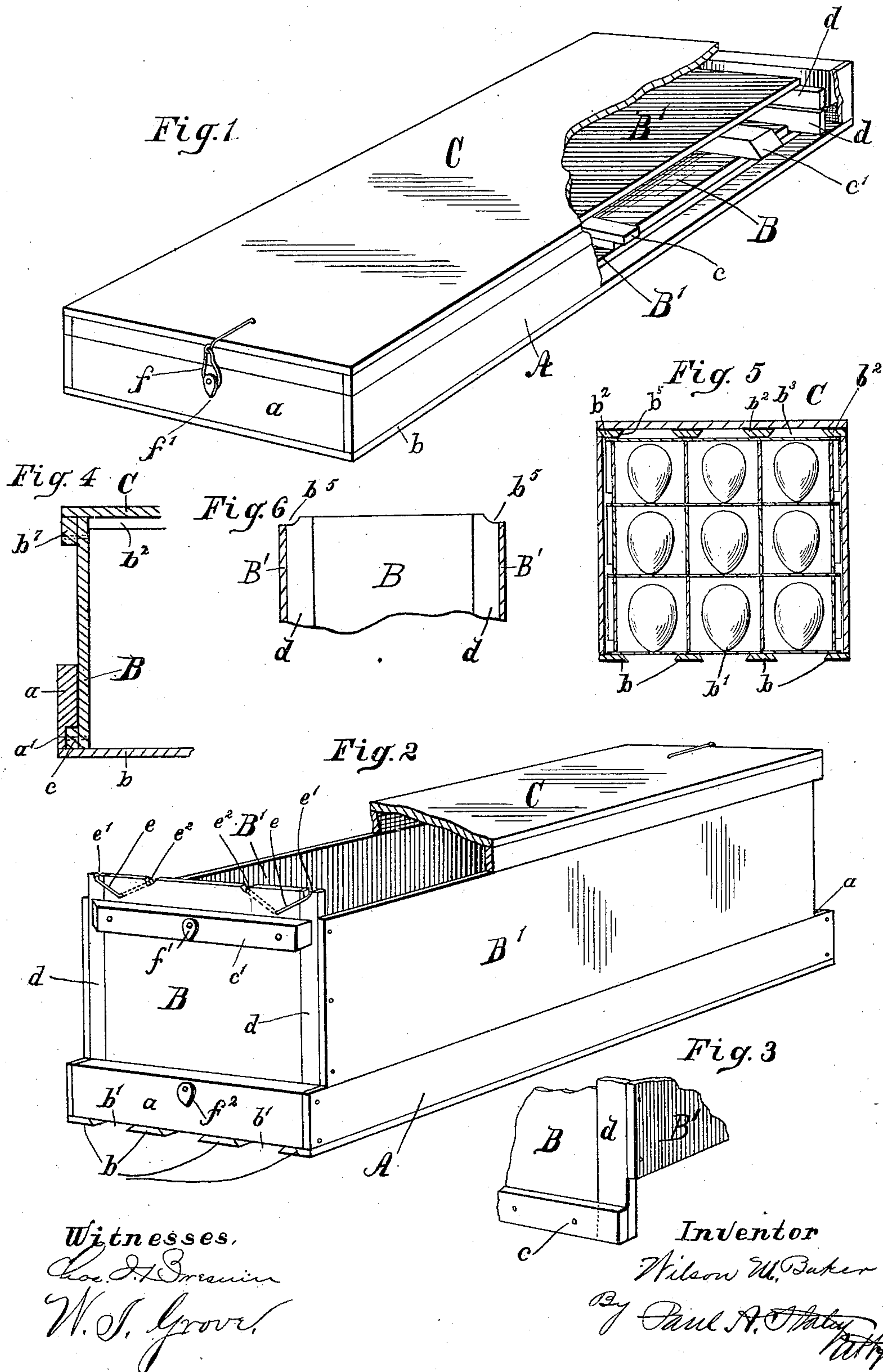


(No Model.)

W. M. BAKER.
KNOCKDOWN CASE FOR EGGS, &c.

No. 401,873.

Patented Apr. 23, 1889.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILSON M. BAKER, OF URBANA, OHIO.

KNOCKDOWN CASE FOR EGGS, &c.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 401,873, dated April 23, 1889.

Application filed February 14, 1889. Serial No. 299,892. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILSON M. BAKER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Urbana, in the county of Champaign and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Knockdown Cases for Eggs and Similar Purposes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in cases particularly designed for containing and shipping eggs, some of the features of the invention being also applicable to cases adapted for other purposes.

The principal object of my invention is to provide a case specially adapted for shipping eggs, which shall be capable of being reduced in size for return shipment, the further object of my invention being to simplify the construction of cases of this character, and provide a case which shall be substantial when in use and adapted to be readily cleaned when not in use.

My invention consists in the various constructions and combinations of parts, herein after described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a device embodying my invention, shown closed or knocked down ready for shipment, a portion being broken away, showing the manner of arranging the loose portions of the case. Fig. 2 is a perspective view showing the case put together ready to receive the filler or other material with which it is to be filled, a portion of the cover being in this case also broken away to show the manner of attaching the parts together. Figs. 3 and 4 are detailed views of the parts of the same, which will be referred to hereinafter. Fig. 5 is a transverse sectional view showing a preferable form of applying the cover. Fig. 6 is a partial sectional elevation view of the same with the cover removed.

Like parts are indicated by similar letters of reference throughout the several views.

In the said drawings, A represents the lower portion or base of the case, which consists, preferably, of a rectangular-shaped box having the end pieces, *a*, provided on the inside at the bottom with grooves or slots *a'*. The bottom of the base A is preferably formed

of slats *b*, as shown in Figs. 2 and 5, said slats *b* extending longitudinally throughout the length of the case and secured at either end to the end pieces, *a*. These slats *b* are beveled on either side and adapted to form V-shaped openings *b'* between the same.

When assembled for shipment the case consists of the end pieces, B, the side pieces, B', and the cover C. The end pieces, B, are each provided at the lower end with a cross-piece, *c*, preferably extending entirely across the same and projecting past the sides of the end piece, B, as shown in Fig. 3. The said end pieces, B, are made considerably narrower than the width of the box or cover, while the cross-piece *c* is of a length equal to the width of the base on the inside. The end pieces, B, are also provided near the top with a cleat, *c'*, having projecting ends which extend beyond the sides of the said end pieces, B. The side pieces, B', consist, preferably, of a single board extending longitudinally the length of the case, having attached thereto at either end upright pieces *d* at right angles thereto adapted to join the end pieces, B, at either side thereof. The upright pieces *d* are made of sufficient width to fill out the space between the sides of the end pieces, B, and the sides of the base portion A.

In assembling the box for use the end pieces are inserted in the end portion with the cross-piece *c* resting in the slots *a'* in the end pieces, *a*, after which the side pieces are placed in position, the upright piece *d* thereon being inserted in the base portion A in the same plane with the end boards, B, thus holding the said end boards in place by reason of the projecting ends of the cross-piece *c* and the upper cleat, *c'*.

In order to hold the parts more firmly together, I preferably provide at the top of the end piece, B, fastening devices *e*, consisting, preferably, of loops of wire or other suitable material pivoted to the end piece, B, and adapted to turn and rest on notches *e'* in the end of the upright *d*, the said loops being adapted, when not in use, to turn to a position indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 2, and rest in notches *e²* in the top of the end board, B.

It will be seen that by this construction a case of substantial construction is formed,

which may be handled as desired and be lifted from any portion thereof without disarranging the parts.

The cover C, I preferably form with longitudinal strips b^2 on the inside, (similar to those, b , which form the bottom,) adapted to form V-shaped grooves b^3 between the same. These strips at the sides of the cover I extend the entire length thereof, so that when placed upon the case said strips rest in notches b^5 in the top of the upright pieces d , as shown in Fig. 6. The cover C is also provided at the end with a small end piece, b^7 , adapted to project over the top of the end board, B, as shown in Fig. 4. By this construction the cover is held against a lateral or longitudinal movement when placed on the top of the case and at the same time holds the sides and ends more firmly together. The cover C is preferably held in position by a loop, f , adapted to hook over an eccentric-shaped button, f' , so that when in position the parts will be held firmly together. By having the cover constructed as described the fastening-loops may be dispensed with, if desired.

The strips b , which form the bottom, and those, b^2 , of the cover are made to correspond with the divisions between the filler-spaces in which the eggs are to be placed. These fillers, as is well known, are made of pasteboard. A bottom of the same material is placed between the respective parts, which are placed one upon the other. By having the bottom of the case constructed with the strips, as described, and the V-shaped grooves between the same, a space is formed under the bottom of the filler, so that the said bottom is adapted to cushion the eggs in the top and bottom rows, and thus prevent the same from becoming broken in packing.

It is obvious that the strips and grooves described may be extended laterally across the ends instead of longitudinally, if desired. The strips which form the grooves in the cover are preferably made separate and secured to the cover at its base, or the grooves may be formed therein by planing or otherwise. The bottom I preferably leave open, as shown in Fig. 5, though it is obvious that it may be closed the same as shown for the cover in said figure.

When it is desired to close the case together

for shipping, the fastening device is unfastened from the upright d , and the side boards removed, after which the end pieces and end boards can readily be separated from the bottom portion. The side boards and end boards are then laid over in the bottom or base portion, A, and the cover C placed thereon and secured thereto by the loop f , as shown in Fig. 1, a button, f^2 , being provided on the base portion A, as shown in Fig. 2, for this purpose.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

1. The combination, with the base portion provided with end pieces having grooves or slots therein, of the end boards having cross-pieces adapted to fit in said slots, and an upper cleat at the upper end, side boards having upright pieces secured thereto adapted to join to said end boards, and means for connecting said upright strips to said end boards, substantially as specified.

2. The combination, with the base portion consisting of a rectangular box having end boards connected thereto, of the side boards provided with upright strips secured at right angles thereto and adapted to join said end pieces, and a cover to fit over said end pieces and upright strips, substantially as specified.

3. The combination, with the base portion consisting of a rectangular box and end pieces connected to the inside of said box, of side boards adapted to be inserted in said base portion and join the said end pieces, and a fastening-loop on said end boards to engage in the notches in said end pieces, substantially as specified.

4. The combination, in an egg-case having end pieces notched on either side at the top, of a cover provided with longitudinal strips arranged to come opposite the partitions in the egg-case filler, the said longitudinal strips being extended at each side of said cover and adapted to rest in the notches in the end boards, substantially as specified.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 11th day of February, A. D. 1889.

WILSON M. BAKER.

Witnesses:

PAUL A. STALEY,
CHAS. I. WELCH.