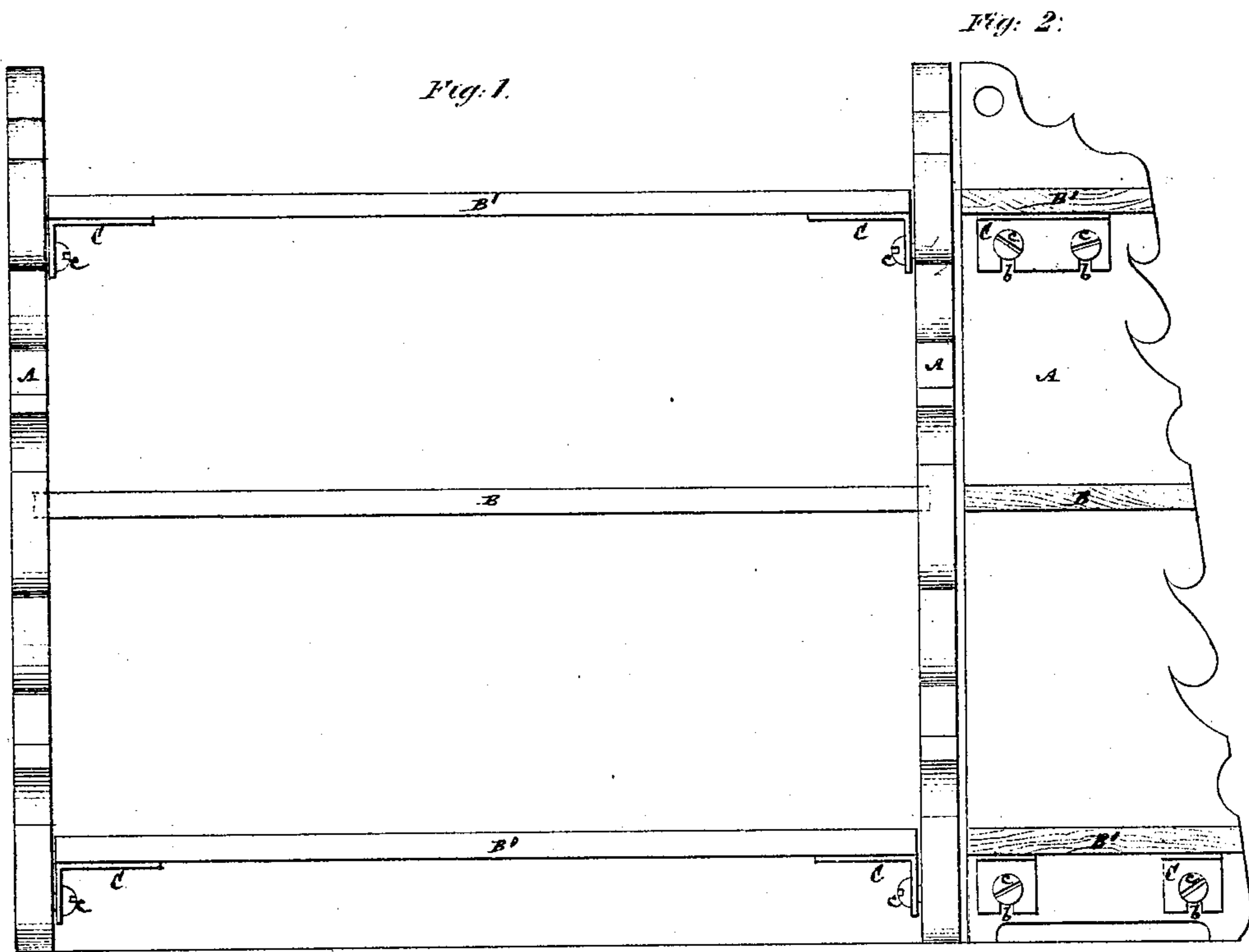


G. Gardner,

Book Rack.

No. 102,248.

Patented Apr. 26. 1870.



Witnesses:  
Fred. Haynes  
R. A. Habet

George Gardner  
per James Cornwell  
Attorney

# United States Patent Office.

GEORGE GARDNER, OF CLARKSVILLE, NEW JERSEY, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF,  
OLIVER L. GARDNER, AND WILLIAM GARDNER, OF SAME PLACE.

*Letters Patent No. 102,248, dated April 26, 1870.*

## IMPROVED BOOK-RACK OR STAND.

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, GEORGE GARDNER, of Clarks-ville, in the county of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Book and other Racks or Stands, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawing forming part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 represents a front view, and

Figure 2, a transverse section of a stand or rack constructed according to my improvement.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

My invention relates to stands or racks made up of a series of shelves within a rigid frame capable of standing upright upon the floor or other resting surface, as in the case of ordinary self-supporting and portable book-racks or stands. Such articles, as heretofore constructed, have had their shelves permanently secured to the sides of the frame, and the latter so braced as to afford but very imperfect facility for transportation by reason of the bulkiness of the article, which cannot well be stowed away in a trunk or other like receptacle, although it is very desirable that the same should be capable of thus being packed, inasmuch as to do so would be found a great convenience to lodgers and others in moving, and on various other occasions. Pendent book and other racks, in which the shelves are united by knotted cords, have afforded this facility; but these racks are, on many accounts, objectionable, and in nowise analogous with stands or shelves designed to be self-supporting or of rigid construction.

The invention accordingly consists in securing to a rigid or self-supporting rack or stand of shelves the same or greater facility for packing away, and, at the same time, providing for a proper bracing of the several parts, and strong construction of the whole, by making the shelves, which unite the two side pieces of the frame, removable, and fitting certain of said shelves and side pieces of the frame with detachable fastenings, that will also serve to lock or brace the shelves and frame together, and support the shelves in their places. In this way, by simply lifting off or removing the shelves to which the fastenings are applied, the whole structure falls to pieces, or may be

taken apart, and the shelves and side frame-pieces be separately packed, and readily put together again, without the aid of a workman or exercise of any special skill.

Referring to the accompanying drawing—

A A represent the side pieces of the frame of a rack or stand of shelves, B B'.

Certain of these shelves—as, for instance, the greater number or whole of the intermediate ones, of which there may be any number—may simply slide into grooves made in the inner faces of the side faces A A; but the remaining shelves, preferably the upper and lower ones, B B', are provided at their ends, and the inner faces of the side pieces A A at the places where such shelves fit or lie, with fastenings, which readily provide for the attachment and detachment of said shelves, and serve to brace and hold the structure together, but admit of the sides and several shelves being separated from each other when required. Of such character are the fastenings shown in the drawing, in which C C are metal knees permanently secured to the inner sides of the shelves B' at their ends, and provided with slots *b*, open at their lower ends, and, in fitting said shelves to their places, locking over screws *c c*, or other headed projections permanently secured to the inner faces of the side pieces A A. This at once forms a strong and readily-detachable fastening, it only being necessary, to take the structure apart, to lift off the shelves B', when each piece may be laid flat and packed away in a small space or compass, the one upon the other, or otherwise.

Instead of the screws *c c*, eye or strap-like attachments may be permanently secured to the side pieces, and hooks or tongues be made fast to the shelves, for locking with the straps in an equivalent manner to the fit of the slotted knees C C on the screws *c c*.

What is here claimed, and desired to be secured by Letters Patent, is—

A rack or stand of shelves in which the shelves, or certain of them, and the side pieces of the frame, are provided with locking-knees C C and projections *c*, substantially as and for the purpose herein set forth.

Witnesses:

GEO. GARDNER.

GEORGE ROBBINS,

ELEAZAR SMITH.