(Model.)

L. T. LAWTON.

FURNITURE CASTER.

No. 358,206. Patented Feb. 22, 1887.

Fig. 1

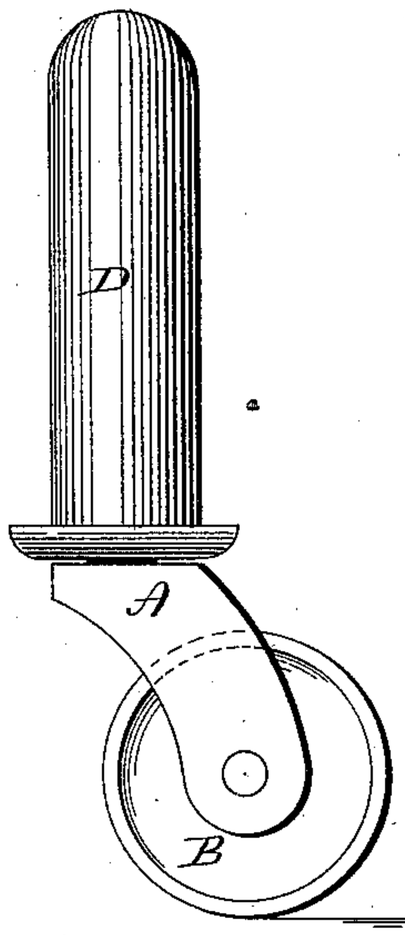


Fig. 2

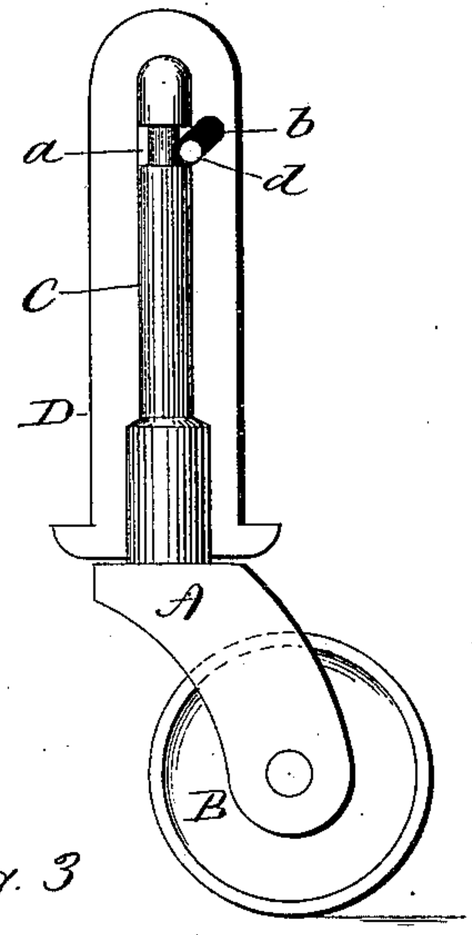


Fig. 3

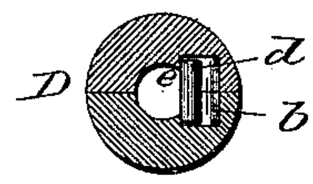


Fig. 4

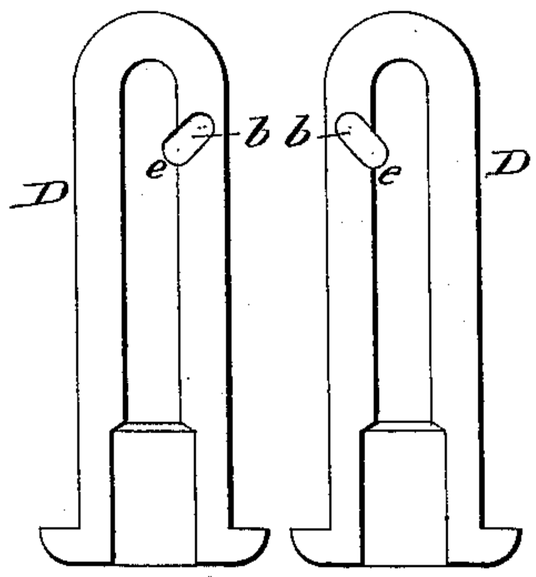
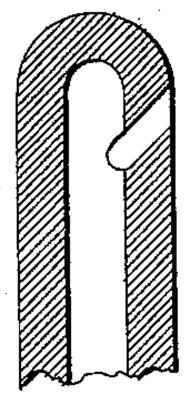


Fig. 5



Witnesses.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LYMAN T. LAWTON, OF MERIDEN, CONNECTICUT.

FURNITURE-CASTER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 358,206, dated February 22, 1887.

Application filed December 6, 1886. Serial No. 220,776. (Model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LYMAN T. LAWTON, of Meriden, in the county of New Haven and State of Connecticut, have invented a new Improvement in Furniture-Casters; and I do hereby declare the following, when taken in connection with accompanying drawings and the letters of reference marked thereon, to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, and which said drawings constitute part of this specification, and represent, in—

Figure 1, a side view of the caster complete; Fig. 2, a side view, one-half of the socket removed; Fig. 3, a transverse section cutting through the roll-recess; Fig. 4, an inside view of the two parts of the socket, showing the recess as formed in each part; Fig. 5, a vertical section through a single-piece socket.

This invention relates to an improvement in furniture-casters, and particularly to that class which is adapted for heavy articles of furniture, and which is constructed with a spindle extending up from the horn into a socket first fixed in the article to which the caster is to be applied, the socket and horn being readily separable, and such as known in the trade as "bed-casters." In casters of this class it is desirable that the caster, when once placed in the socket, should retain its position, but yet so that it may be removed; and the object of this invention is to accomplish this result in a cheap and simple manner.

A represents the horn, which is substantially the usual form, and to which the roller B is attached in the usual manner. From the horn the spindle C extends, at the upper end of which is an annular groove, *a*. The sockets for this class of casters are cast in two equal parts, the division being in the plane of the axis. In the adjacent edges of both parts of the socket D, on one side, I form a recess, *b*, which will, when the two parts are set together, as in Fig. 3, form a single recess, the recess opening into the socket, as seen at *e* in Fig. 3, corresponding in position to the groove *a* on the spindle. The recess *b* extends obliquely upward and outward from the interior of the socket. In the recess *b* a roll, *d*, is arranged, extending into the recess at each side the opening *e* into the socket, and rests upon the inclined bottom of the recess, but so as to be freely moved up or down the inclined bottom of the recess. In its normal position the roll rests partially in the socket through the opening *e*.

The socket is placed in position in the usual manner, with the roll *d* in the recess *b* and the spindle inserted. The head of the spindle forces the roll *d* into the recess, allowing the head to pass, and when the head has passed the roll the roll returns by its own gravity to its normal position and into the groove *a*, and thereby securely holds the caster to the socket.

To remove the caster the article to which it is attached is inverted, or nearly so, so that the roll *d* will fall back out of the groove *a* in the spindle, and so as to leave the socket clear, and the spindle is free, and the caster may be removed.

I have illustrated and described the stop as cylindrical, and this shape is the most desirable, because in such shape there is less resistance to the automatic movement of the stop in the recess to engage the spindle; but I wish to be understood by the term "roll" as including any stop which may be arranged in the recess and move by its own gravity into engagement with the spindle, and so as to stop and hold the spindle in the socket.

I have described the socket as made in two parts, divided vertically, as this is the common, usual, and cheapest construction, as each part can be molded of itself without core; but the socket may be cast complete in a single piece, with a recess from the outside inward, as seen in Fig. 5, and the stop placed in that recess, so as by its own gravity to fall into engagement with the groove in the spindle.

I claim—

1. The herein-described caster, consisting of the horn A, carrying the wheel B, and constructed with a spindle, C, having an annular groove, *a*, combined with the socket D, vertically divided, and constructed with a recess, *b*, in the adjacent edges of the two parts, corresponding to the groove *a* in the spindles, and the gravity-stop *d* in said recess, adapted

to rest in said groove *a* when the spindle is in the socket, substantially as described.

2. In a caster substantially such as described, the combination of the horn A, carrying the wheel B, and constructed with a spindle, C, having an annular groove, *a*, therein, with the socket D, constructed with a recess in one side open to the interior of the socket and corresponding in position to the groove of the spindle, with a gravity-stop in said recess, substantially as described.

LYMAN T. LAWTON.

Witnesses:
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