

A. FOERSTE.  
ALBUMS.

No. 188,507.

Patented March 20, 1877.

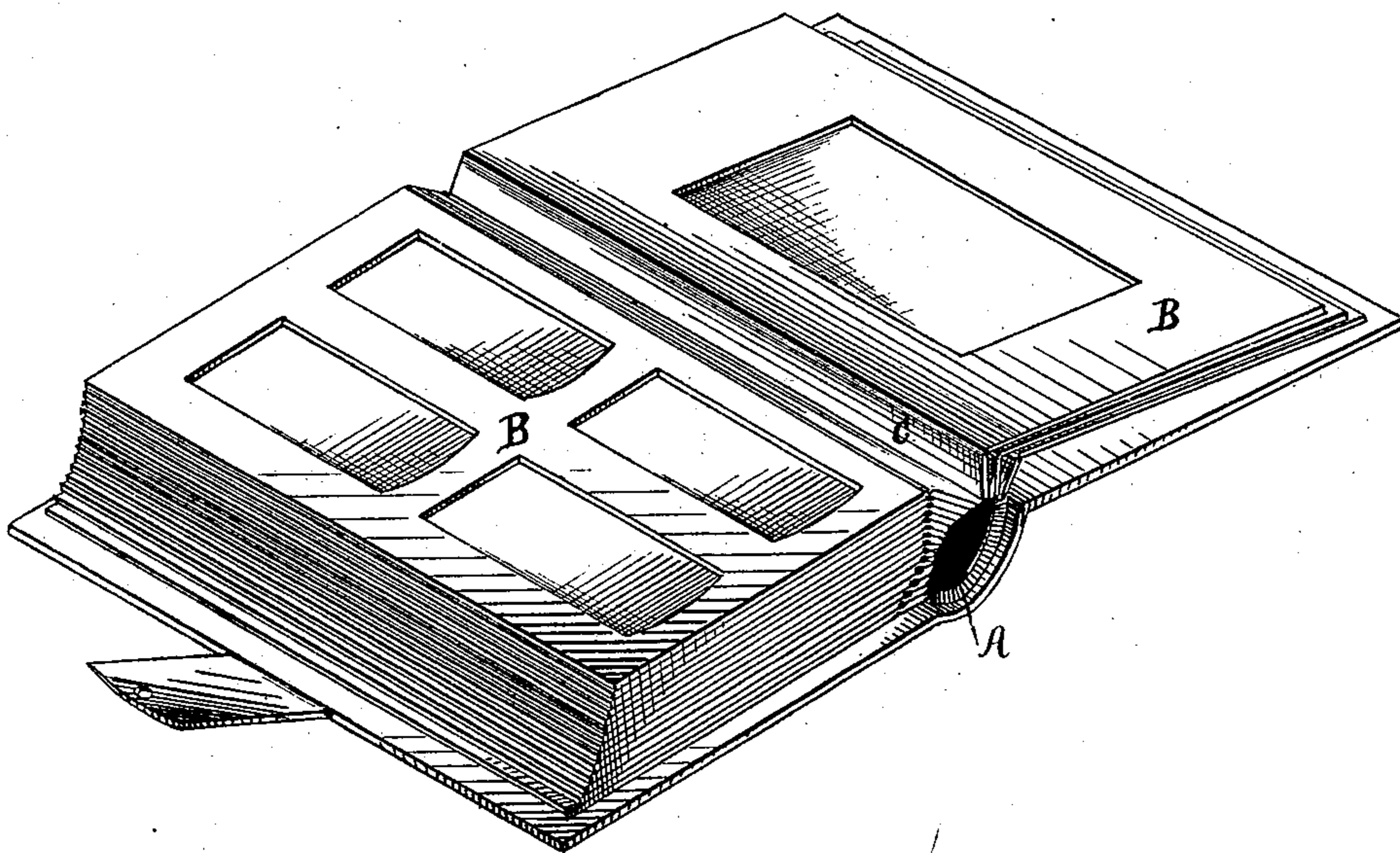


FIG. 1.



FIG. 2.

WITNESSES.

*Bruce Reid*  
*Wm. T. Fanner*

INVENTOR.

*A. Foerste*  
per *Atchinson*  
Attorney

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

ALBERT FOERSTE, OF BERLIN, PRUSSIA.

## IMPROVEMENT IN ALBUMS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 188,507, dated March 20, 1877; application filed February 17, 1877.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ALBERT FOERSTE, residing at Berlin, Prussia, have invented an Improvement in Binding Albums and Books, of which the following is a specification:

The object of the present invention is to improve upon the construction of albums and books of a similar character, so that the leaves will, when open, lie more flat than in the ordinary albums, and be less liable to be torn out of place by constant strain upon the back or binding.

The invention consists in providing an album or other book with a rigid back of a wedge shape in cross-section, to which back the leaves are connected by means of double hinges, so that the leaves will lie flat when open without being subjected to strain, this being permitted by reason of the flexible connection of the hinges with the back piece and with the leaves of the album or book, as will be hereinafter more fully described.

In the accompanying drawing, forming part of this specification, Figure 1 is a perspective view, representing the album thrown open. Fig. 2 is a detached sectional view of several leaves with their double hinges.

It is a well-known fact that ordinary albums for photographic and other pictures, and books of a similar nature, are ill adapted to withstand the constant strain upon the binding, and consequently the back or the leaves are liable to be torn out of place in a comparatively short space of time, because the connection between said leaves and the back is generally too rigid to permit the constant turning of the leaves. Moreover, ordinary albums possess another objection—which is, that the leaves, when open, do not lie flat, and are liable to spring open.

My invention is designed to remove the objections to the albums hitherto in use, and this I accomplish by the employment of a rigid back piece, A, extending the full length of the album or book, and having the leaves B connected thereto by means of double hinges C.

The back piece A is formed of a series of strips which are cemented, glued, or riveted together, and cut so that the back piece will

be of a wedge or curved shape in cross-section.

Instead of the strips I may employ a solid or hollow piece of wood, papier-maché, or suitable material possessing the necessary degree of rigidity.

The hinges C are formed by covering strips of carton or pasteboard with leather, muslin, or other flexible material, and leaving projecting portions of leather or muslin, which are cemented or attached by other means to the rigid back piece and to the leaves of the book. Thus it will be perceived that there is a flexible connection of the leaves with the hinges, and a similar connection of the hinges with the rigid back.

The hinges gradually decrease in width from the outer to the inner leaves of the album or book, to conform with the position of the leaves when in an open state. The double hinges will permit the leaves to be thrown open somewhat in the manner of a folding fan, and each leaf will, when thrown open, lie flat, and this without subjecting the back to strain or pressure, in consequence whereof the tearing out of the back or separation from the leaves is prevented by the simple use of the double hinges and rigid back.

While my invention is particularly adapted for albums for photographic pictures, it may also be applied to other books of a similar nature having rigid or stiff leaves, and where the back is subjected to considerable strain.

I do not wish to claim, broadly, an album in which each leaf is attached to an ordinary flexible back by means of a double hinge for lessening the strain upon the binding at the back of the book. I confine myself to the combination of such double hinges with a rigid back which is of a wedge shape in cross-section, and is not subjected to the danger of being torn out, as is the case with the ordinary flexible back.

The employment of a rigid or solid back necessitates the use of double hinges so as to form a flexible connection between the hinge-strips and the rigid back, and a similar connection between the hinge-strips and the leaves of the album.

As the rigid back retains its wedge shape

at all times, it will be necessary to make the double-hinge strips of different sizes or widths, so as to enable the leaves to open properly, and to lie flat when in such position. The hinge-strips are, for this reason, made of a gradually-decreasing width from the outside leaves to the middle ones, as has been already described.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

The album herein described, having a rigid or solid back piece of a wedge shape in cross-

section, and a series of leaves provided with hinge-strips, gradually decreasing in width from the outer to the middle leaves, and flexibly connected to the rigid back and to the leaves, as and for the purpose herein set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ALBERT FOERSTE.

Witnesses:

GERARD WENRESLAUS V. NAWROCKI,  
BERTHOLD ROE.