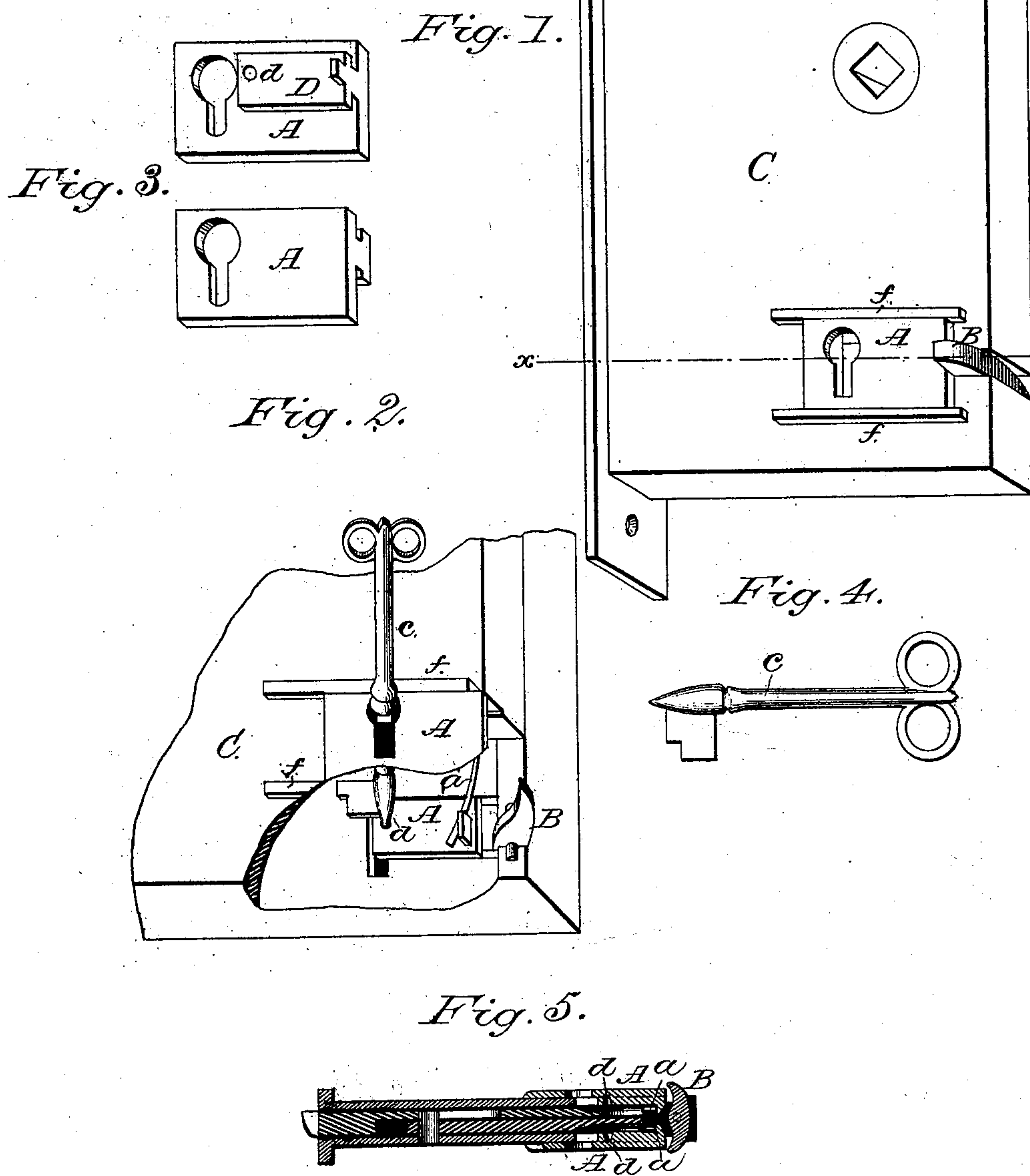


J. H. BROWNE.  
Key-Hole Guard.

No. 227,725.

Patented May 18, 1880.



Witnesses:

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSIAH H. BROWNE, OF SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS.

## KEY-HOLE GUARD.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 227,725, dated May 18, 1880.

Application filed September 14, 1877.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOSIAH H. BROWNE, of Salem, in the county of Essex and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Door-Locks; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same.

My invention is an improvement in the class of mortise and rim locks having key-hole guards consisting of pivoted plates adapted to swing over the key-hole and prevent the insertion of picks on the outer side of the lock whenever a key is inserted on the inner side.

My improvement consists in the construction and arrangement of sliding guards and the devices which co-operate with them, so that the movement of one guard causes the opposite movement of the other, as hereinafter described.

In accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a side perspective view of a mortise-lock provided with my improved key-hole guard. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a portion of such lock, part being broken away, showing the key inserted. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of both key-hole guards, showing different sides of the same. Fig. 4 is a side view of the key for working the lock. Fig. 5 is a cross-section on line *x x*, Fig. 1.

The key-hole slides *A A* are oblong rectangular plates, each having a key-hole in one end and a T-shaped lug, *D*, on its inner side. The guard-plates *A* are applied to opposite sides of the lock-case *C*, and arranged to slide between parallel horizontal ribs *f*, so as to cover or uncover the key-hole, according to their position.

The plates are prevented from being detached from the lock proper, *C*, by lugs *D*, whose shoulders overlap the inner edges of slots in which the lugs *D* slide.

A lever, *B*, is pivoted horizontally at the middle of its length in a slot in the rear edge of the lock-case *C*, at a point contiguous to the key-hole.

The guards *A A* are held pressed back against the respective ends of the lever *B* by means of springs *a*, whose free ends bear against shoulders of lugs *D*, as shown in Figs. 2 and 5.

The key-holes in the guards *A* are so located that they partly coincide with—that is, partly cover—the key-hole in the sides of the

lock proper when both guards are in their normal position, as shown in Figs. 2, 5; but when one guard *A* is pushed back or adjusted so as to bring its key-hole into perfect coincidence with the adjacent key-hole in the lock proper, *C*, the lever *B* is thereby thrown into diagonal position and caused to press against the opposite guard *A*, so that it is slid forward and made to cover its adjacent key-hole. This position and relation of parts are shown in Fig. 2, in which one guard is pushed back to expose one of the lock key-holes, and the other forward to uncover the key-hole upon the opposite side.

The mechanical means I employ to move the guards is the key *c*, having a point which is made conical, and thereby adapted to wedge itself into the partly-coincident key-holes of guards and lock proper and to force back the guards.

When fully inserted the point of the key enters a socket, *d*, in the lug *D* of the opposite guard *A*, and thereby serves to hold or assists in holding said guard firmly in its position.

On removing the key *c* the springs *a* will cause the guards to resume their former or normal position. The key *c* therefore serves not only to operate the guards *A* in the first instance, but to hold them in such position that the one on the opposite side of the lock will cover the adjacent key-hole, and thereby frustrate any attempt to pick the lock by inserting picks, &c., through the key-hole.

What I claim is—

1. The combination, with a lock, substantially as described, of two movable slotted guards, one on each side, a lever, *B*, pivoted to the lock-case, and springs which act on the guards, as shown and described, whereby one of the guards is slid forward to cover the adjacent key-hole when the other is pushed back to uncover its adjacent key-hole, as specified.

2. The combination of the key having conical or tapered point with the slotted movable and spring-actuated guards having lugs provided with sockets *d*, the pivoted lever *B*, and the lock-case, substantially as shown and described.

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Witnesses:

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