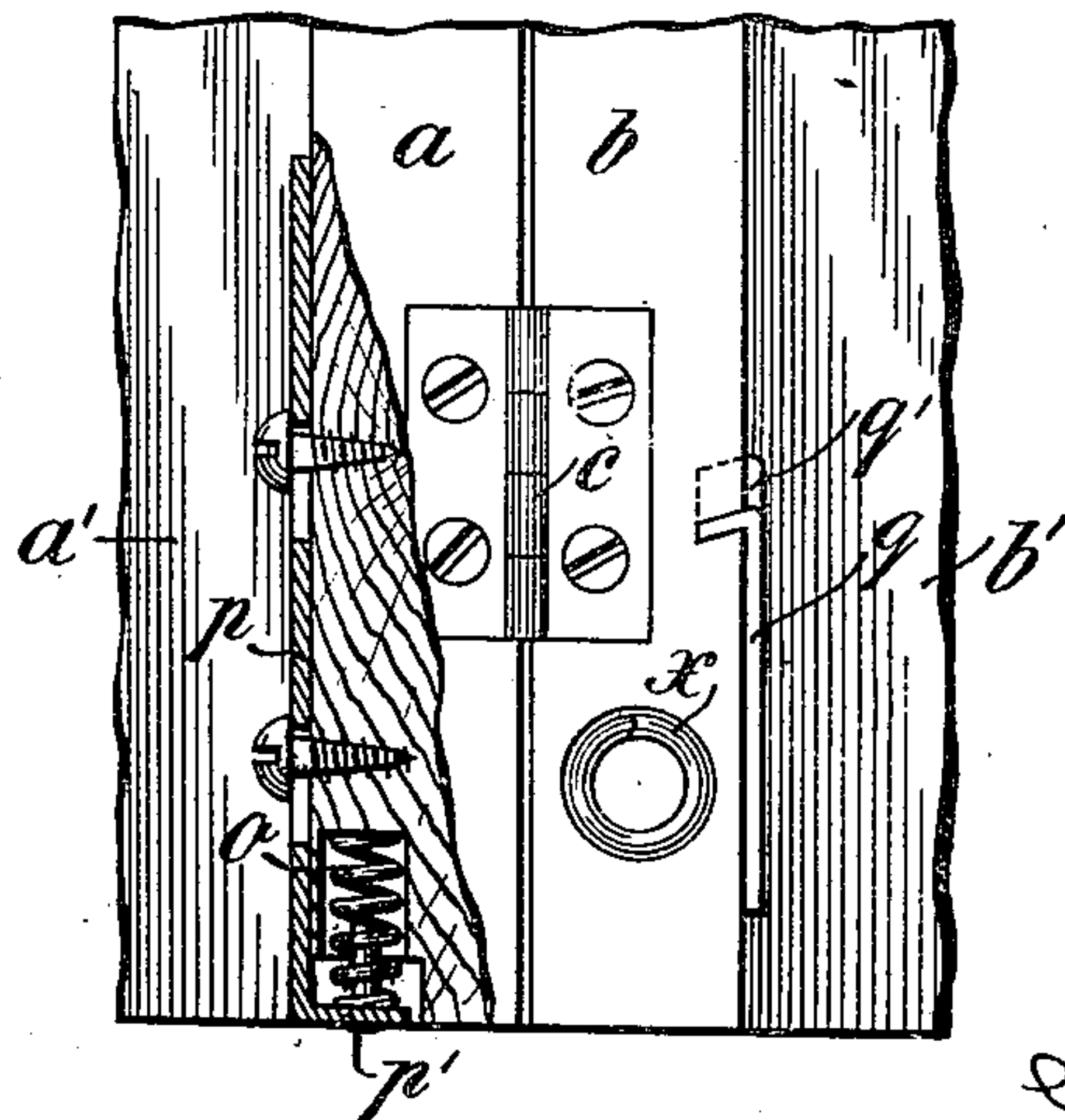
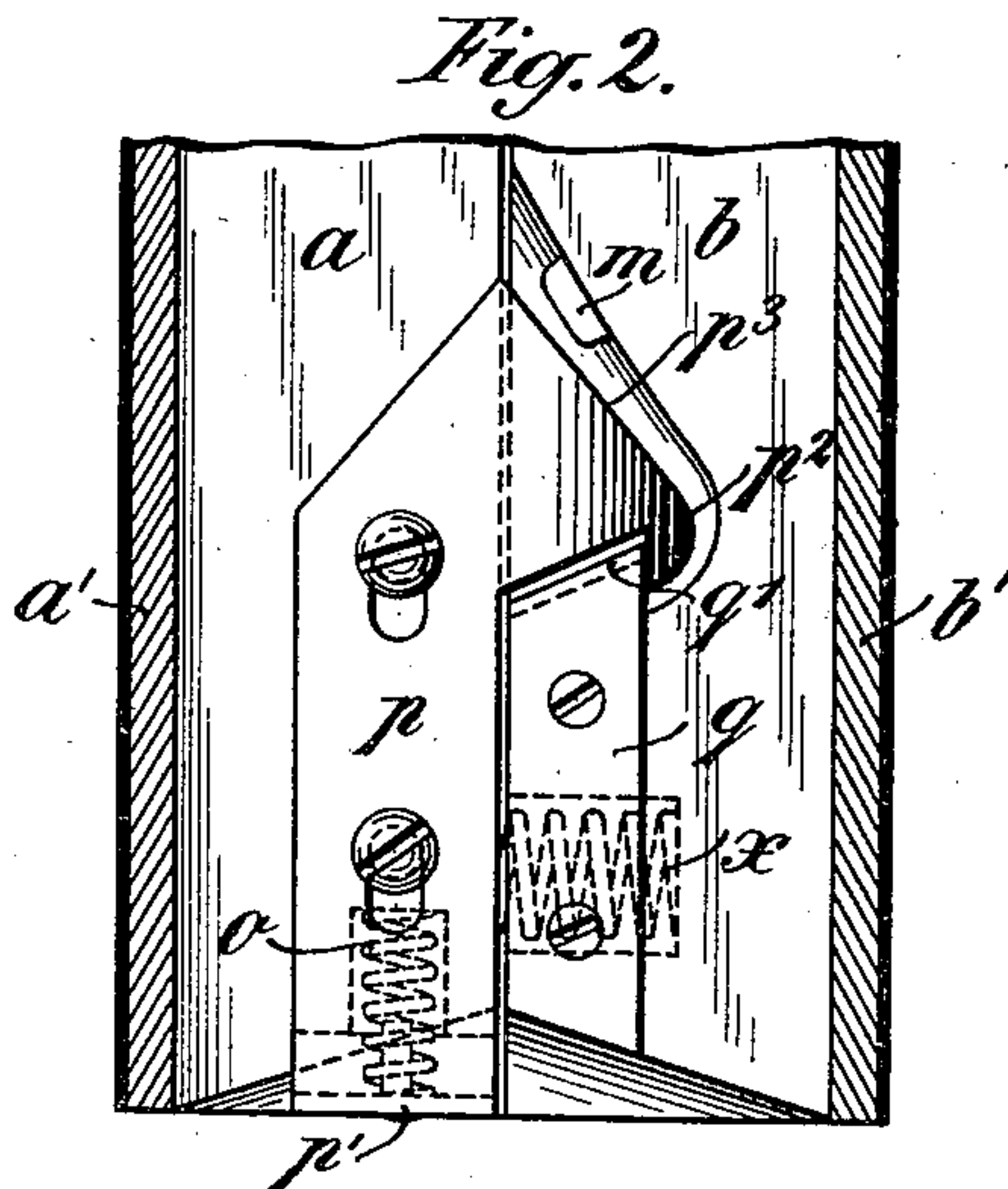
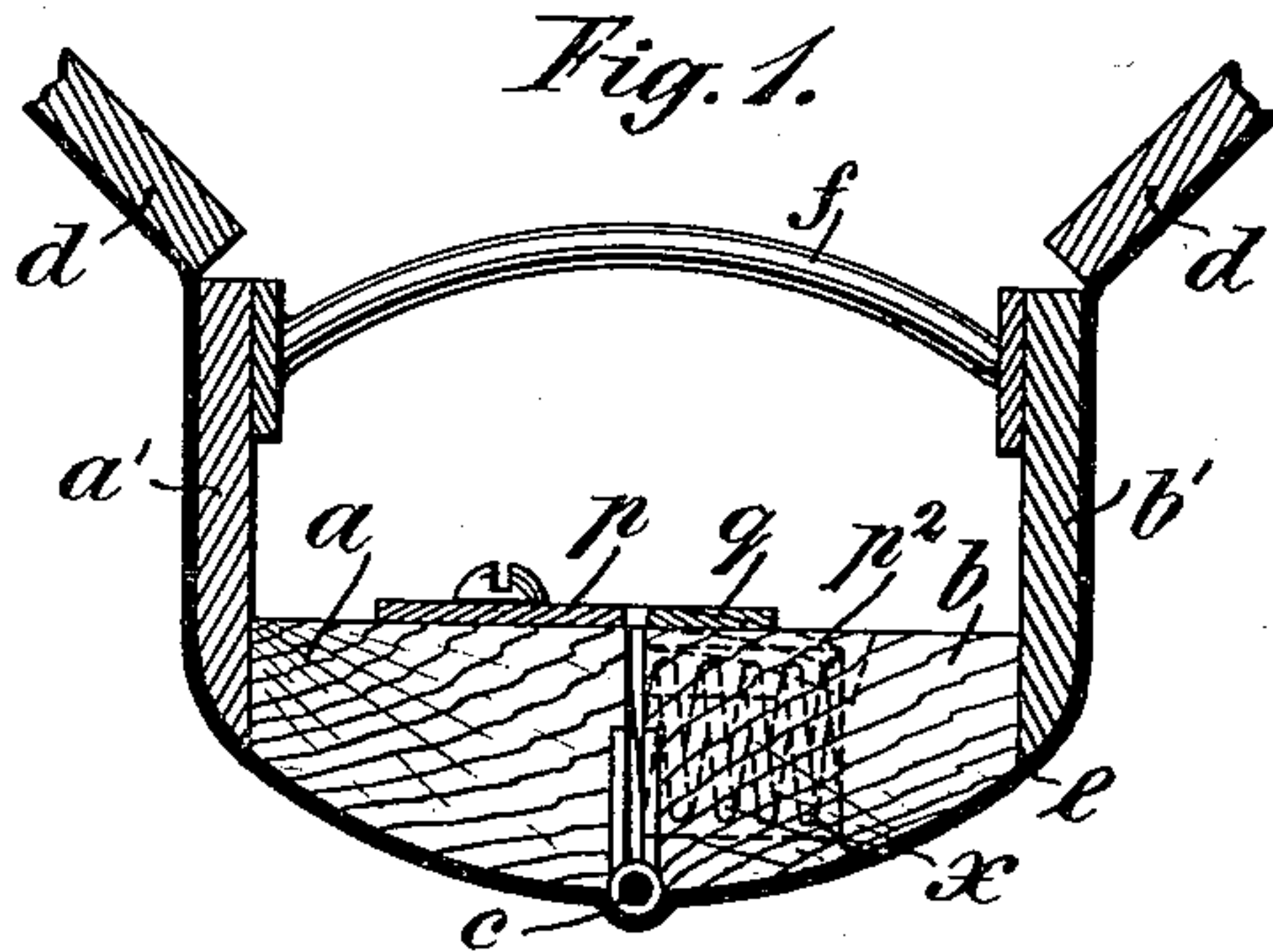


No. 621,256.

Patented Mar. 14, 1899.

A. KRAH.
PORTFOLIO, LETTER FILE, &c.
(Application filed Aug. 20, 1898.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses

W. B. Steffen

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Att'y

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ARMIN KRAH, OF BERLIN, GERMANY.

PORTFOLIO, LETTER-FILE, &c.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 621,256, dated March 14, 1899.

Application filed August 20, 1898. Serial No. 689,122. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ARMIN KRAH, manufacturer, a subject of the Emperor of Germany, residing at 78 Alte Jacobstrasse, Berlin, in the Empire of Germany, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Portfolios, Letter-Files, and the Like, of which the following is a specification.

The closing device for portfolios, letter or paper files, and the like with a divided backing which forms the subject of the present invention is characterized by a particular form permitting of the backing-halves being forced apart as the closing device is opened. Therefore all that is necessary for opening the portfolio or file is to exert a slight pressure with a finger upon the closing device, whereupon the papers or documents can be instantly withdrawn or inserted, as the case may be. The closing device, moreover, permits of the portfolio being closed in a very simple manner, seeing that in order to effect the closing all that is necessary is to fold up the two covers of the portfolio or file.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents a cross-section through the backing of the portfolio in its closed position. Fig. 2 represents the closing device in elevation, the portfolio being likewise in its closed position; and Fig. 3 represents the backing of the portfolio in elevation when in its open position.

The portfolio consists of the two equal backing-halves *a* and *b*, which are so connected by one, two, or more hinges *c*, or, in substitution for the hinges, by the outer coating *e* of leather, cloth, or the like, that these two halves when in closed position form a uniform book-backing. The backing-halves are preferably made of wood, the outside being suitably covered with leather, cloth, or similar material *e*, this latter covering material being likewise used for fixing the lateral continuations *a'* *b'* and the covers proper, *d*, so that the latter are easily movable on said continuations *a'* *b'*. On the inner sides of these continuations *a'* *b'* sheet-metal strips with threading-wires *f* are fastened in the known manner, these threading-wires being adapted to receive the previ-

ously-perforated papers or documents which are slid on said wires.

For holding the backing-halves *a* and *b* together when in the closed position a slide *p* is employed, which is screwed on the left backing-half *a*, so as to be displaceable thereon in the longitudinal direction. Pressure is exerted against the bent extremity *p'* of the slide in order to open the portfolio. A spring *o* has the permanent tendency to return the slide to its initial position. (Represented in Figs. 2 and 3.) The said slide *p* is provided with a nose *p²*, which grips behind the hook *q'* of a piece *q* of sheet metal screwed on the backing-half *b* when the portfolio is in its closed position. On exerting a slight pressure upon the end *p'* the nose *p²* slides off the hook *q'*, so that the two backing-halves *a* and *b* are no longer held together. As, however, the slide *p* is moved up the oblique surface *p³* on its part strikes against a projection *m*, forces the latter back, and thus forcibly moves the backing-half *b* away from *a*, so that not only the closing device is opened, but also the backing-halves are automatically separated. As the portfolio is being closed the lower edge *p²* of the hook slides over the slightly-oblique edge *q'* and on completely closing the portfolio again engages behind the right edge of *q'*. In order to permit of the backing-halves being rapidly forced apart on opening the closing device, springs *x* are arranged between the backing-halves. In Figs. 1 and 2 these springs *x* are represented in form of short spiral springs, which may, however, be substituted by leaf-springs, which should be located along the intermediate space behind the two backing-halves. The closing device represented, however, permits of such springs being dispensed with, seeing that the oblique surface *p³* of the slide, as already mentioned, presses against the projection *m*, thereby forcing the backing open; but in addition to this arrangement springs may of course be used.

What I claim is—

A portfolio or letter-file with bipartite backing, characterized by a slide *p* arranged upon the one backing-half *a* and provided with an oblique surface *p³* and a nose *p²*, and a hook

q' and a projection m on the other backing-half b , which nose p^2 by gripping behind the hook q' holds the portfolio in its closed position, while, on moving the slide p back, the
5 nose p^2 is released from the hook q' , the oblique surface p^3 strikes against the projection m and forces both backing-halves apart, so that the portfolio or file is opened.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand, in presence of two subscribing witnesses, this 27th day of July, 1898.

ARMIN KRAH.

Witnesses:

HENRY BORDEWICH,
B. BORDEWICH.