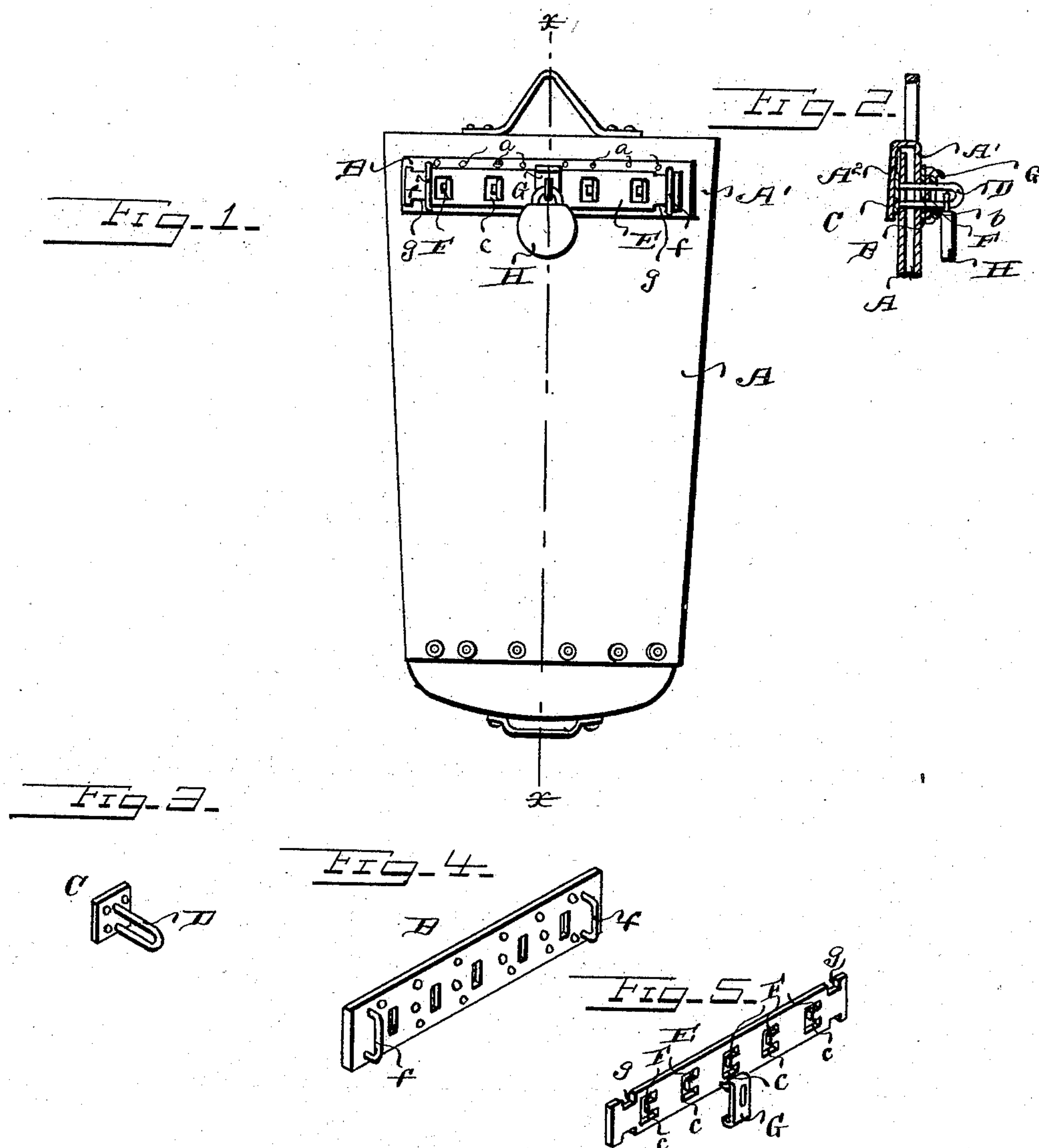


(No Model.)

Z. B. HENDRIX.
MAIL BAG FASTENING.

No. 505,045.

Patented Sept. 12, 1893.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ZADOX B. HENDRIX, OF ANDERSON, INDIANA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO
WILLARD P. BRICKLEY, OF SAME PLACE.

MAIL-BAG FASTENING.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 505,045, dated September 12, 1893.

Application filed October 1, 1892. Serial No. 447,506. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ZADOX B. HENDRIX, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Anderson, in the county of Madison and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Bag Fastenings; and I do 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 of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a front view of the bag and fastening. Fig. 2 is a vertical transverse section taken on line *xx* Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a perspective detail of plate and staple and Figs. 4 and 5 are detail views of plates B and E.

This invention has relation to certain new and useful improvements in mail bag fastenings, and it consists in the novel construction and combination of parts, as hereinafter specified and pointed out in the claim.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, the letter A designates an ordinary mail bag, to which my improved fastening is applied. Secured to the upper front portion of the bag by rivets *a, a*, is an oblong metallic plate B, formed at intervals with narrow elongated vertical slots *b*, similar registering slots being provided through the thicknesses of the bag.

Riveted to the inner face of the closing flap *A*² of the bag is a series of narrow vertical plates C, each of which carries a staple D, said plates and staples corresponding in number and position to the slots in the bag and plate B, through which slots they pass when the bag is closed.

E designates the locking plate, which is arranged to slide upon the outer face of the plate B, from right to left, and reversely. This plate E is cut away at intervals as shown at *c, c*, and in each of said cut-away portions is formed a tongue F, integral with the body of the plate, and projecting in the direction of the length thereof. Said tongues corre-

spond in number to the staples D, which they are respectively adapted to engage when the locking plate is slid to the right, said staples projecting through sufficiently for this purpose. The lock plate is held to the plate B by means of the wires *f, f*, on the plate B, which extend transversely over the locking plate, the latter being notched at its lateral edges, as shown at *g, g*, to permit its play.

Secured to the central portion of the plate B, near its upper edge, is a hasp G, having therein a slot L which receives the central staple D, and through this staple when the hasp is down, is passed the ordinary padlock or mail bag lock H. Said hasp also serves as a handle by means of which the sliding plate may be moved back and forth. The rivets *a, a*, which secure the plate B, should be placed near the center, so as not to interfere with the opening of the bag to receive and discharge mail.

To lock the bag, the flap *A'* is closed, the staples passing through the slots provided therefor. The locking plate is then slid to the right to engage its tongues with said staples, the hasp closed, and the ordinary lock applied. To open the bag, this operation is simply reversed.

It will be apparent that this device is extremely simple and inexpensive, forming a secure and effective fastening, and one which requires but a moment to operate.

Although in the accompanying drawings, I have shown a fastening having five staples, and the other parts in correspondence therewith, it will be understood that any suitable number of the staples may be employed.

Having described this invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

In a mail bag fastening, the combination with an oblong metallic plate B secured to the upper front portion of the bag, and having therein a series of vertical slots *b*, located over corresponding slots in the thicknesses of the bag, of the series of narrow vertical plates C riveted to the inner face of the closing flap of the bag, the staples carried by said

plates C and adapted to engage the slots in
the said front flap and plate B, a locking plate
E arranged to slide upon the outer face of the
plate B and having cut-away portions *c, c*, in
5 each of which is a tongue F, the notches *g, g*, at
the end portions of said locking plate, and the
holding wires *f, f*, substantially as specified.

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

ZADOX B. HENDRIX.

Witnesses:

SAMUEL P. MOORE,
WILLIAM J. DOVE.