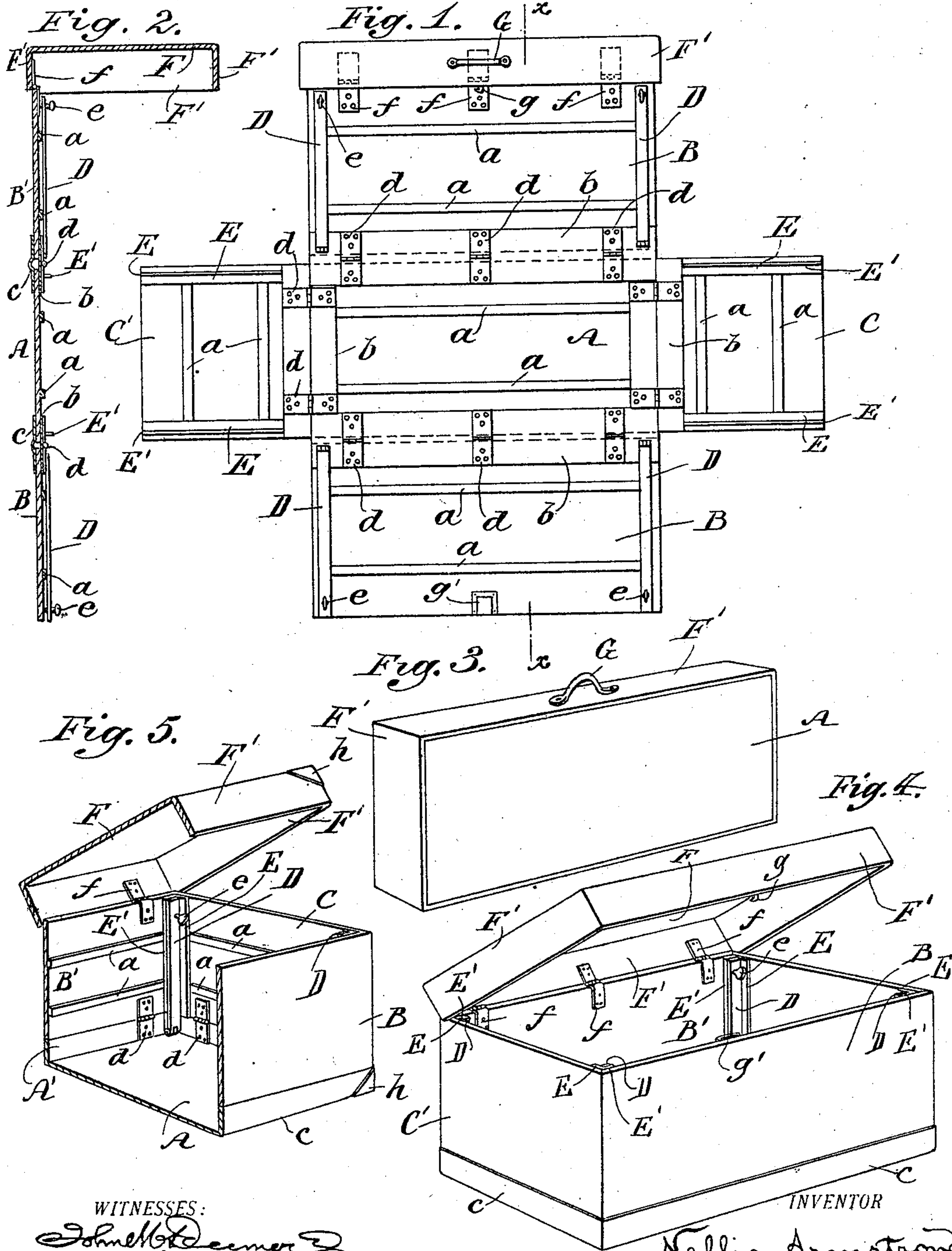


(No Model.)

N. ARMSTRONG.
FOLDING TRUNK.

No. 539,403.

Patented May 21, 1895.



WITNESSES:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

NELLIE ARMSTRONG, OF PORT RICHMOND, NEW YORK.

FOLDING TRUNK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 539,403, dated May 21, 1895.

Application filed July 5, 1894, Serial No. 516,522. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, NELLIE ARMSTRONG, a citizen of the United States; and a resident of Port Richmond, county of Richmond, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Folding Trunks, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part thereof, in which similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

This invention relates to folding or collapsible trunks, cases, chests or the like, and has for its object to provide a device of this character which shall be simple of construction, cheap of manufacture, strong and durable, and which may be folded into such a small compass that the body thereof will fit within the cover and the trunk thus be readily transportable when empty.

The invention consists in the novel inventive construction and arrangement of parts by which the above-mentioned and other desirable results are attained, and hereinafter fully described.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a plan view of a trunk embodying my invention opened out to the utmost and ready to be folded. Fig. 2 is a section of the same, taken upon the line $x\ x$, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the trunk folded. Fig. 4 is a perspective of the same erected, secured together, and ready for use. Fig. 5 is a similar view to Fig. 4 of one end of a trunk embodying a modification of the prior illustrated device.

In the practice of my invention, I construct a base A, which may be of wood, metal, stiffened leather or any other desired material, and has secured thereto longitudinal bars or braces a . Upon each end and side of the base are secured leather or other flexible strips b at the interior of the device and similar strips c at the exterior thereof, the said strips projecting beyond the base a distance equal to half their diameter.

Secured between the inner and outer strips b and c are the front and rear walls B and B', and the end pieces or walls, C, C'. Mounted upon the strips b and secured to the base and to the various front, rear and end walls B, B',

C C' are metallic hinges d . All four of the said walls are provided with bars or braces a similar to those upon the base A.

The front and rear walls B, B' have secured thereto at each end the clamps D, hinged at the bottom and extending to or nearly to the top of the trunk body. These hinged clamps D have mounted in the top thereof the thumb screws e , which pass through the same. The end pieces C, C' also are provided with metallic angle braces E, of slightly less length than the clamps and adapted when the trunk is in the upright or erected position to fit between the clamps and the walls, the longitudinal flanges E' which comprise part of the said braces being apertured for the passage therethrough of the thumb screws e , which thus rigidly secure the said flanges to the clamp, thereby maintaining the front and rear walls securely to the end pieces, and the whole in an upright and immovable position.

Upon the top of the rear wall B' is secured the cover F, which has projecting downwardly therefrom the sides F', which cause the said cover to form a box-shaped body or receptacle. The rear side F' of this cover is secured to the wall B' by means of the hinges f . The forward side F' has secured thereon a handle G, and the same, together with the front wall B, may have secured thereto, respectively, the upper section g and the lower section g' of the usual or any other approved style of lock.

The operation or manner of collapsing and erecting the device will be readily understood from the foregoing description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings. The trunk being supposably in the position illustrated in Fig. 1, and it being desired to use the same, the front and rear walls B, B', and the end pieces C, are raised to the vertical position, the thumb screws e turned to release clamps D, the flanges E' upon the end pieces are inserted between the clamps and the walls, and the thumb screws e screwed in to pass through both the said clamps and the flanges. As thus erected, the trunk is rigid in form and immovable in its parts, and the same may be filled with articles of apparel or otherwise as desired, the outer strips or bindings c preventing the entrance of dust there-

to, or injury to the outside, the inner strips preventing the escape of small articles into the interstices of the trunk, or the catching of its contents between the base and the walls
 5 and the clamps and braces serving to render the trunk incapable of collapsing or breaking inwardly by shock or rough handling in transportation. The cover moreover being box-shaped, and being hinged in such manner that
 10 the same rests almost wholly above the body of the trunk, available space is thereby added.

It will be observed that the trunk may be rapidly unpacked by collapsing the trunk through the reverse process to that above described for erecting the same, whereupon, the
 15 said trunk being in the position shown in Fig. 1, the contents thereof may be readily removed.

When it is desired to transport the trunk
 20 from one place to another while the same is emptied and unused, or where it is desired to store the said trunk in a small space or compass, the same is collapsed by reversely turning the thumb screws *e* of the clamps *D* to release the flanges *E'* therefrom, whereupon,
 25 the several parts being free to move, the end pieces *C* are folded over upon the upper surface of the base *A*, the front wall *B* folded upon the base and the said sections, the whole
 30 of these being then folded upon the rear wall *B'*, which, together with the said base, end pieces, and the front walls is folded into the interior of the cover *F*, the under surface of the base *A* then being flush with the lower
 35 edges of the sides *F'* of the cover *F*, and the whole device assuming the position shown in Fig. 3. The trunk as thus folded may then be carried in the hand by means of the handle *G*, and carriage or storage of the same
 40 greatly facilitated. Where desired suitable fastenings may be provided for securing the parts together in the folded state.

In Fig. 5, I have illustrated a modified form of the device, which strengthens the parts
 45 where greater strain is anticipated. In this construction, the base *A* has projecting upwardly therefrom side ribs *A'*, the hinges *d* being secured to these and to the various walls, the clamps *D* being secured only to the ribs
 50 *A'* and being independent of the said walls. This allows of strengthening the corners of the trunk at the bottom, the said ribs being secured rigidly to the base and to each other, and the corners being further protected by
 55 the braces or corner-pieces *h*, which I also secure upon the cover *F*. This device folds in like manner as before described, the cover being of sufficient depth to receive therein not only the base and the walls when the same are
 60 folded, but also the rigid side ribs as well.

I do not confine myself to the exact specification and details of construction herein set forth and illustrated, as the same may be
 65 changed or varied in many particulars without materially altering the character of the invention, the essential features, merits, and advantages of which will be manifest.

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

1. A collapsible trunk comprising a base, front, rear, and end walls hinged directly thereto in such manner as to open outwardly to the horizontal position and fold inwardly immediately upon the said base, clamps upon
 75 the front and rear walls at the inside, comprising metallic strips extending vertically from top to bottom of the walls, and pivoted to open inwardly, braces upon the end walls adapted to enter between the said strips and the walls,
 80 and screws detachably fastening the said braces in the clamps, and a box shaped lid or cover adapted to receive the base and walls wholly within the same when folded, substantially as shown and described. 85

2. A collapsible trunk comprising a base, rigid front, rear, and end walls hinged directly to the base whereby they will open outwardly to the horizontal position, the front and end walls being adapted to fold upon the
 90 base, and the base upon the rear wall, clamps upon the front and rear walls at the inside, comprising metallic strips extending vertically from top to bottom of the walls, and pivoted to open inwardly, braces upon the
 95 end walls adapted to enter between the said strips and the walls, and screws detachably fastening the said braces in the clamps, to secure the whole in the upright position, and a box shaped lid or cover hinged to the rear
 100 wall and adapted to receive the folded base and walls wholly within the same, substantially as shown and described.

3. A collapsible trunk comprising a base, four rigid walls hinged directly thereto to
 105 open outwardly to the horizontal position, and fold inwardly to the horizontal position, clamps upon the front and rear walls at the inside, comprising metallic strips extending vertically from top to bottom of the walls,
 110 and pivoted to open inwardly, braces upon the end walls adapted to enter between the said strips and the walls, and screws detachably fastening the said braces in the clamps, and a lid or cover having four depending
 115 flanges to be box shaped, the rear flange being hinged to the rear wall of the trunk, whereby the said cover will receive the folded base and walls wholly within the same, substantially as shown and described. 120

4. A collapsible trunk comprising a base having flexible strips surrounding the same inside and outside, and projecting therefrom, front and rear walls and end pieces secured between the said strips, hinges at the inside
 125 of the trunk secured to the base and the several walls, whereby the same will fold upon the said base, clamps secured upon the inside of the front and rear walls at each end thereof, the same being hinged at one end,
 130 flanged angle braces secured to the end pieces at each side and engaging with the clamps when the trunk is erected, thumb-screws extending through the said clamps and the

braces, and a box-shaped lid or cover pivoted to the top of the rear wall and adapted to receive the remainder of the trunk wholly within the same when the said trunk is folded, and a handle upon the front of the cover, substantially as shown and described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as

my invention I have signed my name, in presence of two witnesses, this 29th day of June, 1894.

NELLIE ARMSTRONG.

Witnesses:

C. GERST,

PERCY T. GRIFFITH.