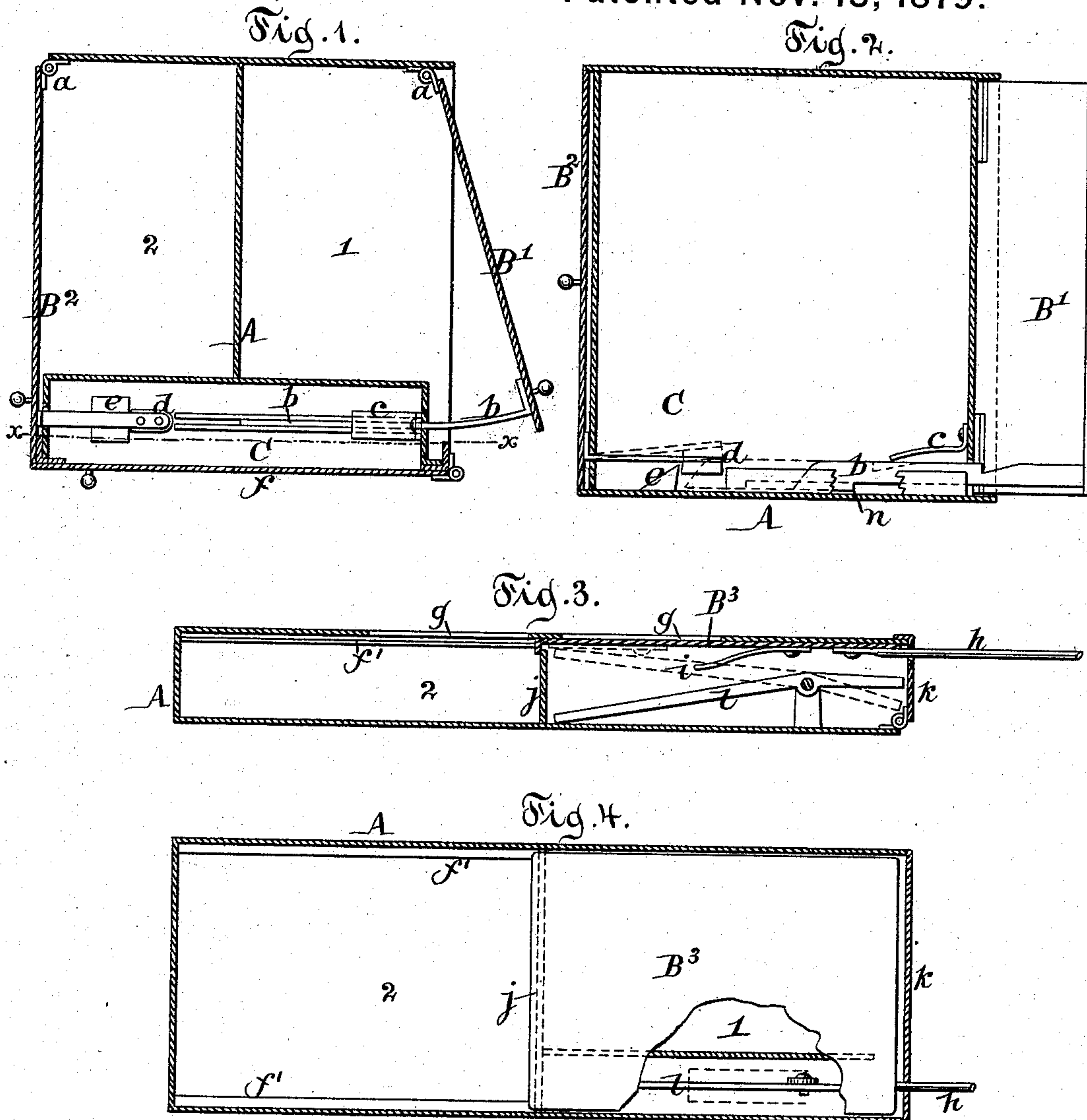


F. IMHAEUSER.
Safety Key-Box.

No. 221,823.

Patented Nov. 18, 1879.



Witnesses.
Chas. Wahlers.
William Miller

Inventor.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRIEDRICH IMHAEUSER, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

IMPROVEMENT IN SAFETY KEY-BOXES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **221,823**, dated November 18, 1879; application filed March 29, 1879.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRIEDRICH IMHAEUSER, of Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Safety-Boxes for Keys and other Articles, which improvement is fully set forth in the following specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 represents a horizontal section of my box in one of its forms. Fig. 2 is a vertical section thereof in the line *xx*, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 shows another form of my box in vertical section. Fig. 4 is a horizontal section of the same.

Similar letters indicate corresponding parts.

My invention relates to that class of boxes for which Letters Patent of the United States were granted to me February 4, 1879, No. 212,006, to which reference is made; and the object of my present invention is to dispense with one of the cases described in my said patent and substitute therefor a movable door or doors with a like result.

I make use of a case or box divided into two or more fixed compartments, and one or two movable doors for opening and closing said compartments, and combine therewith locking mechanism acting on the doors, whereby the opening of the door to the second department is made dependent on the closing and locking of the door to the first door or compartment, as hereinafter fully described.

In the drawings, the letter A designates the body of my box, having two compartments, 1 2, this being the number of compartments into which the box is divided; and B' B² B³ are the doors.

In the example shown in Figs. 1 and 2 the compartments have separate doors, marked B' B², which are hung on hinges *a*, and the door to the first compartment, 1, is open, while the door to the second compartment, 2, is closed. With these hinged doors is combined locking mechanism consisting of a slide, *b*, secured to the first door, B', and a detent, *c*, to engage the slide when the first door is closed. A dog, *d*, secured to the second door, B², and a catch, *e*, to engage said dog when the last door is closed, the dog being arranged in such relation to the slide *b* that the inner or free end

of the slide passes under the dog and lifts the same to a position in which it may pass the catch *e* when the first door is closed. The locking mechanism last described is contained in a case, C, having a door, *f*, which is locked, so that the mechanism is accessible only to an authorized person.

The compartments 1 2 may be utilized to hold stationary detectors, instead of keys, as described in my former patent, and in that case the watchman may carry a key in lieu of a detector.

When the box shown in Figs. 1 and 2 is set, the second door, B², is shut, in which position it is locked by the catch *e* engaging the dog *d*; but the first door, B', is left open, so that the key or watch contained in the first compartment is accessible. Then, when it is desired to gain access to the second department, 2, the door B' is closed, whereby the slide *b* is moved inward and the dog *d* is displaced or released, permitting the second door, B², to be opened, while at the same time the detent *c* catches into or behind a notch in the slide, as indicated in dotted outline in Fig. 2, thus preventing a back movement thereof. Hence, when it is desired to reopen the first compartment, 1, it is necessary to release the slide *b*, and, since this slide is inaccessible to any but an authorized person, a watchman is unable to attain this object. The outer position of the slide *b* is regulated by a shoulder, *n*, formed therein, striking against the front of the box.

In the example shown in Figs. 3 and 4 the first compartment, 1, is closed and the second compartment, 2, is open, while both compartments are arranged to be closed or opened by a single door, marked B³. This door B³ slides in guides *f* beneath two openings, *g*, formed in the body of the box, one to each compartment, and it carries a rod or handle, *h*, for moving the same to its different positions, in addition to a spring, *i*, which constitutes a device for locking the door—that is to say, when the door is in a position to open or expose the second compartment, 2, and an attempt is made to move or return the same to a previous position, the spring comes in contact with the partition *j* of the box, and the door is arrested. Access is had to the spring *i* by means of a door, *k*, which, like the door *f*, is locked by

the person whose duty it is to set the box. When it is desired to move the sliding door B' to a position in which the first compartment, 1, is open, it is necessary to flatten the spring *i*, thereby permitting the same to clear the upper edge of the partition *j*, which can be accomplished only by opening the door *k*. With the spring *i* is combined a lever, *l*, which, when moved to the position indicated in dotted outline in Fig. 2, serves to flatten the spring, and thus materially facilitates the operation of setting the box.

It will be seen that in either form of my box it is absolutely necessary for the watchman to close and lock the first compartment before the second one can be reached, and hence the key or watch contained in the first compartment is inaccessible during and after the period or night in which the second key or watch is used.

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

The combination, with a box divided into two or more fixed compartments, of one or more movable doors for opening and closing said compartments and a locking mechanism acting on said door or doors, whereby whenever a door is moved to open one compartment a door is necessarily moved and locked to close another compartment, substantially as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 24th day of March, 1879.

FRIEDRICH IMHAEUSER.

Witnesses:

W. HAUFF,
CHAS. WAHLERS.