

H. C. WHITE.  
PORTABLE WRITING DESK.

No. 248,627.

Patented Oct. 25, 1881.

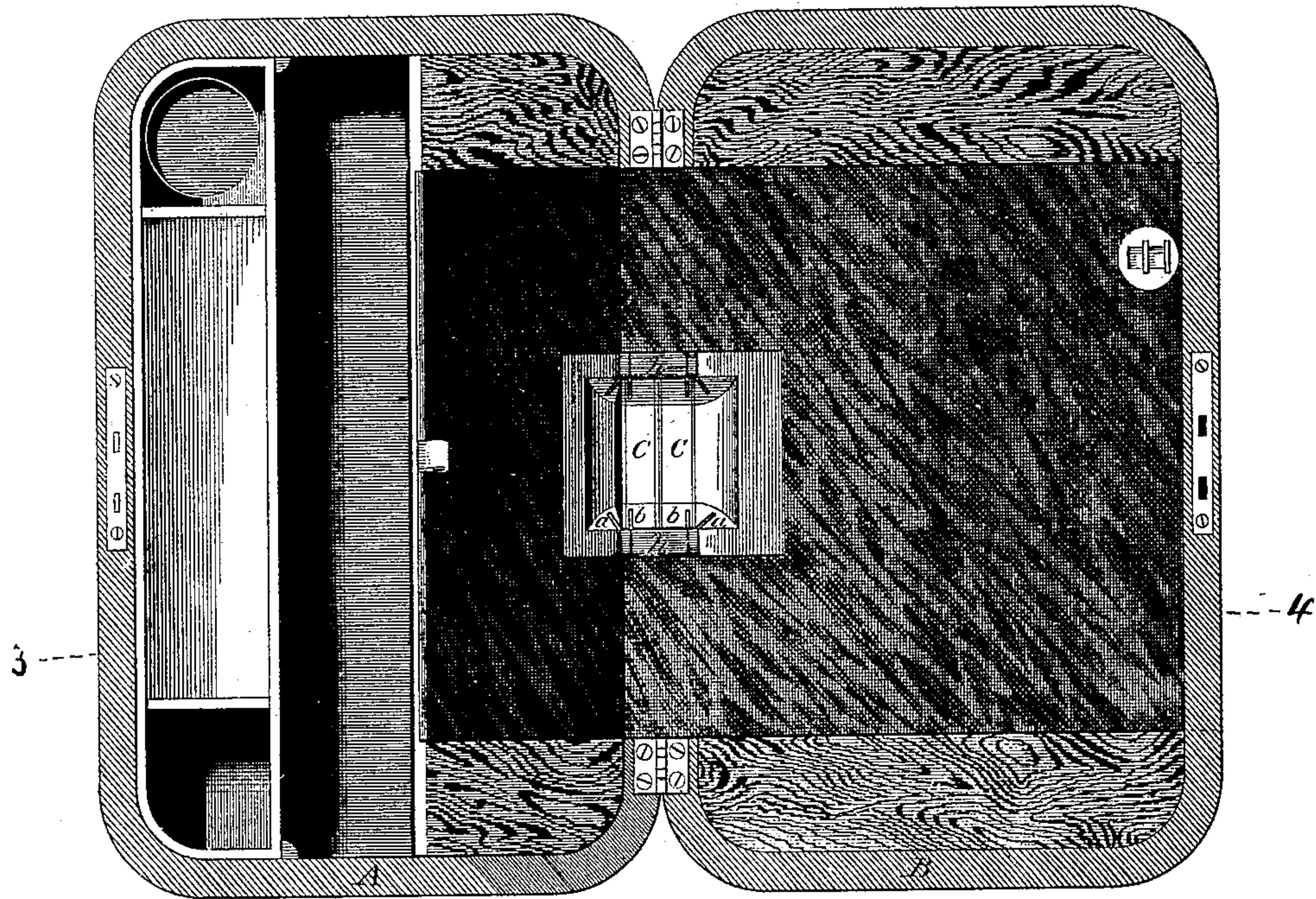


FIG. 1.

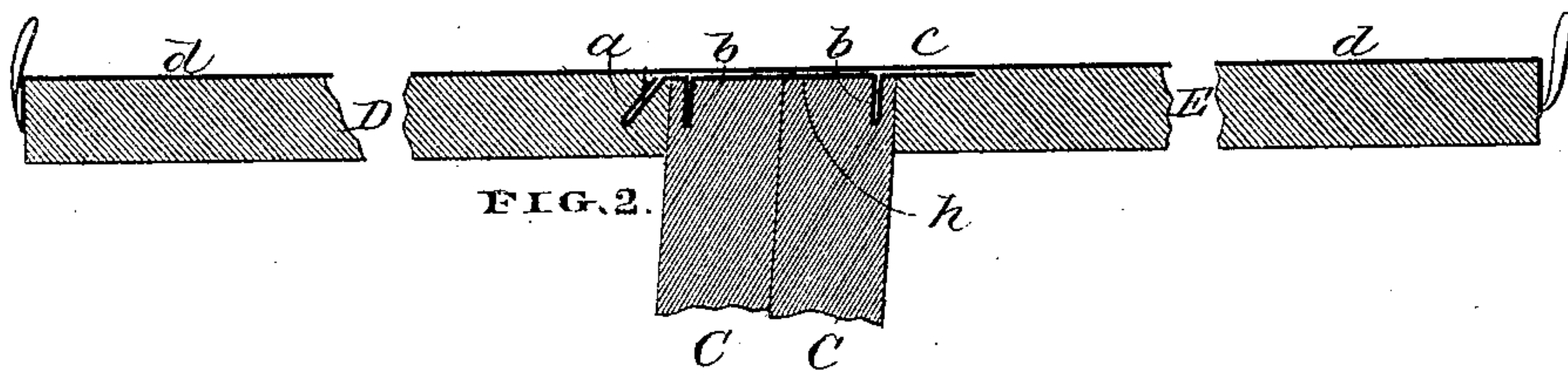


FIG. 2.

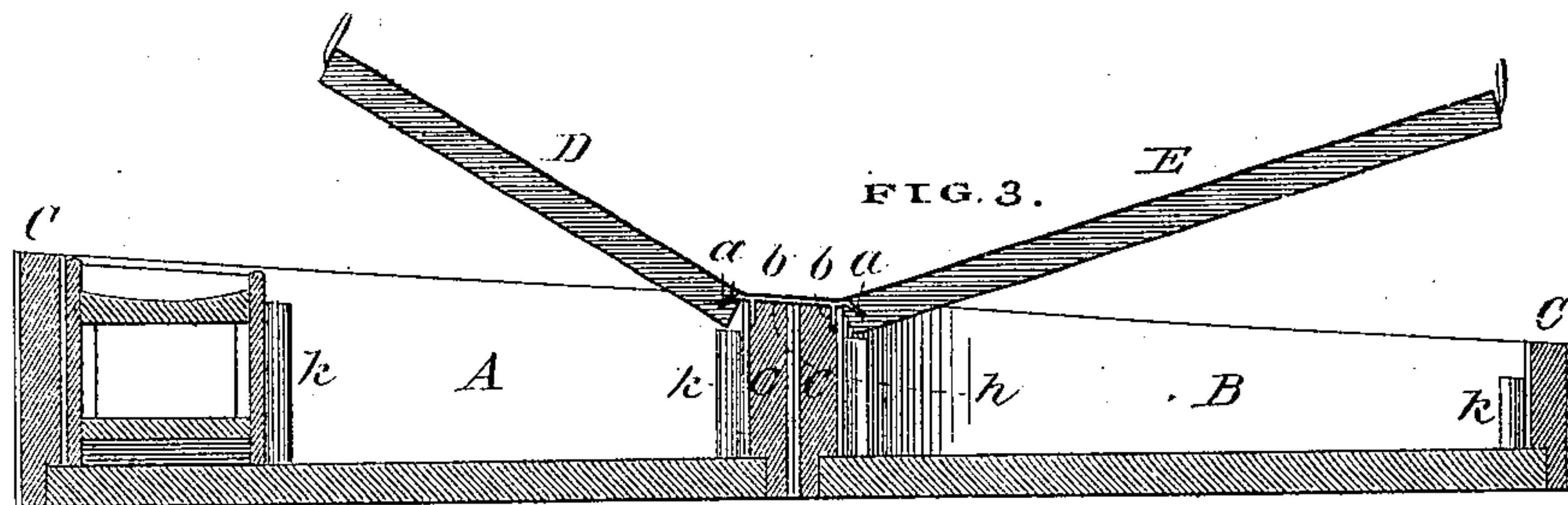


FIG. 3.

WITNESSES.

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Hawley C. White,  
by Franklin Scott, Atty.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HAWLEY C. WHITE, OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT.

## PORTABLE WRITING-DESK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 248,627, dated October 25, 1881.

Application filed January 6, 1879.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HAWLEY C. WHITE, of North Bennington, in the county of Bennington and State of Vermont, have invented certain  
5 Improvements in Portable Writing-Desks; and I do hereby declare that the following is a clear and concise description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a constituent part of this specification.  
10

This invention relates more especially to the mode of covering and hinging the leaves or lids of portable folding writing-desks and analogous articles.

15 Figure 1 presents a view of a folding desk laid open ready for use with one lid or leaf partially raised or opened, and having the central portion of the hinged parts cut away in cross-section, so as to expose to view the construction of the hinged joints. Fig. 2 is a vertical  
20 transverse section through the lids of the desk. The heavy black lines shown in cross-section are the edges of the cloth or material with which the surface of the leaves is covered, and  
25 which constitute one portion of the hinge. Fig. 3 shows a vertical transverse section of the whole desk, taken on line 3 4 of Fig. 1.

As folding writing-desks have heretofore been constructed the cloth or other material  
30 with which the tops of the leaves have been covered has solely been relied on to form the hinge by which such leaves or lids have been attached to the body portion or case of the desk in cases where butts have not been employed. This style of construction is objectionable because after a little usage the cloth  
35 adjacent to the joint where the leaf is hinged to the body will loosen or detach itself from the leaf and strip up, and is frequently liable  
40 to be torn off entirely. My improvements guard against these imperfections.

I construct my desk in two sections, A and B, Figs. 1 and 3, so as to present an inclined surface to write upon when opened for use.  
45 Each section is inclosed by a leaf, the upper surface of which constitutes the writing-table of the desk. The contour of the leaves D and E is nicely fitted to the interior of the case, as seen in Fig. 1, and the leaves rest in jambs  
50 or rabbets formed in the edges of the case to receive them, or, as in this case, they rest on

small posts or studs *k k k*, so disposed as to support them. The inner or hinge edge of each leaf is kerfed or grooved, either diagonally or otherwise, as seen at *a*, Figs. 1, 2, and 3. 55  
For a distance equivalent to the breadth of the cloth between the butts with which the two sections of the desk are hinged together, and as near the joint-edge of the lid as is practicable, I kerf or groove the edge of each section of the desk, as seen at *b b*, Figs. 1, 2, and 3. The upper or exposed edges of grooves *a* and *b* are designed to be as close to each other as may be, so as not to impair the strength of the structure. These kerfs or grooves are of 60  
65 a width sufficient to receive two thicknesses of the cloth designed to be forced into them, as hereinafter stated.

My improvements are carried out substantially as follows: The kerfs or grooves *b b* in 70  
the adjacent edges of sections A and B are cut as hereinbefore stated. In the construction of the hinge proper I employ a strip of any thin, flexible, non-elastic material, like strong, thin linen duck or canvas, of the same length as 75  
the distance between the butts of the desk. This hinge-strip is then sized with glue on one side and laid over the parallel grooves of the leaves of the desk, into which it is to be forced. With a thin blade I then force the 80  
margin of the hinge-strip *h* into the kerf *a* of one of the leaves. Keeping the hinge-strip taut meanwhile, I next proceed in a similar manner to crowd the hinge-strip into the next parallel slit or kerf, *b*, which is in the body of 85  
the desk, and I thus proceed consecutively to force the strip into each kerf provided to receive it until I have bridged all the hinge-joints or connected both leaves to the body of the desk, as well as each section with the other. If there 90  
95 should be a surplus in width of the hinge-strip left protruding from the first and last groove or slit, it is carefully trimmed down, so as to present an even, smooth surface over which to lay the superposed covering *d*. This mode of  
100 hinging together with a tough, flexible, non-elastic material the leaves and the two sections of the desk assists to greatly strengthen the main connection between the two halves of the desk, and materially relieves the small metallic butts from the excessive wrenches and strains to which they are often subjected by reason

of the pressure required to close the desk when it is overfilled. The edges of the strip, being inclosed within the groove and firmly held therein with glue, cannot be peeled up nor  
5 easily started from their fastenings, as is the case when the hinge-piece is simply pasted or glued to the exterior surface of the parts to be connected. Both the lids and the body portions may be grooved to receive the hinge-piece,  
10 as in Figs. 1 and 3, or either alone, as seen at *b c* in Fig. 2. This mode of stretching the covering across both lids and the intervening hinge-joints continuously possesses several advantages. The opened desk presents an even,  
15 continuously-smooth surface upon which to write. The gluing of the covering-piece to the hinging-strip of cloth *h* re-enforces such piece and materially enhances the strength of the hinges. It makes two less edges of cloth to  
20 peel up and fray than when the lids are each finished with a veneered margin against the interior edge of which the raw edges of the

cloth abut. It is much more cheaply and conveniently constructed.

In the foregoing description I have treated 25 the stationary portions *C C* of the desk to which the lids *D E* are attached as analogous to the jambs of a door.

I claim—

A portable writing-desk having the two 30 halves thereof and the two lids united by a compound hinge, made of cloth or analogous flexible material, tucked in grooves in both the two halves of the desk and in the edges of the two lids, substantially in the manner described 35 and set forth.

In testimony whereof I have hereto subscribed my name, at North Bennington, Vermont, this 2d day of January, 1879.

HAWLEY C. WHITE.

In presence of—

FRANKLIN SCOTT,  
M. B. SCOTT.