(No Model.)

H. BISCHOFF.

BOTTLE CASE.

No. 539,720. Patented May 21, 1895.

Fig. 1.

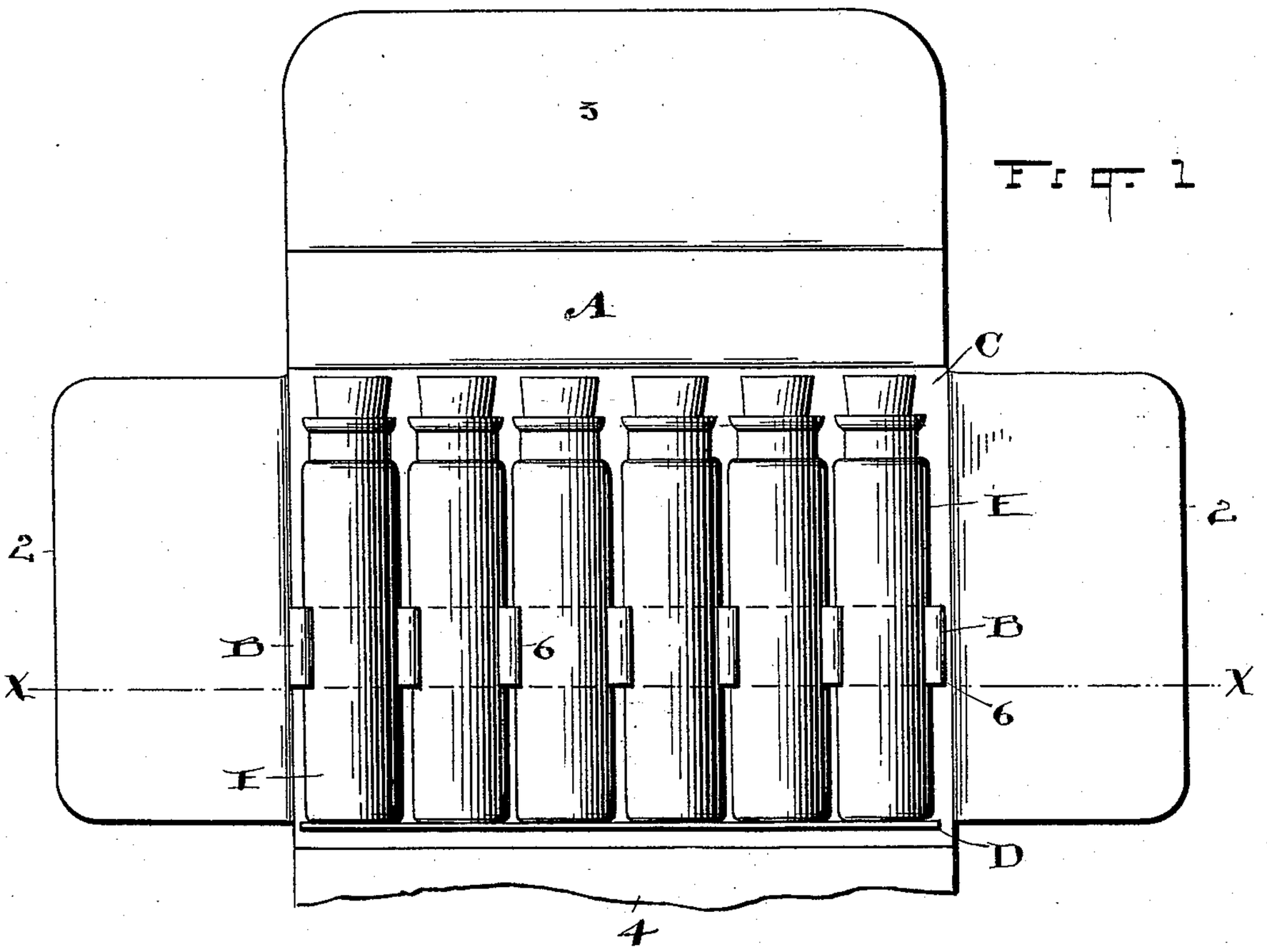


Fig. 4.

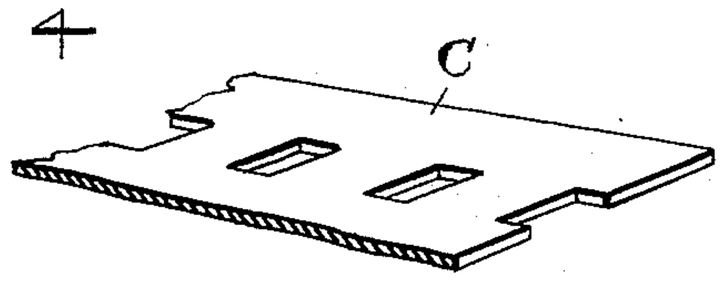


Fig. 2.

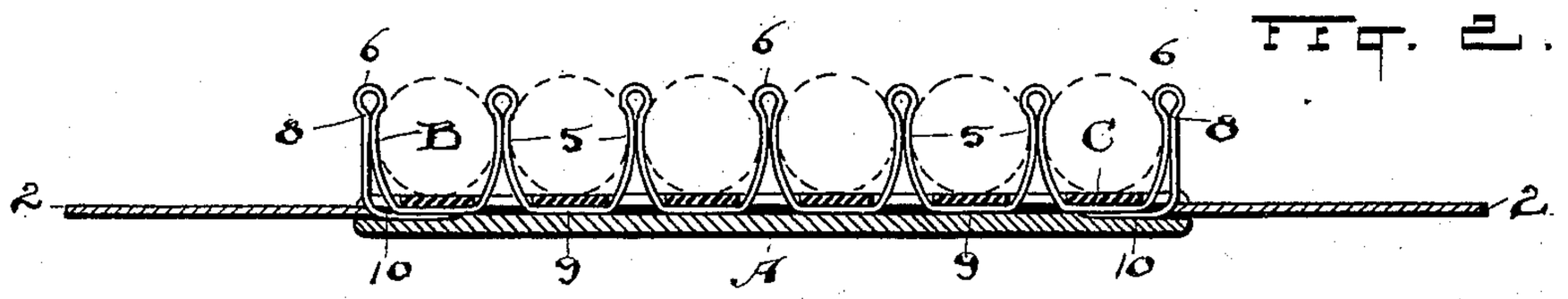
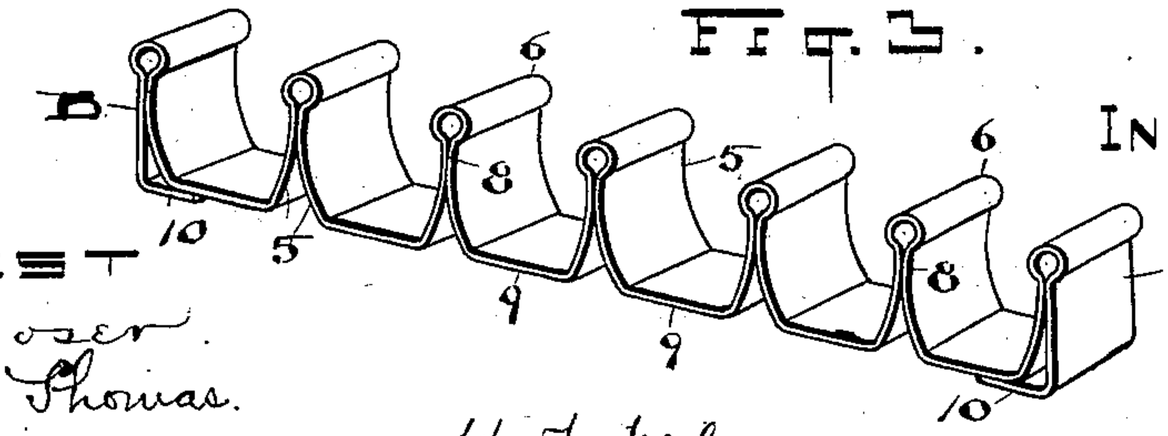


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY BISCHOFF, OF CLEVELAND, OHIO.

BOTTLE-CASE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 539,720, dated May 21, 1895.

Application filed January 7, 1895. Serial No. 534,074. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY BISCHOFF, a citizen of the United States, residing at Cleveland, in the county of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Bottle-Carrying Cases; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention has reference to bottle carrying cases, and the invention consists in the construction substantially as herein shown and described and particularly pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a plan view on one side or section of the case with the flaps laid open, so as to disclose the internal construction and the appearance of the case with the bottles in position. Fig. 2 is a cross-section of Fig. 1 on line *x x*. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the metallic spring-rack which is designed to hold and carry the bottles, as hereinafter more fully described. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a section of the base-plate for the rack.

This invention has reference more especially to the class of cases which are known as medicine cases and designed to be carried by physicians, and are constructed to hold a number of bottles in parallel rows, folding one upon another and all inclosed within the side and end flaps of the case; but it should be understood that while the invention is shown and set forth in what is more especially a medicine case, the use of the invention is not necessarily limited to physicians, and may, indeed, be used for many other purposes, such, for example, as carrying samples of different kinds of liquid, as oils, varnish and the like.

In the drawings, the case proper consists of the case A, having end flaps —2— and side flap —3—, and back connecting portion —4— which unites the section shown in Fig. 1 with the other section not here shown and which is constructed in a similar way to carry a number of bottles. This case is usually made of leather of such quality and durability as the service requires and is adapted to be folded in the usual way.

I do not lay any special claim to novelty in the case alone, but have shown it here in order that a complete article of manufacture might be disclosed and to more fully illustrate the invention.

Now in order that the bottles may be secured and held in the case and at the same time be conveniently removed and replaced, I have provided the novel construction of spring rack B plainly shown in Figs. 2 and 3. This rack is formed from a single piece of sheet steel or like springy metal bent into shape substantially as here shown and formed with a series of substantially U-shaped spring-pressed holders for the bottles. Thus, referring to Fig. 3, we find the said plate fashioned with a series of fingers having double walls —5— terminating at their top in a spring loop —6—. The said walls —5— are sprung nearly together at —8— just below the loop —6—, and from that point they diverge slightly in opposite directions down to the base —9—, which is here shown as substantially flat and as having the width of the bottle it is designed to accommodate. Both ends of the rack are bent back upon themselves to produce a loop —6— and the double sides —5— as already described and has its extremities bent inward at right angles as seen at —10—. The rack thus constructed affords a smooth and rounded surface at the top of each finger, so that a bottle may with perfect safety and ease be pressed down below any two fingers when all the other bottles are in position without any danger from breakage, and at the same time it affords a spring action by which the bottles are held when in position. These upright portions or fingers terminating in the loops —6— have the height substantially of the bottle in cross section, and the bottle rests between the sides —5— of the opposite fingers and with the curved surface of the loop engaging over the curved surface of the bottle above its center, thereby preventing the bottles from accidentally dropping out of the rack or becoming displaced when the case is handled. The rack therefore, becomes a separate and distinct article of manufacture, and is made complete as seen in Fig. 3 preparatory to being incorporated in the case A.

Then in order to secure the rack in the case I employ a separate base plate or sheet C, which has a series of recesses formed in it adapted to have the fingers of the rack project through so that when these two parts are united the rack is introduced into the said sheet or plate C from the under side and the plate or base C is then put into permanent position in the case. This leaves the flat lower portion —9— of the rack on the opposite or under side of the base or plate C and out of sight, while the fingers extend through to the upper side. The said base or plate is firmly secured to the casing in the position and relation substantially as shown in Fig. 1, and thus the rack is also fastened into place.

I provide the casing with the usual foot flange D against which the lower ends of the bottles E abut and which serve to keep them in alignment as well as to prevent their possible dropping out and preventing or obstructing the folding of the case.

By the foregoing construction I am enabled to replace the bottles bodily by gentle pressure downward instead of always inserting the bottle endwise as the old-fashioned leather loop required. There is sufficient spring in the fingers to accommodate the removal and replacement of any one of the bottles while the removal of a bottle does not affect the secure holding of the other bottles.

This construction is especially adapted to place a bottle in the rack by direct downward pressure, and which is one of its great advantages. Then when the bottle is to be removed, an endwise movement is an easy and natural one and it may be removed in this way if preferred or lifted right upward and out.

By making the rack of a strip of metal with double sides the full width of the strip the fingers each have a yield in themselves besides yielding bodily as a finger would that was single instead of double, and then again there is a yield all along the line, more or less, to accommodate the bottle as it is placed in, position. By this means I can squeeze these bottles into place without the slightest danger of breakage.

I claim—

1. The bottle case described, having a bottom piece —C— provided with a series of openings, and a rack formed from a strip of metal having a series of double sided fingers extending the full width thereof and projecting through said openings, said fingers formed with a spring connecting roll at their top and constructed to yield and allow the bottles to be pressed down between them, substantially as set forth.

2. A bottle case having a rack to hold the bottles constructed out of a single piece of spring sheet metal bent bodily into substantially U-shaped bottle holding spaces, and the sides of said spaces formed with double walls —5— united at their top by a transverse spring roll —6— and diverging downward from said roll, substantially as set forth.

Witness my hand to the foregoing specification this 2d day of January, 1895.

HENRY BISCHOFF.

Witnesses:
H. T. FISHER,
M. G. NORTON.