(No Model.)

J. A. KIMBALL.

DENTAL TOOL HOLDER.

No. 381,143. Patented Apr. 17, 1888.

Fig: 1.

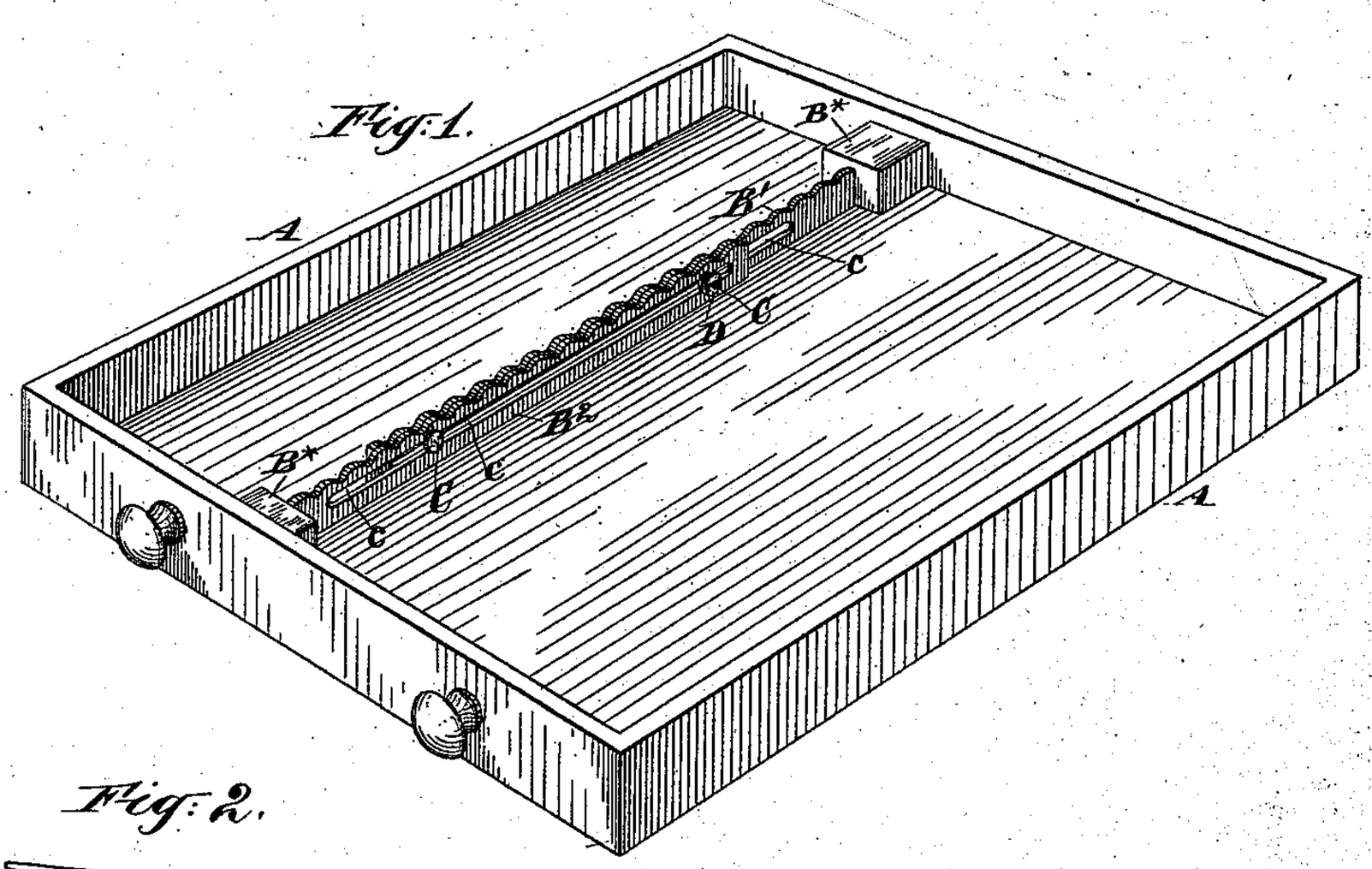

Fig: 2.

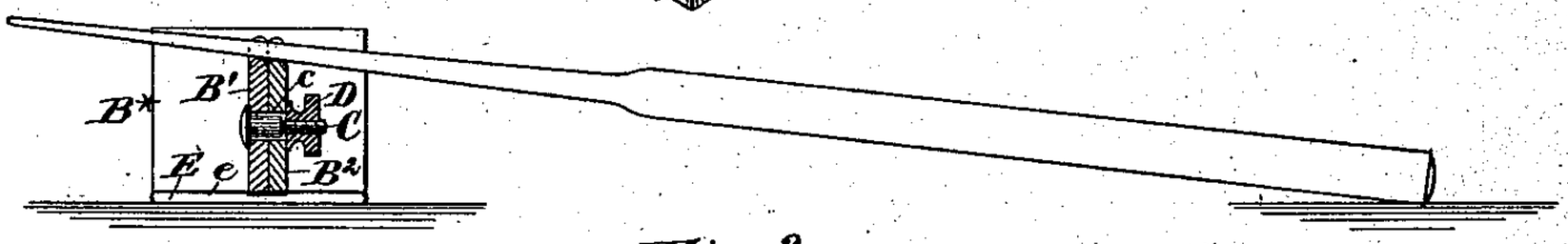

Fig: 3.

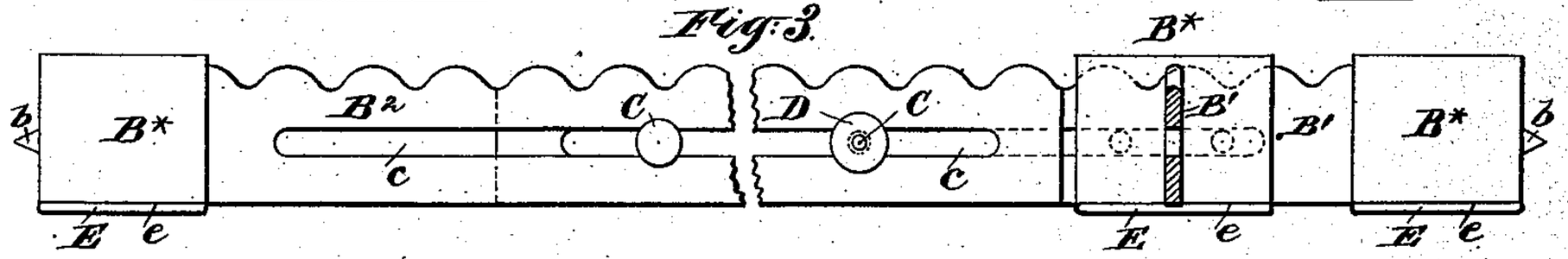

Fig: 4.

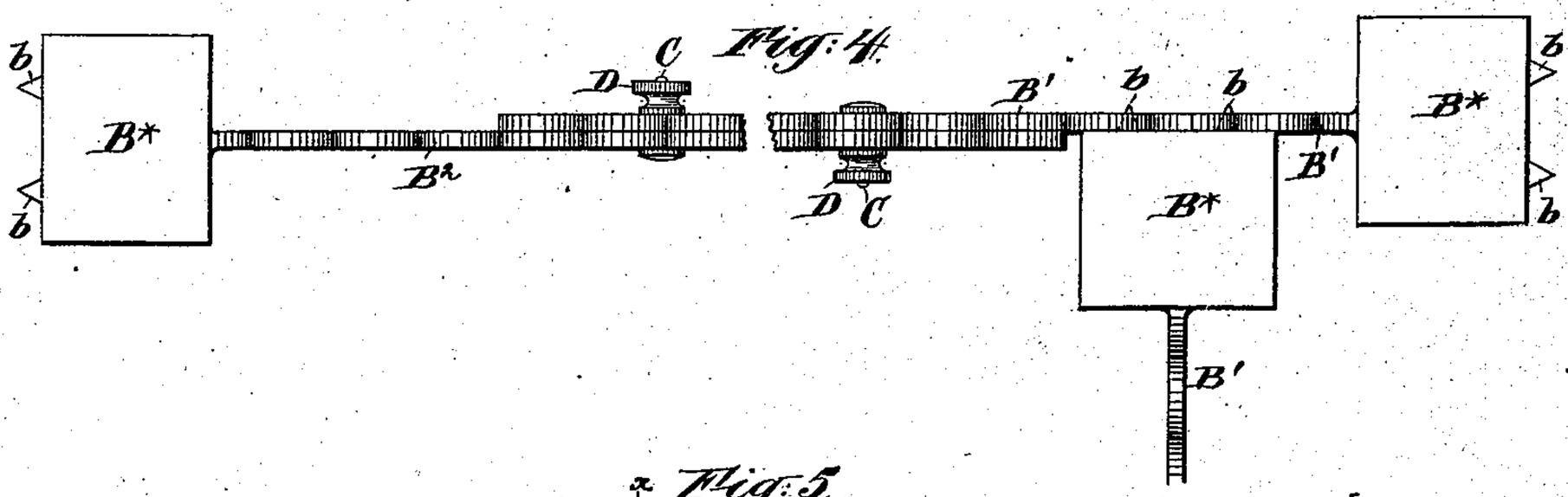

Fig: 5.

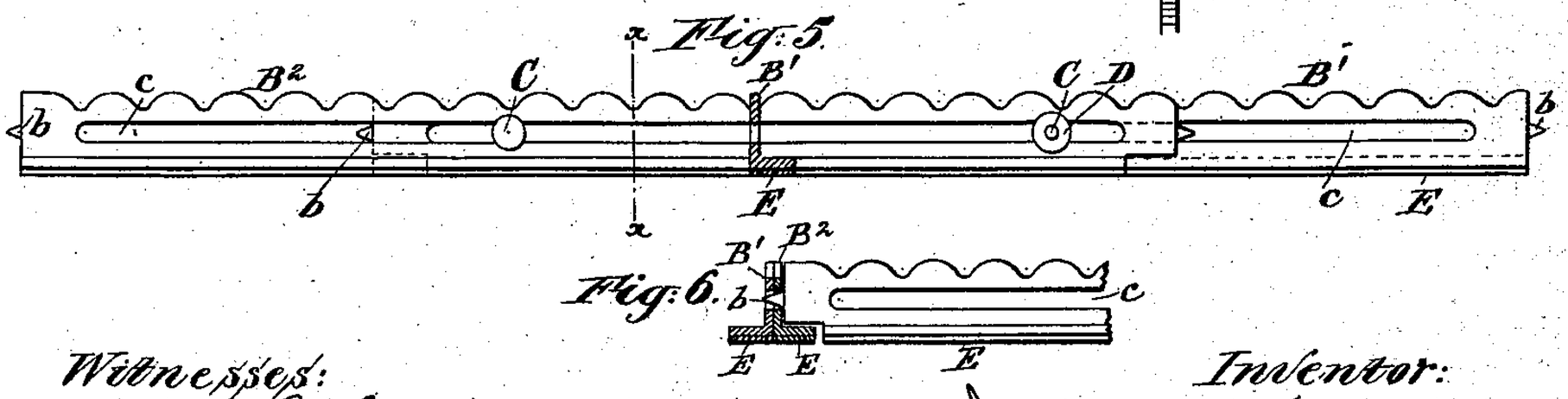

Fig: 6.

Witnesses:
Charles R. Searle,
H. A. Johnstone.

Inventor:
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by his attorney
Thomas Drew Stetson

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH ALBERT KIMBALL, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

DENTAL-TOOL HOLDER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 381,143, dated April 17, 1888.

Application filed August 19, 1887. Serial No. 247,347. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH ALBERT KIMBALL, of the city and county of New York, in the State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Dental-Tool Holders, adapted to serve also as partitions in drawers, of which the following is a specification.

I make the tool-holders in convenient lengths—say eight (8) inches—with a narrow upper edge smoothly waved, scalloped, or notched, so as to serve conveniently in keeping in place instruments laid transversely thereto by receiving them in the several notches or scallops.

The device may be used for holding pens, artists' brushes, and various other articles. I esteem it especially useful for dentists' use in retaining the several small tools used in filling teeth and analogous operations on the teeth. I will describe it as being so applied. It may stand alone on a work-table or other supporting-surface, and may hold securely in place the several instruments as they shall be successively laid down, one end of each resting on the table or other support and the other end, or another portion of the tool, lying in one of the notches.

The holders are more especially intended to serve as partitions extending across the interiors of drawers or other shallow boxes. I provide means for conveniently adjusting the length and for matching the ends firmly against the perpendicular faces of the interior of the drawer.

I provide for varying the length by making the device in two or more sections slotted longitudinally and connected so that they may be adjusted to various positions longitudinally.

In what I esteem the most complete development of the invention the under side is coated with soft vulcanized rubber or analogous soft material having high frictional qualities, which enable it to retain its place without slipping under any slight strains. The outer end of each section is equipped with a point, which on its being thrust outward, so as to press it firmly against the interior of the drawer, engages therewith and aids to hold the device in place. The interior of the drawer may be grooved vertically to adapt it therefor; but my device will hold with considerable force on having its ends pressed forcibly outward without such previous preparation of the engaging-surface. The points at the ends of the sections correspond in height with the slots which extend longitudinally along the main bodies of the several sections. When I choose to introduce the holder as a transverse holder, by which I mean one holder arranged transversely or T wise to another holder, one end of the transverse holder abuts against the interior of the drawer and the point at the other end engages in a slot in the previously-placed holder. The transverse holder is set firmly in place by the same means as the principal holder—to wit, by placing it in position and extending it lengthwise. I provide for holding each pair of sections firmly in their proper positions relatively to each other when adjusted.

The accompanying drawings form a part of this specification, and represent what I consider the best means of carrying out the invention.

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing the device in use as a partition in a drawer. The remaining figures are on a larger scale. Fig. 2 is a cross-section showing a dental tool laid across and held against rolling by my tool-holder. Fig. 3 is a side elevation of one with a cross-section of another standing at right angles thereto. Fig. 4 is a corresponding plan view. Figs. 5 and 6 show a modification. Fig. 5 is a side view, with a cross-section through the adjacent portion, of a transversely-arranged holder. Fig. 6 is a vertical section on the line *x x* in Fig. 5.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures where they occur.

A is a drawer adapted to accommodate dentists' tools.

B′ B² are two sections of my tool-holder, each widened at one end, as indicated by B*, and equipped at that end with a point, *b*. The wide portions at the ends are adapted to afford lateral support and hold up the sections B′ B² in their proper vertical positions, however they may be loaded with tools. A slot, *c*, extends lengthwise of each section. The

two sections are held together by screws C, extending through the slots and receiving milled thumb-nuts D.

E is a sheet of soft vulcanized rubber, applied by a solution of rubber in naphtha, or other suitable cement, *e*, covering the whole or principal portion of the lower face of each section B*. The sheet E may be pure or variously mixed. It may be preferable for some reasons to have a fabric embodied in it. This layer forms a soft face to match closely and to avoid scratching or anywise marring the surface on which it may be used. Another and especially important function performed by this bottom layer is to prevent slipping. India-rubber and its compounds possess great frictional qualities. A moderate weight in the metal part resting on this rubber facing maintains its place with great tenacity by its friction.

For use on a bracket, table or other open support, the device may be set in any desired condition, either its most extended or most contracted or intermediate condition, preferably with the notches in the two sections coinciding with each other. For use as a partition in a drawer the nuts D are slackened, and after being introduced into the drawer in the required position the sections are moved longitudinally on each other until the points *b* at the ends of each are forced into strong contact with the inner faces of the drawer. Then holding it in position with one hand the thumb-nuts D are tightened with the other and the device is firmly set. If a transverse partition is to be introduced, the same means for introducing it are employed, the difference being simply that only one end of the transverse holder will engage with the inner face of the drawer, and the other end, belonging to the other section thereof, will engage in the slot *c* of the holder or partition previously set.

In any of the conditions in which my holder is adjusted for use it is capable, first, of standing firmly on its feet supported on the bottom of the drawer or on the work-table or other plane support; second, its rubber or analogous base gives it strong frictional qualities for keeping itself in place; third, if it is introduced in a drawer its points *b* engage with the inner face of the drawer and hold the device very firmly, so that it may serve both as a tool-holder by allowing the tools to rest in its notches in the same manner as when it is used on an open table, and also to serve as a partition in the drawer for holding loose tools or any materials in separate compartments; fourth, when it is used as a transverse partition one of these points engages conveniently in the slot in the previously-set holder or partition.

I have represented in Figs. 5 and 6 a modification in which the broad ends B* are omitted, and in lieu thereof a continuous web or foot is extended along the bottom of each section. When the two sections are applied together, the foot of one section extends in one direction and the foot of the other section extends in the opposite direction. The two feet form together a reliable support, holding the device with the same general effect as the broad ends B*. The slots and the pinching-screws and nuts may be the same in this form of the invention as in that first described. The ends cut under, as shown, facilitate the matching of one pair of sections transversely against another pair of sections, so as to form a partition and a transverse partition in a drawer.

Other modifications may be made in the details without departing from the principle or sacrificing the advantages of the invention. I propose in ordinary cases to make the main body of each part of sheet steel, brass, or other rolled metal of proper thickness. They may be conveniently made by dies. The broad portions B* at the ends may be made ornamental, of soft metal or other suitable material, cast in place or otherwise affixed on the sheet-metal bodies. The points *b* may be formed separately and inserted in holes produced in the separately-cast ends B*; but this is not essential. In the form shown in Figs. 5 and 6 the dies may be so shaped as to form the points *b* in one with the bodies.

I can cast the whole of each part B′ B* *b* complete in one piece. In such case I would make the body B′ thicker than would be necessary if it were of rolled metal, and having obtained sufficient weight by the metal in the body I could very much reduce the quantity of metal in the end B*.

However the parts are made and however they may be varied in proportion, the whole should be finished smoothly except on the bottom. I prefer that the bottoms be left rough in order to facilitate the adhesion of the rubber or other bottom facing, E.

I claim as my invention—

1. The extensible tool-holder described, having a notched upper edge and a broad base and slotted body, with holding means D, adapted to serve the double functions of a tool-holder, and an adjustable partition for a drawer, as herein specified.

2. The two-part tool-holder B′ B² and holding means D, each part equipped with ends B* *b*, adapted to engage with the interior of a drawer, as herein specified.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand, at New York city, this 16th day of August, 1887, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOSEPH ALBERT KIMBALL.

Witnesses:
H. A. JOHNSTONE,
M. F. BOYLE.