

(No Model.)

J. A. HOWE.
POST OFFICE BOX.

No. 273,992.

Patented Mar. 13, 1883.

Fig. 1.

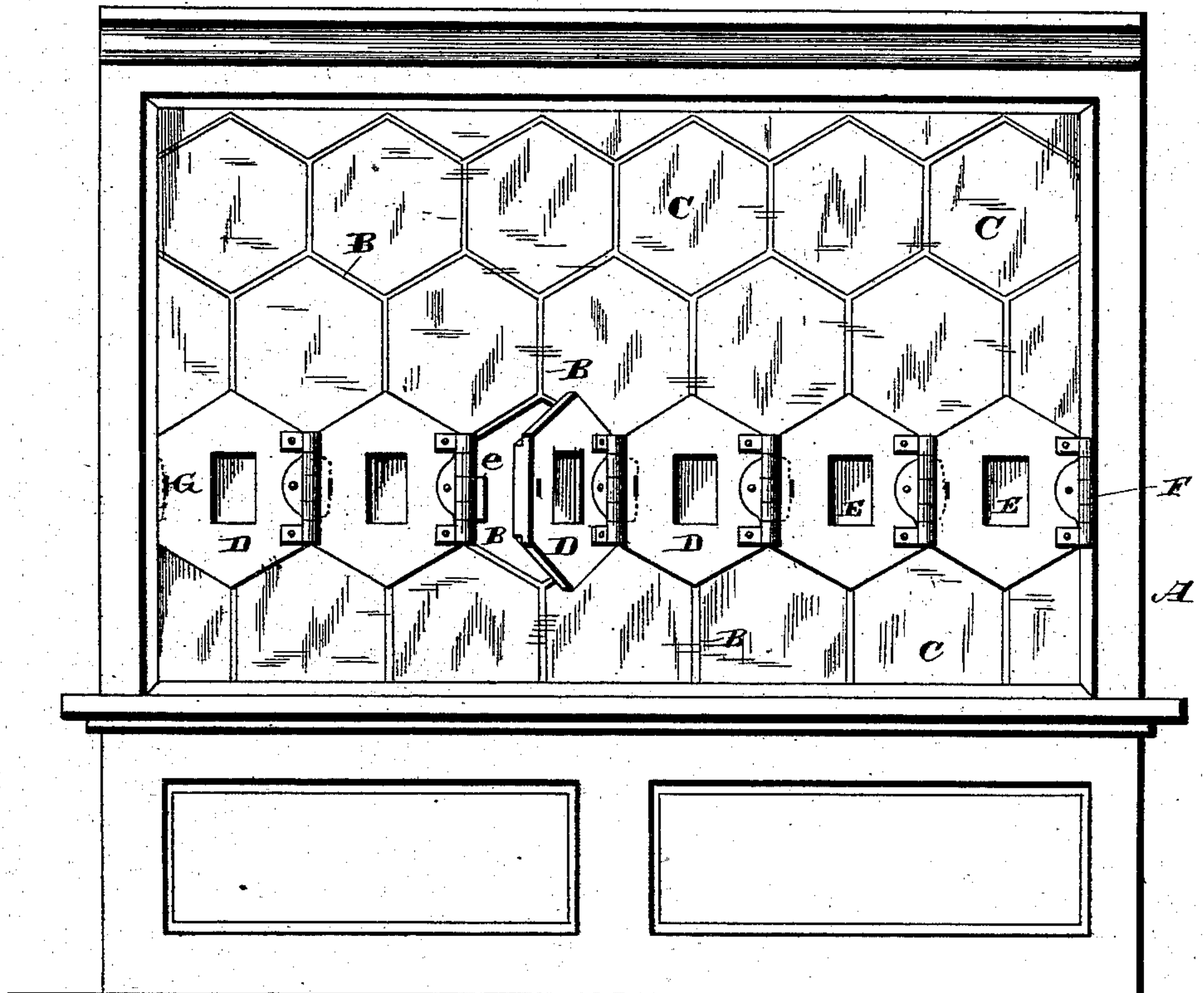


Fig. 2.

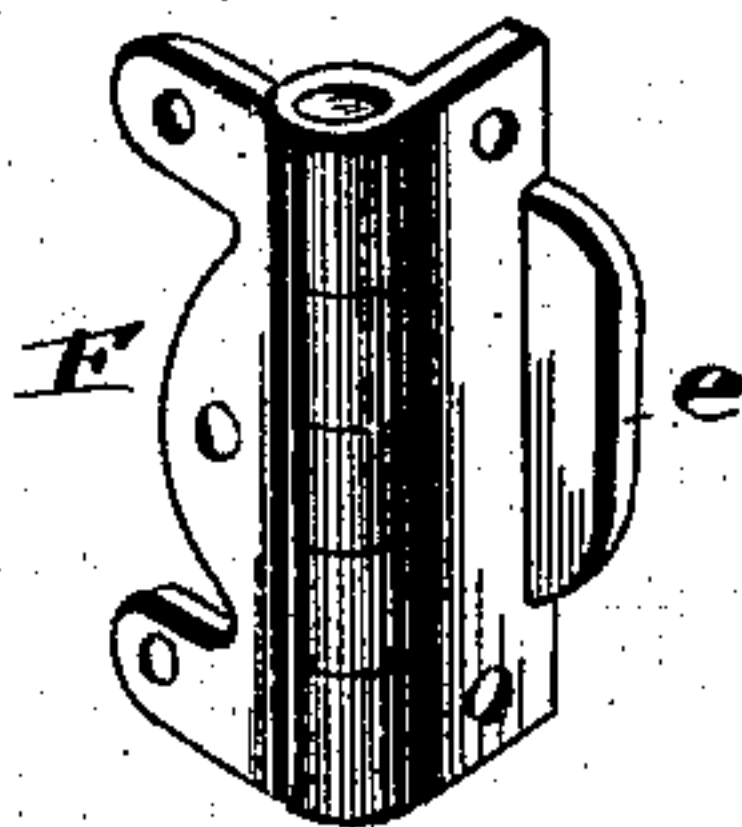
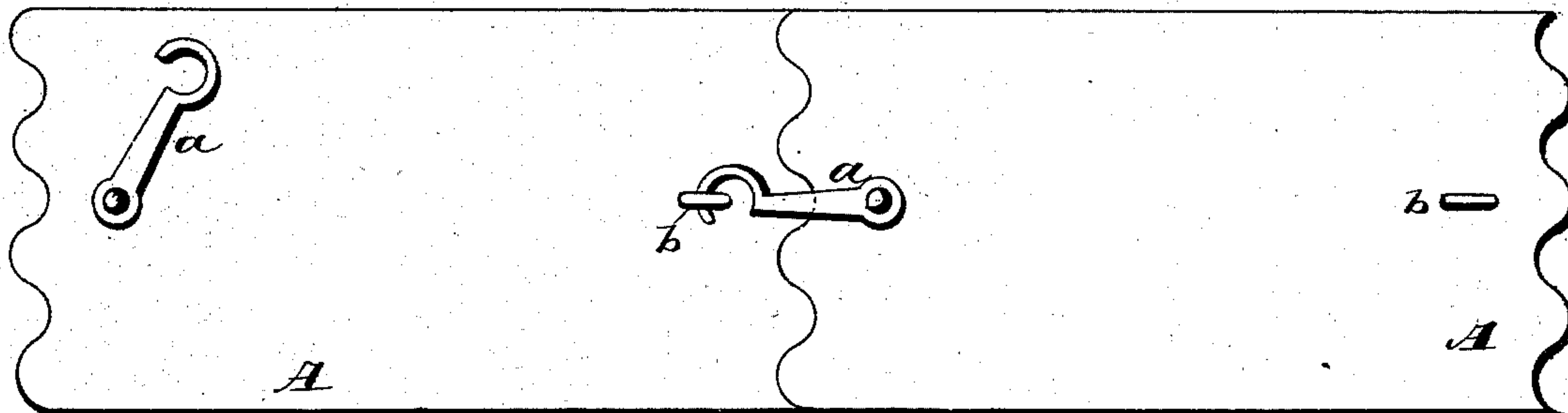


Fig. 3.

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JESSE A. HOWE, OF NORWALK, OHIO, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-THIRD TO J. P. LAWRENCE, OF SAME PLACE.

POST-OFFICE BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 273,992, dated March 13, 1883.

Application filed October 7, 1882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JESSE A. HOWE, of Norwalk, in the county of Huron and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Boxes or Pigeon-Holes for Use in Post-Offices; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to an improvement in boxes or pigeon-holes for use in post-offices, the same also being adapted for store-room fixtures or fittings, the object of the same being to provide a box so constructed as to prevent letters, postal-cards, or papers from lying flat, as is the case with the box ordinarily used.

A further object of my invention is to provide a device of this character which shall combine lightness, cheapness, and simplicity of construction with durability and efficiency in use.

With these ends in view my invention consists in certain features of construction and combinations of parts, as will be hereinafter fully described, and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a front elevation of a section of pigeon-holes embodying my improvement, the upper portion being shown as when used for call-boxes, the lower portion thereof being shown as when used for lock-boxes, the door of one box being open. Fig. 2 is a plan view of the frame. Fig. 3 is a detached view of the hinge used in securing the door of a lock-box to the frame or side of the same.

The boxes are arranged in groups, each group being provided with a frame or case, A, the sides of which are so molded, grooved, or corrugated as to prevent any lateral movement or sliding between the frames of any two or more series of boxes when set up and secured together. The top portion of each frame is provided at one end with a hook, *a*, and on the other end with an eye, *b*, for the purpose of removably securing thereto the adjoining frames, the hook *a* being adapted to enter the eye on the frame adjoining on that side, and the eye *b* being adapted to receive the hook on the frame nearest that side. This mode of attachment is preferable, in that it permits of the re-

moval or addition of a section without the use or aid of nails or screws. The floor of the frame A may be provided with slits or grooves adapted to receive the lower sides of the boxes or apartments and hold them securely in position.

The boxes B B B are made of metal so crimped or bent as to form openings of hexagonal shape and of any desired size, the edges of the boxes being joined or locked together.

When my improved device is used for call-boxes, as shown in the upper portion of Fig. 1 of the drawings, the frame of each series is provided with a glass face, C, which is removably held in position by means of the usual securing devices. This glass face C is placed in position from the front side, thereby permitting it to be removed and replaced without interfering with other parts.

When my improvement is used for lock-boxes, as shown in the lower portion of Fig. 1 of the drawings, doors D, preferably formed of pulp made from any desired material, are hinged to the sides of the boxes B. These doors are provided with locks G, and also with openings for glass faces E, to enable a person or owner of the box to ascertain its contents without the trouble of opening. The doors D are secured to the sides of the boxes by the hinges F, said hinges being secured to the doors and sides of the boxes in the ordinary manner. These hinges F fulfill a twofold function, in that they serve the purpose of a hinge for the doors D, and in that they serve as a stop and strike for the door next adjoining. This latter is effected by means of a projection, *e*, extending out from the stationary plate of the hinge, said projection *e* being made integral therewith, as shown in Fig. 3 of the drawings.

Boxes made in accordance with my invention have many advantages over the ordinary square box now in common use, as they serve to keep the contents from lying flat, thus enabling them to be handled more readily. They also economize space and furnish more available room than the square box, and being constructed of non-combustible material are less liable to be destroyed by fire.

I do not limit the use of this device for post-offices alone, as it may be advantageously used for store fittings or fixtures, and means for

packing bottles to prevent breakage in shipping or transportation. Neither do I confine myself to the hexagonal form of boxes, as they may be made to assume a heptagonal or other regular polygonal form.

In view of the fact that many changes in the construction and relative arrangement of the different parts might be resorted to, I would have it understood that I do not limit myself to the exact construction shown and described, but consider myself at liberty to make such changes and alterations as may fairly be considered to fall within the spirit and scope of my invention.

I am aware that packing-boxes have been subdivided into polygonal compartments, and I do not claim such box.

Having fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination, with a group of boxes of regular polygonal form, arranged in rows with laterally-projecting angles, the projecting angles of each row fitting the re-entrant angles of adjacent rows, of a frame embracing

said group of boxes, and provided with devices by which it may be detachably locked edgewise to similar frames embracing similar groups, substantially as described.

2. The combination, with a series of adjacent boxes and their doors, of a hinge for each door provided with a lateral extending stop arranged to limit the inward movement of the free edge of an adjacent door, substantially as specified.

3. A series of groups of boxes inclosed in separate frames, having grooved interlocking sides, substantially as described.

4. A series of post-office letter-boxes having their sides inclined to meet at angles at the bottoms of the boxes, substantially as described, and for the purpose set forth.

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

JESSE A. HOWE.

Witnesses:

A. B. GRIFFIN,
HENRY W. OWEN.