

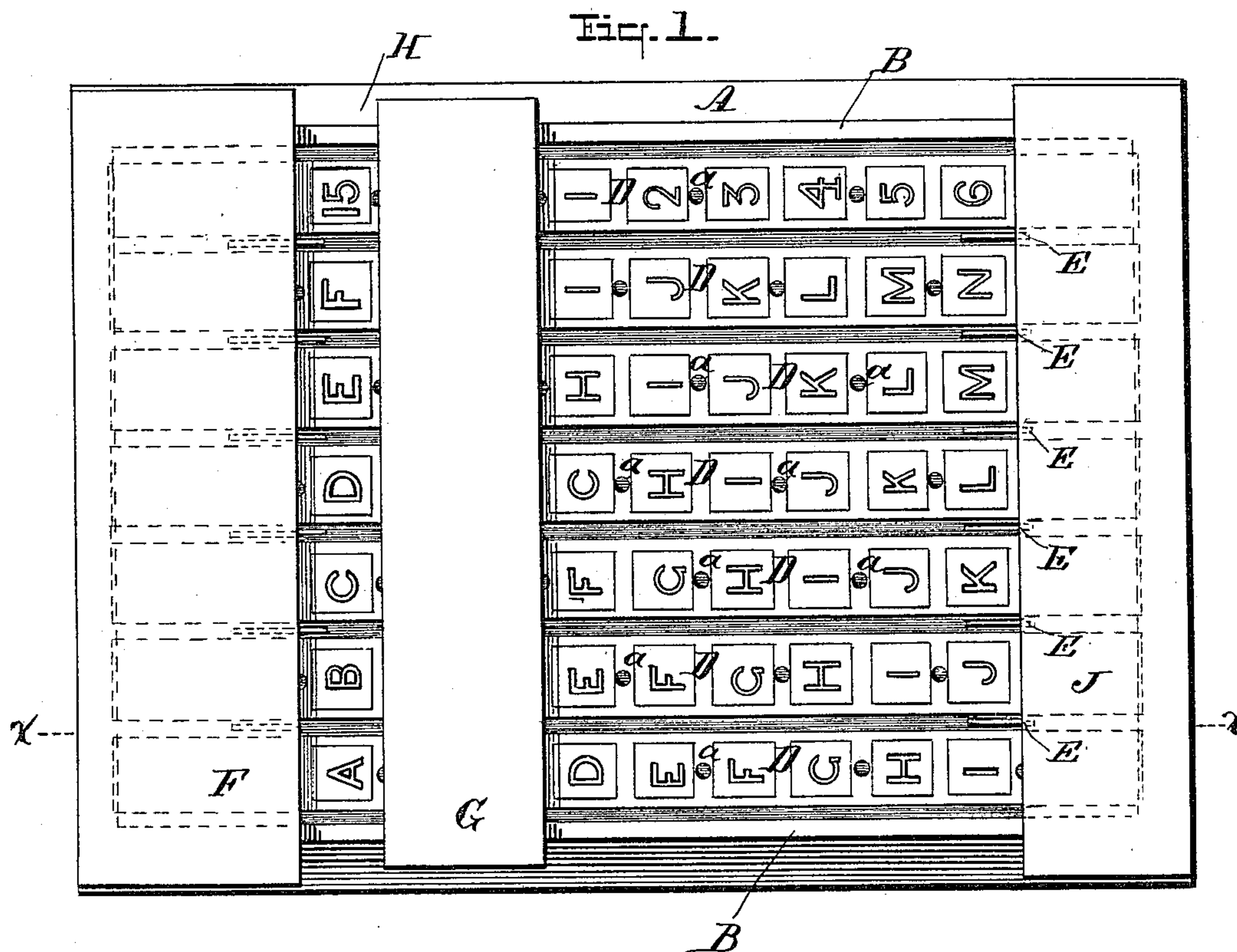
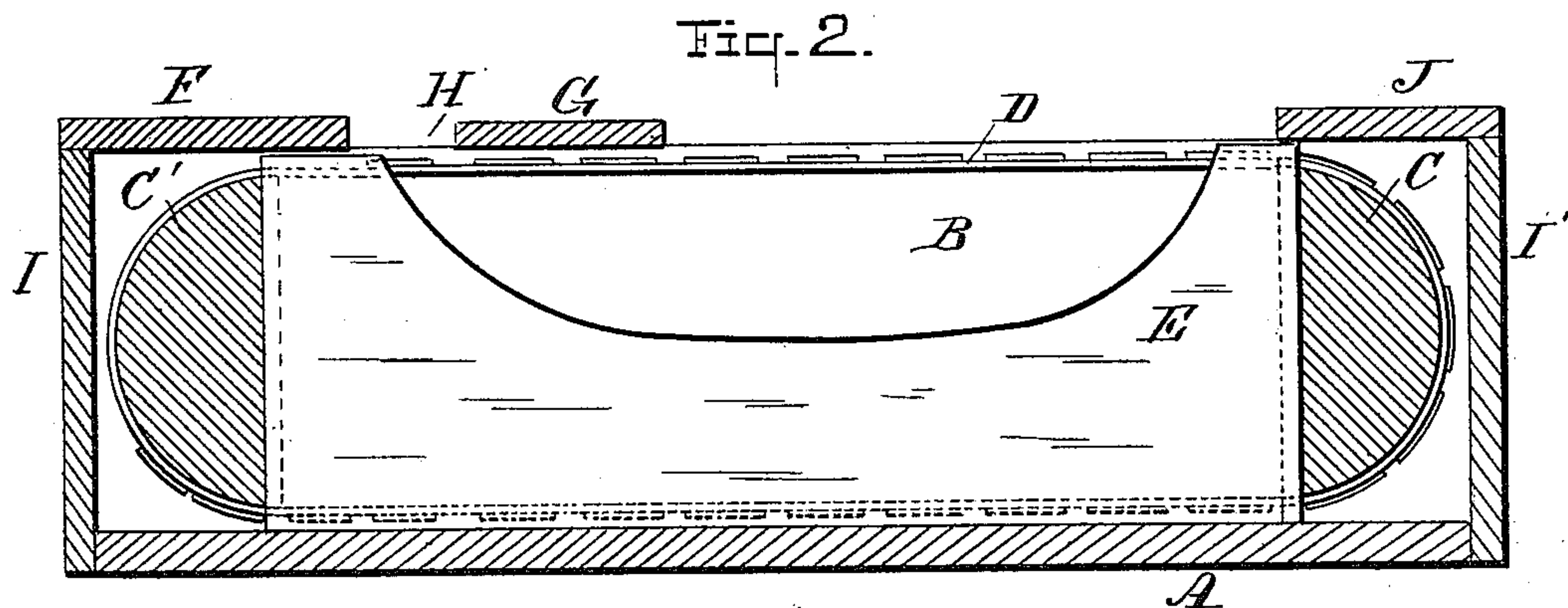
(No Model.)

A. M. SAFFORD.

ALPHABET CASE.

No. 362,665

Patented May 10, 1887.



WITNESSES:

*D. D. Mott*  
*C. Sedgwick*

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALBERT M. SAFFORD, OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND.

## ALPHABET-CASE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 362,665, dated May 10, 1887.

Application filed December 29, 1886. Serial No. 222,919. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ALBERT M. SAFFORD, of Providence, in the county of Providence and State of Rhode Island, have invented a new and Improved Toy; of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the annexed drawings, forming a part thereof, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan view of my improved toy, and Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section taken on line *x x*, in Fig. 1.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in both views.

The object of my invention is to provide a toy for the amusement and instruction of children.

My invention consists in a frame supporting a series of parallel endless tapes, each tape carrying the letters of the alphabet, the several tapes being arranged to be moved so as to bring any desired combination of letters in front of an opening of the frame.

To the back A are secured the side pieces, B, and between opposite ends of the side pieces are placed the semi-cylindrical tape-supports C C', with their convex sides arranged outwardly. Endless tapes D, carrying letters, figures, or characters, extend around the semi-cylindrical supports C C', and in slots in the inner faces of the supports C C' are inserted the ends of the tape-guides E, which project beyond the outer faces of the tapes and serve to guide the tapes so that they will remain parallel with each other. The central portion of the outer edge of each guide is preferably cut away, as shown in the drawings.

To the outer edges of the side pieces, B, are secured the strips F G, leaving a space, H, through which one letter or one character upon each tape may be displayed. The several tapes

are provided with apertures *a*, for receiving the point of a pencil or other implement for sliding the tapes around their supports and bringing the desired letters into view in the space H.

One end of the frame is inclosed by the end piece, I, which is secured to the back A and strip F, and the opposite end of the frame is closed by an end piece, I', and a strip, J, attached to the end piece, I, and to the side pieces, B, covers the support C and completes the device.

By means of a pencil inserted in the aperture *a* in either of the tapes the tape will be moved so as to display any desired letter in the opening H. Each tape is provided with a blank space, so that only as many letters as are required need be displayed.

The device is used in arranging letters to spell short words, the length of the words which may be spelled by the device being limited by the number of letter-carrying tapes.

After spelling the words by means of the apparatus they are copied on a slate to fix them in the memory.

Having thus fully described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

The combination of the frame formed of the back A and side pieces, B, the semi-cylindrical supports C C', the endless tapes D, provided with apertures *a* and carrying letters, figures, and characters, the guides E, and the strips F G, secured to the front of the frame and partly covering the tapes, substantially as described.

ALBERT M. SAFFORD.

Witnesses:

CHARLES F. BALDWIN,  
IRVING CHAMPLIN.