

(Model.)

T. L. RIVERS.

HANDLE.

No. 381,646.

Patented Apr. 24, 1888.

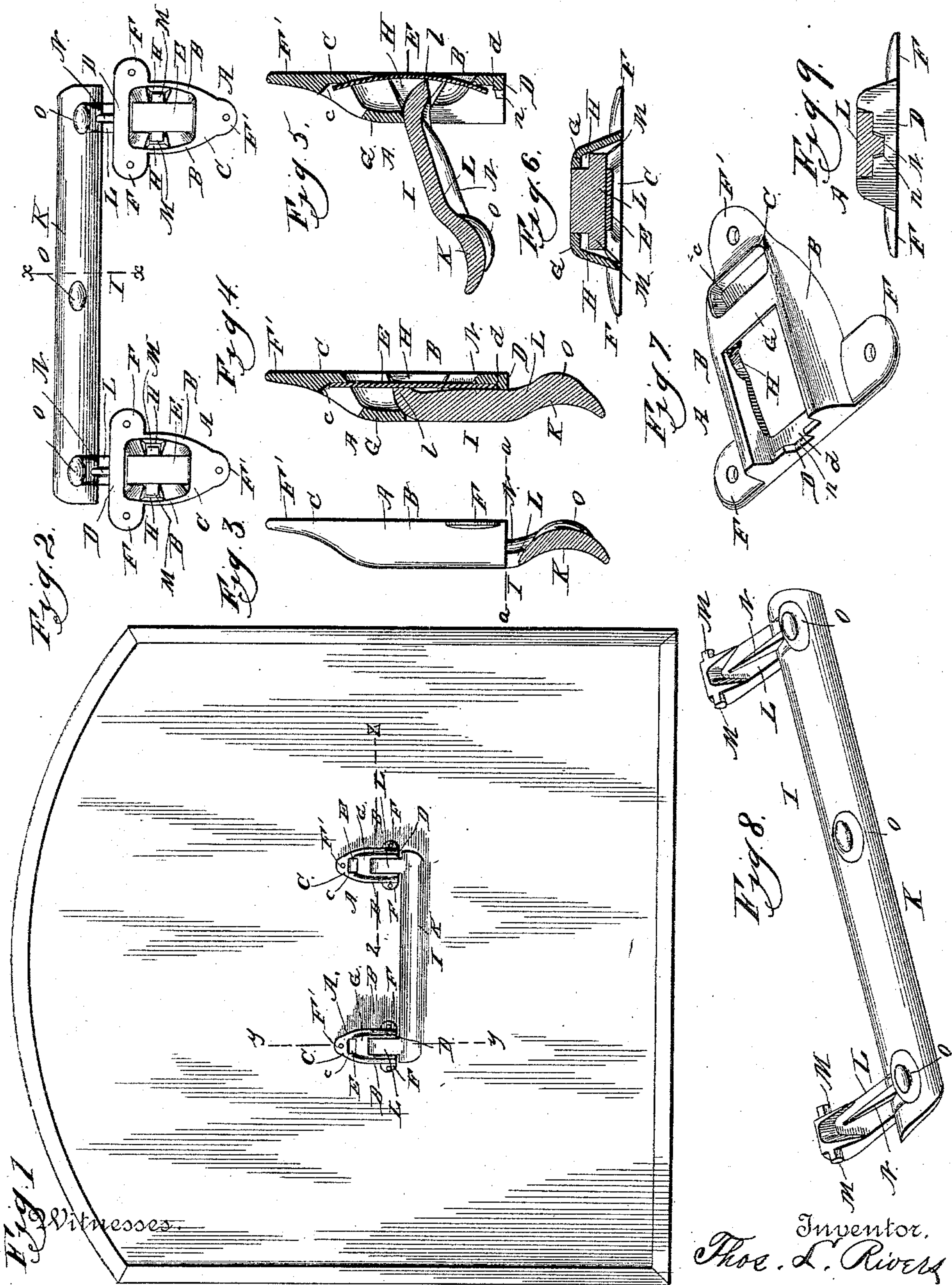


Fig. 1

Witnesses.

Geo. Thorpe.  
C. E. Doyle.

By his Attorneys,

C. A. Howells

Inventor.  
Thos. L. Rivers



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS LANGDON RIVERS, OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY.

## HANDLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 381,646, dated April 24, 1888.

Application filed February 25, 1887. Serial No. 228,863. (Model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, THOMAS LANGDON RIVERS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Newark, in the county of Essex and State of New Jersey, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Trunk-Handles, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in trunk-handles adapted for use on trunks or cases of any kind which are intended to be frequently handled; and the invention consists in the novel arrangement of the parts by which the handle when not in use is drawn down to the side of the said trunk, so as to occupy as little room as possible, thus enabling said trunks or cases to be packed very closely together, and, further, in certain details of construction, substantially as hereinafter clearly described, and pointed out in the appended claims.

In order that my invention may be fully understood and the advantages thereof appreciated, I illustrate a trunk provided with a handle embodying my improvements in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is an end elevation thereof. Fig. 2 is a rear elevation of the device detached. Fig. 3 is a section on the line *x x*, Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a section on the line *y y*, Fig. 1. Fig. 5 is a similar view with the handle raised in its operative position. Fig. 6 is a transverse section of one of the brackets on the line *z z*, Fig. 1. Fig. 7 is a detail perspective view of one of the brackets. Fig. 8 is a detached perspective view of the handle. Fig. 9 is a transverse section on the line *a a*, Fig. 3.

Referring to the drawings, in which similar letters denote corresponding parts in all the figures, A A designate the brackets or handle-caps, each of which consists of a casting having the arms B B, connected at the upper ends by the cross-piece C and at the lower ends by the cross-piece D, each of which cross-pieces or ends is rabbeted on the inner side, as at *c d*, to receive and hold the ends of the flat steel spring E, that extends the entire length of the bracket between the said rabbeted ends.

F represents ears formed integrally with the arms B B on the outer side thereof, and F' is a similar ear formed with the end piece, C, each of which ears is provided with an open-

ing to receive a screw to secure said bracket to the trunk.

G designates a cross brace or plate cast integrally with the bracket and extending across the space between the arms B B near the upper ends thereof, and flush with the outer surfaces of said arms, the inner or rear sides of the arms being recessed and provided with the sockets or bearings H, which sockets are open on the rear side, as seen in Fig. 6.

I represents the handle, having the bar K, concavo-convex in cross-section, with the concave side outward, near the ends of which bar are formed the integral vertical arms L, provided at the upper end with the cam-face *l*, and having the laterally-extending trunnions or studs M to bear in the sockets H in the arms B B. The said cam-face *l* is adapted to operate on the upper or outer surface of the spring E, the center of which, as will be seen in Fig. 4, is raised from the surface of the end of the trunk, so that when the handle is raised said cam-face will force the center of said spring down or in, and when the handle is released the spring will draw the outer end thereof back to its former position against the side of the trunk and hold it firmly in that position. When the handle is in its raised position, as will be seen in Fig. 5, the arms L are not horizontal, but inclined slightly downward, the upper surface of said arms bearing against the lower edges of the cross-braces G, which serve as stops for the vertical movement of the handle. When the handle is in its lowered or normal position, the upper or outer surfaces of the arms L are flush with the outer surfaces of the arms B, and an integral rib or web, N, on the under side of the arm L is adapted to be received in a recess, *n*, formed in the end D therefor. The offsets or knobs O are formed on the rear side of the bar K, to hold said bar from contact with the side of the trunk and aid the convexity of the rear side of said bar in rendering it easy to insert the ends of the fingers to raise said bar.

The object in forming the outer surface of the bar K concave in cross-section is to reduce as much as possible the weight of the device without depriving it of the requisite strength.

It will be understood that the ribs on the reverse side of the arms L are designed as



strengthening-webs, to render said arms capable of bearing the required amount of weight, and the cross-brace G is made sufficiently wide to bear the leverage brought upon it when the handle is in use.

The device is so constructed as to have an immense amount of strength, the handle is convex on the under side to give an easy and comfortable hold to the hand, and the said handle cannot by any means come in contact with the side of the trunk while holding the handle, (this being a great improvement over the leather handles now in general use on trunks.) Further, when not in use, the handle is drawn down close to the side of the trunk and prevented from rattling or swinging out and coming in the way by the spring E, and if by chance the handle after being used should remain in the extended position it will be readily understood that the moment an object should touch the said handle it would spring into its normal or lowered position, for the reason that when raised it is in the inclined position before mentioned. Further, the handle is much stronger than the ordinary leather handle, and is therefore cheaper, for the reason that it will not wear out and cannot break, this being a great fault of the said old forms of handles. Further, it is also cheaper, more durable, and simpler than any previously-invented forms of metal handles, being designed to bear any amount of strain liable to be put upon it and to have a light, neat, and ornamental appearance.

It will be understood that the rib N on the ends L of the handle-bar K fits in the recess n of the bracket H when the handle is thrown down, and this prevents the handle from being jammed laterally out of place.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

1. A handle for trunks and the like, comprising the hollow brackets formed with ledges, the spring E, seated at its ends on the ledges, and the handle I, journaled at each end in sockets of the brackets, and having its ends at the journals bearing on the spring between the ledges, whereby said spring serves to hold the handle closed down to the trunk, as set forth.

2. In a handle for trunks and the like, the brackets A, comprising the side arms, B, connected by cross-pieces, the lower cross-piece, D, having a recess, n, combined with the handle comprising the bar K and the ends L, the latter being journaled in the brackets and provided with the ribs N along the inner side, the said ribs being fitted in the recesses n when the handle is closed down against the trunk, as set forth.

3. A handle for trunks and the like, comprising the brackets having ledges, a cross-bar, G, located between the ledges, said cross-bar limiting the upward movement of the handle and holding the latter in an inclined position, the spring E, seated at its ends upon the ledges, and thus leaving the intermediate portion of the spring free, and the handle comprising the bar K and ends L, the latter being pivoted in sockets of the brackets and bearing upon the spring at all times, the lower edge of the bar K being turned or curved outward, and offsets or knobs O, provided on the inner face of the bar K, as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

THOMAS LANGDON RIVERS.

Witnesses:

LEWIS H. SMITH,  
WM. KATZELER.