

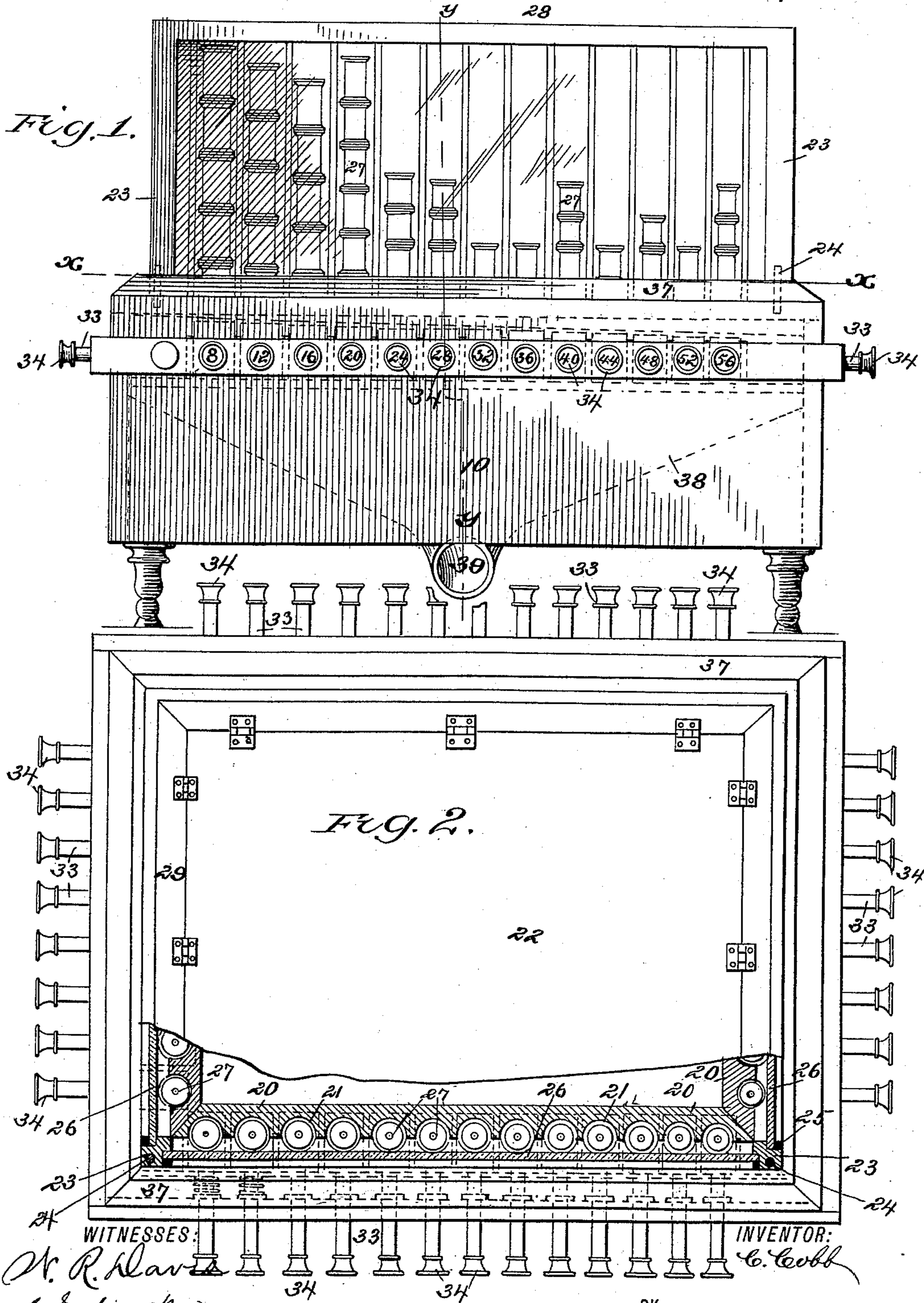
(No Model.)

3 Sheets—Sheet 1.

C. COBB.
THREAD CASE.

No. 424,180.

Patented Mar. 25, 1890.



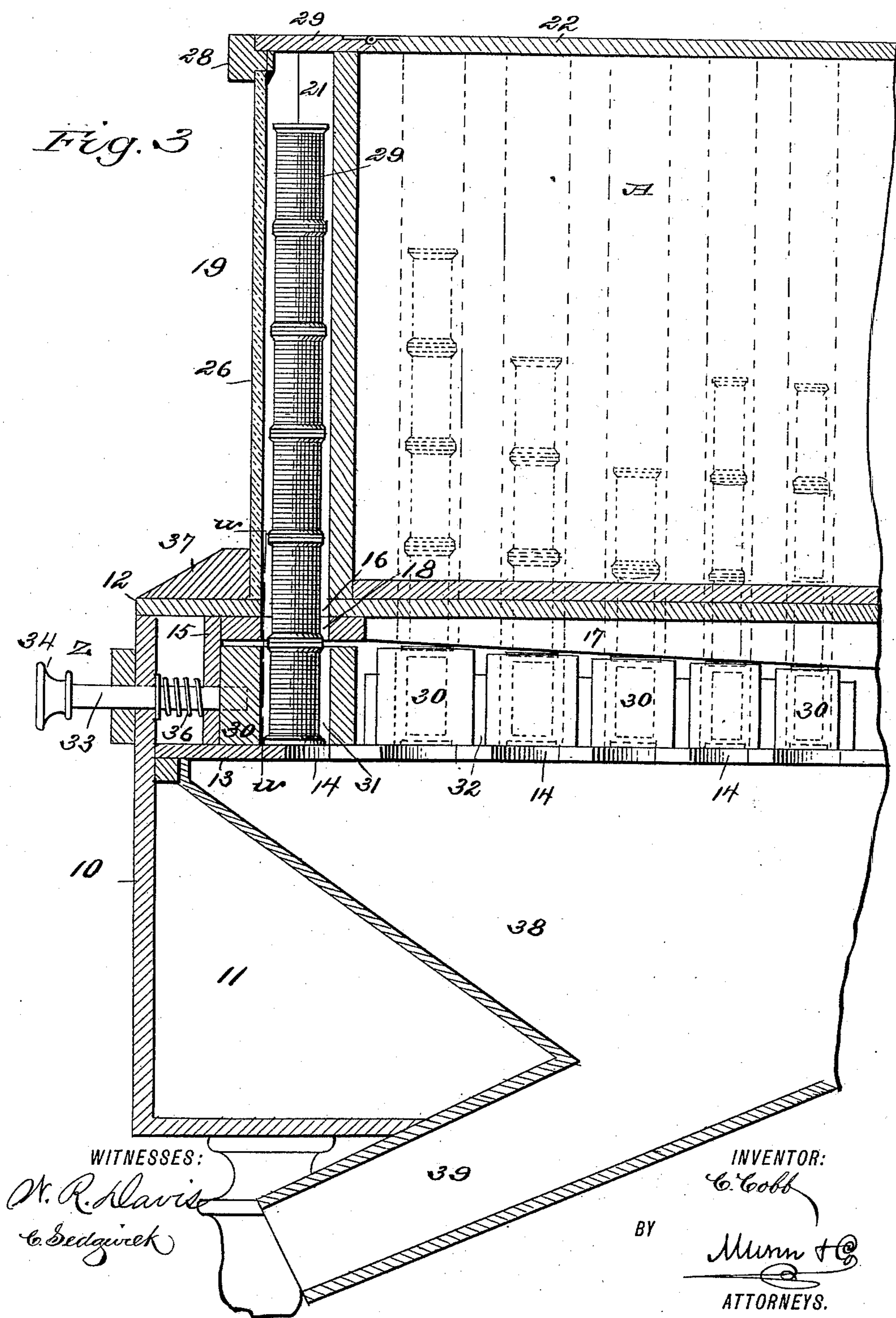
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3 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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(No Model.)

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Fig. 4.

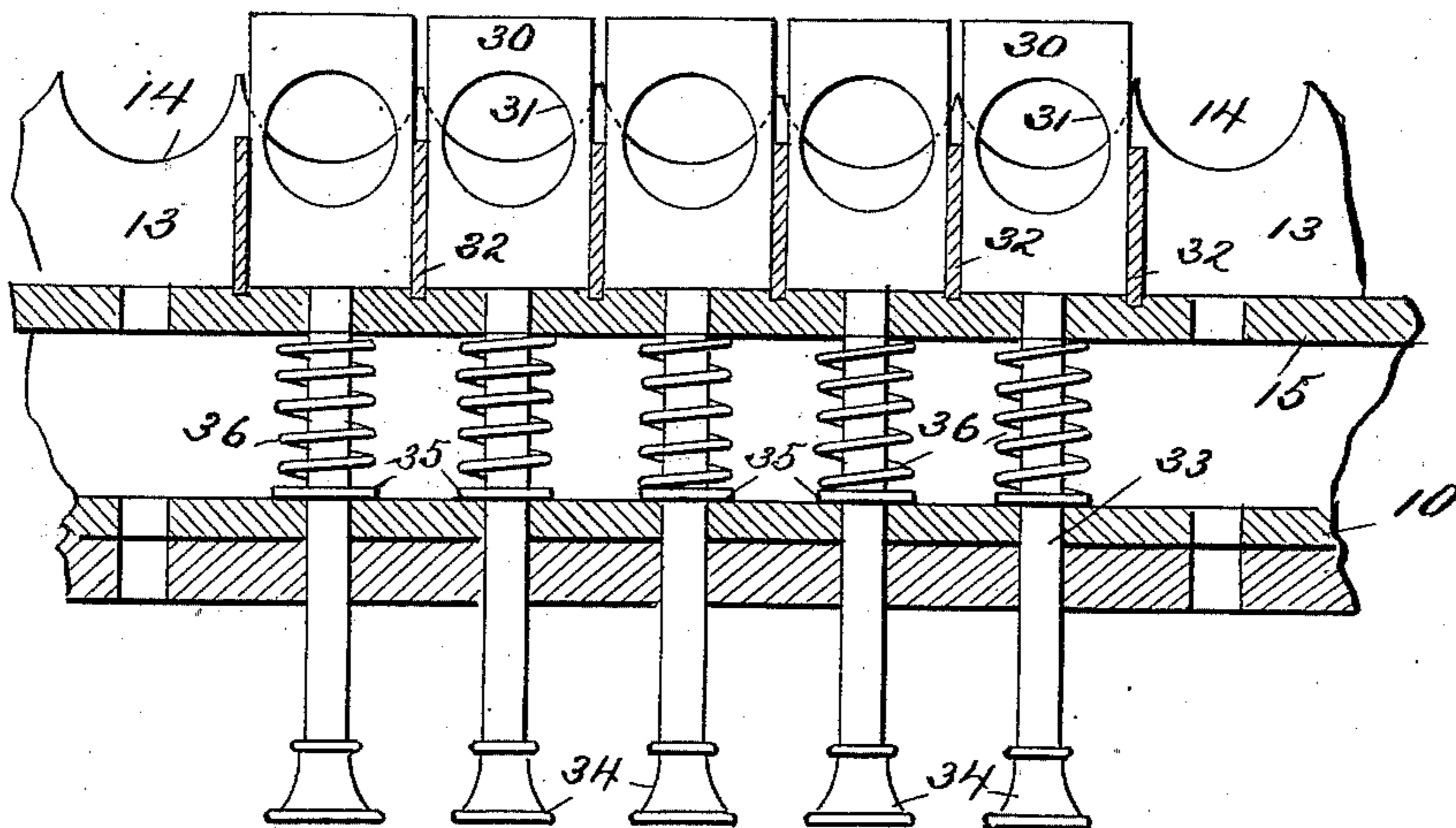


Fig. 5.

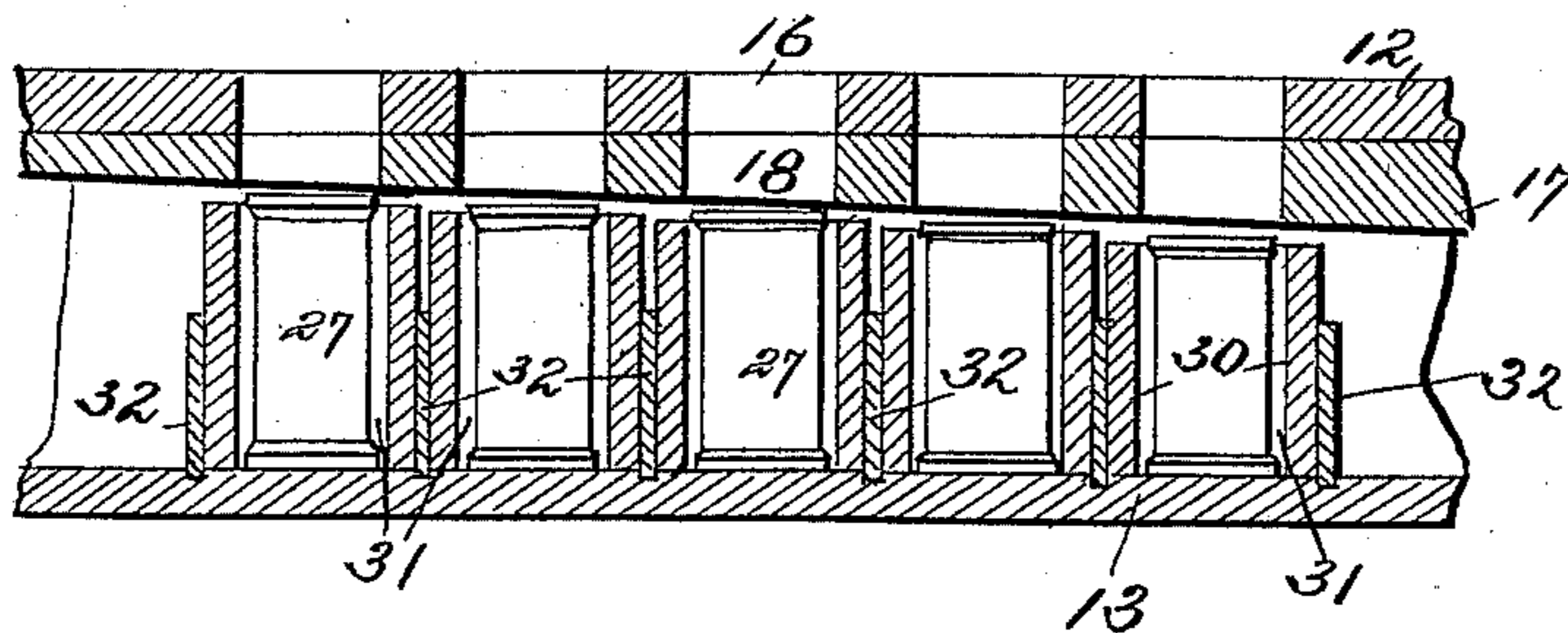
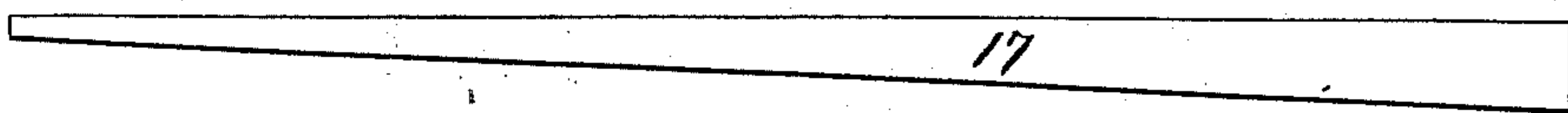


Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES COBB, OF ALBION, IDAHO TERRITORY.

THREAD-CASE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 424,180, dated March 25, 1890.

Application filed August 6, 1889. Serial No. 319,901. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES COBB, of Albion, in the county of Cassia and Territory of Idaho, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Thread-Cases, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to an improvement in thread-cases, and has for its object to provide a case having a series of compartments especially adapted to hold spools of thread of different sizes, and to so construct the case that a spool may be expeditiously and conveniently drawn from any of the compartments by the simple pressure of a knob located upon the exterior of the case.

The invention consists in the novel construction and combination of the several parts, as will be hereinafter fully set forth, and pointed out in the claims.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar figures of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the views.

Figure 1 is a front elevation of the case. Fig. 2 is a plan view and a partial horizontal section taken on line *xx* of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a partial vertical section taken on line *yy* of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a partial horizontal section taken on line *zz* of Fig. 3. Fig. 5 is a partial vertical section taken on line *ww* of Fig. 3, and Fig. 6 is a side elevation of one of the graduating-strips.

The base 10 of the device is preferably made polygonal in general contour, usually rectangular, being provided with an interior chamber 11, covered by a top 12, rigidly secured to the side and end walls. Near the upper end of the base, in the interior, a horizontal platform or shelf 13 is secured in any approved manner, which platform is continued around the sides and ends, and is provided in the inner edge with a series of cavities or semicircular recesses 14, as best shown in Figs. 3 and 4.

Between the inner and outer edges of the platform or shelf, and between the said platform and the top 12 of the base, a vertical partition 15 is located, as shown in Fig. 3, and in the top 12 of the base a number of circular openings 16 are formed, which openings are located above the platform or shelf within the vertical line of the partition 15. Im-

mediately beneath the top 12 of the base a graduating-strip 17 is rigidly secured to the said top, as illustrated in detail in Fig. 6, one of said graduating-strips being located at each side and end of the base, and the under edge of each of the strips is beveled or inclined from end to end. The location of the strips is best illustrated in Fig. 3, and the object of the strips is to decrease the distance between the shelf or platform 13 and the under beveled or inclined edge of the strips, for a purpose hereinafter set forth. The graduating-strips 17 are provided with a series of openings 18, registering with the several openings in the cover 12.

Upon the base 10 the body 19 of the case is located, which body comprises perpendicular side and end blocks 20, which rest upon the cover 12 of the base, and the several blocks are provided in their outer faces with a series of semicircular grooves or recesses 21, of different diameters to accommodate the different sizes of spools, as best illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3, the walls of the recesses at the base of the blocks constituting the side and end walls of the openings 16 and 18, located, respectively, in the cover 12 and graduating-strips 17.

The space A intervening the inner faces of the side and end blocks of the body is covered by a board or sheet of metal 22, rigidly secured to the upper ends of the said blocks at the inner side, and where the several side and end blocks are united, as shown in Fig. 2, a corner-post 23 is located, attached to the blocks, and the said corner-posts are so placed that one edge thereof will contact with each corner of the body. These corner-posts are held in position upon the base by means of a pin 24, secured in their lower ends, which pins are adapted to enter a suitable socket in the top or cover of the base, or, if found desirable, the pins may be secured to the base and enter the socket in the post. This construction is shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1.

The corner-posts 23 are usually rectangular in cross-section, the outer faces being smooth, and in the inner faces a perpendicular recess 25 is formed, in which recess a pane of glass 26 is inserted, one pane of glass being preferably made to cover each vertical face of the body. Thus a series of vertical chambers or

compartments are formed adapted to receive a number of spools of thread 27, which spools are rendered visible from the exterior of the case.

5 A suitable cornice 28 is secured to the corner-posts, in which the upper edges of the glass panes are introduced, and the several spool-compartments are closed at the top by means of hinged lids 29, which lids shut down
10 in a suitable recess in the cornice, as shown in Fig. 3, and are hinged to the outer edges of the board or metal sheet 22. By raising the lids 29 the several spool-compartments may be supplied with thread when and as
15 they become empty.

Beneath each of the openings 16 and 18 in the top of the base and graduating-strips 17 a carrying-block 30 is held to slide upon the platform or shelf 13, which blocks are each
20 provided with a vertical bore 31, extending through from top to bottom, which bore is of sufficient diameter to receive a spool of predetermined size. The several carrying-blocks 30 are separated one from the other by a series of vertical partitions 32, transversely se-
25 cured to the platform or shelf 13, the said partitions being so located that they will contact with the sides of the carrying-block, and thereby prevent lateral movement of the latter as they are moved inwardly or outwardly
30 to drop a spool and receive another.

To each of the carrying-blocks 30 a horizontal stem 33 is attached at the front, which stem is made to pass through apertures formed
35 in the walls of the base and in the vertical partitions 15. The outer end of each stem is preferably provided with a knob 34, upon which the number of the spool of thread located in the compartment immediately over that especial carrier is produced. If in prac-
40 tice, however, it is found desirable, instead of producing the number upon the knob, it may be produced upon the exterior of the base or at any other point adjacent to the stem. The
45 stems within the space intervening the walls of the base and the vertical partitions 15 are each provided with a collar 35, which limits their outward movement, and a spring 36 is coiled around each stem, bearing at one end
50 against said plate and at the other end against the outer face of the said partition 15, as illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4. Thus the carrying-blocks by pressure upon the knobs may be pushed inward, and may be carried so far
55 in this direction that the bore 31 therein will pass the cavities or recesses 14 of the platform or shelf 13, and when pressure upon the knobs is relieved the spring 36 will restore the carriers to their normal position, which is
60 in contact with the inner face of the partition 15, the bore 31 being in vertical alignment with the spool-chamber above it.

It will be observed that by decreasing the space between the shelf or platform 13 and
65 the lower edge of the graduating-strips 17, accomplished by beveling the under edge of the strips, I am enabled to provide a series of

carrying-blocks graduated in height at each side of the case, as shown in Fig. 3, and that the distance between each of the carrying-
70 blocks and the under edge of the graduating-strips is such that but little vertical play of the carriers is permitted. This graduation of the carriers is necessary, in order that each may receive a different number of spool, as
75 the various spools of threads in use are of different sizes, and one size of thread only is contained in each thread-compartment.

The body of the case is set back a distance from the outer edge of the base, and the space
80 between the outer faces of the body and the equivalent surface of the base is filled in, or partially so, by an ornamental form of molding 37.

Within the base below the shelf or platform
85 13 a chute or hopper 38 is located, the upper end of which hopper is of sufficient size to extend from side to side and from end to end of the base, and the upper edges of the hopper are secured to the side walls of the
90 base immediately below the said shelf or platform 13. The lower end of the hopper is reduced, as shown at 39 in Fig. 3, and is carried at an angle from the center downwardly and outwardly through the bottom of the base
95 whereby any spool dropped in the hopper may be readily delivered to the hand of the operator, or in a box or cup placed to receive it.

In operation spools are placed in the sev-
100 eral thread-compartments one upon the other, as shown in Fig. 3, the lower spool being located in the bore 31 of the carrier resting upon the shelf or platform 13. If a spool of the denomination "36" is desired, for instance,
105 the knob bearing that number is pressed inward, whereupon the spool in the carrier is carried in contact with the shelf or platform 13 until the bore of the carrying-block passes the recess 14 in the shelf, whereupon
110 the spool drops down in the chute or hopper 38 and passes out at the lower end. As the carrying-block is pushed inward to deliver the spool it contains the forward upper edge of the said block contacting with the lower
115 end of the spool immediately above it effectually prevents it from falling, which spool in turn sustains the entire column. After the spool has been delivered from the chute or
120 hopper 38 the knob is released, and the spring 36, acting, throws the carrying-block automatically to its normal position, while the spool supported thereby drops down in the bore of the block ready to be dropped in the
125 hopper when the knob is pressed inward again.

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

1. In a thread-case, the combination, with a
130 base and a series of spring-controlled carrying-blocks having a spool-cavity therein and held to slide in the said base, of a case supported upon the base, provided with a series

of vertical spool-compartments registering with the several spool-cavities of the carriers, substantially as shown and described.

2. In a thread-case, the combination, with a
5 hollow base provided with an apertured top, an inner horizontal shelf or platform attached to the walls of the base, and spring-controlled carrying-blocks provided with a vertical
10 spool-opening extending from top to bottom and held to slide upon the shelf, of a body provided with a series of perpendicular spool-cavities registering with the several apertures in the top of the base and with the openings in the carriers, and a hopper secured within
15 the base below the shelf or platform and projecting downward and outward through the bottom of the base, substantially as shown and described.

3. In a thread-case, the combination, with a
20 hollow base, a horizontal shelf or platform secured within the base to the walls thereof and provided with cavities in the inner edge, and a series of carrying-blocks graduated in height held to slide upon the said shelf, each carry-
25 ing-block provided with a vertical opening extending from top to bottom, of a body secured to the base provided with a series of perpendicular spool-compartments registering with the openings in the carrying-blocks,
30 and a chute or hopper secured at the upper end within the base beneath the shelf or plat-

form and projecting downwardly and outwardly through the bottom of the base, substantially as shown and described.

4. In a thread-case, the combination, with a 35
hollow base provided with a series of apertures in the top, a horizontal shelf or platform secured to the inner walls of the said base, and graduating-strips attached to the underface of the top, one strip located at each 40
side of the base and provided with apertures registering with the upper apertures of the base, of a series of spring-controlled carrying-blocks held to slide upon the shelf or platform beneath the graduating-strips, each of 45
the carrying-blocks being provided with a bore extending through from top to bottom, registering with the apertures in the top of the base and the graduating-strips, and a body
50 attached to the upper surface of the base provided with a series of perpendicular spool-compartments, the several compartments being made to register vertically with the several apertures in the top of the base and the
55 graduating-strips, and with the bores in the carrying-blocks when the latter are in their normal position, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

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Witnesses:

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