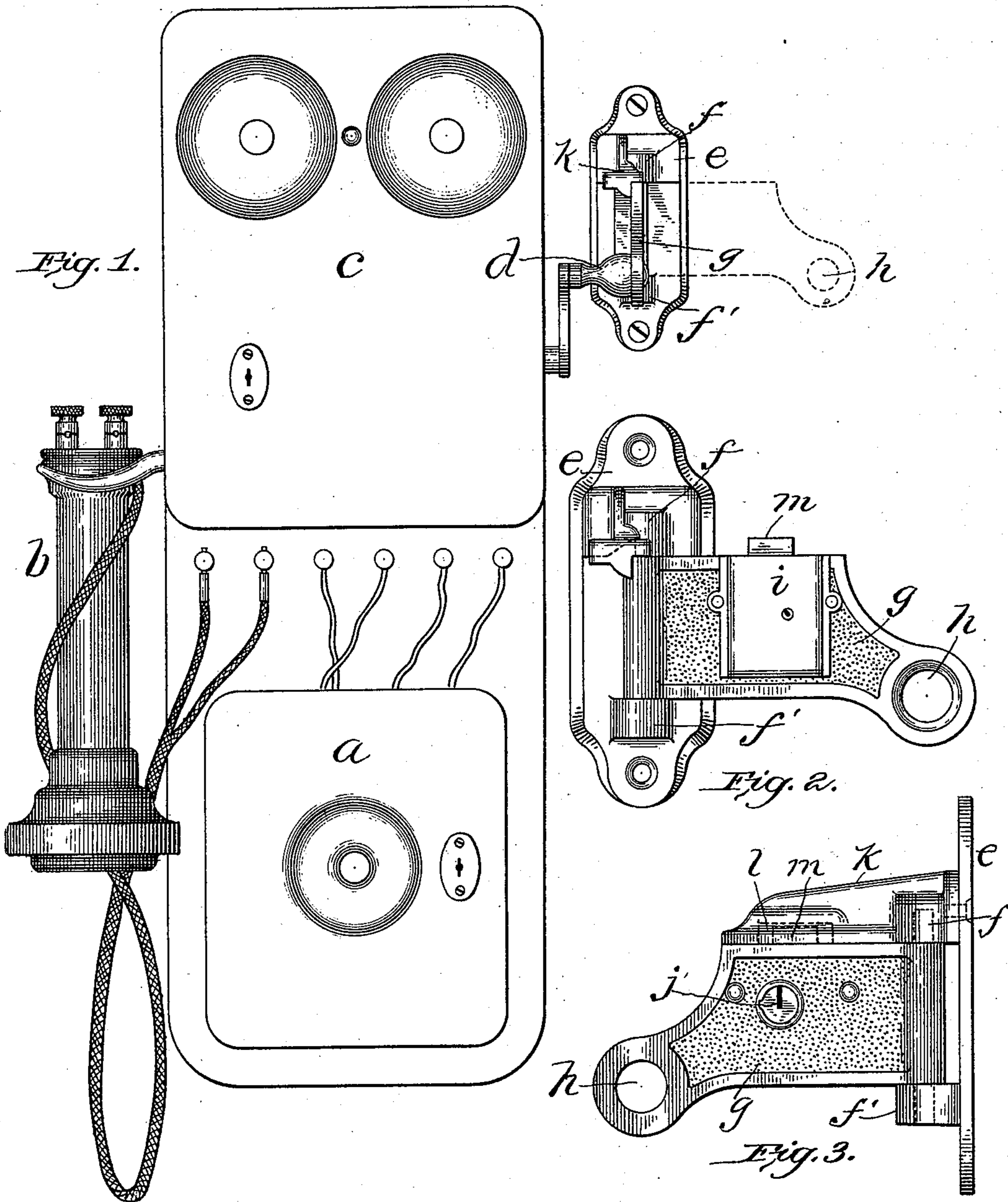


(No Model.)

R. H. ALLEN.  
LOCK FOR TELEPHONES.

No. 601,786.

Patented Apr. 5, 1898.



Witnesses:

Arthur F. Sandall  
Annie J. Darby

Inventor:  
Ralph H. Allen  
by Crossley & Goddard  
Attys

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RALPH H. ALLEN, OF FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS.

## LOCK FOR TELEPHONES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 601,786, dated April 5, 1898.

Application filed September 3, 1897. Serial No. 650,428. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, RALPH HENRY ALLEN, of Fitchburg, in the county of Worcester and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain  
5 new and useful Improvements in Devices for Preventing the Unauthorized Use of Telephones, of which the following is a description sufficiently full, clear, and exact to enable those skilled in the art to which it apper-  
10 tains or with which it is most nearly connected to make and use the same.

It is the object of my invention to provide a device which can be readily secured in place and adjusted with respect to a telephone so  
15 that it may operate to keep unauthorized persons from using the telephone and to have the device at the same time be of such a nature that it may be most conveniently and easily manipulated by the subscriber or other  
20 person having authority to use the instrument.

Under the present rules usually adopted by telephone-exchanges instruments are leased on the "limited-call" plan, and it is difficult  
25 for the subscriber to control the calls made on his telephone so that none shall be without authority. It is to obviate this difficulty that is the purpose of my invention.

To this end, therefore, the invention consists of an independent base and bracket adapted to be secured in position in close proximity to the bell-box of a telephone and an arm hinged or pivoted to the bracket, which  
30 arm is so constructed as to engage the bell-crank and be locked in that position, so that when the said arm is so secured it will hold the crank of the bell-ringing device against operation to call up "central" or any other  
35 telephone number in the circuit.

40 The invention also consists of other improvements incidental to the foregoing, all as I will now proceed to describe and claim.

Reference is to be had to the annexed drawings, and to the letters marked thereon, forming a part of this specification, the same letters designating the same parts or features, as the case may be, wherever they occur.

Of the drawings, Figure 1 is a front elevation showing my invention as applied thereto.  
50 Fig. 2 is a front view of my invention detached, but showing the device in unlocked position, it being represented in Fig. 1 as in

locked position. Fig. 3 is a side view of the device (on the scale shown in Fig. 2) in locked position and looking at it from left to right. 55

In the drawings, *a* is the transmitter. *b* is the receiver. *c* is the call or bell box, and *d* is the arm of the crank for "ringing up" a call or number. The foregoing are the usual general parts of a telephone. The forms of  
60 some of the said parts vary, as does also the arrangement of some with respect to others; but what is thus far described will answer to explain the construction and mode of operation of my invention. 65

*e* designates a base-plate adapted to be screwed to the telephone-casing or to the walls of the building, which plate is provided with projections or swells *f f'*, having recesses or  
70 holes formed therein to serve as bearings for the pintles of the swinging locking-arm *g*, provided on its outer end with a countersunk or similar hole *h* to engage the end of the crank *d*.

The swinging locking-arm *g* is provided  
75 upon one of its faces with a small lock *i*, and a hole is formed through the web of the plate, so that a key may be inserted in the lock from the opposite side, as indicated at *j* in Fig. 3.

*k* designates an extension of the swell *f*, so  
80 as to make it form a substantial arm to the base-plate, and the said arm *k* is recessed in its under face or side, as indicated by dotted lines 1 in Fig. 3, so that when the arm is moved to closed position the bolt *m* of the lock  
85 may enter said recess and be securely locked in place. The lower face of the arm *k* is beveled slightly, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, opposite the points at which the recess *l* is formed therein, so that the arm may be closed and the  
90 bolt of the lock be snapped into place without the use of the key; but the construction is of such a character that it is necessary to employ a key inserted into the slot *j* in order to un-  
95 lock and operate the arm *g*.

It will now be seen that when the parts are arranged as shown in Fig. 1 and the arm *g* is swung into locked position the countersunk hole formed in the lower outer end of the arm will engage the end of the crank *d* and hold it  
100 in locked position, so that a call cannot be rung up on the telephone; but when it is desired to use the telephone a key inserted in the slot *j* of the lock will operate the latter to

draw down the bolt *m* and allow the arm *g* to be swung to one side, as shown in Fig. 2 and in dotted-line position Fig. 1. Then the crank of the call-box *o* may be operated with entire freedom.

It is obvious, of course, that the form of the several parts comprising my invention may be changed to suit the circumstances of the case without departing from the nature or spirit of my invention, which is the provision of an independent lock to the call-arm or crank of the telephone, which lock may be operated by a key to release the locked arm and allow the instrument to be used.

Having thus explained the nature of the invention and described a way of constructing and using the same, though without attempting to set forth all of the forms in which it may be made or all of the modes of its use, it is declared that what is claimed is—

1. A means for preventing unauthorized use of a telephone, consisting of a base-plate and bracket, adapted to be secured in proximity to the call means of the instrument, and a swinging arm supported by the base-plate or bracket and adapted to engage the call means and to be locked in engaged position and to be unlocked with a key.

2. A means for preventing unauthorized use of a telephone, consisting of a base-plate and bracket, adapted to be secured in proximity to the crank-arm of the call-box, a stationary arm forming a part of the said base-plate and bracket, a swinging arm pivotally supported by the said base-plate and bracket and adapted to engage the said crank-arm and to be locked to the stationary arm when so engaged, and to be unlocked by a key and disengaged from said crank-arm.

3. As a new article of manufacture, a base-plate bracket provided with the recessed arm *k*, the swinging locking-arm *g* provided on its end with means to engage the crank-arm of the call or bell box of a telephone, and a lock carried by the swinging arm, adapted to be operated by a key, the bolt of which lock is adapted to engage the recess of the arm *k*.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses, this 28th day of August, A. D. 1897.

RALPH H. ALLEN.

Witnesses:

STILLMAN HAYNES,  
WILLIAM K. HAYNES.