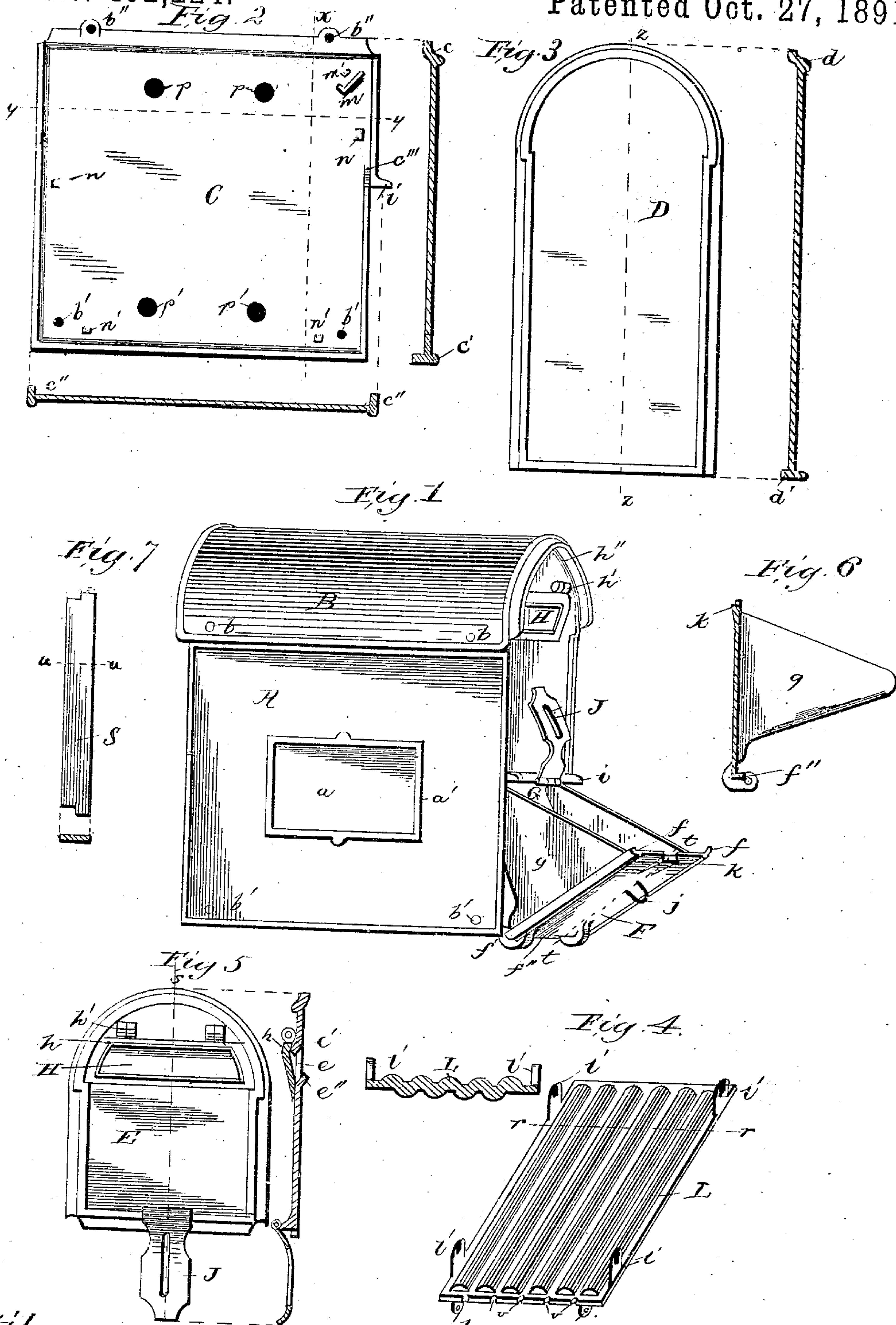


S. STRONG.
STREET LETTER BOX.

No. 462,224.

Patented Oct. 27, 1891.



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL STRONG, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, ASSIGNOR, BY
MESNE ASSIGNMENTS, TO GEORGE E. KIRKE, OF SAME PLACE.

STREET LETTER-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 462,224, dated October 27, 1891.

Application filed March 9, 1874.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SAMUEL STRONG, of the city of Washington and District of Columbia, have invented new and useful Improvements in Letter-Boxes that I style "The Round-Top Letter-Box," of which the following is a specification.

My invention is an improvement upon my previously patented street letter-boxes, and embraces the following peculiar features: a rectangular close-jointing metallic box having a semi-cylindrical or arched top with eave and gable projections and a corrugated bottom, having moisture-vents in its front or door edge, two vertical lugs on its front end, forming the corresponding halves of the pair of exit-door hinges, and a pair of slotted bolt-lugs vertically rising from each of its side edges; also, underneath one end of said overhanging gable roof, a rectangular top-ledged and bottom-ledged slot entrance made through the front end plate and covered with a closely-hung flap-door closing by gravity; also, an internally-declined slide-plate projecting slopingly inward from the lower edge of said entrance-slot; also, below said flap-door a bottom-hinged and outwardly-swinging plate door closing tightly under a protective weather-ledge and over a corresponding exit-port, and having overlapping side flanges, a pair of triangular side plates or wings, a protective flange or gutter upon its lower edge, a lock-staple and hasp, and a chock-flange on its upper edge, upon which said hasp closingly engages; and, finally, upon the front side of said box a rectangular frame or time-card holder, all of which and their purposes are hereinafter more fully described and illustrated by the accompanying drawings, in which like letters designate identical parts of said invention in the different figures, respectively.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the box, viewed from the front, showing the round top, the lower front end plate or exit-door open, and the position of the time-card frame on the front side plate. Fig. 2 is an elevation of the rear side plate, viewed from the interior, showing the four bolt-holes through which pass the clips for attaching the box to the lamp-post, said plate being in

detail the reversed counterpart of the front side plate, with the exception of said holes. The figure to the right is a section on the line $x x$ and the figure below is a section on the line $y y$ of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is an elevation of the rear end plate, viewed from the exterior, the figure to the right being a section on the line $z z$ of Fig. 3. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the bottom plate, viewed from the interior, the figure to the left being a section on the line $r r$ of Fig. 4 and particularly showing its corrugated form. Fig. 5 is an elevation of the upper front end plate, viewed from the exterior, showing the upper or mail-deposit door, the figure on the right being a section on the line $s s$ of Fig. 5. Fig. 6 is a section through the lower front end plate or mail-remove door, taken on the line $t t$ of Fig. 1, particularly showing the flange at the bottom of the door and the shape of the wings. Fig. 7 is a view of the letter-slide, the figure below being a section through the line $u u$ of Fig. 7.

The letter A represents said letter-box, made generally of cast-iron, the top, sides, ends, and bottom being cast in separate plate-pieces with suitable means for securing the plates together in weather-tight joints. The top B is made in the form of a semi-cylindrical arch, so that its lower edges and a suitable bead or molding b'' on its under side near either end shall overlap the side and end plates of the box, rest on the shoulders c and d , formed on said plates, closely jointing therewith, and thus produce a completely protective water-shed over the box-chamber and its contents. The side plates C are constructed with flanges $c' c''$ at their bottom and rear edges and at the upper part of their front edges, as shown, so as to overlap and form weather-tight joints with the bottom plate E and the front and rear end plates F and D. For the purpose of more firmly securing the end and bottom plates in position, the check-knobs $m n$ are provided, suitably placed and projecting from the interior surface of said side plates, as shown. In the rear side plate are two pairs of bolt-holes $p p'$, through which pass the clips or yokes that attach the letter-box to the lamp-post. At the upper and lower edges of the side plates are placed two pairs of bolt-holes $b'' b'$, which are in range with the

corresponding bolt-holes b , and the lug-slots l' when the top, bottom, and sides are in place, and through which these several parts are bolted or riveted together.

5 Upon the lower end of the rear end plate D is formed the flange d' , which overlaps and closely joints with the rear edge of the bottom plate L. The bottom plate L is corrugated, as shown, its upper grooved surface
10 serving to collect and drain away through the notches or vents v any moisture produced by condensation within the box, and said corrugated form combines lightness, strength, and cheapness of construction in the most effective way while protecting the mailed matter
15 from defacement and facilitating its removal by the collector. Said bottom plate is provided also with a pair of lugs l , suitably placed and projecting vertically downward
20 from the front end of said plate, as shown, so as to form each the corresponding knuckle of one of the pairs of hinges f' , by which the exit-door F is opened and closed. Said corrugated plate is also provided with the two
25 pairs of bolt-lugs l' , one pair vertically rising, as shown, from each of its side edges, and each lug having a similar slot made in its upper end, as shown, so that when said bottom plate is in place said lug-slots are brought into
30 range with the corresponding countersunk bolt-holes b' , above described, made through the box sides, and by means of nut-bolts securely fix said bottom plate in place within the bottom edges of the box, as shown.

35 For the convenient and safe deposit of mail-matter within the box the following elemental parts are combined, namely: The entrance or deposit port e is made in the form of a suitably narrow and rectangular slot through the
40 upper or gable portion of said front end plate, as shown. Said front plate rests upon the shoulder c''' of the side plates, and is securely held in position by the overlapping flanges of said side plates. Overhanging said slot on
45 the outside is the ledge e' , sloping downward, and underlying it on the inside is the ledge e'' , sloping upward, said two ledges protecting the contents of the box from rain when the deposit-port is open. Said port is also
50 protectively covered with a top-hinged swinging door H, consisting of a cast plate in the form shown having a water-shedding top or hood h and hung by the hinges h' above the
55 entrance, as shown, thereby protecting it from the rain, and, lastly, within the box an inclined guard-plate S, between the rest m and the knob m' , is fixed, projecting from the side plates, as shown, with its upper edge closely
60 against the bottom of said entrance-port, over which the deposited matter slides into the box-chamber below. The lower edge of said slide-plate may be serrated, if desired, to further prevent improper withdrawal of the mail
65 after it is deposited in the box.

For the proper and convenient removal of the mail from the box the exit-port G is made

below said entrance-port by limiting the height or length of said front end plate, as shown, thus allowing said exit-port to be
70 about one-half of the lower portion of said front end. This removal-port is suitably and protectively closed by the downwardly-swinging door F, united to said bottom plate L by the hinges f' , as shown. Said swinging door
75 is provided with the triangularly-shaped side plates or wings g , cast in the same door-piece, which not only hold the mail from escaping to the ground when the door is swung outward, but serve to support the door from fall-
80 ing entirely down by their top or inner ends being checked against the top of the open doorway, as shown. Said door-plate is also furnished along its bottom and hinging edge
85 with an intermediate and backwardly-projecting angle flange or gutter f'' , as shown, for preventing letters from escaping through the chink or gap made between the bottom of the box and that of said open door. The exit-
90 door is also closed underneath the weather-ledge i , which projects forward from the bottom edge of said front end plate, as shown, and upon which is centrally riveted the hasp
95 J, which, by closing over the lock-staple j of the shut door, permits the latter to be securely padlocked. Said exit-door is also furnished with the side flanges f , which overlap the
100 lower part of the side plates, as shown, and thus make a completely weather-tight joint. In order to secure said lower door in place the
105 hasp-chock k is provided, which, in the form of a central lip or flange, projects from the upper edge of the door, as shown, so that when the door is closed and the hasp turned
110 down, as aforesaid, the inner face of the bent hasp presses against the inclined front face of said chock-flange, and thus keeps the door firmly jammed in place. For the hasp, hasp-
115 chock, and staple; any other suitable locking device may be substituted. Against the outer edges of the rectangular counter sink a , made in the central portion of the front side plate of said box, is fastened a suitable frame a' , as shown, to serve as a label or placard holder and within which to securely place any official notice in relation to the mail-service.

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

1. The street letter-box, formed of separate
120 plates securely bolted together, having an arched and overlapping eave and gable roof, weather-jointed and flanged side and end plates, and a grooved floor, said floor being fixed within the bottom flanges of the side
125 and end plates, and having moisture-vents, and having hinge-knuckles on its front end, in combination with an upper mail-deposit port furnished with inclined slide-plate, over-
130 hanging ledge, and swinging door, and with a lower mail-removal port, furnished with the bottom-hinged door, having inclosing and supporting wing-plates, protective angle-flange, overlapping side flanges, lock-staple, hasp,

and hasp-chock, substantially as and for the purposes herein specified.

2. The street letter-box, formed of separate plates securely bolted together, having an 5 arched and overlapping top, weather-jointed and flanged sides and ends, and the bottom plate having corrugated surfaces, moisture-vents, and hinge-knuckles, in combination with an upper mail-deposit port furnished 10 with inclined slide-plate, overhanging ledge, and swinging door, and with a lower mail-removal port furnished with the bottom-hinged door, having inclosing and supporting wing-plates, protective angle-flange, overlapping 15 side flanges, lock-staple, hasp, and hasp-chock, substantially as and for the purposes herein specified.

3. The swinging door having a hooded top, in combination with the deposit-port of a 20 street letter-box having the overhanging

weather-ledge and adjoining slide-plate, substantially as and for the purposes herein specified.

4. The swinging door having inclosing and supporting side plates, bottom flange, over- 25 lapping side flanges, and bottom hinges, in combination with the removal port of a street-letter-box having the overhanging weather-ledge, substantially as and for the purposes herein specified. 30

5. The arched roof having eave and gable projections, in combination with the weather-jointing sides, ends, and grooved floor of a street letter-box, substantially as and for the purposes herein specified.

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Witnesses:

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