

No. 637,455.

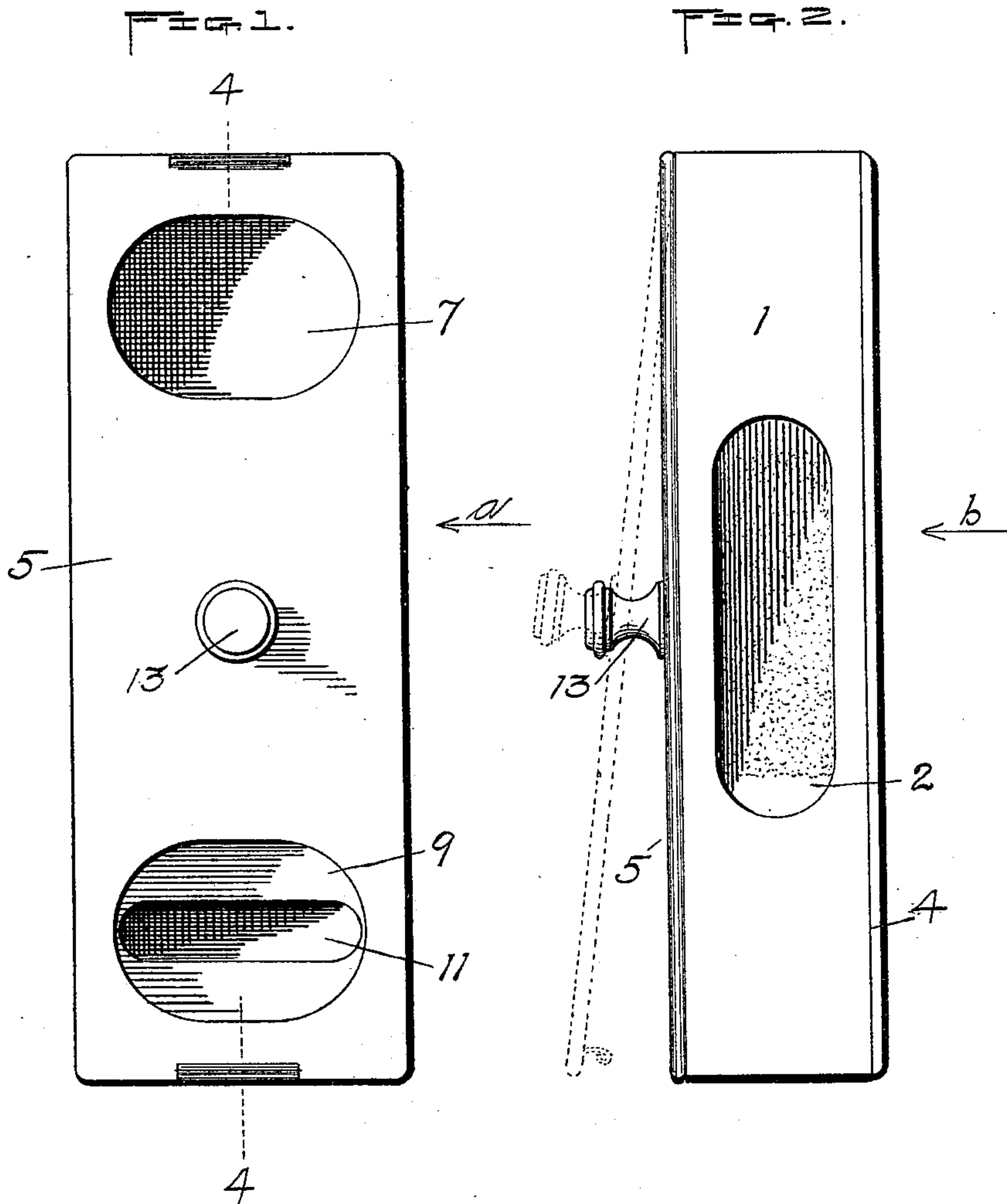
Patented Nov. 21, 1899.

B. I. GILMAN.
MATCH BOX HOLDER.

(Application filed Mar. 4, 1899.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.



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FIG. 3.

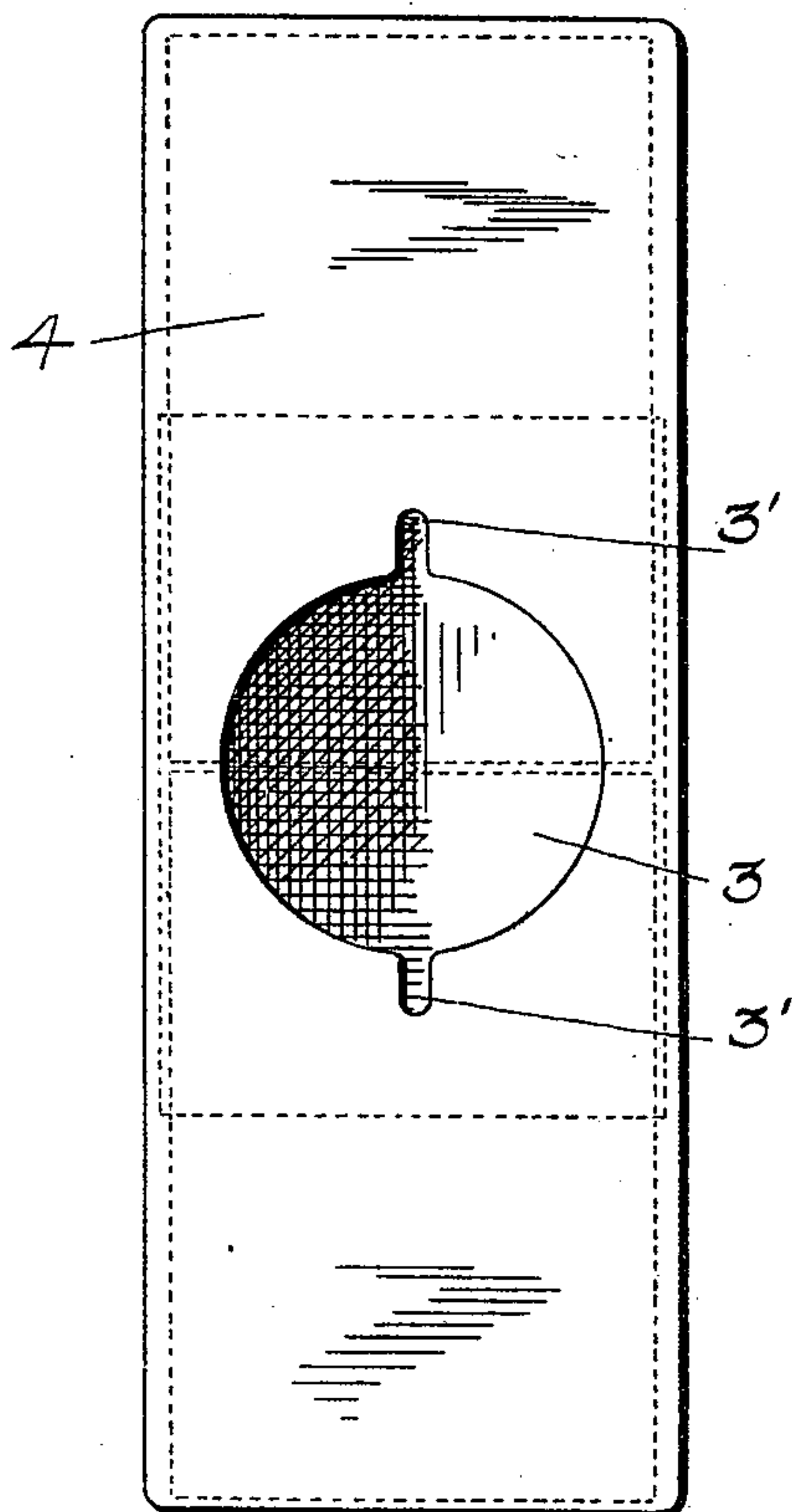
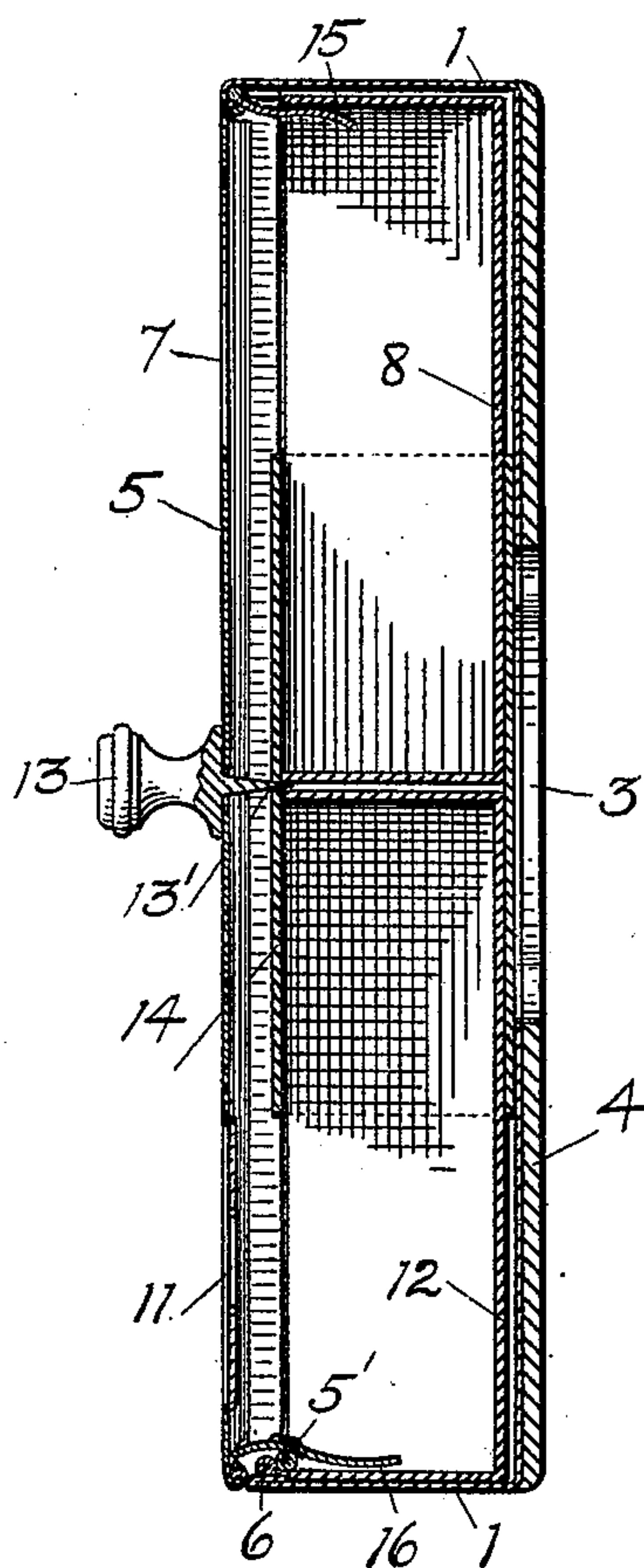


FIG. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BENJAMIN I. GILMAN, OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

MATCH-BOX HOLDER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 637,455, dated November 21, 1899.

Application filed March 4, 1899. Serial No. 707,719. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN I. GILMAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Newton, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Match-Box Holders, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to match-box holders.

Heretofore match-box holders have ordinarily been made to hold one box of matches with the ends of the matches projecting to be taken hold of by the user and ignited by rubbing or scratching on the sides of the box.

The object of my invention is to make an improved match-box holder, and more particularly a match-box holder to hold two boxes end to end, each box extending partly into the outer shell or case of one of the boxes, one of the boxes for the fresh matches to be lighted and the other for the burned matches after they are used.

My match-box holder entirely incloses the match-boxes and their contents, so that the matches are not exposed and are not so accessible as to permit of their being wasted.

My match-box holder has a movable cover with openings therein for access to the fresh matches and for inserting the burned matches, and the holder has side openings for access to the scratching-surfaces on the match-box to ignite the matches.

My invention consists in certain novel features of construction of my match-box holder, as will be hereinafter fully described.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 is a front view of a match-box holder embodying my improvements. Fig. 2 is a side view looking in the direction of arrow *a*, Fig. 1. The dotted lines show the cover partially open. Fig. 3 is a rear view looking in the direction of arrow *b*, Fig. 2; and Fig. 4 is a central longitudinal section on line 4-4, Fig. 1, looking in the direction of arrow *a*, same figure.

In the accompanying drawings the case or body of my match-box holder 1 is of oblong shape and preferably made of metal, which may be pressed or stamped into the shape shown with bottom, sides, and ends. Each side of the holder 1 has an oblong opening 2 therethrough for access to the rubbing or scratching surface on the match-box shell

placed in the holder, and the bottom of the holder has a central opening 3 therethrough, with two notches or slots 3' leading out therefrom and opposite each other. A plate of lead 4 may be secured on the bottom of the holder 1 to weight the holder and prevent it from easily moving when a match is scratched.

Combined with the body of the holder 1 is the top or cover 5, hinged thereto, preferably at one end, and provided with a spring lip or catch 5', engaging with a lip 6, as shown in Fig. 4, to hold the cover closed. The cover 5 has an opening 7 through the upper part thereof, which is preferably of the shape and size shown for access to the matches contained in the match-box 8 in the upper part of the holder. There is a transverse opening 11 through the lower part of the cover 5 of less area than the opening 7, through which opening 11 the burned matches are inserted into the match-box 12 in the lower part of the holder. This opening 11 is preferably made through a shallow depression 10 in the cover 5, to which is preferably given the general outline of the opening 7 at the other end of the box, as shown in Fig. 1.

A knob or button 13 is secured to the central portion of the cover 5 and preferably has a pointed pin 13', made integral therewith, extending within the box, as shown in Fig. 4, to extend into the shell 14 of the match-box.

In using my match-box holder an ordinary box of matches, which can be ignited by scratching on the material on the edges of the box, is inserted in the holder 1, with the shell 14 in the central portion of the holder and the rubbing-surfaces on the sides thereof opposite the side openings 2 in the holder and the part 8 of the box which holds the matches half drawn out, as shown in Fig. 4, and with the open part of said box coming directly back of the opening 7 through the top of the cover 5. An empty match-box 12 (shown in Fig. 4) is inserted in the other end of the match-box shell 14, with the open part extending directly back of the opening 11 through the cover 5. The cover 5 is then closed, and the point 13' on the knob 13 will enter the shell 14 of the match-box to hold it in place. The matches to be lighted will be taken out through the opening 7 in the cover 5 and

scratched on either side of the shell 14 of the match-box through the opening 2 in each side of the holder 1, and the burned match will be inserted through the opening 11 in the lower part of the cover into the empty box 12. After all the matches have been used the cover 5 is opened, the shell 14 is slid over the box 12, containing the burned matches, and both thrown away. The box 8, formerly containing fresh matches, is then partly run into the shell of a fresh box of matches and the whole placed in the holder in the manner heretofore described.

In case smaller-sized match-boxes are used which do not fill the interior of the holder 1 I may use a lip 15, extending down from the upper edge of the holder and secured thereto at the hinged end of the cover, and a second lip 16, extending down from and secured to the free end of the cover. These lips will extend over the ends of the open parts of the match-box, as shown in Fig. 4, to hold them in place, and at the same time the pin 13' on the inner end of the knob 13 will hold the outershell of the match-box in place, as shown in Fig. 4.

The advantages of my match-box holder will be readily appreciated by those skilled in the art. The match-boxes and matches are entirely inclosed within the holder, which forms a neat case for them and which may be placed flat on a table or may be suspended from a wall, a pin or screw engaging with one of the slots 3', leading out of the opening 3 in the bottom of the holder. The opening 3 in the bottom of the holder allows one box being placed on another in packing them, the knob 13 extending into said opening. The openings 7 and 11 being of a different size, the two openings are readily distinguished in the dark, and a person becomes accustomed to feel for the larger opening to withdraw the match and the smaller one to insert the burned match, so that the burned matches are not liable to be put into the wrong box.

It will be understood that the details of construction of my match-box holder may be varied, if desired.

Having thus described my invention, what

I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. As an improved article of manufacture, a match-box holder, comprising a case or box having a bottom, top, sides, and ends, and having openings in the sides for access to the igniting-surfaces on the match-box, a central opening through the bottom thereof, and a notch or slot leading out therefrom, and a hinged top or cover, and two openings therethrough of different sizes, one near one end, and the other near the other end thereof, for the purpose stated, substantially as set forth.

2. In a match-box holder, the combination with the case or box, having a bottom with a central opening therethrough, two sides with openings therethrough, and two solid ends, of a top or cover hinged to the box, and having two openings therethrough of different sizes, and a central knob with an inwardly-projecting point, substantially as shown and described.

3. The combination with the case or box, having a bottom with a central opening therethrough, two sides with openings therethrough, and two ends, and a top or cover hinged to said box, and having two openings therethrough of different sizes, of a match-box shell or cover, and two match boxes or receptacles extending out from the opposite ends of said shell, substantially as shown and described.

4. In a match-box holder, the combination with a shell or case, having a bottom with a central opening therethrough, two sides with openings therethrough, and two ends, and a retaining-lip on the inside of the shell or case at one end thereof, of a top or cover hinged to the shell or case, and having two openings therethrough of different sizes, and a knob thereon with an inwardly-projecting point, and an inwardly-extending retaining-lip on one end of the cover, substantially as shown and described.

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