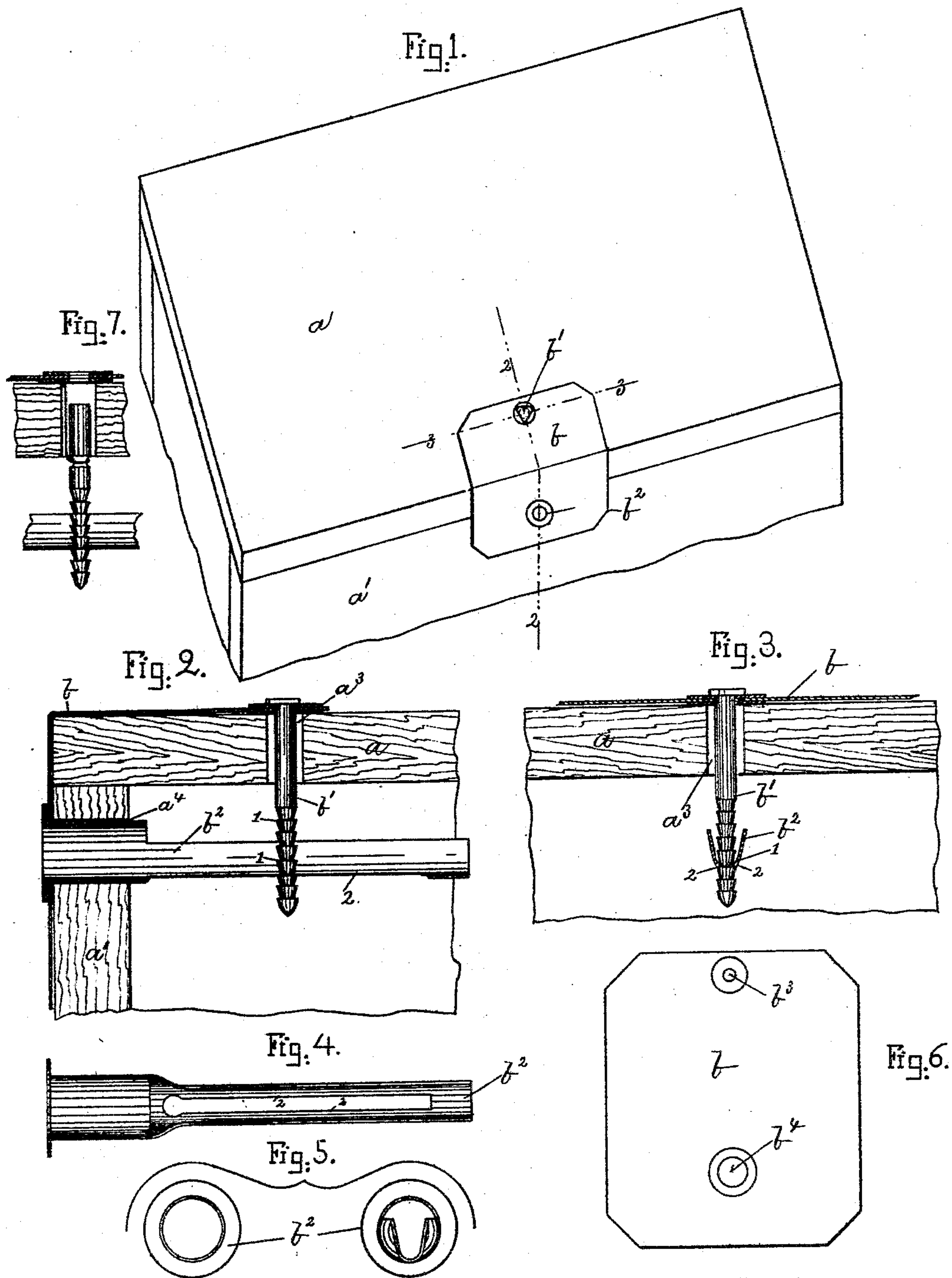


(No Model.)

J. T. GARDNER.
BOX FASTENER.

No. 414,635.

Patented Nov. 5, 1889.



Witnesses.

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BOX-FASTENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 414,635, dated November 5, 1889.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN T. GARDNER, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Box-Fastener, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective showing the preferred form of my new box-fastener in use; Fig. 2, a sectional view on line 2 2 of Fig. 1, showing the members of this form of my new box-fastener; Fig. 3, a section on line 3 3 of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a plan of one form of one of the interlocking pins used in my new box-fastener. Fig. 5 shows end views of the pin shown in Fig. 4. Fig. 6 is a plan of the corner-piece hereinafter described. Fig. 7 is a sectional view illustrating a modification.

My invention consists, mainly, in the combination of a piece connecting the lid and a side of the receptacle with pins which interlock within the box to secure the corner-piece in place.

In the drawings, *a* is the lid, and *a'* a side of a receptacle; *b*, a piece, ordinarily of sheet material—say strong paper; *b'*, a pin provided with projections 1, and *b²* a pin formed with spring-lips 2. Corner-piece *b* has holes *b³* *b⁴* through it, hole *b³* being coincident with hole *a³* through lid *a*, and hole *b⁴* being coincident with hole *a⁴* through side *a'* when the corner-piece is in place—that is, when it extends from lid *a* to side *a'*. Pins *b'* *b²* are formed with heads sufficiently large to prevent the pins from slipping through the holes in the corner-piece. The holes *b³* *b⁴*, when the corner-piece is of paper, are best reinforced as shown, and as will be readily understood by all familiar with ordinary shipping-tags. The corner-piece *b*, which is a feature of my invention, can be utilized as a shipping-tag, if desired.

To use my box-fastener, the corner-piece *b* is applied so that the pins *b'* *b²* may be passed through the holes *b³* *b⁴* *a³* *a⁴*. Pin *b'* is forced between the spring-lips 2 2 of pin *b²*, and the spring-lips engage the projections 1 on pin *b'*, and the pins are thereby interlocked within the box, out of the reach of meddlers, so firmly that it is next to impossi-

ble to separate them while the box is shut, and especially without breaking the corner-piece *b*. To open the box, the corner-piece *b* is cut. The interlocked pins are then readily separated by separating the spring-lips 2 sufficiently to release the pin *b'*. Pin *b²* is best made tubular and of thin sheet metal slotted lengthwise to form the lips 2 2, and that wall of the projections 1 which engages lips 2 2 should be at right angles to the longitudinal axis of the pin *b'* to give the best bearing-surface.

My new box-fastener is admirably adapted for use on boxes in which beverages, fruits, eggs, and other articles of consumption are transported.

My new fastener cannot be unlocked without destroying a visible part of the lock, and consequently handlers of boxes provided with my fasteners will be less liable to meddle with the contents of the boxes, and thefts will be more easily traced, as carriers will not be likely to receive from connecting lines boxes whose locks have been broken.

A pin provided with spring-lips 2 2 or their equivalent is another feature of my invention.

Of course the construction above explained may be varied in many ways without departing from the spirit of my invention, and in Fig. 7 I show a modification of my lock. In this case a tape connects the tag or corner-piece to the pin *b'*, and the head *b⁵* of pin *b'* is consequently dispensed with, the function of the tape and head being the same—that is, to keep the corner-piece snug against the surface of the lid or side *a'*.

What I claim is—

1. The combination of lid *a*, having a hole *a³* through it, and side *a'*, having a hole *a⁴* through it, with corner-piece *b* and interlocking pins *b'* *b²*, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination of corner-piece *b*, having holes *b³* *b⁴* through it, with interlocking pins *b'* *b²*, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

JOHN T. GARDNER.

Witnesses:

A. O. FELLOWS,
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