15 extending along the grip straightline central portion, down the grip end portions and about each of the reinforcing member terminal end portions 23, as can be seen best in Figures 1 and 2. More particularly, the half-shell frame is constructed of stamped metal and has
20 a cross-section that is similar to an inverted U, the edges of which fit into the grooves 16 and 17 of the grip and forms a metal cover over the top surface and part way down onto the lateral sides of the grip throughout its length. The end portions of the frame wrap about the
25 reinforcing member terminal end portions, U-shaped metal clips 26 are retained the terminal end portions by engagement with the recessed shoulders 25 (Figure 3)

The pair of mounting pedestals 15 which are used to rotatively anchor the handle assembly to the luggage case top are identical and only one of which will be described. A flat platelike base 27 has a
5 cylindrical guidepost 28 that extends through a suitably shaped opening in the luggage top 11 and which is secured to the top in a known manner, such as by threaded means, for example. An upstanding portion 29 from the base 27 includes a stud or stub shaft 30 for receipt
10 through the opening 31 in the metal frame and the opening 24 in the reinforcing member. An angularly arranged arm 32 extends from 29 and contacts the surface of the top 11 and serves to brace the stub shaft 30 when lifting forces are applied to it.

CLAIMS

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1. A carrying handle, comprising a rigid member, including an elongated plate, an upstanding wall extending longitudinally of one major surface of the plate and integral with said plate, and a plurality of spaced
- 5 transverse walls on the same major surface of the elongated plate as said wall and integral therewith, said member being elongate with a central straightline portion and two end portions extending angularly from the central portion in the same direction, the longitudinal axes of
- 10 all of said portions lying in the same plane an elongate resilient grip formed about said rigid member and having a corresponding straightline central portion with two end portions angularly extending from said central portion leaving the rigid member terminal ends free, said
- 15 grip including a pair of longitudinal grooves on an outer surface; an elongate metal cover of generally U-shaped cross-section received onto the grip with edges lying in the grooves of the grip and partially enclosing the rigid member end portions; and first and second
- 20 mounting means each having a stub shaft rotatably received within a respective opening in the terminal ends of the rigid member, the axis of the stub shaft being generally parallel to the straight-line portion.



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2. A carrying handle as in Claim 1, in which the grip is constructed of molded vinyl.
 3. A carrying handle as in Claim 1, in which the grip is constructed of foam rubber.
 4. A carrying handle as in Claim 1, in which the grip is molded about the rigid member in intimate contact with the outer surface of said rigid member.
 5. A carrying handle as in Claim 1, in which first and second metal clips are received onto the rigid member end portions.
 6. A carrying handle as in Claim 5, in which the rigid member terminal ends include recessed shoulders within which parts of the metal clips are received for releasably securing the clips to said rigid member.
 7. A handle assembly according to any of the preceding claims substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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