(No Model.)

G. B. COWLES.

MORTISE LOCK.

No. 323,564. Patented Aug. 4, 1885.

Fig. 1.

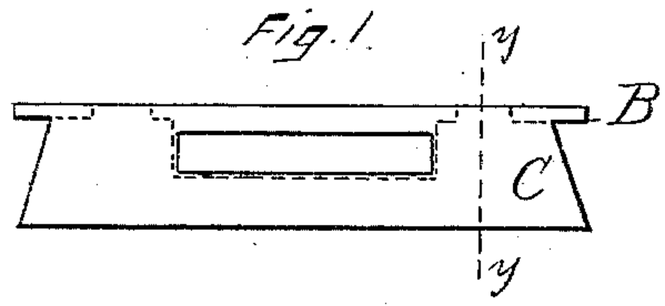


Fig. 2.

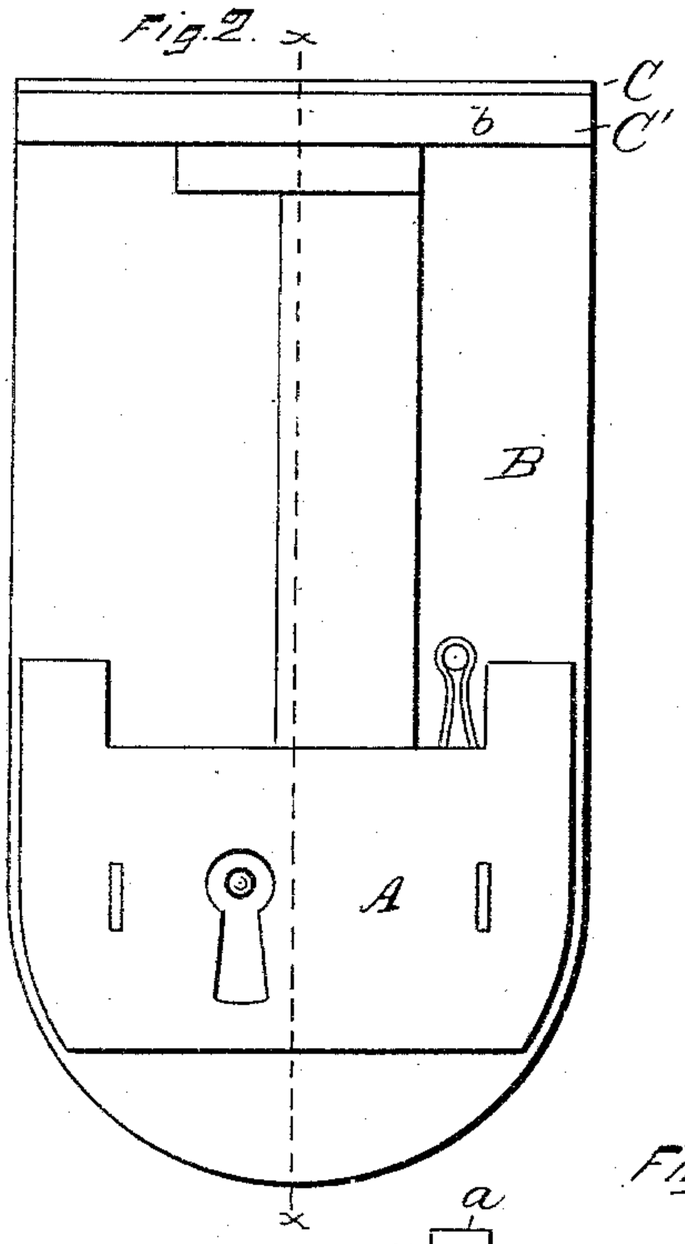


Fig. 3.

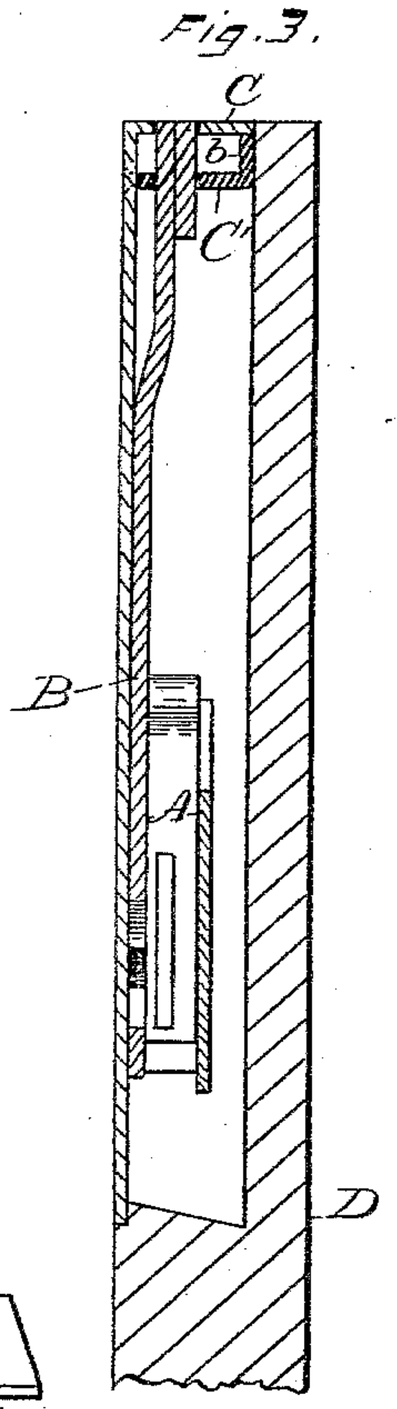


Fig. 4.

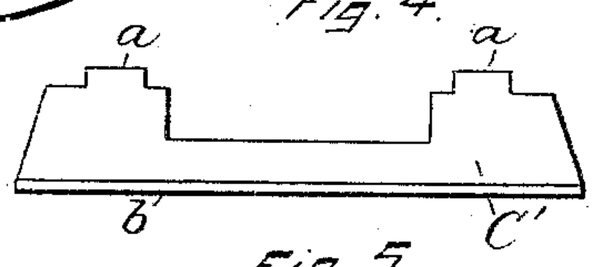
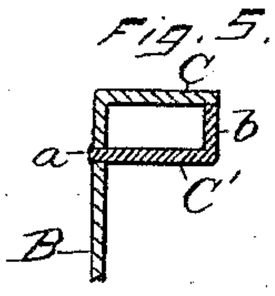


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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MORTISE-LOCK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 323,564, dated August 4, 1885.

Application filed March 30, 1885. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE B. COWLES, a citizen of the United States, residing at New Britain, in the county of Hartford and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mortise-Locks, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in that class of mortise-locks which have overhanging side walls and are secured in place by being let into a routed cavity having overhanging side walls. In this class of locks thus secured the upper end of the lock is held in place mainly by the selvage. When the wood in the drawer rail or front shrinks so much that its upper edge is below the selvage, there is nothing to hold the upper part of the lock in place. Even if the wood shrinks only a distance equal to a part of the thickness of the selvage, the latter is so thin that pulling upon the drawer when it is locked will cause the selvage to cut its way out of the mortise and let the lock bend or fall back into the drawer, so that the drawer can be opened without withdrawing the lock-bolt into its case.

The object of my invention is to more firmly secure these locks in place. My invention is particularly designed for lock-cases whose cap does not extend upward to the selvage.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a plan view of my lock. Fig. 2 is a rear elevation. Fig. 3 is a vertical section on line *x x* of Fig. 2, together with a portion of the drawer rail or front. Fig. 4 is a detached plan view of my re-enforce selvage, and Fig. 5 is a vertical section of the upper portion of my lock on line *y y* of Fig. 1.

The main portion of the lock is the same as in ordinary locks of this class, and need not be particularly described.

A designates the cap of the lock-case, B the lock-plate, and C the selvage. I add to these parts what I term a "re-enforce" or "reserve" selvage, C′. This in plan view is of the same contour as the selvage proper, and at the edge which faces the lock-plate B, I form two projecting lugs, *a a*, Figs. 4 and 5. Said lugs are also indicated by broken lines in Fig. 1. I also prefer to form an upwardly-projecting flange, *b*, on the rear edge of this re-enforce selvage, the upper edge of which flange is designed to bear upon the under side of the selvage proper, C. Holes are made in the lock-plate at the proper point to receive the lugs *a a*, and the ends of said lugs are headed down to hold the re-enforce selvage C′ in place in the position illustrated.

It is not necessary in my invention to fasten the re-enforce selvage with lugs through the plate proper, as the only essential requisite is that said re-enforce selvage shall be by some means secured firmly to the lock-plate in the sense that the re-enforce selvage will hold the lock plate and case within the routed cavity.

By my improvement, whenever the wood of the drawer-rail D shrinks so that its upper edge is below or nearly below the edge of the selvage C, the dovetailed mortise will still embrace the re-enforce selvage, which, being thus held in reserve, will securely hold the upper end of the lock-case firmly in its mortise, so that it cannot be pulled out. Said re-enforce selvage at all times, whether the drawer-rail shrinks or not, will maintain its hold in the mortise or routed cavity, and materially add to the strength by which the lock is secured in place. In order to accomplish this object, it must be firmly attached to the lock, and at a point below the selvage C greater than the probable shrinkage of the wood with reference to the depth of the mortise.

I claim as my invention—

The herein-described lock-case, having overhanging side edges which adapt the case to be secured within a routed cavity, and having a re-enforce or reserve selvage firmly secured to said lock-case, substantially as described and for the purpose specified.

GEORGE B. COWLES.

Witnesses:

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