(No Model.)

P. WERUM.

COMBINED ROPE CLAMP AND TAG HOLDER.

No. 373,506. Patented Nov. 22, 1887.

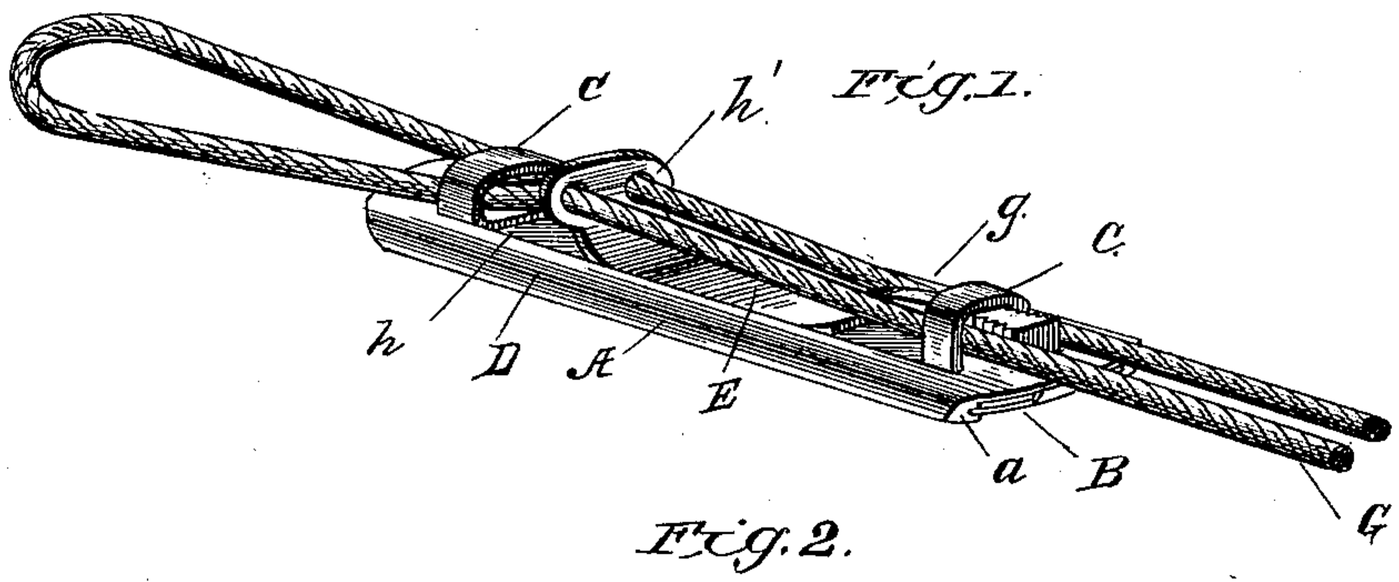


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

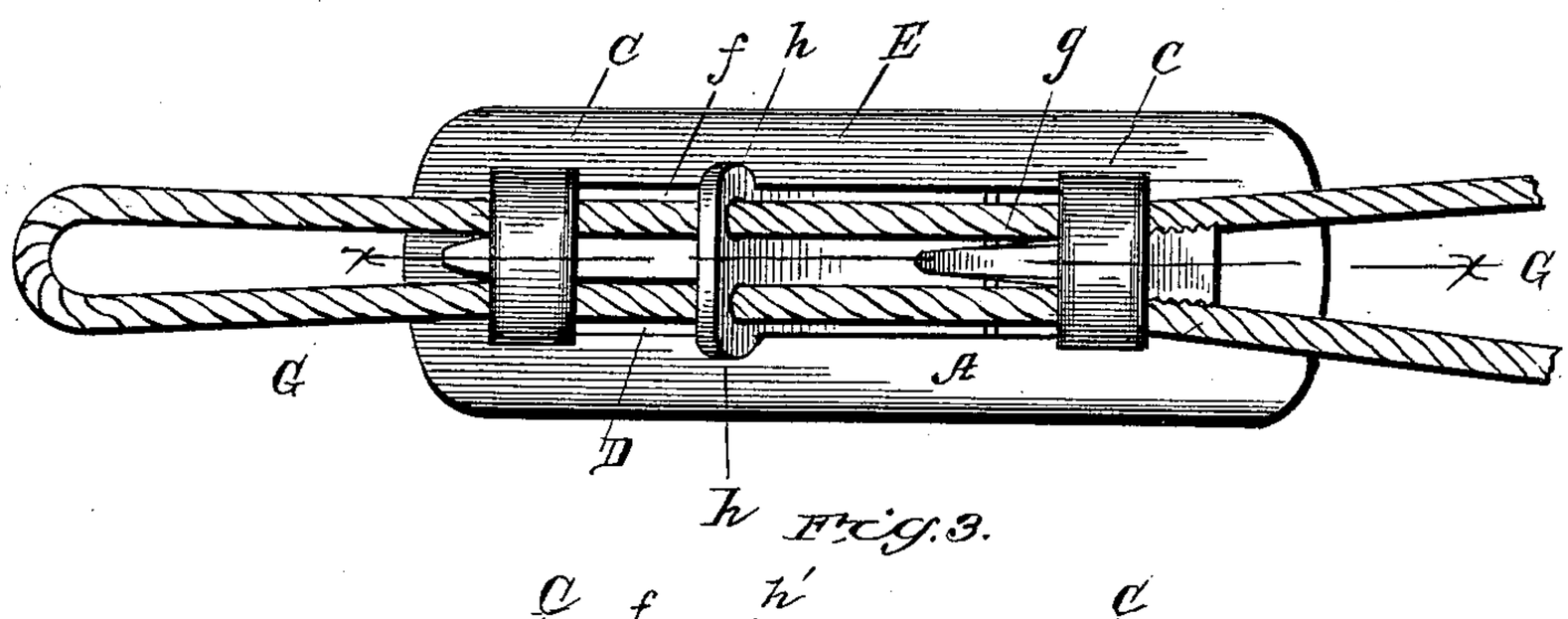
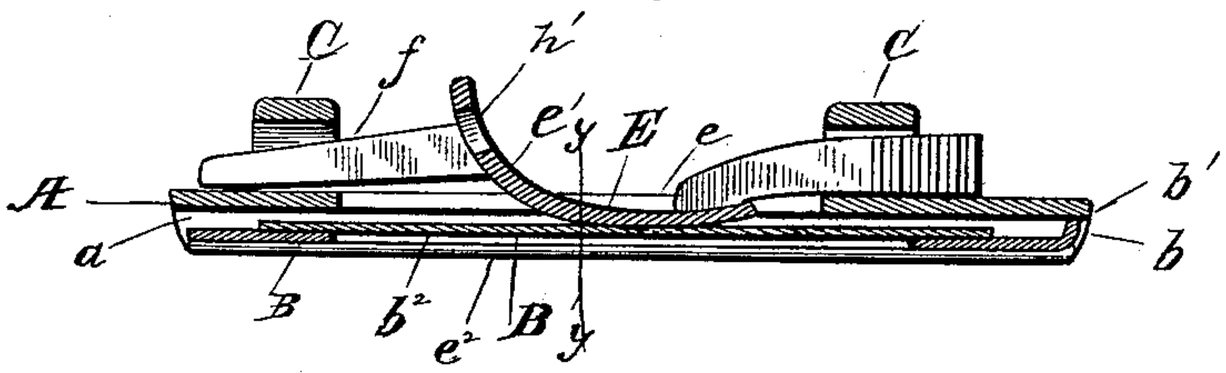


Fig. 3.



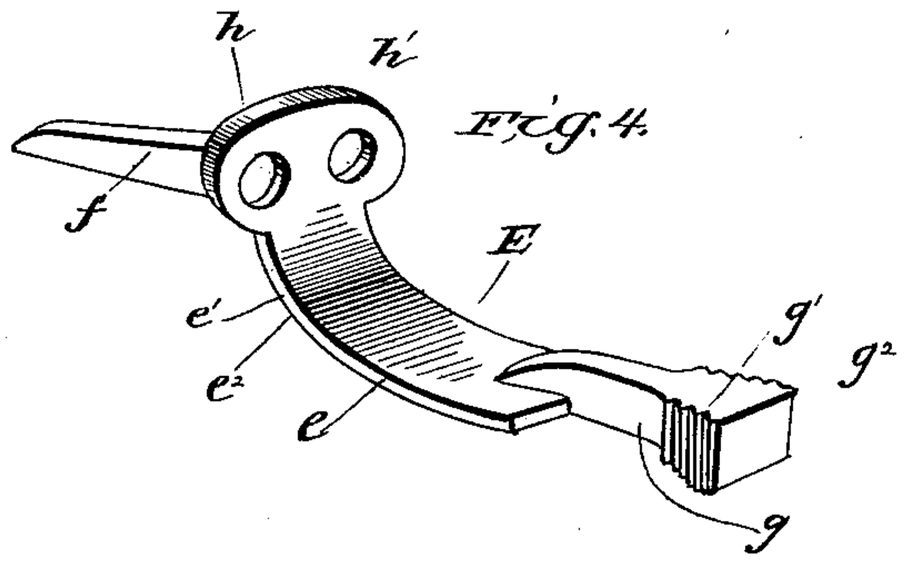
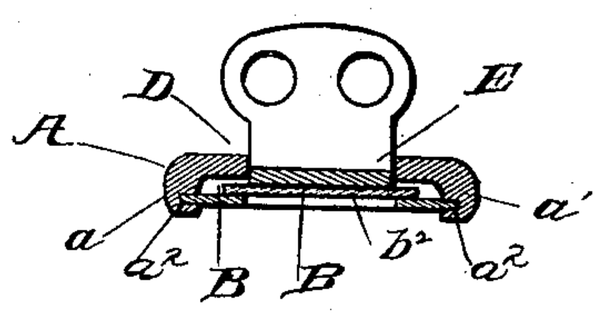


Fig. 4.

Fig 5



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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COMBINED ROPE-CLAMP AND TAG-HOLDER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 373,506, dated November 22, 1887.

Application filed July 29, 1887. Serial No. 245,618. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, PHILIP WERUM, a citizen of the United States, residing at Toledo, in the county of Lucas and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in a Combined Rope-Clamp and Tag-Holder; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to improvements in combined cord-clamps and tag-holders, particularly adapted for use in mail-bags; and it consists of the peculiar construction and combination of parts, as will be hereinafter fully described, and particularly pointed out in the claims.

The primary object of my invention is to provide an improved clamp and tag-holder which secures itself upon the cord or rope and the tag in the holder by frictional contact only, and in such a secure manner that the parts cannot be displaced, and the cord and tag are simultaneously released at one operation, so that either can be removed at will without requiring the adjustment of separate devices, the parts being simple and strong in construction, effective and reliable in operation, and cheap of manufacture.

A further object of my invention is to so arrange the cord in the clamp that it is effectually prevented from twisting at either end of the clamp, while at the same time the cord is so disposed that it is in position at all times for the clamping-slide to bind thereon.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved cord-clamp and tag-holder. Fig. 2 is a top plan view. Fig. 3 is a vertical longitudinal sectional view on the line $x\,x$ of Fig. 3. Fig. 4 is a detail perspective view of the clamping-slide detached from the device, and Fig. 5 is a vertical cross-sectional view on the line $y\,y$ of Fig. 3.

Referring to the drawings, in which like letters of reference denote corresponding parts in all the figures, A designates the base-plate of a combined cord-clamp and tag-holder embodying my invention, which base-plate is preferably made rectangular in form. The said plate is provided on one side, at the side edges thereof, with longitudinal parallel flanges or ribs $a\,a'$, in the opposing faces of which are formed longitudinal channels or grooves a^2, in which is fitted a tag-plate, B. This tag-plate is provided at one end with an angular lip or flange, b, which is fitted in a recess or notch, b', formed in one side of the base plate A, so that the tag-plate is held from endwise movement and securely in place in the clamp, and the said tag-plate is arranged a short distance from and parallel with the base-plate, to leave an intermediate space or chamber, in which a paper or other tag, B', is fitted. The tag-plate is further provided with a longitudinal slot, b^2, through which the name of the station or the destination printed on the paper or other tag can be readily observed.

The base-plate A of the clamp is further provided on the reverse side to the flanges or ribs a with integral keepers C, preferably two in number, which are arranged in line with each other near opposite ends of the base-plate. Between these keepers a longitudinal slot, D, is formed in the base-plate A, which slot aligns or coincides with the slot of the tag-plate when the tag is removed, and in the slot D of the base-plate operates the clamping-slide E, the peculiar construction of which I will now proceed to describe.

The body e of the clamping-slide is of such a width as to fit snugly in the longitudinal slot of the base-plate and to be capable of sliding freely back and forth therein, and the front end of the body is curved upwardly, as at e', to form or provide a binding-surface at e^2, which impinges upon the tag B', when the slide is thrust forward, to clamp the tag securely in place by frictional contact solely, the binding action of the said surface taking place only when the slide is thrust forward, and is accomplished in the manner presently described.

From the upwardly-curved end e' of the body of the clamping-slide projects a forwardly-extending finger, which is inclined downwardly from a horizontal line drawn through the body of the slide, and from the rear end of the body of the slide extends a horizontal arm, g, with the lateral faces at the free rear extremity thereof formed with integral wedge-surfaces $g'\,g^2$, to thereby make the arm wedge-shaped in longitudinal section, these wedge-shaped sur-

faces being corrugated or toothed to more firmly bite on the rope or cord G. The inclined finger *f* of the slide projects into one of the keepers, the one at the front end of the base-plate, and the free end of the finger rides or impinges upon the upper surface of the said plate, and the rearwardly-extending arm *g* passes through the keeper at the opposite rear end of the base-plate, sufficient space being left between the sides of the keepers and the finger and arm, when the slide is drawn rearward, to permit the cord or rope G to pass between the same.

The body of the slide at the upper extremity of the curved end *e'* thereof, which forms the binding-surface e^2, is formed with guide eyes or loops *h h'*, which are arranged on opposite sides of the finger *f*, and above the same and through the eyes or loops is passed the cord or cords G. In fitting the cord or rope G in the clamp it is first doubled upon itself and connected to the mail-bag, or two cords may be used which are properly secured to the bag, and the ends of the cord or cords are passed through the front keeper on opposite sides of the finger *f*, then through the eyes or loops *h h'*, and finally through the rear keeper on opposite sides of the arm *g*, thereby allowing the free ends of the cord or cords to project beyond the rear end of the clamp.

The operation of my invention is as follows: The cord having been first properly fitted in the clamp and the tag B' inserted in the space between the base and tag plates, the slide is thrust forward by hand to press the wedge-shaped surfaces of the arm *g* into contact with the cord or cords G, and thereby forces the same laterally against the sides of the rear keeper, these wedge-shaped surfaces grasping the cord firmly and holding the device thereto in such a secure manner that it cannot become displaced or detached. As the slide is thrust forward to clamp the cord, the inclined finger *f* rides on the base-plate and forces the binding-surface e^2 of the body of the slide firmly upon the tag B', and thus holds the tag securely in place against the tag-plate. It will thus be seen that the cord is gripped firmly and the tag held in place by the simple forward thrust of the clamping-slide, which can be quickly performed with great ease, and both the cord and tag can be simultaneously released by a retrograde movement of the slide when it is desired to adjust either the cord in the clamp or replace the tag with another one.

I attach especial importance to the peculiar construction and action of the clamping-slide, as it performs its functions in a highly-satisfactory manner, and is extremely simple in construction as well as reliable and effective in operation.

Slight changes in the form and proportion of parts can be made without departing from the spirit or sacrificing the advantages of my invention.

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

1. The combination of a base-plate having keepers, a slide guided by the keepers and provided with two guides and laterally-extending wedge-shaped surfaces, and a cord passing through the guides and on opposite sides of the wedge-shaped surfaces, to be pressed by the latter against one of the keepers, substantially as described.

2. The combination of a slotted base-plate, a slide operating in the slot of the plate and having the binding-surface to operate against a tag, and an inclined arm connected to the slide and riding on the base-plate when the slide is thrust forward to depress the binding-surface, substantially as described.

3. The combination of a slotted base-plate having keepers, a slide provided at an intermediate point of its length with a binding-surface to operate against a tag, an inclined finger projecting from one end of the slide, a wedge-shaped arm projecting from the opposite end of the slide, and a cord fitted on opposite sides of the arm and finger, between the latter and the sides of the keepers, substantially as described.

4. In a combined cord-clamp and tag-holder, the combination of a base-plate having keepers, a cord passed through the keepers, a tag, and a slide guided by the keepers and having plurality of integral clamping surfaces, for simultaneously impinging upon the cord and tag to bind the parts in place at a single thrust of the slide in one direction, substantially as described.

5. In a combined cord-clamp and tag-holder, the combination of a base-plate having the keepers, a slide for clamping a tag and carrying the guide eyes or loops, a finger connected to the slide at a point below the guide-eyes and between the latter, and wedge-shaped arm extending from the opposite end of the slide for clamping a cord, substantially as described.

6. In a combined cord-clamp and tag-holder, the combination of a slotted base-plate having the keepers, a slotted tag-plate fixed to the base-plate and arranged to leave a space between the two plates, and a curved slide operating in the slot of the base-plate and having an inclined finger at one end and a wedge-shaped arm at the opposite end, substantially as described.

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

PHILIP WERUM.

Witnesses:
WILLIAM E. COLE,
E. D. MOORE.