No. 644,345. Patented Feb. 27, 1900.

C. H. WILEY.

LETTER FILE.

Application filed Feb. 1, 1899.

(No Model.)

Fig. 1

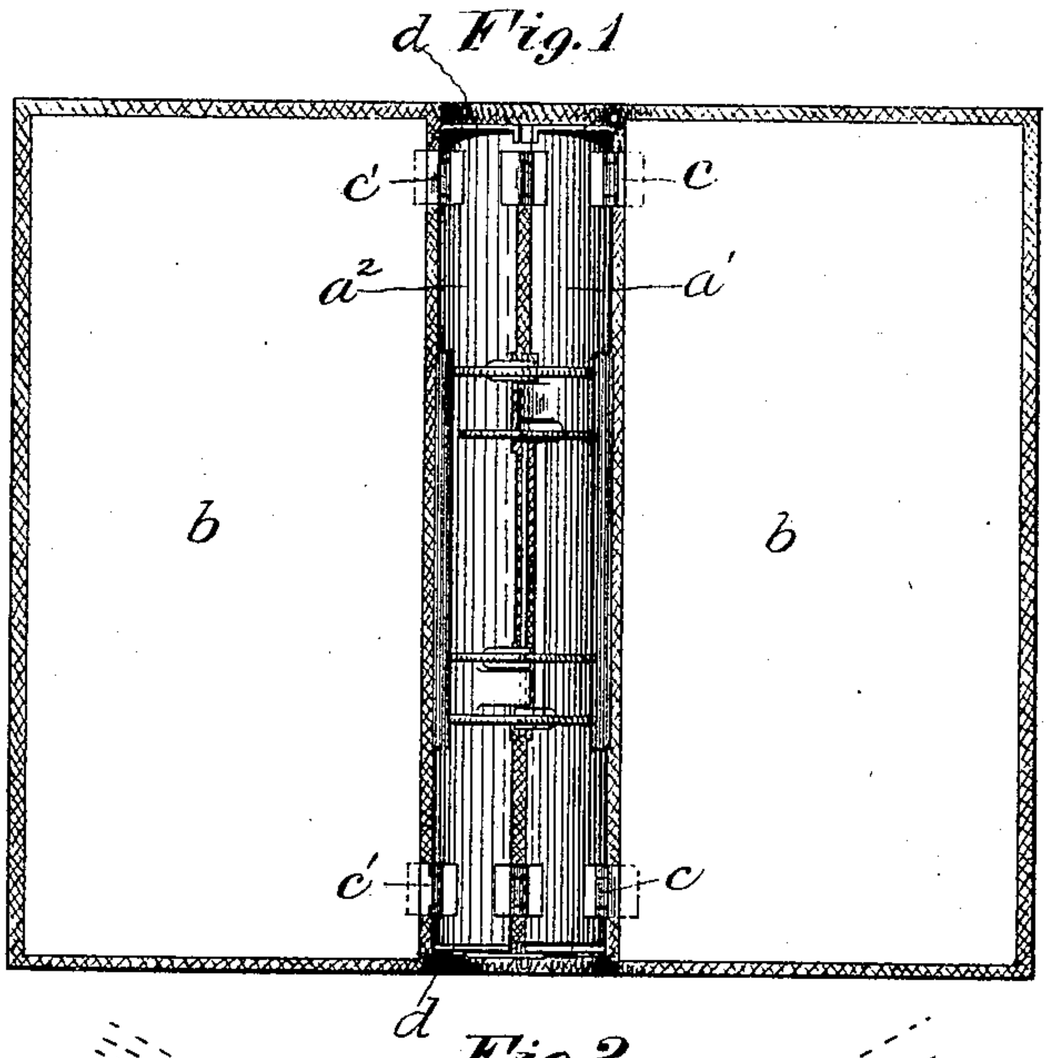


Fig. 2

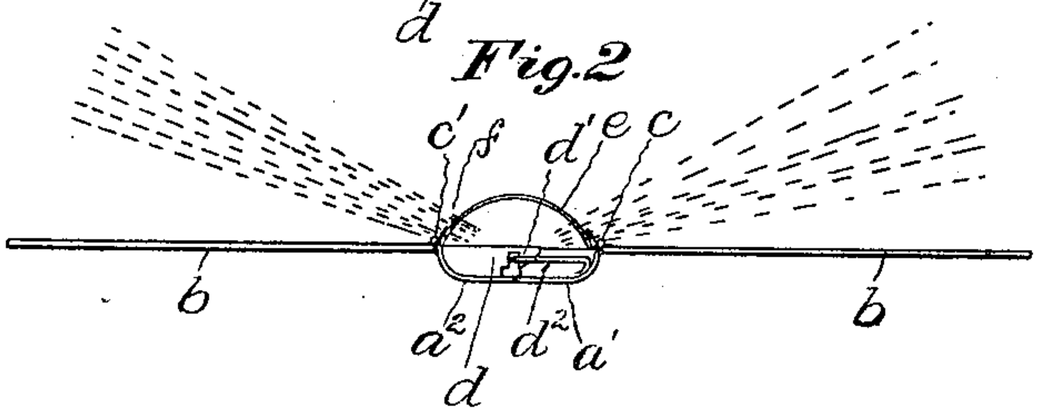


Fig. 3

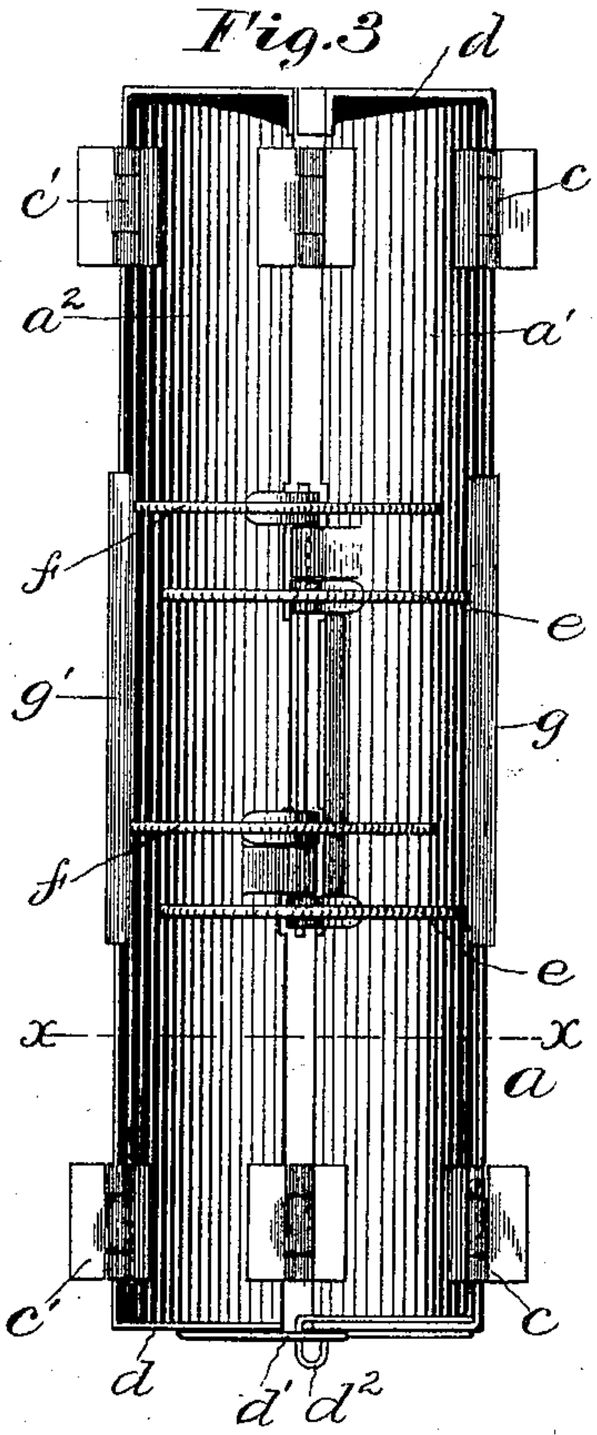


Fig. 4

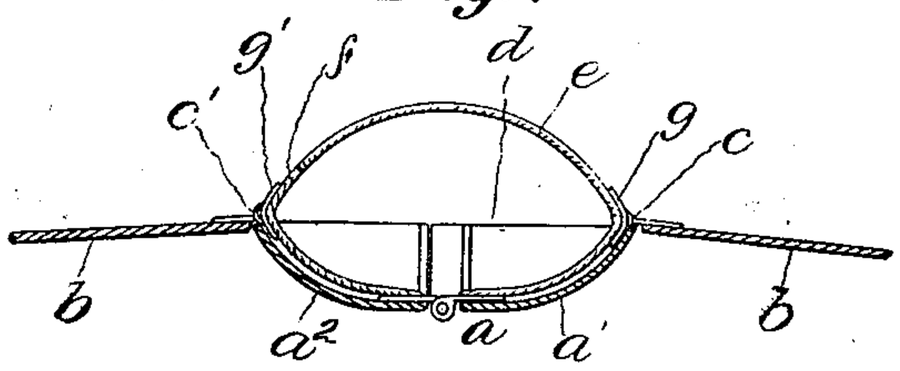
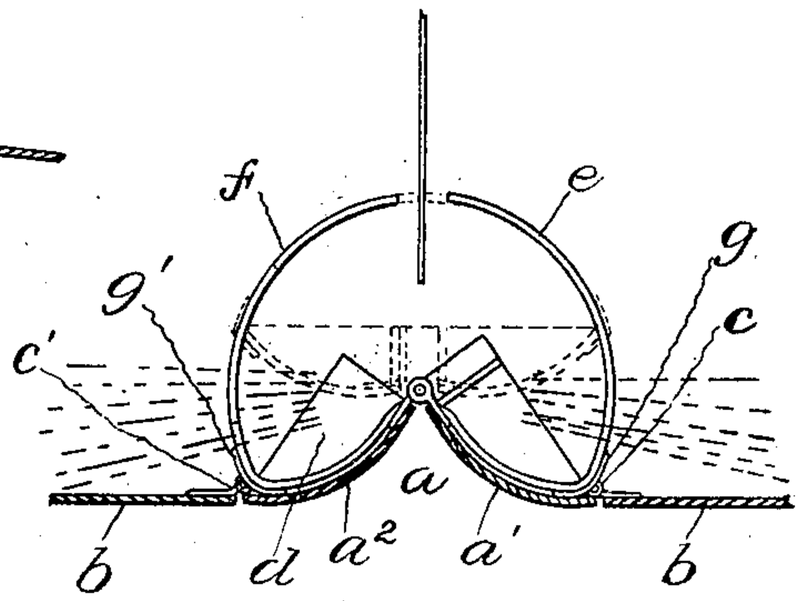


Fig. 5



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CLARENCE H. WILEY, OF HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT.

LETTER-FILE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 644,345, dated February 27, 1900.

Application filed February 1, 1899. Serial No. 704,118. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CLARENCE H. WILEY, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Hartford, in the county of Hartford and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Letter-Files, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, whereby any one skilled in the art can make and use the same.

My invention relates to the class of devices adapted to removably hold letters, invoices, and the like in a safe and compact shape conveniently arranged for access.

To this end my invention consists in the device as a whole, in the combination of parts, and in the details and their combination, as hereinafter described, and more particularly pointed out in the claims.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 is a plan view of the file, showing the covers open. Fig. 2 is an edge view of the opened file. Fig. 3 is a plan view, on an enlarged scale, showing the interior of the back piece. Fig. 4 is a sectional view, on an enlarged scale, on the plane denoted by the dotted lines x x in Fig. 3, and showing the back closed. Fig. 5 is a sectional view, on the same plane as in Fig. 4, showing the back opened back.

In the accompanying drawings the letter a denotes the back piece of the file, and b the covers united to the edges of the back piece, as by means of hinges c c'. The back piece is preferably of metal, or of a material sufficiently rigid to preserve the curved shape, and it is made in two sections a' a^2, that are hinged together along the center line. The covers are preferably made of binders' board, pasteboard, or other convenient material, the whole being covered with canvas or stout cloth to provide the proper strength and wearing qualities.

At a suitable point, preferably at one or both ends, the back pieces are provided with flanges d, which have means for locking the two sections together in a closed position. A convenient form of locking means consists of a hook d' on the one part engaging a spring-latch d^2 on the opposite part of the flange. When the two sections a' a^2 are thus locked together, the binder-hooks are held with their ends overlapping, so as to prevent the accidental removal of any paper from the file.

The back a, composed of sections a' a^2, as stated, is preferably divided into such sections along its central line where the hinges that attach the two sections together are located, and along this same line are hinged two sets of binder-hooks. These hooks e f consist, preferably, of curved pieces of wire attached at the inner end, as by means of a pivot, to a hinge member attached to one of the sections, these hooks being arranged preferably in pairs united to bars g g', so that both swing together in their movement on their pivots. Each pair of such binder-hooks are united by a base g or g' and are pivoted to a hinge member on the back piece in such manner that the hooks are offset and overlap when the binder as a whole is in a closed or in an open position, provided, in the latter case, that the sections of the back are not opened and carried back beyond the normal open position of a book.

It is possible, and intended, that the sections a' a^2 of the back may be opened, by a swinging movement on the pivots, along its center line, far enough back, as illustrated in Fig. 5 of the drawings, to leave an open space between the ends of the binder-hook. It is while the hooks are in this latter position that a paper—as a letter, invoice, or the like—through which holes have been made in the proper relation to be attached to the hooks, may be secured. The bar g on the pair of hooks e preferably forms a stop for the end of the hooks f, and in like manner the bar g' forms a stop for the ends of the hooks of the pair e, when either pair is swung over on its pivot far enough to allow the ends of the hooks and the bars to encounter each other.

It is a feature of my improvement to pivot the binder-hooks to the back piece at or near its central line and to give them a free swinging movement independently of the cover, as by this means the hold of the hooks upon the mass of letters filed in the device is independent of any particular position, with respect to the back, which the cover may occupy. This is a distinct advantage both in filing letters and removing from the file any particular letter which it may be desired to remove.

The binder-hooks may be of any desired number, although the arrangement shown herein is the one preferred, and they may be

pivoted to the back piece in any desired position, so long as they are practically independent of the movement or position of the covers, but the special form and location of the hooks and their pivots is the preferred form.

In a letter-file constructed in accordance with my invention it is to be noted that the hooks are located on opposite sides of the pivot, those on one side working in opposition to those on the other side, but that the hooks on one side are independent of those on the opposite side—that is, each hook performs its function without regard to another. By this construction I avoid many of the objections present in prior devices, where one hook acts in connection with another, the one entering a socket in the other. In the use of such a device it is difficult to pass the member containing the socket through a mass of leaves for the reason that the end of the socket member catches on the edge of the hole through a sheet tearing out the edge, and in a case where part of the mass is located on the socket member and part of the mass on the other member there is uncertainty as to the parts properly engaging.

I claim as my invention—

1. In combination in a letter-file, a back piece formed in sections connected by a hinge, binder-hooks hinged to the back piece on the line of the connecting-hinge, covers hinged to the outer edge of the respective sections of the back piece, and means for locking the sections of the back piece in a closed position.

2. In combination in a letter-file, a back piece formed in sections connected by a hinge, binder-hooks hinged to the back piece on the line of the connecting-hinge, and covers hinged to the outer edge of the respective sections of the back piece.

3. In combination in a letter-file, a back piece formed in sections connected by a hinge, binder-hooks hinged to the back piece on the line of the connecting-hinge and projecting crosswise of the back in opposite directions, and covers hinged to the outer edge of the respective sections of the back piece.

4. In combination in a letter-file, a back piece formed in sections pivotally connected, covers hinged to the outer edge of the respective sections of the back piece, binder-hooks pivoted on the line of connection of the sections of the back piece and projecting crosswise of the back in opposite directions and having a cross-bar connecting each pair of hooks.

5. In combination in a letter-file, a back piece formed in sections pivotally connected, covers hinged to the outer edge of the respective sections of the back piece, binder-hooks pivoted on the line of connection of the sections of the back piece and projecting crosswise of the back in opposite directions and having a cross-bar connecting each pair of hooks and means for holding the sections of the back piece in a closed position.

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