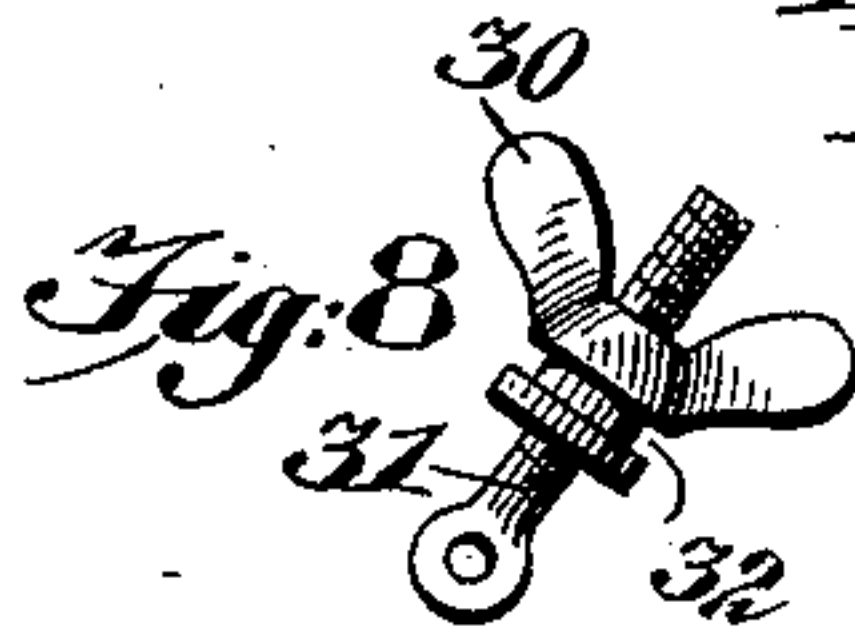
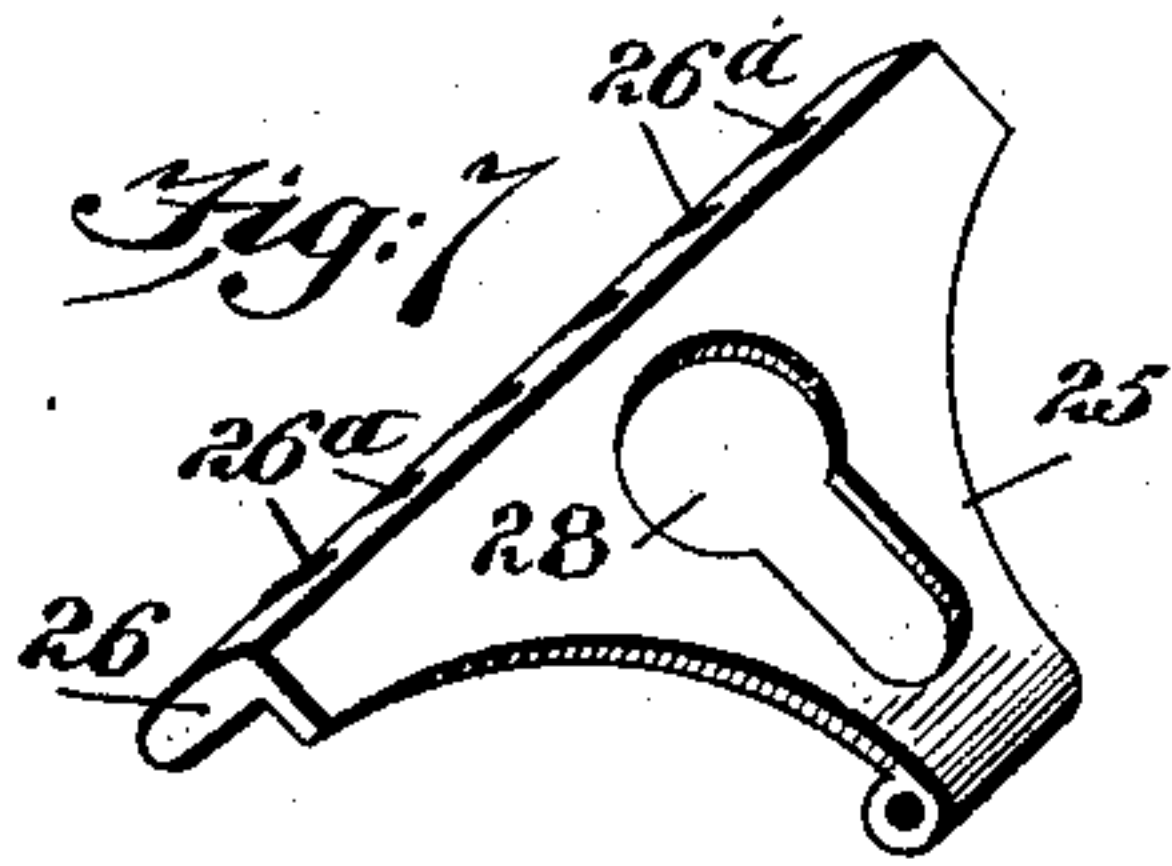
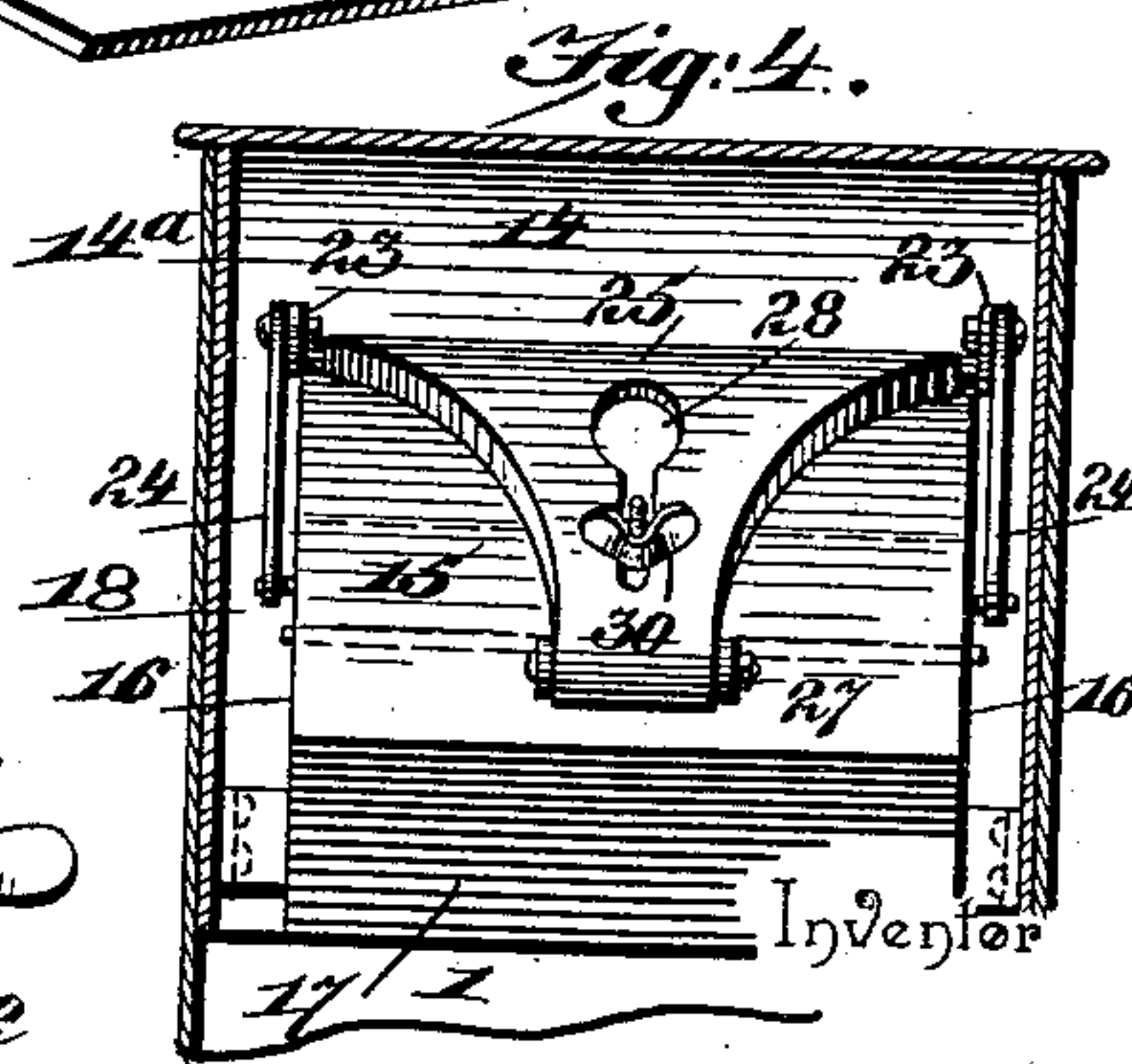
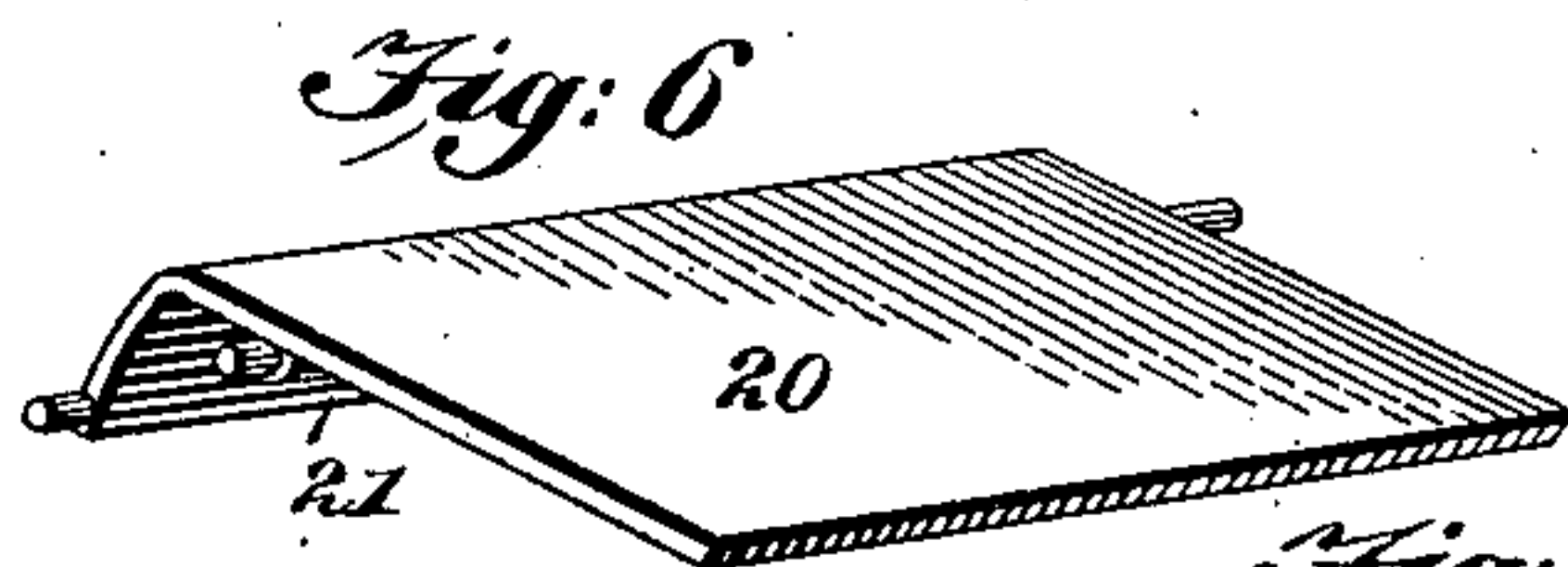
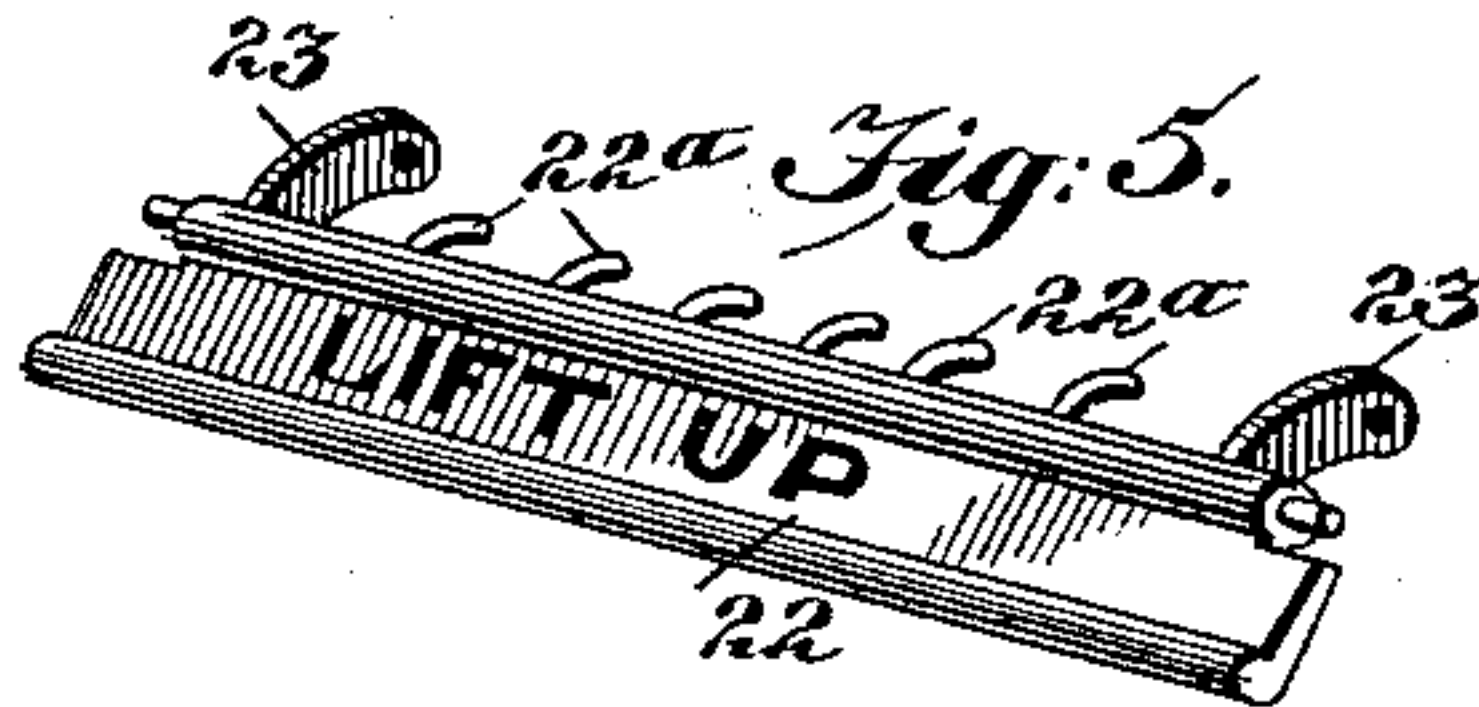
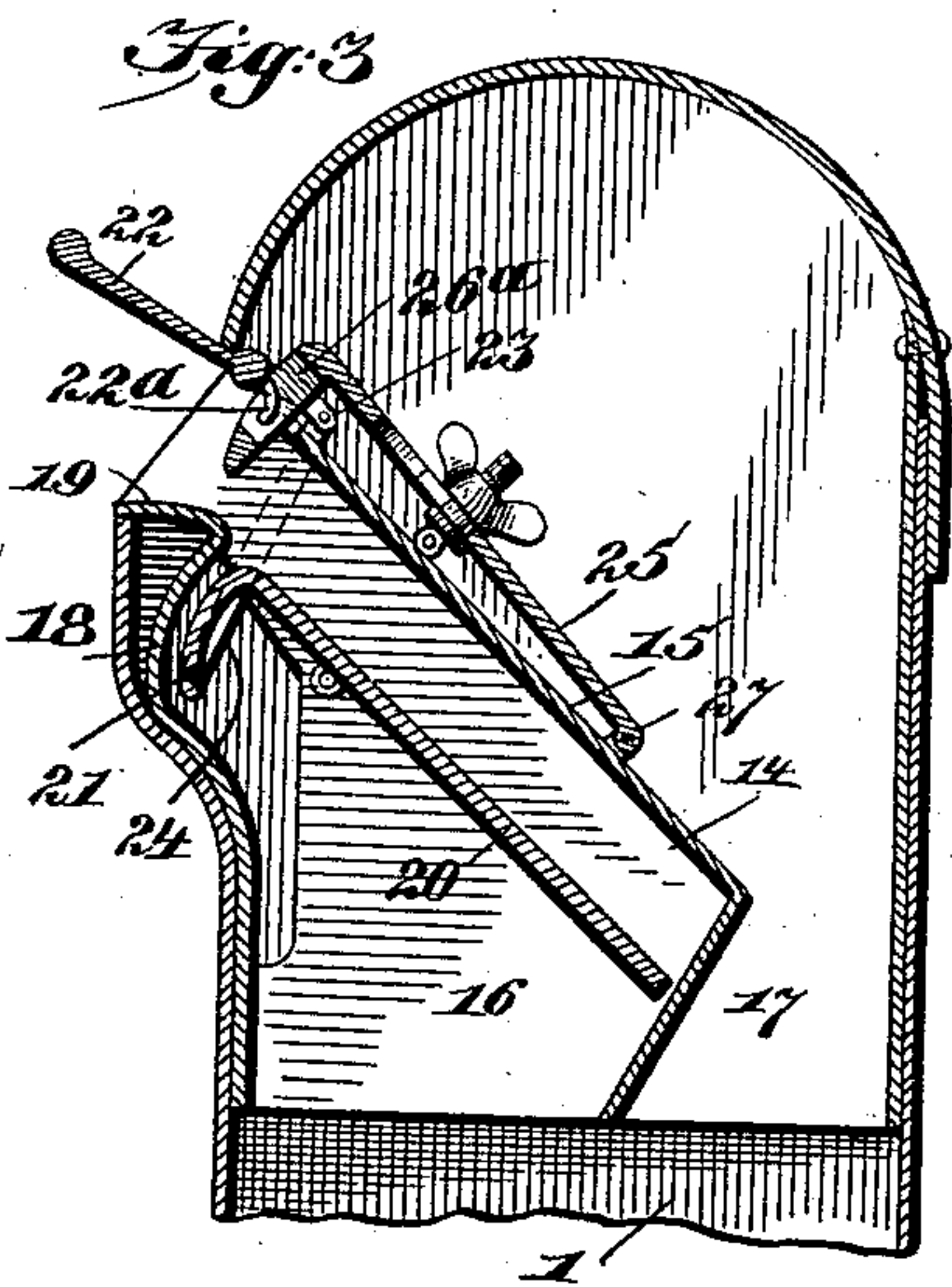
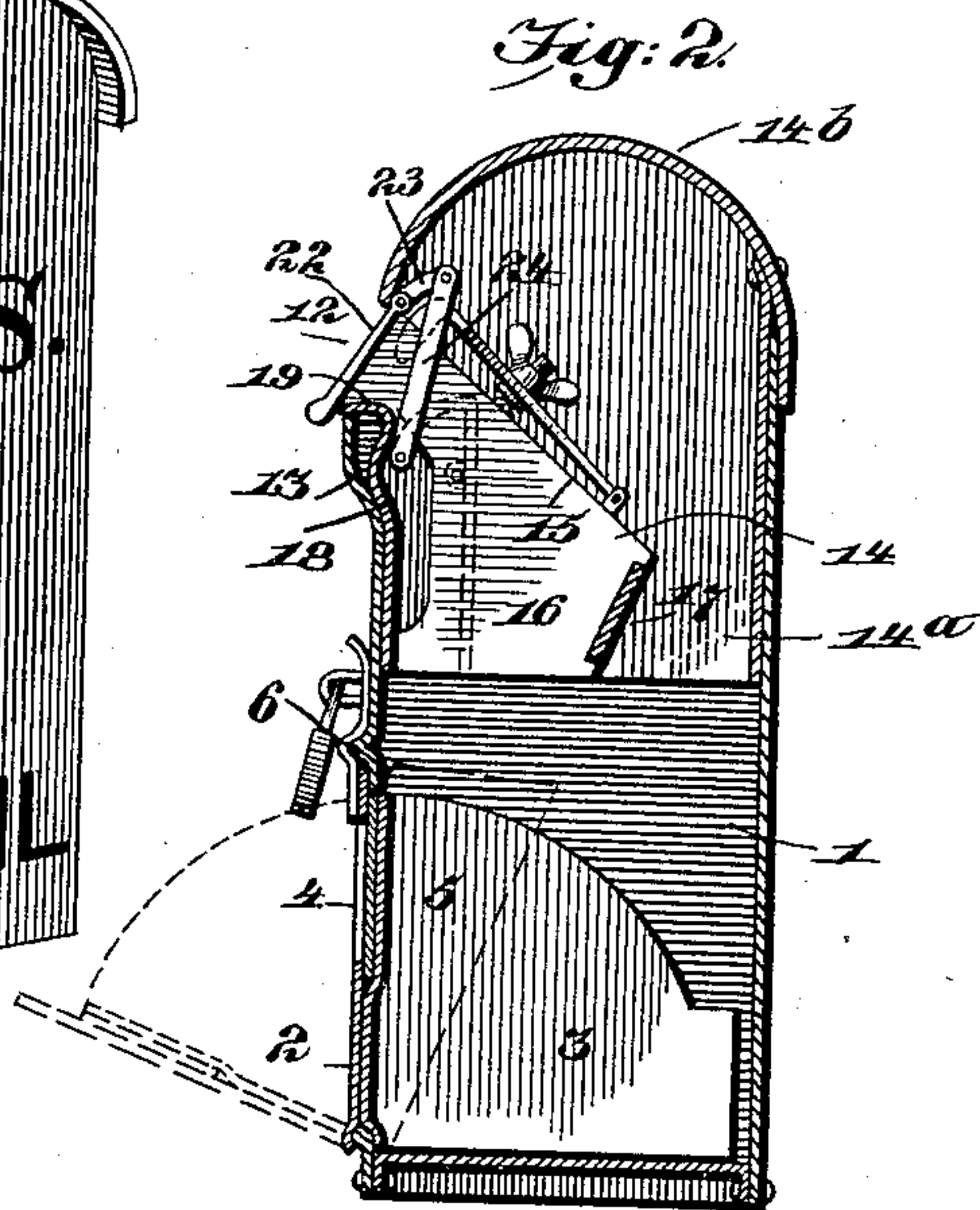
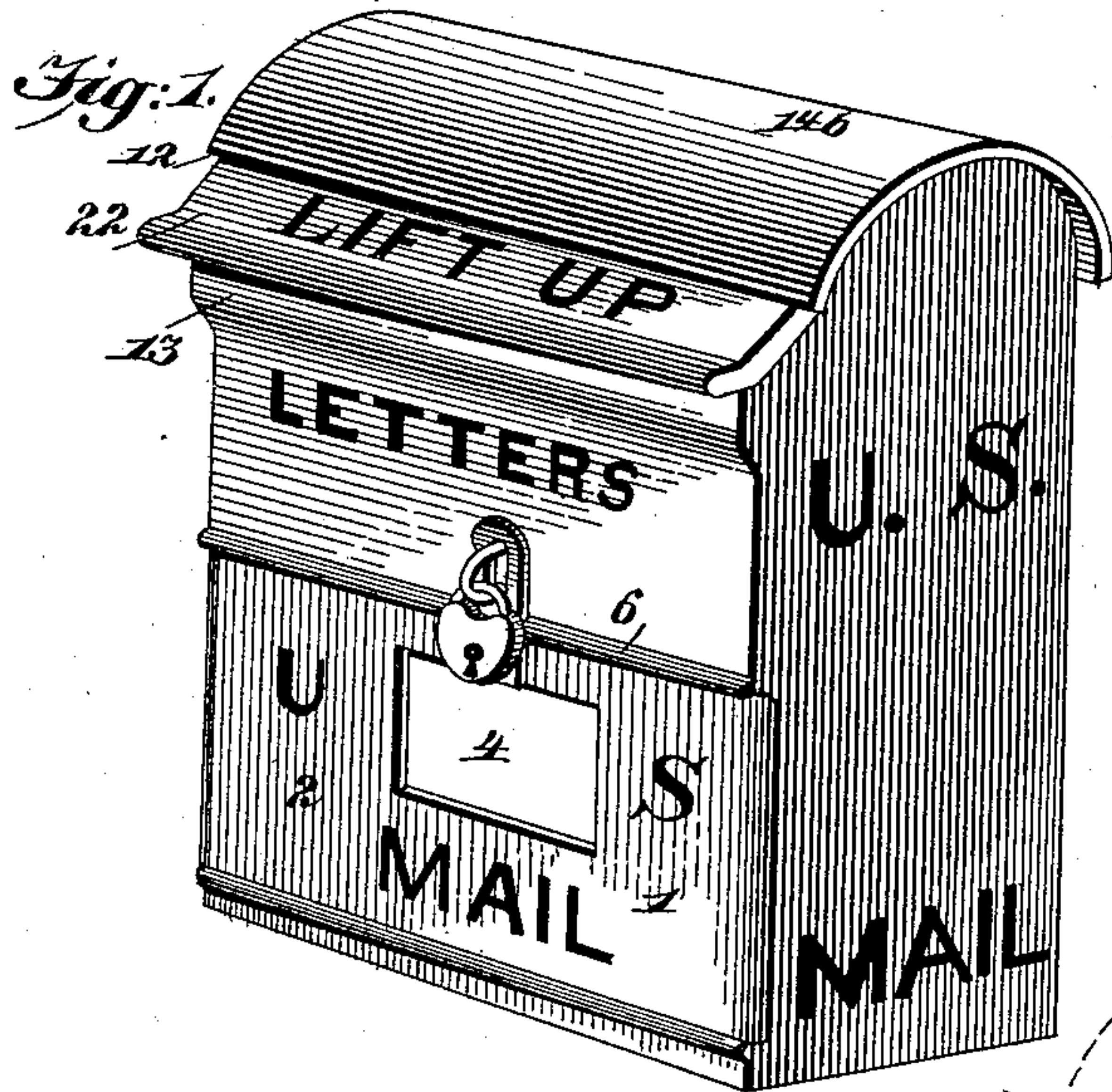


(No Model.)

J. N. CLOUSE.
STREET LETTER BOX.

No. 589,074.

Patented Aug. 31, 1897.



Witnesses

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By *his* Attorneys,

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH N. CLOUSE, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, ASSIGNOR, BY DIRECT AND MESNE ASSIGNMENTS, TO HARRY R. WADE, GEORGE H. CRAY, SOLOMON C. WYNN, AND ROSA A. WADE, OF TOLEDO, OHIO, AND ALICE C. NORRIS, ANNIE RIDENOUR, JULIET KING, VIRGINIA S. CARPENTER, WILLARD A. HOLCOMB, MARTHA G. BROOKE, AND SCOTT C. BONE, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

STREET LETTER-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 589,074, dated August 31, 1897.

Application filed October 30, 1896. Serial No. 610,602. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH N. CLOUSE, a citizen of the United States, residing at St. Louis, in the State of Missouri, have invented a new and useful Street Letter-Box, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to improvements in street letter-boxes.

The object of the present invention is to improve the construction of that class of letter-boxes which are designed for the use of the United States mail and to provide a simple, inexpensive, and efficient one which will meet all the requirements of the Post Office Department, such as dust-proof, waterproof, burglar-proof, and the like, and which will be convenient to operate in depositing letters into it and removing the mail from it.

A further object of the invention is to provide simple and effective means for regulating the size of the receiving-opening to adapt the box for receiving letters only or for the reception of larger packages, such as newspapers.

The invention consists in the construction and novel combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and pointed out in the claims hereto appended.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a street letter-box constructed in accordance with this invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view taken transversely of the letter-box, the swinging cover being closed. Fig. 3 is an enlarged sectional view of the upper portion of the letter-box, the swinging cover being open. Fig. 4 is a vertical longitudinal sectional view of the upper portion of the letter-box. Fig. 5 is a detail perspective view. Fig. 6 is a detail perspective view of the pivoted plate. Fig. 7 is a detail view of the adjusting device. Fig. 8 is a detail view of the screw and thumb-nut.

Like numerals of reference designate corresponding parts in all the figures of the drawings.

1 designates a substantially rectangular letter-box having a curved top and constructed of any suitable metal, preferably sheet-steel, joined together by rivets or other suitable fastening devices. A door 2, which is arranged at the front of the letter-box, is hinged at its lower edge to the bottom of the same and is provided at its side edges with quadrant-shaped plates 3, adapted to prevent mail from falling off the hinged door when the latter is open and forms a shelf. The door is provided with a time-card-receiving opening 4, and it has suitable ways 5 at its inner face to receive such time-card, and the ways 5 are open at the top and form a pocket. The card is adapted to bear the time of collection of mail and such other information desired by the Post Office Department.

The front of the letter-box is provided at a point above the door with a horizontal rib 6, having a slightly-inclined upper edge adapted to shed water and to prevent the same from percolating through the door or the card-receiving opening, thereby rendering the letter-box rain-proof at that point.

The upper portion of the front of the letter-box is provided with a receiving-opening 12, and is slightly bulged or extended outward at 13 at the lower side of the opening, and a hood or casing 14, which is formed integral with an upper section 14^a of the letter-box, the latter consisting of a body portion or lower section and a curved top 14^b, which is arranged upon the upper edges of the lower section or body. The upper section 14^a, which forms a portion of the casing 14, fits snugly within the body portion or lower section and is rectangular to conform to the configuration thereof. The sections of the letter-box are riveted or otherwise secured together.

The hood or casing 14 is composed of an inclined top portion 15, vertical sides 16, a back 17, and a front portion 18, which is curved to present an inner concave face and which is provided with a curved flange or lip 19, arranged at the bottom of the receiving-opening

12 and extending forward from the hood or casing to the front of the letter-box. The back 17 inclines forward and downward to direct mail toward the door of the letter-box to facilitate its removal. The inclined top portion 15, the vertical sides 16, and the back 17 preferably consist of a separate piece of sheet metal secured to and carried by the upper section of the letter-box, and the front portion 18 of the casing is formed by the front wall of the upper section 14^a. If desired, the entire casing can be constructed separate from the body of the letter-box and suitably mounted therein.

15 A rectangular plate 20 is pivotally mounted within the hood or casing between the sides thereof, and it is provided at its top or front portion with a depending curved flange 21, which extends across the entrance or receiving opening 12 when the letter-box is closed and when the plate 20 is in a vertical position. The pivots of the plate 20, which forms a guard or shield, are located adjacent to the top or upper end of the same, whereby the plate is adapted to assume its vertical position automatically by gravity. The curved flange of the plate 20 renders the letter-box burglar-proof when the swinging cover 22 is substantially closed, and it prevents letters from being extracted from the letter-box by means of any instrument or device introduced through the receiving-opening. The swinging cover, which is an ordinary drop-lid, is hinged at its upper edge to the letter-box at the top of the receiving-opening and is adapted to drop by gravity to its closed position, and it is provided at its top with a pair of inwardly-extending arms 23. The arms 23 are located above the hood or casing when the cover is closed, and they are connected with the pivoted plate 20 by links 24, which are disposed at an inclination and which have their lower ends connected with the lower edge of the curved flange 21, and when the swinging cover is raised the lower portion of the pivoted plate will be swung upward to a position substantially parallel with the top of the hood or casing, whereby a letter-receiving chute or receptacle is provided, the plate 20 forming a movable body therefor.

The inner end of the receptacle or chute is formed by the forwardly-inclined back 17 of the hood or casing, and said back wall is directly on a line with the mail-receiving opening, whereby it is absolutely impossible to obtain access to the interior of the body portion of the letter-box when the swinging cover is open. As soon as the swinging cover closes the pivoted plate swings to a perpendicular position and deposits the mail into the letter-box. The parts return to their initial position by gravity, and no springs are necessary to insure their operation.

In order to regulate the size of the receiving-opening to adapt the letter-box for letters only or for larger packages, such as newspapers, an adjusting device 25 is mounted upon

the hood or casing, and consists of an inclined plate and the curved flange 26, depending from the upper or front end of the plate and interposed between the top of the hood or casing and the upper edge or portion of the movable cover. The lower end of the adjusting device is provided with an eye which is arranged between perforated lugs and between the hood or casing, and the pivot or pintle 27, which connects the adjusting device to the hood or casing, passes through both lugs and the said eye. The body portion or plate of the device is provided with a keyhole-opening 28, in the contracted portion of which is engaged a thumb-nut 30, which is mounted on a screw 31. The screw 31 is hinged at its inner or lower end to the hood or casing and extends through the keyhole-opening of the adjusting device, and the thumb-nut is provided with an annular groove 32. The grooved portion of the thumb-nut is of a size to pass through the enlarged portion of the keyhole-opening, and the groove permits the nut to be moved downward into the contracted portion of the keyhole-opening to swivel the nut to the adjusting device. By adjusting the nut the flange 26 may be moved to or from the rib 19 to vary the size of the receiving-opening and partially close the mouth or entrance of the hood or casing. The flange 26 is provided with a series of transverse slots 26^a, through which project a corresponding series of arms 22^a, and the latter extend inward from the upper edge of the swinging cover and serve as guides for the adjusting device.

It will be seen that the mail-box is simple and comparatively inexpensive in construction, that it is positive and reliable in operation, and that it is adapted to be readily manipulated by one hand in depositing letters or packages into it and in removing mail from it. It will also be apparent that the letter-box is dust-proof and waterproof, that it will prevent letters from being extracted through its receiving-opening when the cover is opened or closed, and that the said receiving-opening may be adjusted to permit letters only to be inserted in the box or to adapt the latter for the reception of larger packages, such as newspapers.

Changes in the form, proportion, and minor details of construction may be resorted to without departing from the principle or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

What I claim is—

1. In a device of the class described, the combination of a letter-box provided at its front with a receiving-opening and having an ordinary drop-lid or cover, a hood rigidly mounted within the letter-box and comprising an inclined top arranged in direct alignment with the upper boundary of the said opening, and a back disposed opposite the receiving-opening, and a pivoted plate connected with and operated by the lid or cover and arranged to swing to a position in direct

alinement with the lower boundary of the receiving-opening, whereby a box or chute is provided to prevent access to the interior of the letter-box when the lid or cover is open and also to form a receptacle for mail, substantially as described.

2. In a device of the class described, the combination of a letter-box provided at its front with a letter-receiving opening and with a door, an ordinary drop-lid or cover hinged to the top of the letter-box at the receiving-opening, a hood rigidly mounted within the letter-box and comprising an inclined top extending downward from the upper boundary of the receiving-opening, and a forwardly-inclined back arranged opposite the receiving-opening and disposed in the direction of the door of the letter-box to direct mail toward the same to facilitate its removal from the box, and a pivoted plate connected with and operated by the lid or cover and cooperating with the hood to form a box or chute when the lid or cover is open, substantially as described.

3. In a device of the class described, the combination of a letter-box provided with a receiving-opening, a hood rigidly mounted within the box and comprising an inclined top arranged in direct alinement with the upper boundary of the opening and terminating short of the back of the box, and a forwardly-inclined back extending toward the front of the box and disposed opposite the opening, a pivoted plate mounted in the letter-box at the open bottom of the hood and arranged to swing upward to close the same and form a box or chute, and an ordinary drop-lid mounted at the receiving-opening and connected with and operating the pivoted plate, substantially as described.

4. In a device of the class described, the combination of a box having a receiving-opening, a hood or casing mounted within the box, a pivoted plate arranged within the hood or casing and adapted to form a shield, a movable cover mounted on the box and connected with and actuating the pivoted plate, and an adjusting device mounted on the hood or casing and extending between the same and the cover to vary the size of the receiving-opening, substantially as described.

5. In a device of the class described, the combination of a box having a receiving-opening, a movable cover, a casing mounted within the box, a movable plate forming a shield and connected with the cover, an adjusting device composed of a plate mounted on the casing and a flange arranged between the casing and the cover, and means for securing the plate in its adjustment, substantially as described.

6. In a device of the class described, the combination of a box having an opening, a casing mounted within the box, an adjusting device comprising a hinged plate provided with a keyhole-slot and mounted on the casing, and a flange arranged to vary the size of

the opening of the box, a screw hinged to the casing and extending through the keyhole-opening, and a grooved nut arranged on the screw and engaging the keyhole-slot, substantially as described.

7. In a device of the class described, the combination of a letter-box provided with a receiving-opening, a hood or casing arranged within the box and comprising an inclined top portion, vertical sides, a forwardly-inclined back portion terminating short of the front edges of the sides, and the curved front portion provided with a flange or lip located at the bottom of the receiving-opening, a pivoted plate mounted in the casing or hood and provided at its top with a curved flange arranged adjacent to the curved front of the hood or casing, and a hinged cover connected with and operating the pivoted plate, substantially as described.

8. In a device of the class described, the combination of a box having a receiving-opening, a movable cover provided with a series of inwardly-extending arms, a casing arranged within the box, a movable plate forming a shield and connected with the cover, and an adjusting device mounted on the hood or casing, extending between the same and the cover to vary the size of the receiving-opening and provided with a series of slots receiving the said arms, substantially as described.

9. In a device of the class described, the combination of a box provided at its front with a mail-receiving opening, a stationary hood or casing arranged within the box and communicating with the said opening, said hood or casing comprising essentially an upper wall the former extending rearward from the upper boundary of the mail-receiving opening and a back wall, the latter being on a direct line with the same so as to obstruct communication with the interior of the box, and means connected with the cover to form a movable bottom for the hood or casing to direct mail-matter to the bottom of the box, substantially as described.

10. In a device of the class described, the combination of a box having a receiving-opening, a movable lid or cover, a hood or casing arranged within the box and arranged to form a space between it and the receiving-opening, a movable plate forming a shield and connected with the lid or cover, and an adjusting device mounted on the hood or casing and extending into the space between the same and the receiving-opening to vary the size of the latter and partially close the mouth or entrance of the hood, substantially as described.

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

JOSEPH N. CLOUSE.

Witnesses:

JOHN F. McMAHON,
ARTHUR J. RYAN.