

Cartridge Box.

No. 45,469.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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IMPROVEMENT IN CARTRIDGE-BOXES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 45,469, dated December 20, 1864.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ERASTUS BLAKESLEE, of Plymouth, Litchfield county, and State of Connecticut, have invented new and useful Improvements in Cartridge-Boxes; and I do hereby declare the following to be an exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, making a part of this specification.

The nature of my invention consists in the combination of one or more metal tubes containing cartridges, with a spring-top cartridge-box and side-pouch for pistol-cartridges.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe its construction and operation, as follows:

Figure 1 represents a perspective view of the cartridge-box complete; Fig. 2, a sectional view of a tube, with the elastic bottom. Figs. 3 and 4 show a tube with springs attached to a wire.

A represents the cartridge box, made of wood or metal and covered with leather, and is about one foot in length and three by two inches square.

B is a strap, by which the box is suspended over the shoulder. The one end of this strap is attached at the front side of the box by a loop and eye, B, and the other end by a hook, C, and eye D, at the lower side of the box. This strap can be shortened or lengthened at pleasure, to suit the size of the person, by moving the hook E to an upper or lower hole. G is the self-shutting lid at top, connected with the box A by a spring-hinge, F, to keep the lid always shut and prevent the accidental loss of ammunition. The lid is also secured by a tongue and button, H H.

J is a pouch at the front side of the box, secured by a tongue and button, K K, intended to contain pistol-cartridges.

L L are long tubes, made of tin or any suitable material (one or more in number) to suit the length and size of the box. Each of these tubes are filled with seven cartridges—more or less in number. The tubes fit closely in corresponding chambers in the box, and a tube is drawn out of the box whenever the fire-arm is to be loaded. They are admirably

adapted for loading carbines such as the Spencer carbine.

In case I use a single tube, L, I attach a wire, O, inclosed on the outside of the tube L, as shown at Figs. 3 and 4, with a spiral spring, P, at top, and a flat steel spring, R, at the bottom, and I reverse the tube so that the open end is below.

The cartridges are first inserted in the wooden chambers of the cartridge-box. I then shove the movable metal tube over the cartridges, when I desire a charge of cartridges, and by means of the lower spring, R, I withdraw all the cartridges of one chamber and drop them out of the tube L into the piece or fire-arm. When the wire O is up, as at Fig. 3, the spring R hangs flat against the side of the tube L, and the tube L can be thrust down over the cartridges; but when the wire O is pressed down from the top, as shown at Fig. 4, the flat spring R at the bottom bends outward underneath the lower cartridge, and a small hook or catch holds the spiral spring P to its place, and thus the whole charge of seven cartridges can be withdrawn at once.

M M are small elastic buttons, made of india-rubber and fitted in the bottom of each tube, to prevent the cartridges from being jarred or injured by friction or concussion when the tubes are charged with the cartridges. A loop, N, is fastened by rivets to the back of the cartridge-box near the lower end, by which the box is secured to the sabre-belt of the soldier.

This tubular cartridge-box is very light, easily carried, and very convenient for loading various kinds of fire-arms, and the ammunition is well protected and preserved.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The combination of one or more movable metal tubes, each containing two or more cartridges, with a spring-top cartridge-box and side pouch, as herein described and for the purposes set forth.

ERASTUS BLAKESLEE.

Witnesses:

I. FRANKLIN REIGART,
JOHN S. HOLLINGSHEAD.