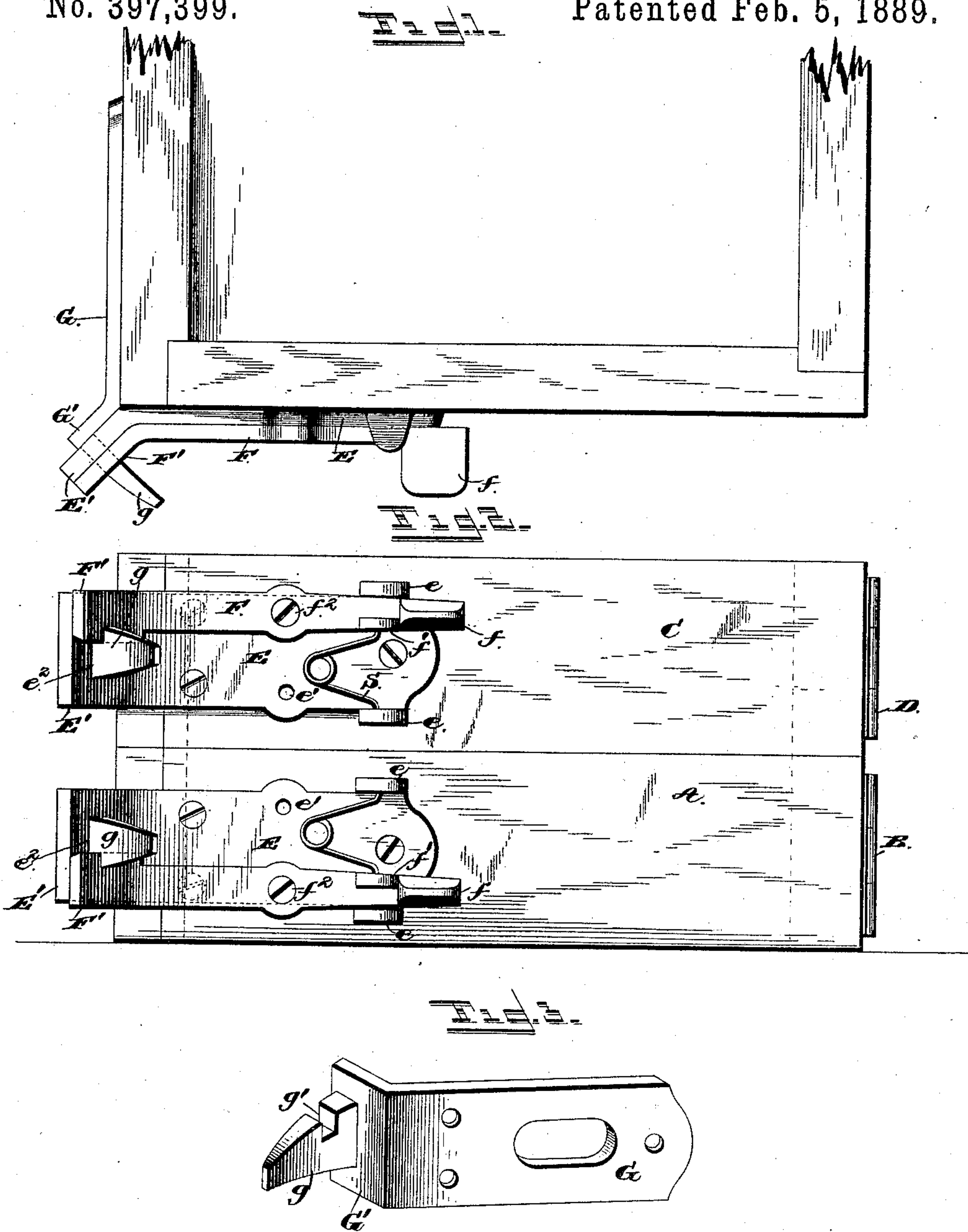


(No Model.)

M. B. SPRINGER.
LATCH FOR MATCH FLASKS.

No. 397,399.

Patented Feb. 5, 1889.



WITNESSES
G. S. Elliott.
E. M. Johnson

Martin B. Springer.

INVENTOR

by

[Signature]
Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MARTIN B. SPRINGER, OF INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA.

LATCH FOR MATCH-FLASKS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 397,399, dated February 5, 1889.

Application filed November 15, 1888. Serial No. 290,934. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MARTIN B. SPRINGER, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Indianapolis, in the county of Marion and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in a Latch, Clasp, or Holder for Match-Flasks; and I do hereby 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 letters or figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to a latch, catch, or holder for match-flasks.

The invention consists in the construction and combination of the parts of said latch, catch, or holder, as will be more fully hereinafter described.

The object of the invention is to simplify the construction and increase the utility of a latch, catch, or holder for match-flasks, thereby making it more convenient in use and the flask to which it is applied more positive in action.

I consider the best means of carrying out my invention to be the construction illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein like letters of reference indicate similar parts in the several views, and in which—

Figure 1 is a top plan view of part of a match-flask with my improved latch shown in connection therewith. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the latch and the flask to which it is shown applied. Fig. 3 is a detail perspective view of one of the parts of the latch or catch.

A and C indicate the frames composing the flask, having hinges B and D, for a purpose well understood in the art, and as the flask forms no part of my invention any further description thereof is deemed unnecessary.

My invention has relation to an improved latch or holder for said form of flasks, and the construction thereof is as follows: To one side of each of said frames a plate, E, is secured, having an obtuse-angular extension, E', projecting outward, formed by bending the end thereof. The rear end of said plate has ears *e* formed integral therewith, and adjacent

thereto are apertures *e'*, situated inside of swells on the opposing edges thereof in direct alignment, for a purpose which will be more fully hereinafter set forth. The extensions E' of said plates also have apertures *e*² therein. To the adjacent sides of the flask-frame a plate, G, is secured, which is also formed with an obtuse-angularly-bent end, G', projecting outwardly therefrom. Each of these plates G has a catch, *g*, projecting outward at right angles from the extensions G' and adapted to pass through the apertures or slots *e*² in the extensions E' of the plates E. The catches *g* have vertical slots *g'* in the upper edges thereof, and the said upper edges are constructed in the form of a curved incline, for a purpose readily understood.

Secured either at the upper or lower parts of the plates E is a latch having a rear finger-operating projection, *f*, and a lug or ear, *f'*, on the lower edge, or vice versa, as may be required. A pivot-screw, *f*², passes through said latches and through either one of the apertures *e'* in the plate E. The forward ends of said latches are formed into an obtuse-angular bend, and are slightly enlarged to engage the slot in the catch *g*. Between the ear *f'* of each latch and one of the ears *e* of the plates E a spring, S, is mounted, having bearing at its ends in said ears, and whose office is to force the latch into a locking position and against the adjacent ears *e*, either at the upper or lower edges of the plates E. The latches are arranged, as shown in the accompanying drawings, so that by stretching the hand and grasping the finger-pieces of the same they may be both simultaneously opened by drawing them toward each other, thereby necessitating the use of one hand only and quickly releasing the catches *g* to allow the frames A and C to be opened.

The projections E' and G' of the plates E and G snugly abut against each other and form a miter, insuring at all times a snug-fitting and tight joint of the frames A and C. The recess or aperture *e*² in plate E is in such alignment with the catches *g* that a proper engagement is had at all times. When the catches are in the positions shown in Figs. 1 and 2, with the latches in the slots thereof,

an immovable connection is obtained, always subject to a ready disconnection when desired and necessary, and, though the hinges B and D become slightly worn, a movement of the frames will be prevented by reason of the tight impingement of the broad bearing-surfaces of the angular projections of the plates E and G.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

1. The combination, with the hinged frames of a match-flask, of the plates on the one side of each frame, having apertured angularly-bent ends, and carrying spring-actuated latches, and the plates on the adjacent sides of said frames, having similarly-bent ends carrying catches, as and for the purpose set forth.

2. The combination, with the hinged frames of a match-flask, of the plates on two adjacent sides thereof, having abutting angularly-bent ends, one of which has an aperture and the other a catch adapted to pass through said aperture, and the oppositely-situated spring-actuated latches, substantially as described.

3. The combination, with the hinged frames

of a match-flask, of the plates on one side thereof, having angularly-bent ends with apertures therein and ears at the rear ends thereof, the spring-actuated latches adapted to be forced against one of said ears, and the plates on adjacent sides of the frames, having similarly-bent ends abutting against the bent ends of the aforesaid plates, and having catches passing through the apertures in the latter plates, substantially as described.

4. A latch or holder for match-flasks, comprising a plate having an outer bent end with a catch, and an adjacently-situated plate having a spring-latch and an outward-bent end with an aperture therein, through which the said catch passes, adapted to abut against the aforesaid plate and form a miter therewith, substantially as described.

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

MARTIN B. SPRINGER.

Witnesses:

J. G. McDOWELL,

EDWARD T. SELVAGE.