(No Model.)

E. S. B. TOMBS.

SHOW BOX.

No. 314,893. Patented Mar. 31, 1885.

Fig. 1.

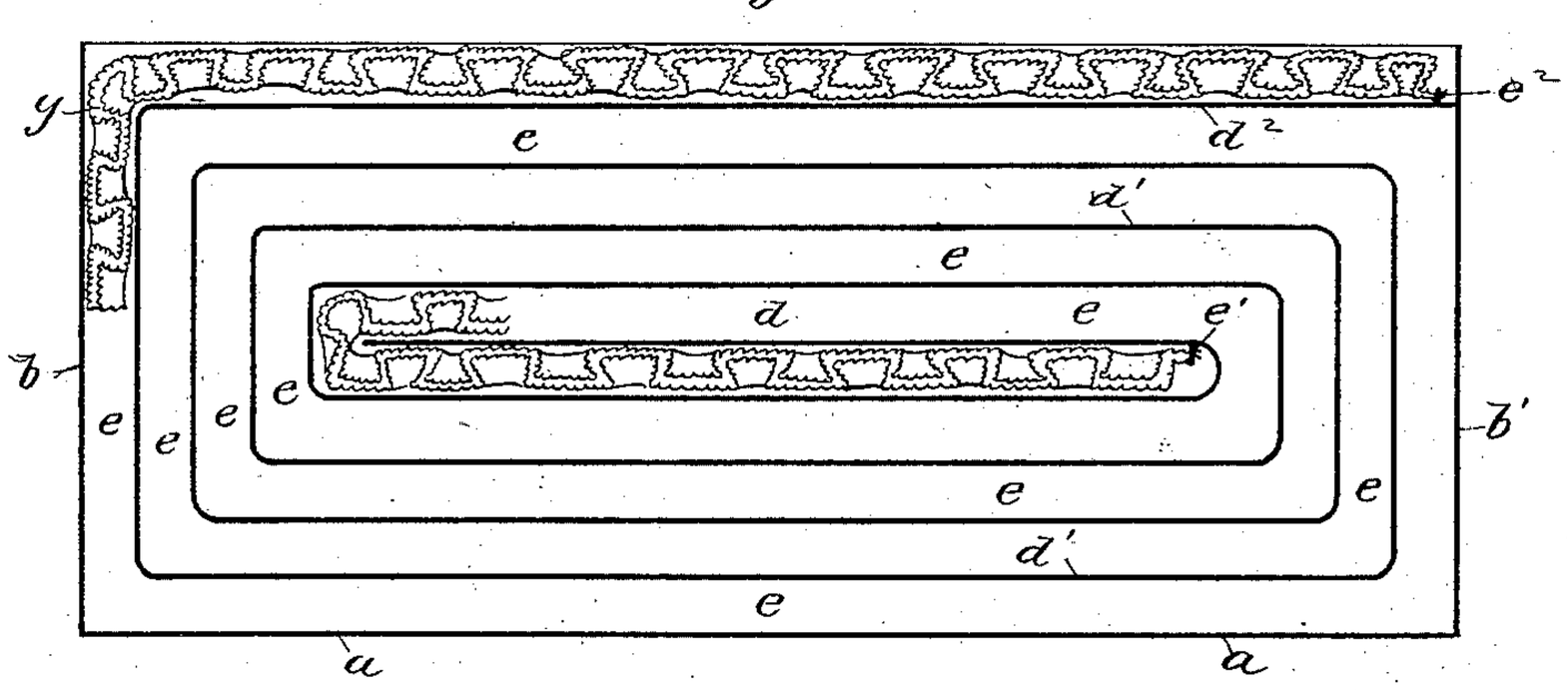


Fig. 2.

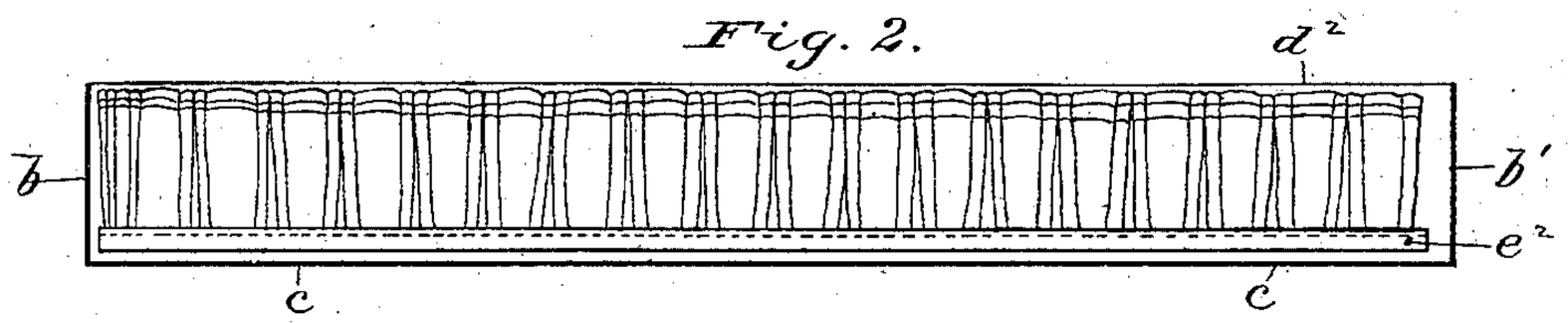


Fig. 3.

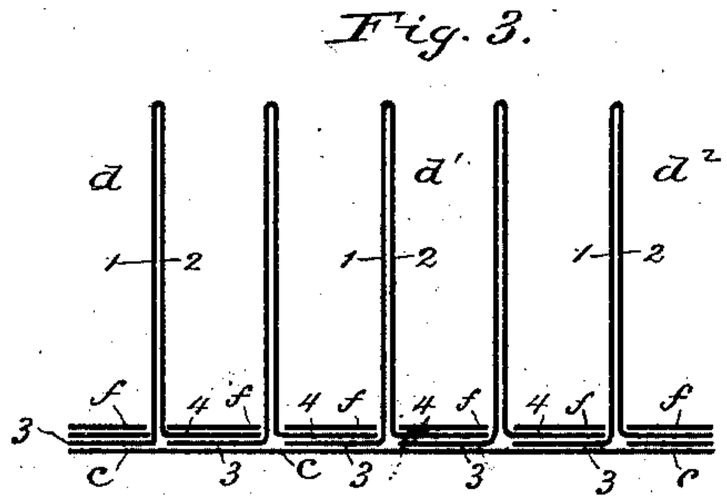
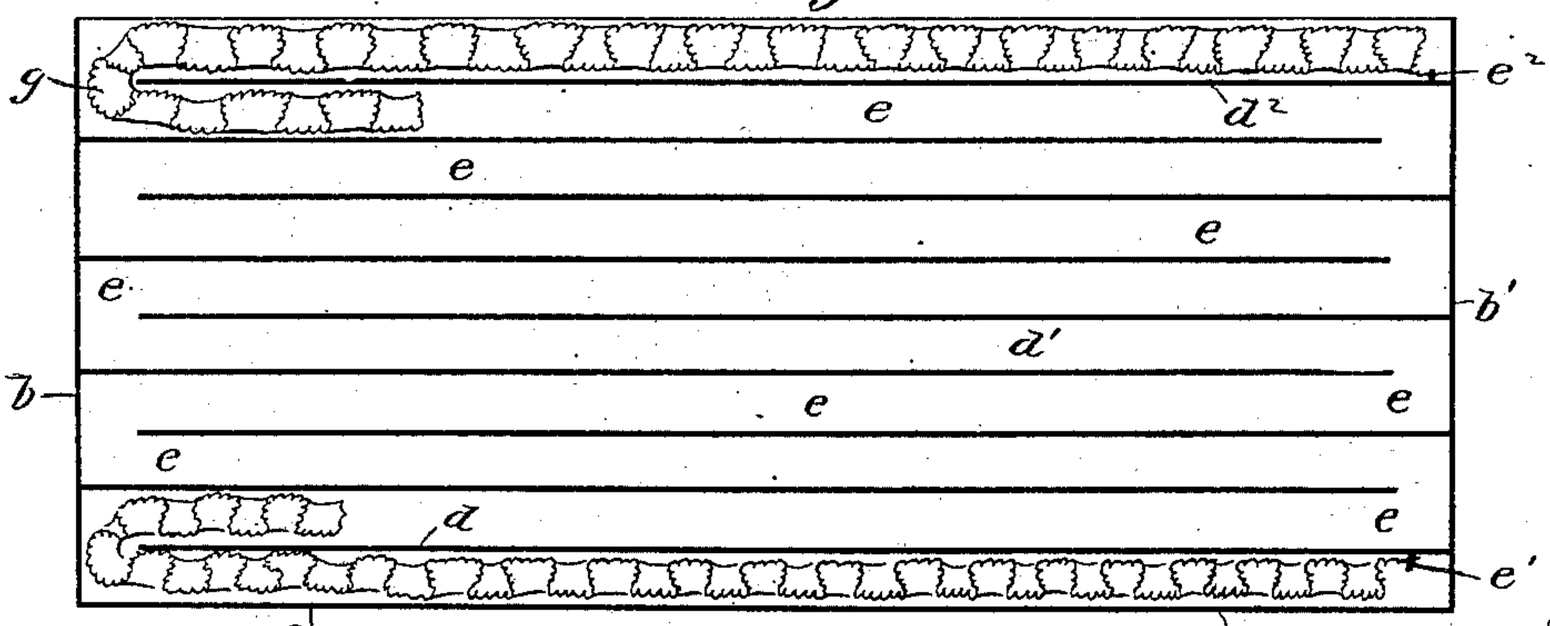


Fig. 4.



Witnesses:
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by Marcellus Bailey
his atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD SAMUEL BOYS TOMBS, OF LONDON, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, ENGLAND.

SHOW-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 314,893, dated March 31, 1885.

Application filed December 23, 1884. (No model.) Patented in England February 29, 1884, No. 4,154.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD SAMUEL BOYS TOMBS, a subject of the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, and residing at Red Cross Street, London, in the county of Middlesex, England, have invented certain new and useful improvements in show-boxes or receptacles for holding and displaying trimmings and other like materials, (for which I have applied for Letters Patent in Great Britain, No. 4,154, bearing date February 29, 1884;) and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to boxes or receptacles which are intended more particularly for the convenience of retail dealers for holding frillings, so as to protect the same from injury, and at the same time expose the pattern to view, while admitting of any required length being drawn off with facility; but the said boxes or receptacles are also applicable for holding and displaying other similar trimmings and like materials.

In carrying out my said invention in order to effect these objects, I construct the box or receptacle with superposed supports, forming a spiral, coiled, or zigzag passage, in which the trimmings or other like materials are contained, the said passage at its upper or outer end opening to or terminating at the exterior of the box for the egress of the trimming or like material, which may thus be displayed along the top, end, or side of the box, all as hereinafter more fully described.

And in order that the said invention may be perfectly understood, I shall now proceed more particularly to describe the same, and for that purpose shall refer to the several figures on the accompanying sheet of drawings, the same letters of reference indicating corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 of the accompanying drawings represents a front elevation of a box constructed according to my said invention and intended to hold and display frillings, portions of the frilling being shown in position, while the remainder of the space is left vacant, in order to facilitate the description of the construction of the box. Fig. 2 is a plan of the same; and Fig. 3 is a detail drawn to a larger scale, and hereinafter referred to. Fig. 4 is a front elevation representing a modification of the arrangement illustrated in Figs. 1, 2, and 3.

Referring to Figs. 1, 2, and 3, the box, the body of which is composed of a bottom, *a*, ends *b b'*, and side *c*, of card-board or other convenient material, is constructed with superposed supports *d d' d²*, made, for example, by bending a piece of card-board or other suitable substance, or molding pulp into shape, so as to form a series of coils, commencing at the center *d* of the box and increasing in size until the uppermost one, *d²*, merges in and coincides with the upper side of the box. The box thus constructed contains a continuous elongated spiral passage, *e*, for the frilling, one end of which is placed at the center *e'*, while the remainder of the frilling fills the whole of the coils of such spiral passage until it debouches at *g* at the uppermost one, whence it is carried over the top of the box and secured at *e²*. It will thus be seen that the necessary protection is afforded to the different layers of the frilling, which are separated from each other by the superposed supports formed by the coils, while the pattern is exhibited at the top of the box without the necessity for removing the frilling for that purpose. This outside layer of frilling may remain permanently attached to the top of the box until the whole supply is exhausted, as the lengths required for use are by preference drawn off from the center without interfering with the outside layer, displaying the pattern on top. In the example illustrated the coils are assumed, as shown in the detail transverse section, Fig. 3, to be composed of two thicknesses or pieces, 1 2, of material, bent or turned over at right angles where they come in contact with the side *c* of the box, and the portions 3 4 so bent or turned over are attached by adhesion to the side *c* of the box and to one another, with a coiled piece, *f*, applied over and caused to adhere to the whole; but these details may be greatly modified—as, for example, the coiled piece *f* may be dispensed with, and the coils may consist wholly of a single thickness of

material, or mainly of a single thickness, with a strengthening-piece to insure sufficient rigidity.

When two thicknesses of material are used, it is sometimes necessary to slit or slot the outer layer at intervals, so as to facilitate shaping the coils at the corners in the course of manufacture. The material may also be corrugated, in order to obtain additional strength, and be perforated, if desired, to reduce weight. It is obvious also that where expense is a consideration some of the coils or segments thereof may be omitted without seriously impairing the efficiency of the box for the purpose in view.

Fig. 4 illustrates a modification, in which the superposed supports *d d' d²*, in lieu of being coiled, are caused to project alternately from opposite ends of the box, so as to form a zigzag passage, *e*, for containing the frilling, one end of which is placed at the bottom *a*, while the remainder of the frilling fills the whole of the tiers of the passage *e* until it debouches at *g* at the uppermost one, *d²*, whence it is carried over the top of the box and secured at *e²*, as before, a similar result being obtained to that hereinbefore described with reference to the arrangement illustrated in Figs. 1, 2, and 3.

The boxes or receptacles, constructed in the manner hereinbefore described, are, by preference, placed side by side edgewise in an outer box or case, so that the patterns of the material on the inner boxes or receptacles will be visible on opening such outer box or case.

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

A box or receptacle constructed with superposed supports forming a spiral, coiled, or zigzag passage in which trimmings or other like materials are contained, the said passage at its upper or outer end opening to or terminating at the exterior of the box for the egress of the trimming or like material which may thus be displayed along the top, end, or side of the box, all substantially as hereinbefore described.

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

EDWARD SAMUEL BOYS TOMBS.

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