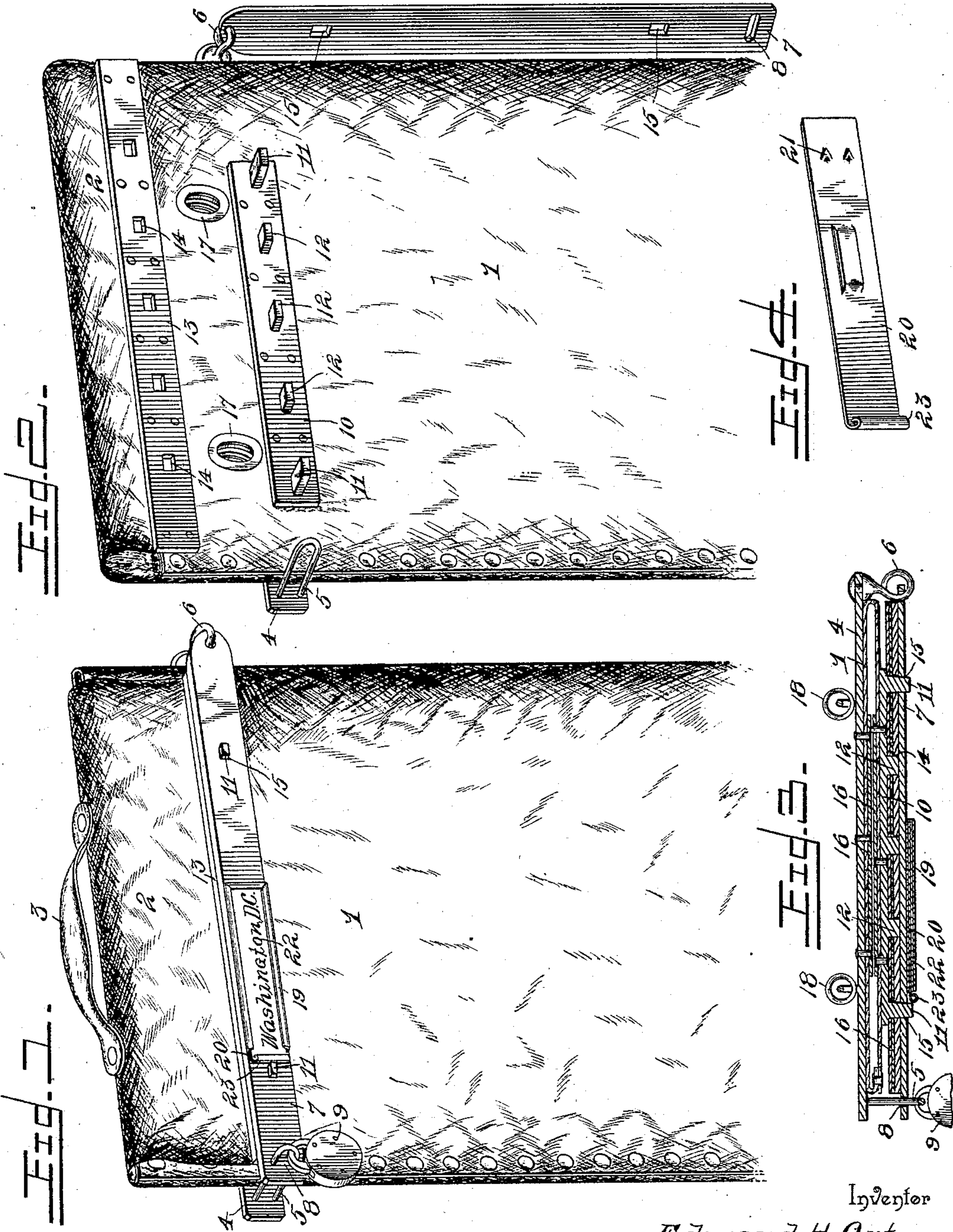


(No Model.)

E. H. ORT.
FASTENING FOR MAIL BAGS.

No. 580,888.

Patented Apr. 20, 1897.



Inventor

Edward H. Ort.

Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD H. ORT, OF FROSTBURG, MARYLAND, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO
DANIEL J. BETZ, OF SAME PLACE.

FASTENING FOR MAIL-BAGS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 580,888, dated April 20, 1897.

Application filed August 18, 1896. Serial No. 603,137. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD H. ORT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Frostburg, in the county of Allegheny and State of Maryland, have invented a new and useful Fastening for Mail-Bags, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to fastening devices for mail-bags; and the object in view is to provide a fastening for the purpose stated which shall comprise a minimum number of parts, be simple and economical in construction, strong, durable, and reliable in use, and capable of being manipulated with the utmost celerity.

The device forms a practical continuous lock extending entirely across the bag, and also serves as a support for the destination-slide and as a means of preventing the displacement of said slide when the bag is locked.

The invention consists in a fastening device for mail-bags embodying certain novel features and details of construction and arrangement of parts, as hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the drawings, and incorporated in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a mail-bag having the improved fastening device applied thereto and locked. Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the device unlocked and the flap of the bag thrown partly open. Fig. 3 is a sectional view taken longitudinally through the fastening device. Fig. 4 is a detail perspective view of the destination-slide.

Similar numerals of reference designate corresponding parts in the several figures of the drawings.

Referring to the drawings, 1 designates an ordinary mail bag or sack, the same being provided at its top with a square flap 2, adapted to be folded over upon the body of the sack for closing the mouth thereof.

3 designates loops or grip-handles by which the bag may be carried.

For the purpose of carrying out the present invention a stout metal strip or bar 4 of somewhat greater length than the width of the bag is secured to the back of said bag, the same projecting at its opposite ends beyond the side edges of the bag, and one end of said

strip or bar being provided with a metal loop or staple or securing-eye 5, while the other end is provided with an eye 6, to which is pivotally attached the securing hasp-bar 7 of the device. This hasp-bar is provided at its free end with a slot 8, by which it is adapted to be passed over the staple 5, so as to permit the usual or any preferred padlock (indicated at 9) to be applied to the projecting end of such staple.

Secured to the front of the bag 1 in the same plane with the bar 4 and hasp 7 is a plate or strip 10, provided at each end with long studs 11 and at intermediate points with relatively short studs 12. To the free edge of the flap 2 of the bag is permanently attached a plate or strip 13, extending the entire width of the flap and provided at intervals with openings 14 for the reception of the studs 11 and 12. This plate or strip 13 is secured to the back or outer surface of the flap 2, and when the flap is closed and the studs engaged with the openings therein the edge of the flap is confined between said plate or strip 13 and the plate 10, carrying the studs. While the parts are in this position, the hasp-bar 7 is swung across the front of the bag, and this bar is provided with openings 15 for the reception of the longer studs 11, above referred to, the short studs 12 being of just sufficient length to project through, but not beyond, their respective openings in the plate or strip 13.

By making the end studs 11 longer than the intermediate studs a certain amount of play or looseness is allowed for in the parts of the fastening device without liability of the flap becoming loose, so as to afford access to the bag.

In order to facilitate the securement of the several plates or strips 4, 10, and 13 to the bag, which is generally of leather or some analogous material, thinner metal strips (indicated at 16) are located upon the inner surface of the bag just opposite said strips, thus adapting rivets to be passed through both plates or strips of each pair and to be headed against the same in a manner that will be readily understood. Besides this the strip or plate 16 on the inside of the edge of the flap is of material assistance in threading the flap

over the studs on the plate 10 and prevents the fraying and wearing out of the edge of the flap. Reinforced eyelets or holes 17 are provided at suitable points in the front and back of the bag for suspending the same in assort-
 5 ing the mail, and, if desired, suspending-rings 18 may be secured to the plate or bar 4 at the rear of the bag for taking the strain from the bag itself whenever found necessary.

10 To the front side of the hasp-bar 7 is secured a holder 19, adapted to receive the usual destination-slide 20. This holder is arranged just at one side of one of the openings 15, so that when the slide 20 is inserted
 15 in the holder and the hasp-bar closed one of the studs 11 will project through the said opening 15 just behind the heel end of the destination-slide, thus preventing the accidental backing or slipping of said slide from
 20 its holder. At or near its advance end the slide 20 is punched from the inside to form one or more outwardly-projecting barbs 21, the same being adapted to engage and embed themselves in the tag 22, which bears the
 25 address or destination of the mail-bag. By means of this construction, when the destination-slide is inserted in its holder, the tag is prevented from being caught in the holder and held back as the slide is advanced. The
 30 rear or heel end of the slide 20 is rolled or deflected, as shown at 23, to form a nail or finger hold, by which the slide may be more easily manipulated. Thus the locking of the bag by means of the padlock also effects a
 35 locking of the destination-slide.

The fastening device above described is extremely simple in construction, is not liable to get out of order, may be manufactured at minimum cost, and will be found expeditious
 40 and reliable in use.

It will be understood that the device is susceptible of changes in the form, proportion, and minor details of construction, which may accordingly be resorted to without departing
 45 from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of this invention.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is—

1. A fastening device for mail-bags, comprising a plate or bar secured permanently to
 50 the rear side of the bag to maintain a fixed position relative thereto and projecting at each end beyond the side edges thereof, a stud-plate permanently secured to the front
 55 side of the bag and having its studs adapted to engage openings in the bag-flap, and a hasp-bar pivoted at one end to the rear bar so as to hang therefrom when not in use, and pro-

vided with an opening at its free end to engage with an eye or staple projecting from
 60 said rear bar, the said hasp-bar having openings for receiving studs on the stud-plate, substantially as described.

2. A fastening device for mail-bags, comprising a back plate or bar secured to one side
 65 of the bag to maintain a fixed position relative thereto and projecting beyond the side edges thereof and also provided at its ends with suitable eyes, a stud-plate secured to the opposite side of the bag, a strip or plate
 70 secured to the free edge of the flap and having openings to engage the stud-plate, a hasp-bar pivoted at one end to one of said eyes and having an opening at its opposite end to engage the other eye and also having openings
 75 for engaging the stud-plate, and means for locking said hasp-bar, substantially as described.

3. A fastening device for mail-bags, comprising a back plate or bar secured to the bag
 80 and projecting at its ends beyond the side edges of said bag, a stud-plate secured to the opposite side of the bag and having studs of different lengths adapted to engage openings in the flap edge, and a hasp-bar pivoted to
 85 one end of said back bar and provided at its free end with an opening for engaging an eye or staple on said back bar, said hasp-bar also having one or more openings for receiving the longer studs on the stud-plate, substan-
 90 tially as described.

4. In a fastening device for a mail-bag having a flap provided with openings, the combination with a stud-plate secured to the bag
 95 and having studs of different lengths, the shorter of which studs are adapted to engage the openings in the flap, of a hasp-bar pivotally connected to the bag and adapted to lie against the flap, said bar having openings for the passage of the longer studs only, a slide-
 100 holder secured to the hasp-bar adjacent to one of its openings, and a destination-slide adapted to be fitted into said holder, the construction being such that when the hasp-bar is locked in position, one of the longer studs
 105 will project through the hasp-bar in the rear of said slide and prevent its escape from the slide-holder, substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in
 110 the presence of two witnesses.

EDWARD H. ORT.

Witnesses:

J. H. SIGGERS,
 HAROLD H. SIMMS.