(No Model.)

W. J. BILLINGS & M. MAUER.

OUTLET BOX FOR GAS PIPES AND ELECTRICAL CONDUITS.

No. 589,115. Patented Aug. 31, 1897.

Fig. 1,

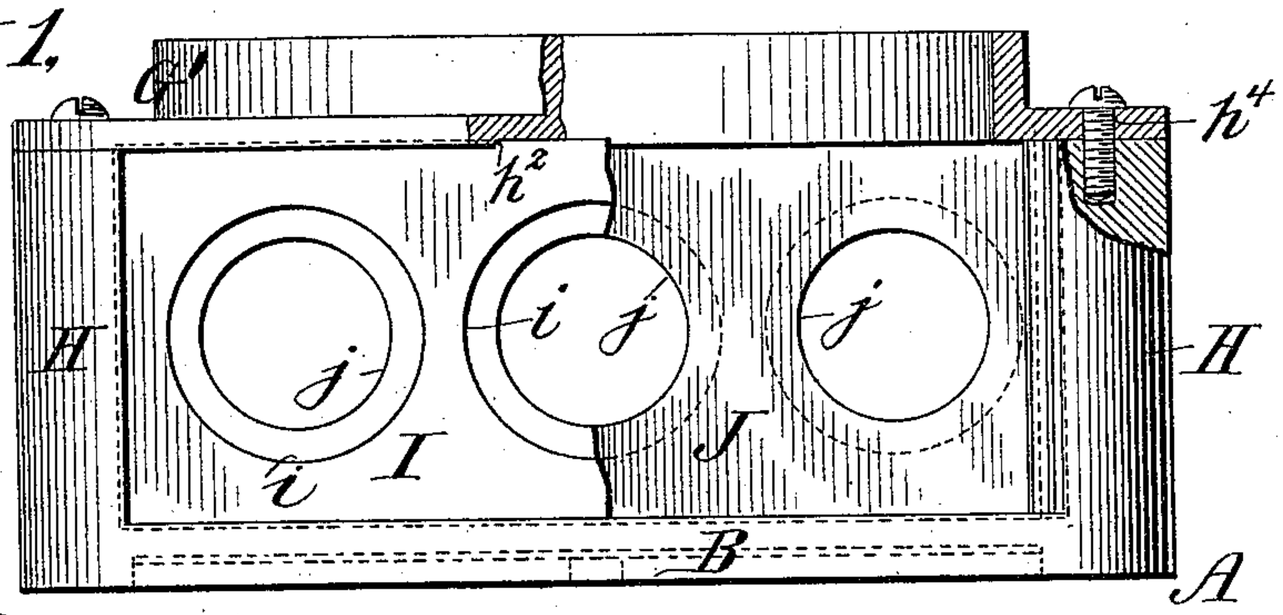


Fig. 2,

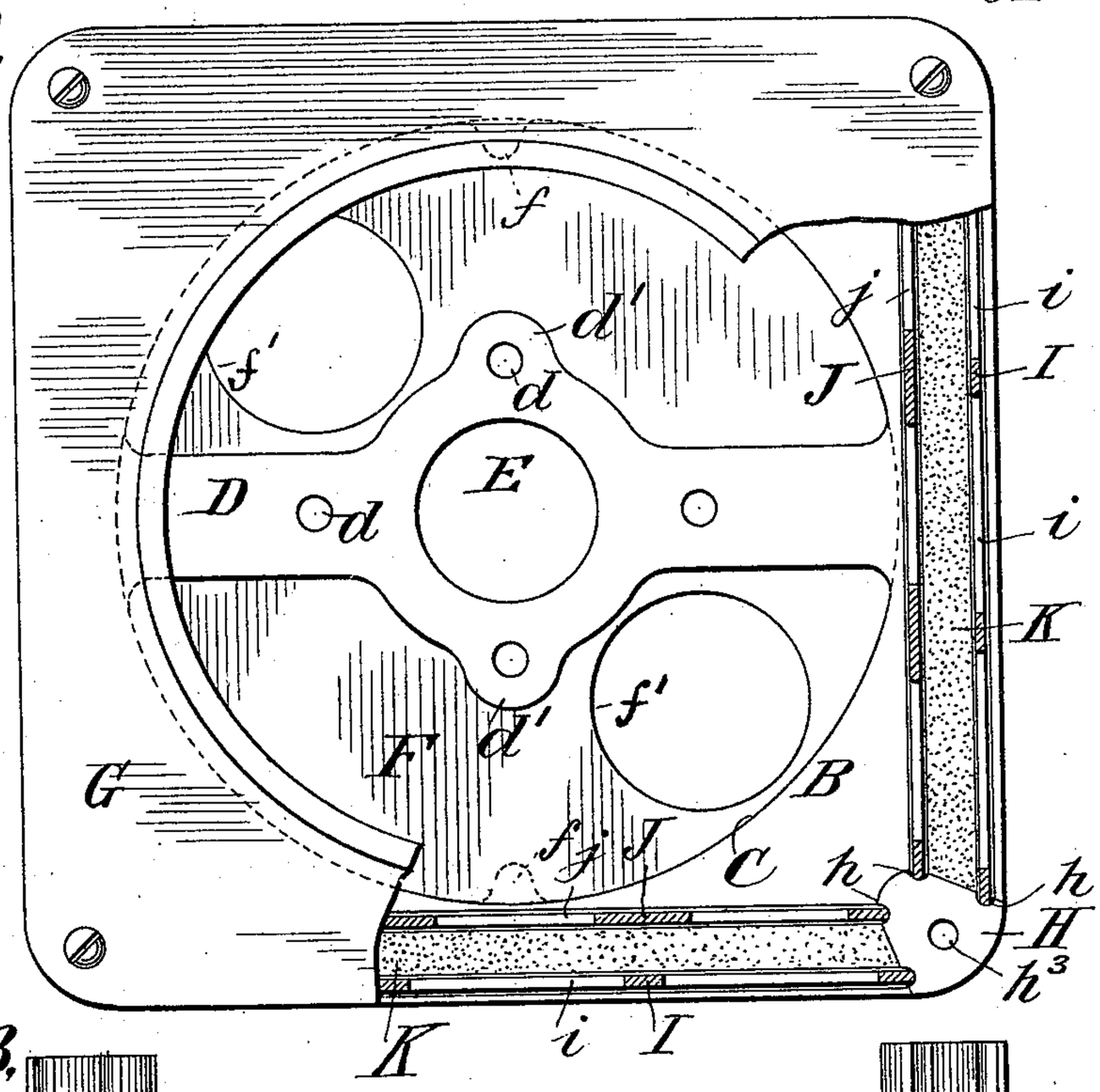
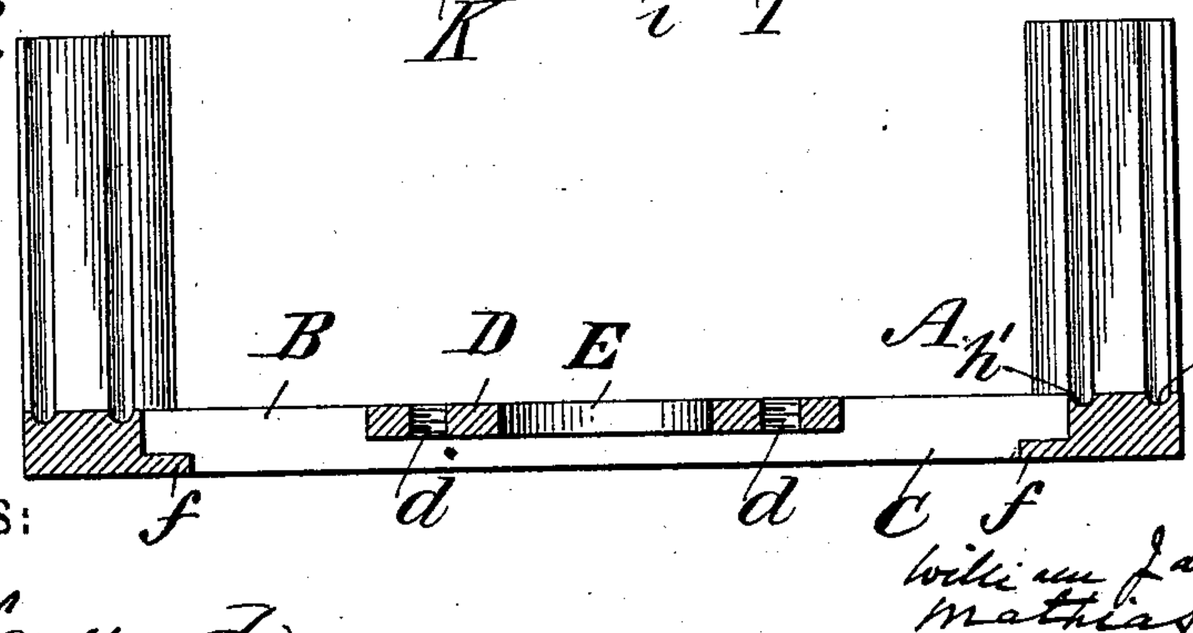


Fig. 3,



WITNESSES:

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OUTLET-BOX FOR GAS-PIPES AND ELECTRICAL CONDUITS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 589,115, dated August 31, 1897.

Application filed June 7, 1897. Serial No. 639,692. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, WILLIAM JAMES BILLINGS, a citizen of the United States, and MATHIAS MAUER, a subject of the Emperor of Austria-Hungary, residents of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Outlet-Boxes for Gas-Pipes and Electrical Conduits, of which the following is a specification.

Our invention relates to improvements in the construction of outlet-boxes for gas-pipes and electrical conduits; and the object of such invention is to provide an outlet-box with removable and interchangeable sides and bottom so arranged as to be capable of receiving gas-pipes and conduits of varying sizes and in various positions, thereby dispensing with the necessity of providing a large number of boxes of different patterns, as is now the case.

The details of our invention and the mode in which it is carried out are described and shown in the following specification and the drawings annexed thereto, in which—

Figure 1 is an elevation of our improved outlet-box, partly in section. Fig. 2 is a plan of same, partly in section. Fig. 3 is a sectional view of the frame or skeleton of the box with the sides removed.

A is the skeleton or frame of the box, having a base-plate B, constructed with a circular opening C and a diametrical bridge D across such opening. The bridge D is made with an enlarged center, in which is formed a central circular aperture E of a width sufficient to receive a standard gas-pipe, such as one-half inch or three-eighths inch. It is also provided with holes *d d*, bored and tapped to correspond with the screw-holes of a standard gas-drop.

The central portion of the bridge D is made with two projections *d' d'*, which are also bored and tapped to correspond with the screw-holes of a standard gas-drop, thereby enabling the box to be connected with the screw-plate of such drop with any one of its four sides uppermost, as may be desired. The position and number of such projections and the screw-holes therein can be varied and arranged to fit the screw-holes of any of the standard sizes of gas or electrical fittings or appliances.

F is a removable bottom plate constructed, preferably, of thin sheet-iron and kept in place by being sprung under the lugs *f f*, placed on the inside of the opening C. This plate is provided with any number of suitable apertures *f' f'* for the reception of gas-pipes and electrical conduits.

G is the removable top of the box, attached to the frame by screws, and is constructed with a large circular opening and a cylindrical onset G' around such opening.

H H are posts, forming the corners of the frame A and provided with grooves *h h* for the reception of the ends of the removable sides or walls of the box corresponding with grooves *h' h'*, formed in the base B. Similar grooves h^2 h^2 are provided in the cover G to receive the tops of such walls. The posts H H are provided with screw-holes h^3 h^3, corresponding with similar screw-holes h^4 h^4 in the top G for the reception of screws, securing the top G to the frame A.

I are the removable walls or sides of the box, made, preferentially, of sheet-iron and kept in place by engaging with the grooves *h h*, *h' h'*, and h^2 h^2. One or more of such removable sides are constructed with apertures *i i* for the reception of gas-pipes or electrical conduits, the remaining sides being made without any apertures.

In some cases we construct our improved outlet-box with double walls—that is to say, with inner walls J J in addition to the walls I I. In such cases the inner walls J J may be either removable and made in the same way as the outer walls I I, or they may be irremovable and made parts of the casting of the frame A, in which case they are made with any number of suitable apertures *j j* on one or more sides, the number of such apertures being immaterial, as it is obvious that the aperture on any side not used can be closed by a corresponding outer wall I not perforated.

In cases where we adopt the use of double walls, as described, we make the apertures for the reception of the electrical conduits in such inner walls smaller than the corresponding apertures in the outer walls, thereby providing a convenient and effectual stop against the riding in of such electrical conduits, and we pack the space between the inner and

outer walls with asbestos or any other suitable non-conducting and incombustible material K.

It is obvious that by the use of a standard pattern of outlet-box as here described and a supply of light and inexpensive removable and interchangeable walls or bottom plates the reception of gas-pipes and electrical conduits is readily and conveniently provided for without regard to the direction in which such pipes and conduits may enter the outlet-box, while the terminals of such pipes and conduits are effectually protected against damp or injury in the process of plastering the walls or otherwise.

Having thus described the nature of our invention and the mode of its operation, what we claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. An outlet-box for gas-pipes and electrical conduits provided with removable and interchangeable sides and a removable and interchangeable bottom plate in manner described and for the purposes specified.

2. A double-walled outlet-box for gas-pipes and electrical conduits, the inner walls of such box being fixed, and the outer walls and bottom being removable and interchangeable.

3. A double-walled outlet-box for gas-pipes and electrical conduits having its inner walls provided with apertures of a smaller diameter than the apertures in its outer walls as described and for the purposes specified.

4. In an outlet-box for gas-pipes and electrical conduits the combination of the frame A, the base-plate B, diametrical bridge, D, removable bottom plate, F, provided with apertures for the reception of gas-pipes and electrical conduits, the removable and interchangeable walls I provided with similar apertures, and the cover G as described.

5. In an outlet-box for gas-pipes and electrical conduits the combination of the frame A provided with the corner-posts H, the removable and interchangeable walls I I, the removable perforated bottom plate F, and the cover G, all as shown and described and for the purposes specified.

6. In an outlet-box for gas-pipes and electrical conduits the combination of the frame A, bridge D, cover G, removable and interchangeable outer walls I, I, the inner walls J, J, and the removable perforated bottom plate F, as shown and described and for the purposes specified.

7. In an outlet-box for gas-pipes and electrical conduits the combination of the frame A, the inner walls J, J, the removable and interchangeable outer walls I, I, and the non-conducting and uninflammable packing K, placed between the inner walls J, J, and the outer walls I, I, substantially as described and for the purposes specified.

In testimony that we claim the foregoing as our invention we have signed our names, in the presence of two witnesses, this 26th day of May, 1897.

W. J. BILLINGS.
M. MAUER.

Witnesses:
WM. SCHNEIDER,
W. P. HATHAWAY.