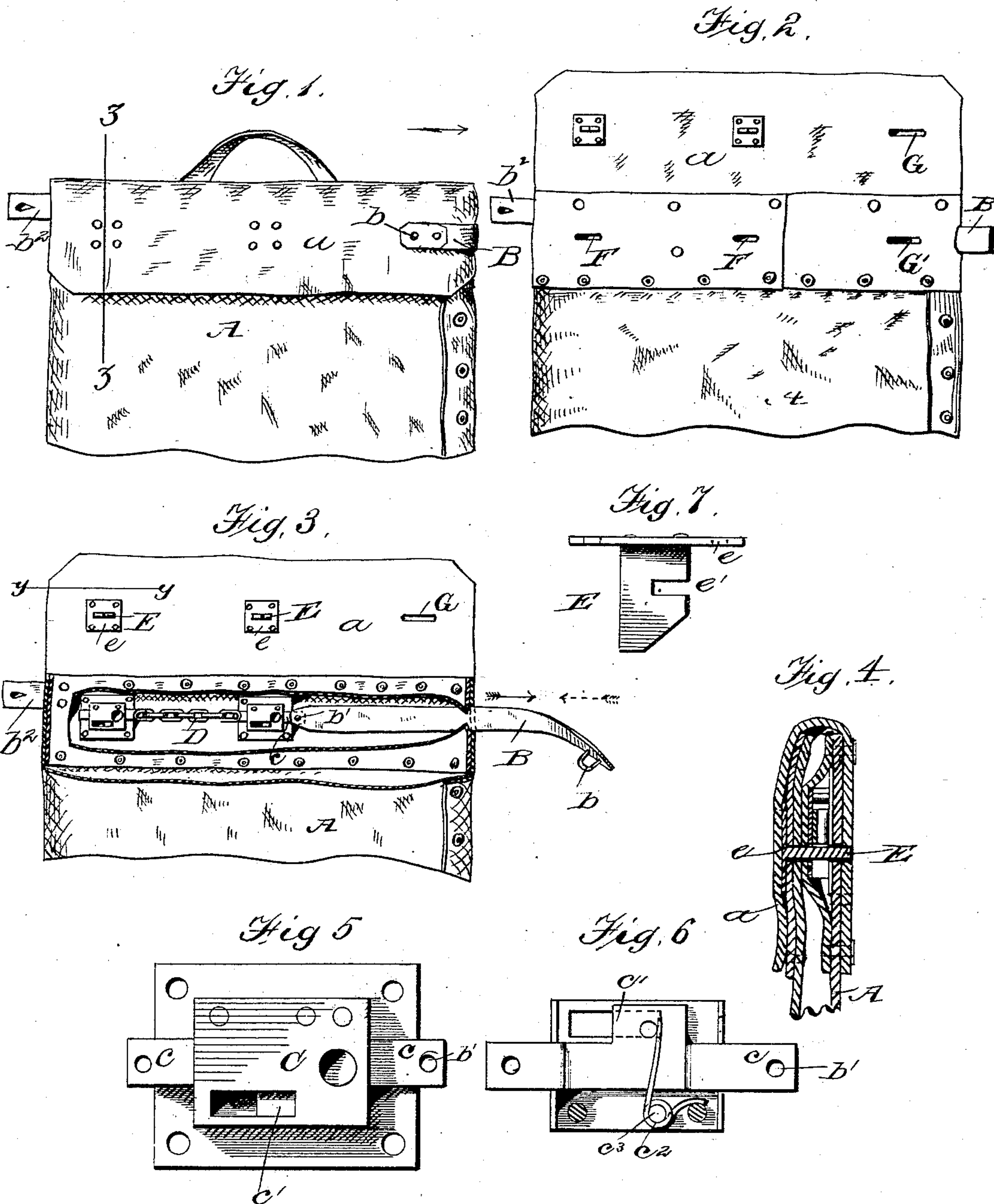


(No Model.)

H. F. GAINES.
MAIL BAG.

No. 354,546.

Patented Dec. 21, 1886.



Attest:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HIRAM F. GAINES, OF ROUSE'S POINT, NEW YORK.

MAIL-BAG.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 354,546, dated December 21, 1886.

Application filed March 20, 1886. Serial No. 195,989. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HIRAM F. GAINES, a citizen of the United States, residing at Rouse's Point, in the county of Clinton and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Bags, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

My invention relates to mail-bags, having for its object the provision of an article which shall be simple and durable in construction, effective in operation, cheap of manufacture, and possessing the advantage of having the locking device secured in the inside, thereby preventing the said locking device from being tampered with; and the novelty consists in the construction, combination, and arrangement of parts, substantially as hereinafter fully set forth, and more particularly pointed out in the claims.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 is an elevation of a portion of a mail-bag embodying my improvements, the bag being closed. Fig. 2 is an elevation of a portion of the bag, showing the same open. Fig. 3 is also an elevation of a portion of the bag, the leather being cut away to more clearly show the locking device. Fig. 4 is a section on the line $z z$ of Fig. 1. Fig. 5 is an enlarged view of the lock. Fig. 6 is also an enlarged view of the lock with the top plate thereof removed, and Fig. 7 is an enlarged detail view of the locking-bar.

Referring to the drawings, in which similar letters of reference denote similar parts, A designates my mail-bag having the flap a ; B, a strap, one end of which is provided with a staple, b , and the other end being fastened at b' to the part c of the lock C; D, a chain which is fastened at one end to the slide c of the lock to which the strap B is secured, and at the other end to the slide c of the second lock.

b^2 designates a strap placed on the bag opposite the locking-strap B.

E E designate locking-bolts, which are fastened by means of plates e to the flap of the mail-bag, and are provided with recesses e' e' , into which the jaws c' spring to lock the bag.

F F designate apertures cut in the bag just over the opening in the lock for the insertion of the locking-bolts E E.

c^2 designates a spring which, after being coiled around the pivot c^3 , extends upwardly and supplies the force to press the jaws c' into the recesses e' of the bolts E.

The locks, it will be understood, are placed within the bag.

G G' designate slots, respectively, in the flap of the bag and in the body thereof.

To lock the bag, the flap a is folded upon it, and the locking-bolts E E on the inside thereof are then pressed through the slots F in the bag, and thence into the open portion of the lock C, where they are caught and locked by the jaw c' , engaging in the recess e' , after which the free end of the strap B is brought around, and the staple thereon is inserted through the slots G G' and locked on the other side of the bag by any suitable means. Thus it will be seen that even should the strap be cut the bag will remain locked.

To unlock the bag, it is preferably hung on a peg or nail by means of the strap b^2 , when the padlock is unlocked, the strap B disengaged by drawing out the staple, and by pulling on said strap the jaws c' c' of the parts $c c$ are withdrawn from their engagement with the locking-bolts E E, when it will be found that the flap of the bag is free.

Modifications in details of construction may be made without departing from the spirit or sacrificing the advantages of my invention—as, for instance, there may be any number of the locks C and corresponding locking-bolts, e , or I may use a strap or other suitable means in place of the chain D.

What I claim is—

1. The combination, with two or more spring-actuated locking-slides, of a corresponding number of locking-bolts to receive said slides, and a pull-strap continuously connecting said slides and provided at its external end, which passes through the bag, with a locking-staple adapted to be passed through the flap of the bag, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination, with the bag A, having the slits F F, and flap a , carrying the locking-bolts E, having recesses e , of the locks C, having slides c , studs c' , and presser-springs c^2 , and secured within said bag, the chain D, connecting said slides, and the strap B, connected to one of said slides and carrying the staple b , substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

HIRAM F. GAINES.

Witnesses:

ROBERT E. CASEY,
JOHN R. MYERS.