

United States Patent Office.

P. B. VIELE, OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK.

Letters Patent No. 74,456, dated February 11, 1868.

IMPROVED FRUIT-BASKET.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, P. B. VIELE, of Rochester, in the county of Monroe, and State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Fruit or Berry-Baskets; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification.

Figure 1 is a view showing several of my improved baskets as in the act of being secured together for storage or transportation.

Figure 2 is a vertical section of one of the baskets.

Figure 3, a diagram showing the method of construction.

Like letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

My invention consists in constructing the baskets of two thin pieces or sheets of wood, crossed at right angles, and slitted, so as to be expanded at the top, where they are secured to a hoop by eyeleting or sewing.

It further consists in packing the baskets one inside another, and securing them by a cord which passes through eyelets or openings in the bottom, which eyelets also serve to secure the two cross-pieces together.

In the drawings, A A' indicate the two cross-pieces, which are sawed or cut in thin sheets from the bolt or block of wood, and are slitted from each end longitudinally, to form strips, *a a*, leaving the centre, *b*, entire. To form baskets, these pieces are crossed at right angles, as shown in fig. 3, and the centres secured by an eyelet, *c*. The strips *a a* are then turned up, and expanded to the proper degree to make a flaring-shaped receptacle, and are secured at the top, by eyeleting or sewing, to a hoop or band, *d*, as clearly indicated.

This method of construction is exceedingly simple and cheap. The material can be sawed or cut off in strips and cut into lengths with great rapidity, and the slitting is also very expeditiously done at the same action, or by placing one piece above another in a pile and run into a small gang-saw. The eyeleting is also very rapidly done, and with but slight expense.

It is believed that baskets constructed in this manner can be produced at much less expense than any in market, not excepting even paper, while they are much more enduring than most baskets now made. The open-work presents a very pleasing effect, since it allows the berries to be seen from top to bottom.

In addition to the above advantages, the flaring shape of the baskets allows them to be packed one within another, as indicated at the top in fig. 1; and when so packed, the eyelets *c* in the bottom allow the passage of a cord, *f*, which, when a sufficient number have been packed, is knotted at both ends, thus securing them firmly in place, and in the most compact manner. This stringing of the baskets is of much importance in storage and transportation. Ordinary berry-boxes cannot fit one within another. This result I secure by the eyelets *c*, which also serve the additional purpose of securing the cross-pieces forming the baskets.

I do not claim broadly forming boxes of basket-stuff; nor do I claim broadly securing the parts by eyeleting, as I am aware that eyelets have been used in boxes made of paper for a similar purpose. The novelty in my case rests on the special method of construction and the securing of the packed baskets by the cord and eyelets in the bottom.

1. I claim, in combination with the cross-pieces A A', provided with the slitted strips *a a*, as above described, the encircling-band *d*, to which the said strips are secured by eyeleting or sewing, the whole arranged as herein specified.

2. I also claim retaining the packed baskets one within another, for storage and transportation, by means of the eyelets, or equivalent openings, *c*, in the bottom of the baskets, and the cord *f*, passing through said openings, the whole as hereinabove set forth.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto signed my name in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

P. B. VIELE.

Witnesses:

R. F. OSGOOD,

J. A. DAVIS.

A. Wadsworth.
Watch.

Nº 74457

Patented Feb. 11, 1868

Fig. 1.

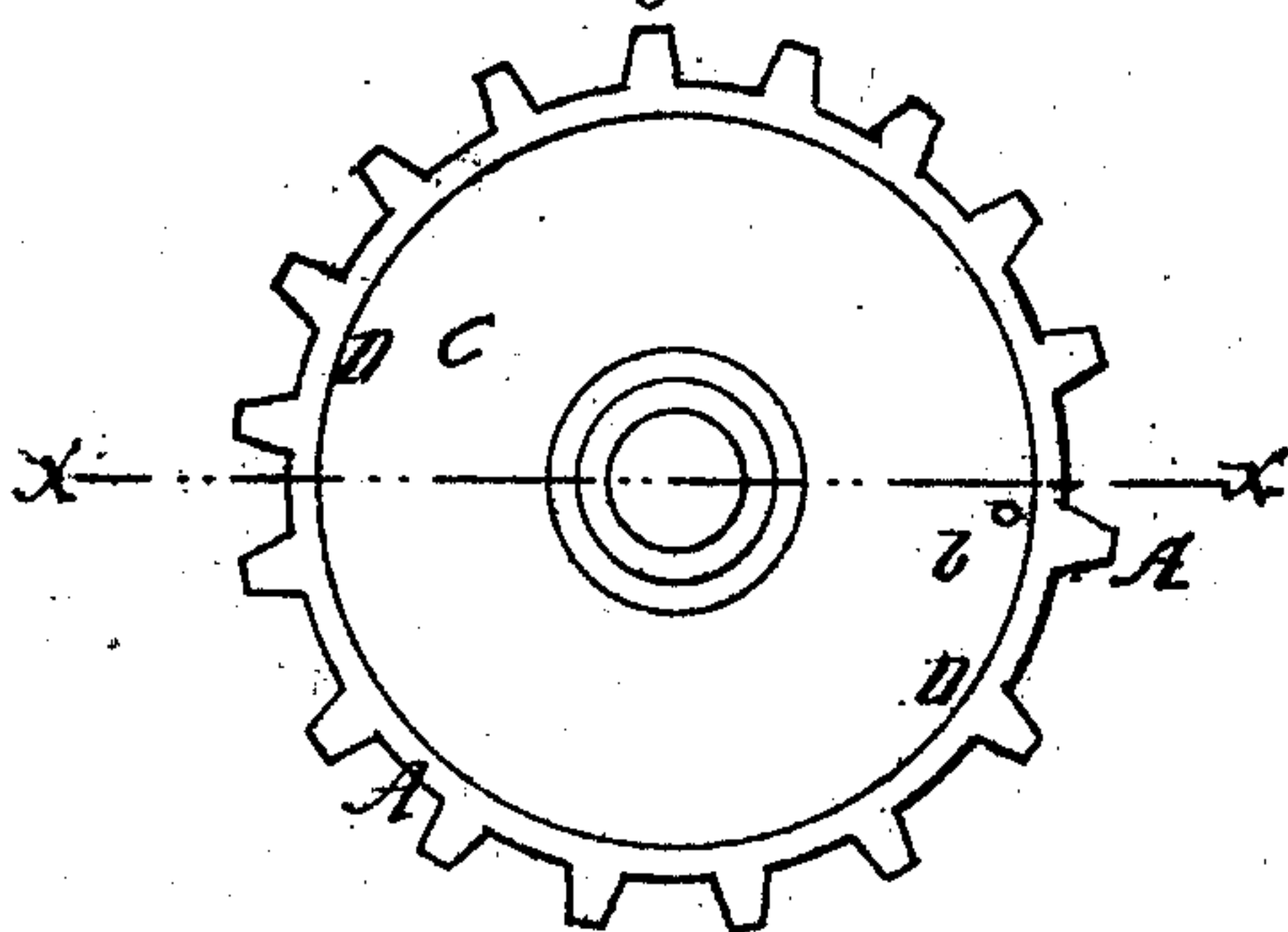


Fig. 3.

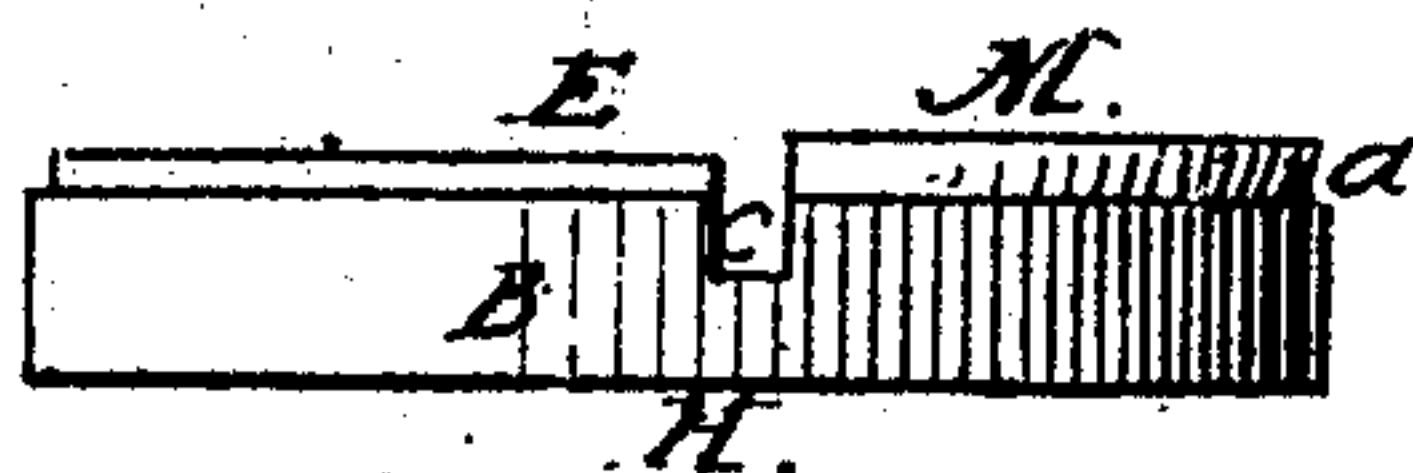
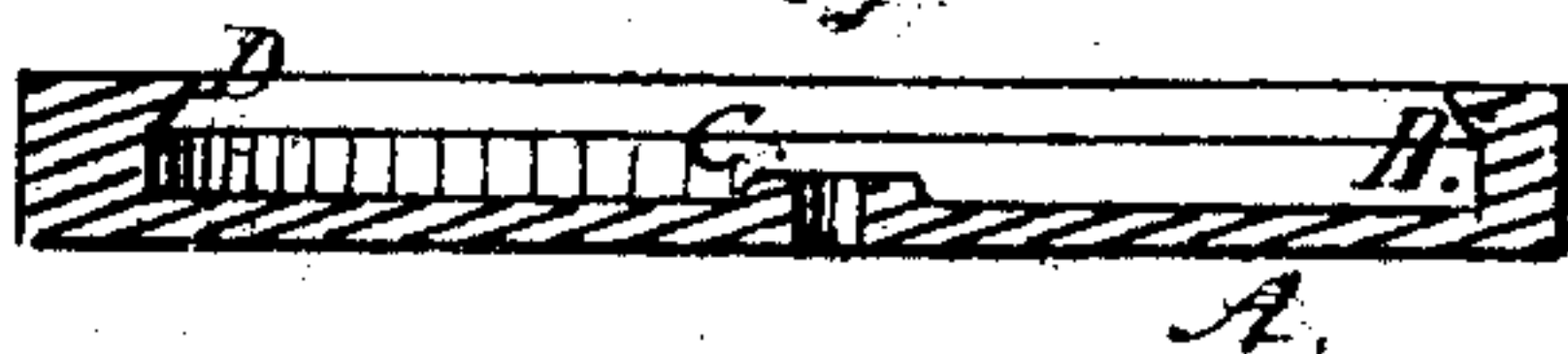


Fig. 2.



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