

(No Model.)

J. H. COOK.

CAR ROUTER.

No. 390,283.

Patented Oct. 2, 1888.

Fig. 1.

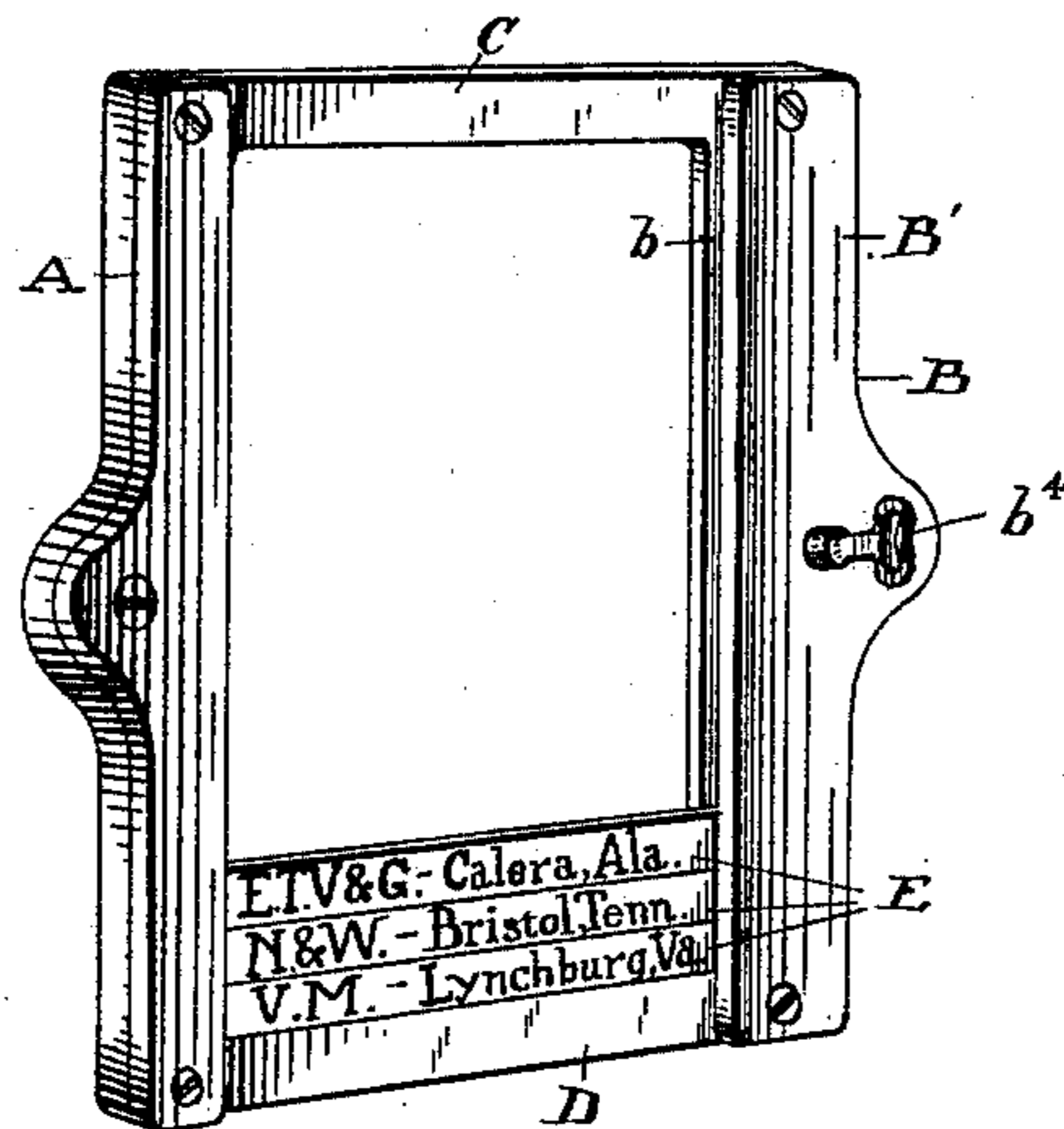


Fig. 2.

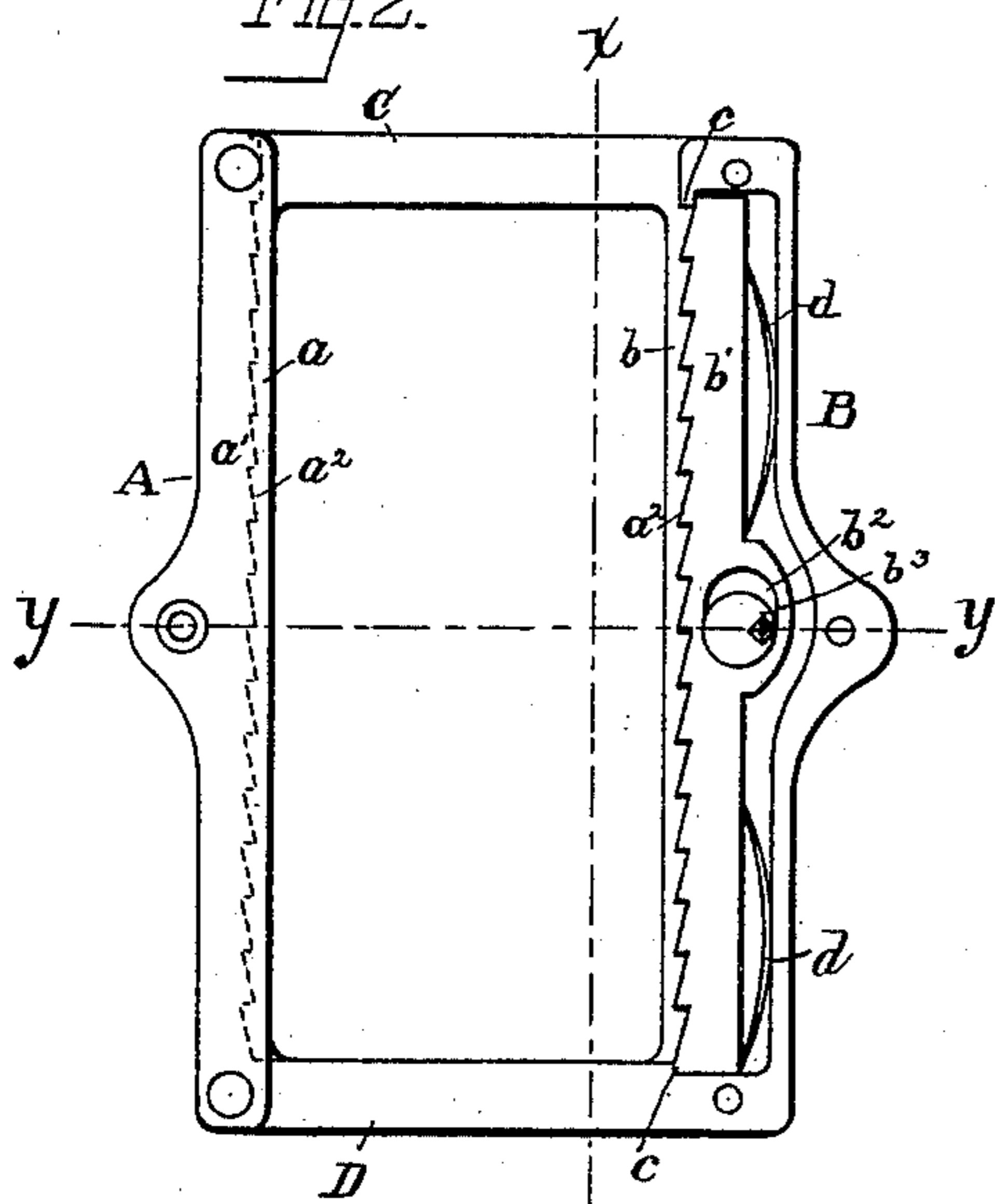


Fig. 3.

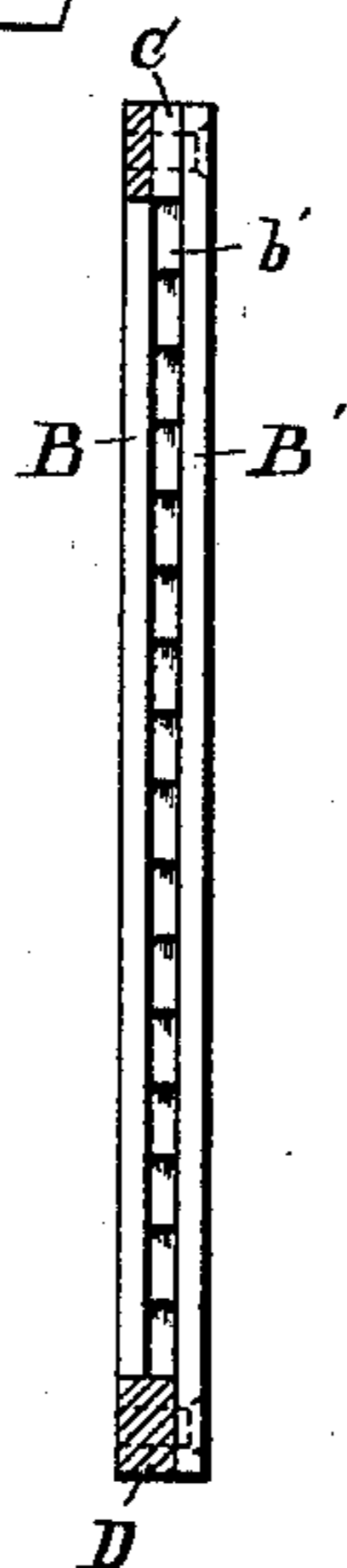


Fig. 4.

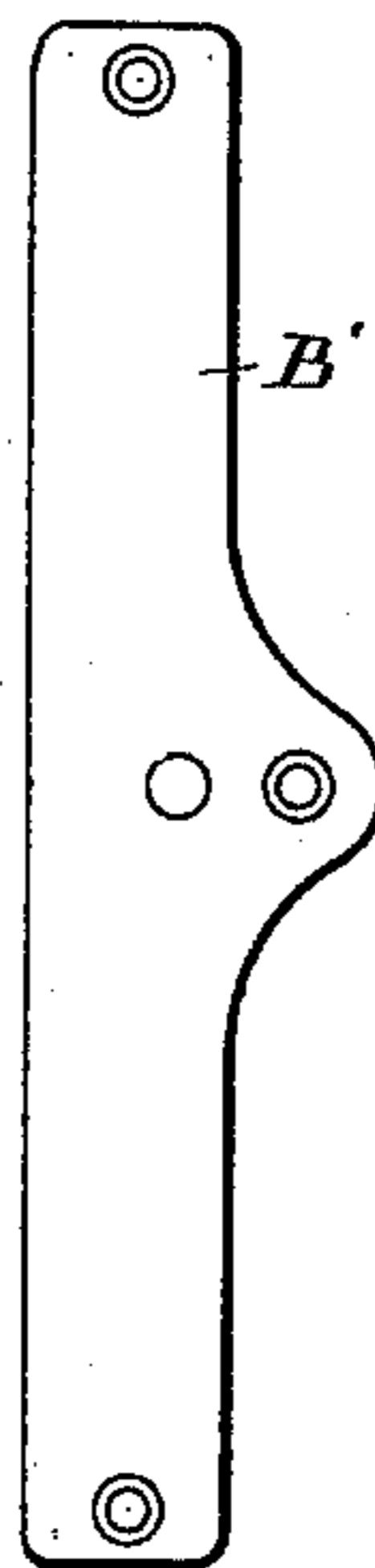


Fig. 5.

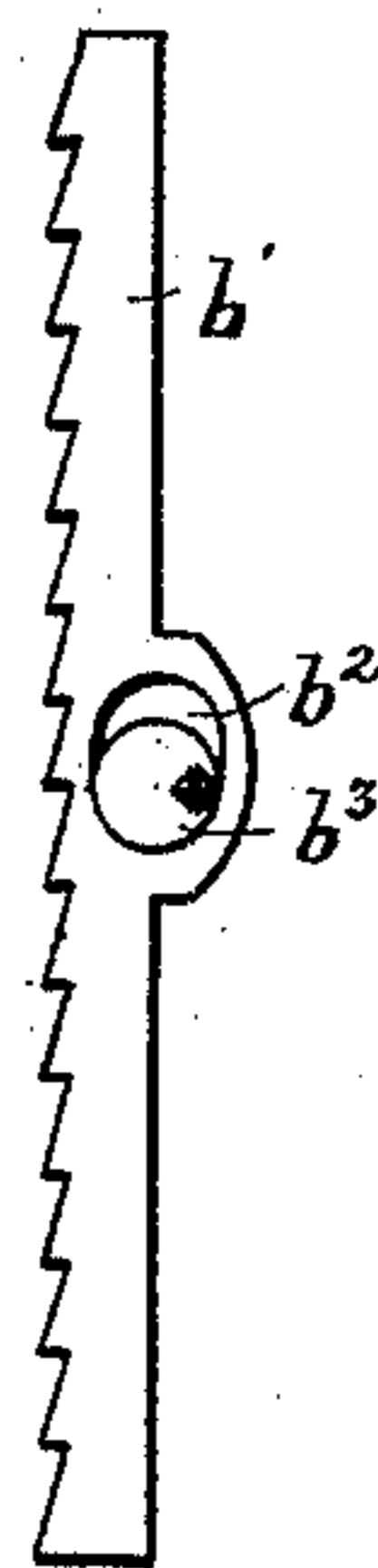


Fig. 6.

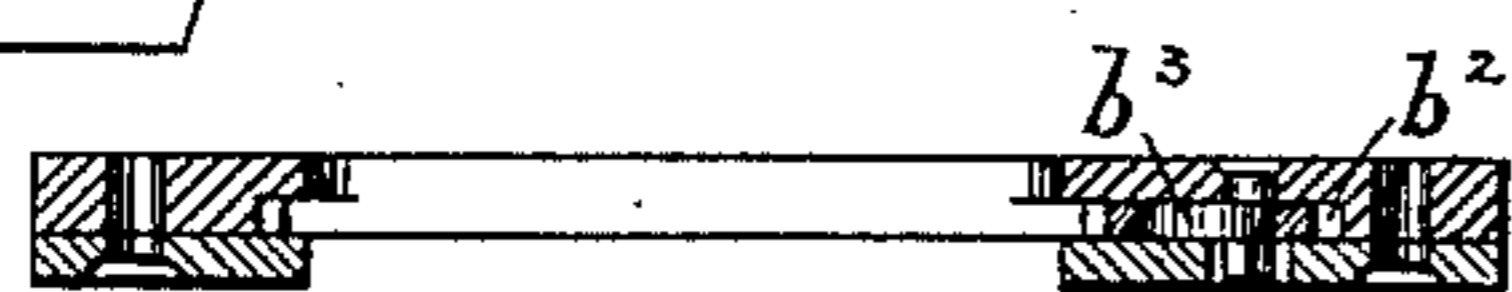


Fig. 7.



WITNESSES:-

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## CAR-ROUTER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 390,283, dated October 2, 1888.

Application filed May 14, 1888. Serial No. 273,827. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOSEPH HENRY COOK, a citizen of the United States, residing at Roanoke, in the county of Roanoke and State of Virginia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Car-Routers; 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 ap-  
10 pertains 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 is a device for carding railroad-cars to indicate the route of the same, and may be properly called the "car-router," and is calculated to facilitate the movement of railroad-cars while upon the lines of other railroad companies than the one to which they  
20 belong, and is intended to produce a prompt handling and an increased service of such cars by indicating which one of the various possible routes the car to which it is applied shall pass over to reach the home road.

At all points where the lines of two railroads intersect there is greater or less interchange of freight-cars according to the volume of business. It is the custom of railroad companies to return a car of another company to  
30 the same connecting-road from which it was originally received, and, to avoid confusion and its consequent delay to cars, it is necessary to place upon each car, as it is received, some mark indicating the intersecting point to  
35 which it must be returned. My invention—the car-router—is calculated and intended to give this information in concentrated and uniform shape.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is  
40 a perspective view of my invention. Fig. 2 is a face view of the frame of my invention, the right-hand plate, B', being removed. Fig. 3 is an edge view of the right-hand side of my invention, the same being cut through on the line  
45 *x x*. Fig. 4 is a face view of the right-hand plate. Fig. 5 is a face view of the movable notched plate and eccentric lock. Fig. 6 is an edge view of the lower half of the frame, the same being cut through on the line *y y*. Fig.  
50 7 is a face view of one of the cards.

My invention is described as follows:

The two sides A B of the frame are grooved

on their inner edges, or are so constructed of one or more pieces as to leave the said grooves *a b* in their inner edges. These side pieces, A B, are held together by end pieces, C D. In the groove *a* in the left plate, A, is secured a notched plate, *a'*, having on its inner edge inclined notches *a''*. In the groove *b* of plate B is a movable notched plate, *b'*, having inclined  
60 notches *a''*, similar to and corresponding with the notches in the plate *a'*. The said plate *b'* has passing vertically through its center a perforation, *b''*. In said perforation there is pivoted an eccentric lock, *b'''*, operated by a key, *b''''*. Said eccentric lock serves to move the said plate *b'* back to the right, thus releasing the cards E from the grasp of said plates *a' b'*, and also to move said plate inward, and locking  
70 said cards securely in said frame. Said plate *b'* is prevented from being pushed too far inwardly by means of the shoulders *c*, which impinge against either end of said plate, and said plate is held inwardly against said shoulders by means of the springs *d*, the backs of  
75 which rest against the bottom of the groove *b*, and the ends against the rear edge of the said movable plate *b'*. The said frame is made large enough to hold a sufficient number of cards to indicate every junction through which  
80 the car must pass on its outward and homeward trip. The said iron cards bear the initials of the delivering railroad and the names of the station at which delivery is made. These cards fit neatly between the toothed edges of  
85 the said plates *a' b'*. The agent of railroad companies at each point where there is an interchange of cars with some other railroad will be supplied with a number of these cards E, and on each car on its outgoing trip will be  
90 placed in said iron frame one of said cards, which will be removed upon the return of said car.

To illustrate the working of my invention, I will represent the name of the railroads by  
95 letters, and the name of the junction-stations by figures. Thus a car owned by A's company and loaded at a point on his railroad with a shipment destined to a point on the line of P's railroad would pass over sixteen rail-  
100 roads and through sixteen junction-stations. The agent at each junction-station, as the car passes his station, will insert a card bearing the name of his station and the initials of the

5 railroad for which he is agent, so that the car-  
router upon the car reaching its destination  
would contain the initials of every railroad  
over which the car had passed and the name  
5 of every junction-station through which it had  
passed. The agent at P's station, the station  
to which said car had been destined, would  
start the car homeward by the route over which  
it had passed, as indicated by the car-router,  
10 and as it passed each junction-station on its  
return homeward each junction-agent would  
remove his respective card until the car was  
safely returned to the railroad company to  
which it belonged.

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

20 1. The combination of the groove-plates A  
B, held together by the end plates, C D, notched  
plate  $a'$ , secured in the groove of the plate A,  
movable plate  $b'$ , working in the groove of the

plate B, and cards E, fitting in said grooves  $a$   
 $b$  and between the said notches  $a^2 a^2$ , substan-  
tially as shown and described, and for the pur-  
poses set forth.

25 2. The combination of the groove-plates A  
B, held together by the end plates, C D, notched  
plate  $a'$ , secured in the groove of the plate A,  
movable notched plate  $b'$ , working in the groove  
of the plate B, cards E, fitting in said grooves  $a$  30  
 $b$  and between the said notches  $a^2 a^2$ , springs  
 $d$ , holding said movable plate inward against  
the shoulders  $c$ , and eccentric lock  $b^3$ , adapted  
to lock and unlock said device, substantially as  
shown and described, and for the purposes set 35  
forth.

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

JOSEPH HENRY COOK.

Witnesses:

JAMES D. MASON,

HARKENS J. PORTER.