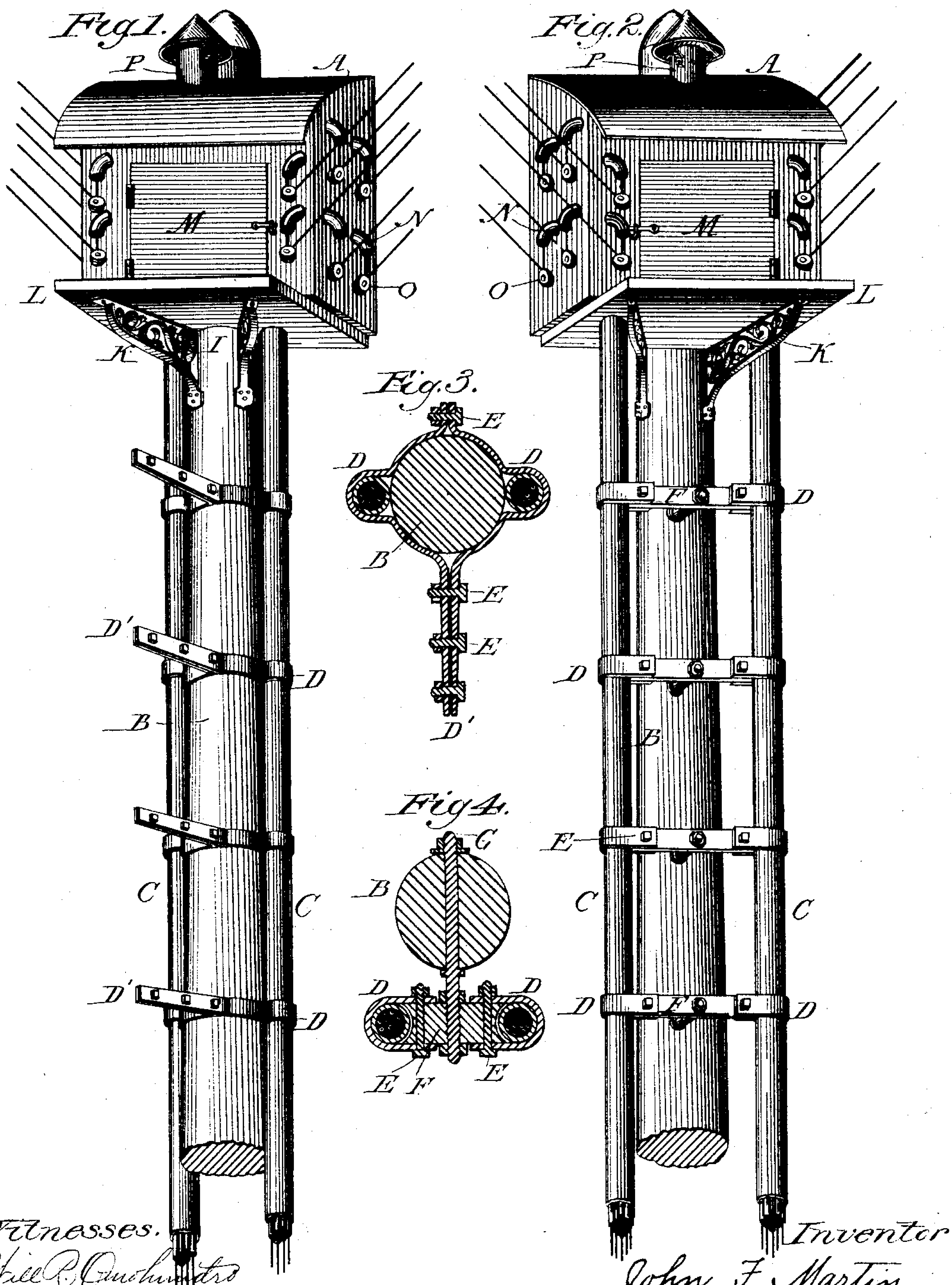
(No Model.)

J. F. MARTIN.

DISTRIBUTING BOX FOR ELECTRIC WIRES.

No. 286,949. Patented Oct. 16, 1883.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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DISTRIBUTING-BOX FOR ELECTRIC WIRES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 286,949, dated October 16, 1883.

Application filed March 30, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN F. MARTIN, a citizen of the United States, residing in Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Distributing-Boxes for Electric Wires, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to elevated distributers for electric wires which are laid underground through the streets of a city, and at certain points along the main or branch lines carried above the surface of the earth to distributers, from whence they are conducted to the various buildings or other points to be supplied.

The object of my invention is to provide improved means whereby an operator can at any time readily ascend to the elevated distributing-box for the purpose of laying, taking out, inspecting, or repairing the wires; also, to utilize the devices employed for permitting the operator to climb up to the elevated distributing-box as a means for bracing the vertical pipes through which the wires are conducted from the ground up to the distributers; also, to provide improved means whereby the elevated distributer is supported, and the wires conducted from the ground to the same. These objects I attain by means of the devices hereinafter fully described, and illustrated in the annexed drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the distributing-box with the means for supporting and conducting the wires to the box, and for permitting ready access to be had to the same. Fig. 2 is a like view, with a slightly-different arrangement of devices for permitting an operator to ascend to and descend from the distributing-box. Fig. 3 represents a horizontal section taken through Fig. 1 on a plane below the distributing-box. Fig. 4 is a like view taken through Fig. 2.

Referring by letter to the several figures of the drawings, in which like letters denote like parts, A indicates the distributing-box, fixed upon a vertical support, B. This support, which can consist of a wooden pole or of a solid or hollow metal post, can be set directly in the ground, or be secured at its base in any suitably-constructed foundation. It is proposed to locate said support and box within an alley-way running from a street through which a conduit for electric wires is laid, and to extend a branch pipe from such conduit to the base of the support, where it will connect with any suitable box or trap for allowing wires from the main to be drawn through the pipe in the alley-way. The wires will be run up from said trap to the distributing-box through the vertical pipes C, which are arranged alongside of the support. These pipes C connect the distributing-box with the traps or branch pipe at the foot of the standard, and are held in rigid connection with each other and with the standard by means of devices, which, while serving to brace the pipes, also serve as a ladder or steps for allowing an operator to easily climb up to the distributing-box. As shown in Figs. 1 and 3, the pipes run along opposite sides of the standard, and are embraced at intervals by straps D, which are bent so as to closely embrace both the standard and the pipes. The straps are arranged in pairs, with their ends bent outwardly and firmly bolted together. At one side of the standard the ends D′ of the straps thus secured together project laterally therefrom to an extent sufficient to render them capable of being utilized as the rounds of a ladder. The bolts E hold the straps firmly upon the pipes and the standard, and prevent them from slipping, although, if desired, auxiliary fastening devices could be employed. In Figs. 2 and 4 the pipes for the wires are arranged in a vertical plane at one side of the standard.

The metallic straps or bands D, which are bent so as to embrace the pipes, are made in U shape, and have their ends fitted against wooden or metal blocks F, arranged at intervals between the pipes. The ends of these blocks are concaved, so as to fit the pipes, and the straps are secured to the blocks by means of bolts E. These blocks take the place of the projections D′ in Fig. 1, and also serve as the rounds of the ladder. In order to further brace and support the blocks or rounds, one or more rods or bolts, G, are secured to the blocks and to the standard, the bolts prefer-

ably passing through the standard and the blocks, and being provided with tightening-nuts H. When the pipes are arranged against opposite sides of the standard, as in Fig. 1, a portion of the standard should be secured in the back of the box, as indicated at the point I, so that the pipes shall enter the box between its rear and front walls; but when the pipes set out from the standard, as in Fig. 2, such arrangement will not be rendered necessary.

K indicates brackets for supporting a shelf, L, upon which the box is seated, and which may or may not constitute the bottom proper of the box. This shelf will be found convenient for holding the tools of an operator engaged in manipulating the wires. The distributing-box has a door, M, by means of which access can be had to its interior. It is also provided with bent spouts N for the wires, and with insulators O, to which the wires passing through the spout are secured. The wires can be carried from the box to any or all of the houses in a square in which the box is located, and for convenience the box will preferably be located at or about the middle of the alley-way. It is further proposed to employ insulating-tubes and flexible tubular couplings for the wires within the pipe when desired in the main, as set forth in prior applications which I have filed for Letters Patent of the United States; or the wires can, if preferred, be insulated in any other suitable way. At the top of the box I provide a short flue, P, provided with a suitable chimney-cap, so as to prevent rain or snow from entering the box. Space is left around the insulated wires within the pipe C, so that the pipes, box, and their top flues practically constitute chimneys, through which an upward draft is created, and hence a circulation of air is caused around the insulated wires, so as to keep the same dry.

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

1. The combination, with an elevated distributing-box for electric wires and the supporting devices, of binding-straps having projecting ends, which serve as steps for enabling an operator to ascend to the box, substantially as described.

2. The combination, with an elevated distributing-box for electric wires, supported upon a standard, of the pipes located alongside of the standard, and devices which connect the pipes with the standard and afford steps from the ground to the box, substantially as described.

3. The combination, with the standard of an elevated distributing-box for electric wires and the pipe running alongside the standard, of the straps secured to the pipe and standard and projecting laterally from the latter to form steps, substantially as described.

4. The combination, with the distributing-box and its supporting-standard, of the pipes through which the wires pass to the box, and the bent straps D, embracing the pipes and the standard and bolted together, said straps having their ends extended out from the standard, so as to form steps, substantially as described.

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