

A. F. COMINGS.
Stencils.

No. 151,357.

Patented May 26, 1874.

Fig. 1.

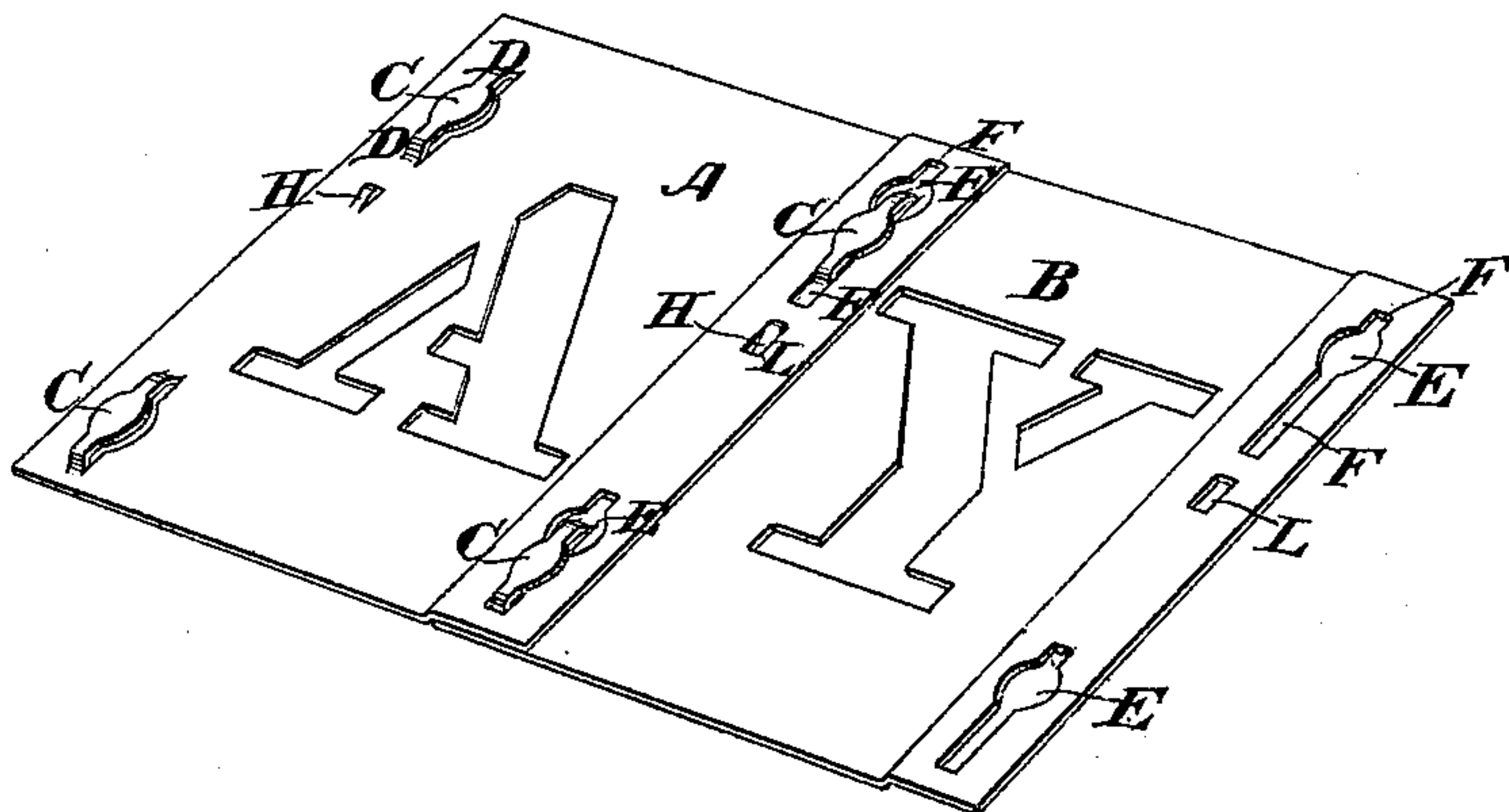
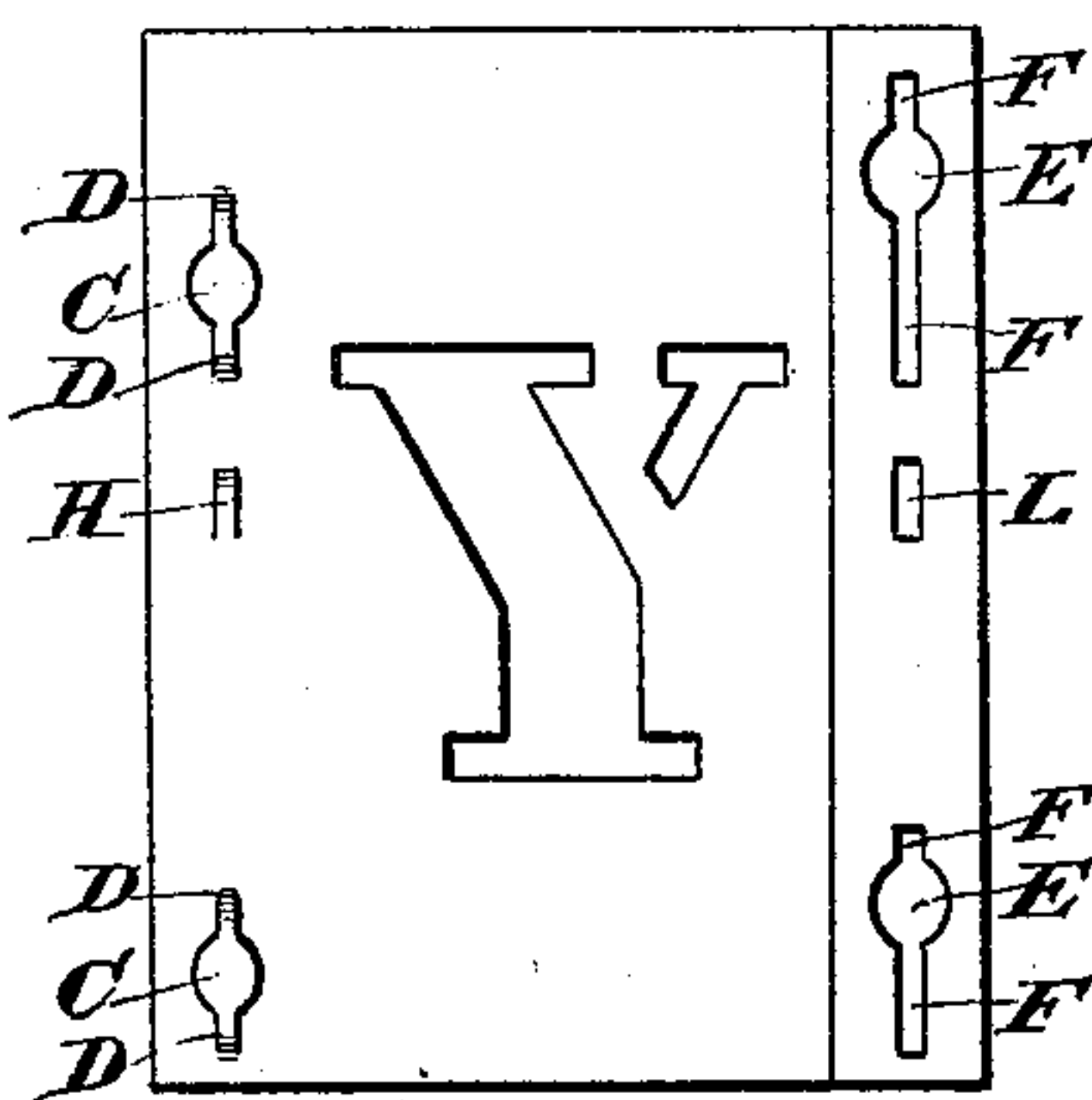


Fig. 2.



Witnesses.

J. H. Brown
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Inventor.
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by his Attys.

Wm. T. Wells

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ARTHUR F. COMINGS, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF HIS
RIGHT TO ELIJAH P. PEACOCK, OF SAME PLACE.

IMPROVEMENT IN STENCILS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **151,357**, dated May 26, 1874; application filed
March 27, 1874.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ARTHUR F. COMINGS, of Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Stencils; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of two stencil-plates locked together by my improvements; and Fig. 2 is a plan view of one plate detached from the other.

Similar letters of reference denote corresponding parts in the several figures of the drawings.

My invention relates to that class of stencils in which the letters or symbols are each stamped or cut out of separate metal plates, and the latter joined together to form the word or combination of letters required. These letter-plates are usually united by lapped joints, such as tinners employ in joining pieces of tin or sheet-iron together, the plates being fitted together by sliding the laps within each other endwise.

Such stencil-plates have hitherto been found objectionable for several reasons, among which the following may be enumerated: First, the lapped joints, in consequence of the closeness with which they fit, prevent the plates from being quickly and easily attached; secondly, these close joints rapidly fill up with paint and dirt, rendering it almost impossible to slide the plates together, or remove them from each other; thirdly, the plates and joints are liable to become bent, and therefore inoperative, as they cannot be again straightened without great care and labor; fourthly, no provision is made for adjusting the letters in the same horizontal line, this being wholly a matter of guesswork.

My invention has for its object to remedy these defects; and to this end it consists, first, in constructing each letter-plate with two or more raised guide-catches along one edge, and corresponding guide-slots in the opposite edge, so that two plates can be fitted rapidly and easily together by slipping the catches of

one into the guide-slots of the other, the act of uniting the two serving to clear the fastenings of paint and dirt—the fastenings are therefore self-cleaning; secondly, in the employment of a locking stop or guide at one edge of a letter-plate, adapted to engage with a slot or opening in the adjoining edge of the next letter-plate, when the two plates are united for the purpose of locking them, together with the letters, in the same horizontal line.

In the accompanying drawings, A and B are two plates, having letters stamped or cut through them. Near one of the edges of the plate B two nearly-circular catches, C C, are stamped out, the upper and lower parts of such catches having projections or arms D D, which are attached, at their outer ends, to the letter-plate. Correspondingly-shaped openings E E, for the reception of the catches, are formed in the opposite edges of the letter-plates A, terminated above and below by the slots F F for the reception of the arms D D. H is a locking-stop formed on the letter-plate B; and L is a slot or opening in the edge of the plate A, the stop engaging or springing into the slot, to prevent the longitudinal sliding movement of either plate after the circular catches C have been introduced into their corresponding openings E, and the arms D slid into their positions in the slots F, as shown in the drawings. The locking-stop and its slot are so arranged that when they engage with each other the letters are all locked in the same horizontal line.

It will, of course, be understood that each plate is formed with the catches and locking-stop on one edge, and with the catch and stop openings in the opposite edge. The catches may be made angular instead of circular, if desired.

Among the many advantages of my invention are the following: The fastening is secure, and, at the same time, an open one, so that no paint or dirt is liable to interfere with it. It is also self-cleaning. There is little liability of the letter-plates bending at the fastenings, as at those points they are materially strengthened by the raised catches. The liability to bend, which is found very objectionable in this

class of stencils, is almost entirely obviated by my construction, while the advantage of adjusting the letters rapidly and easily in the same horizontal line is obvious to those having occasion to use stencil-plates.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

1. A stencil-plate provided with raised catches and lugs or arms, in combination with an adjoining stencil-plate, having corresponding catch-openings, within which the catch fits and slides for the purpose of uniting the plates together, strengthening the fastening, and rendering it self-cleaning, substantially as described.

2. In a stencil-plate, a locking guide-stop, arranged to operate as described, so that the letters in the several plates shall occupy the same horizontal line when such plates are joined together, as herein set forth and shown.

3. The stencil-plate B, provided with the locking-stop H and the raised catches C C, having the projections D D, in combination with the letter-plate A, provided with circular openings E E and slots F F I, substantially as described, for the purposes specified.

ARTHUR F. COMINGS.

Witnesses:

ELIJAH P. PEACOCK,
HENRY L. HALL.