

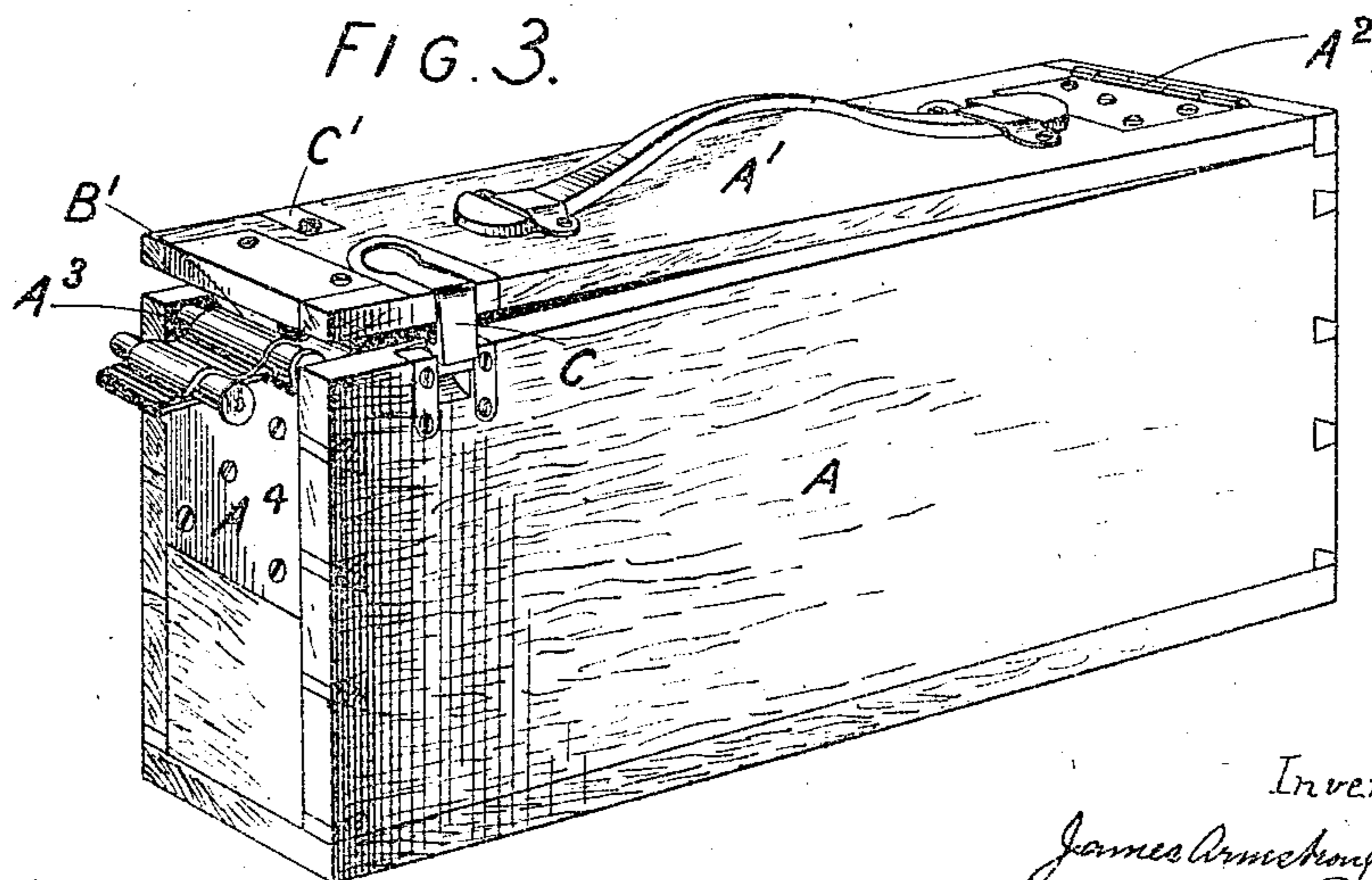
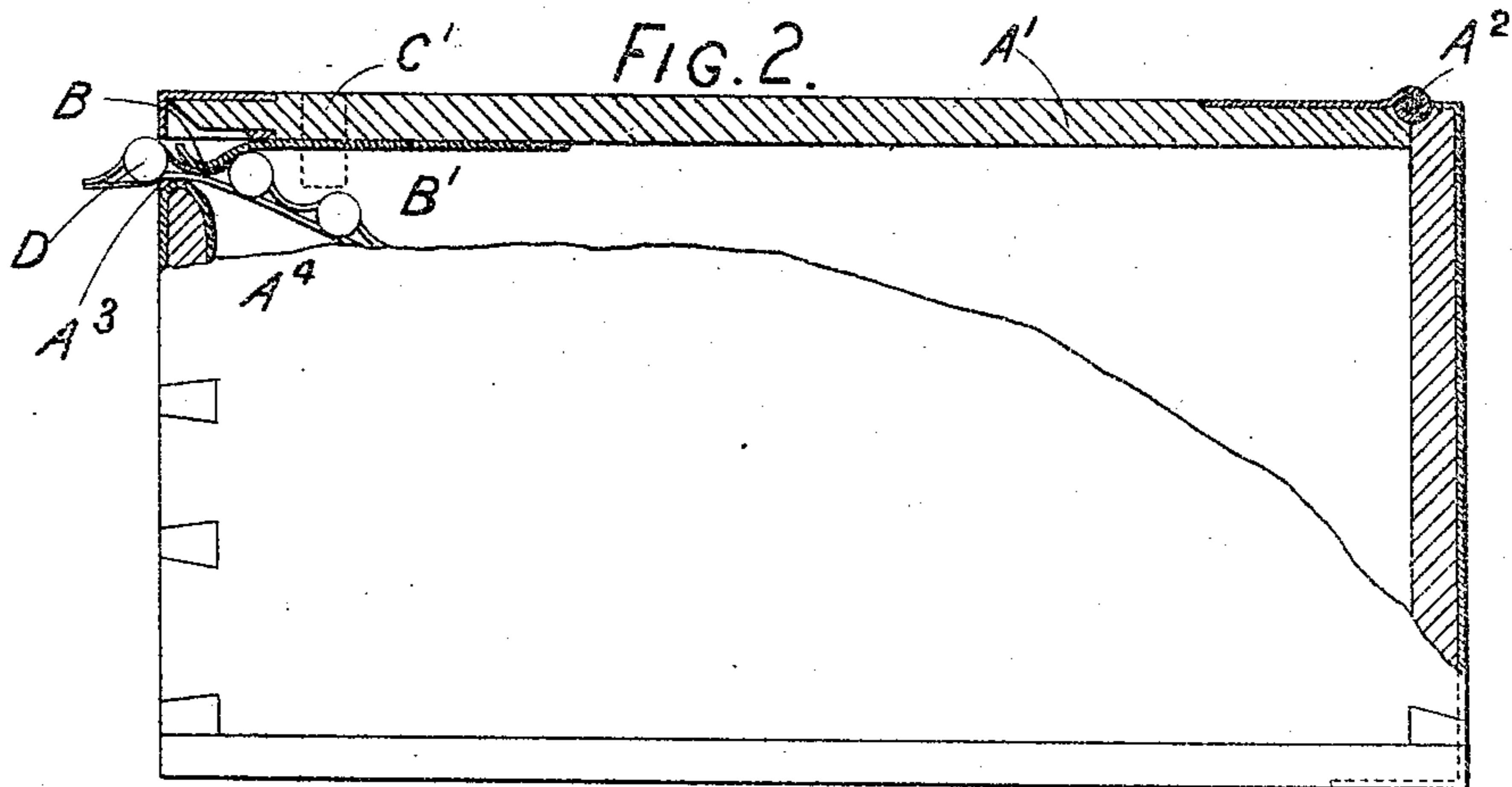
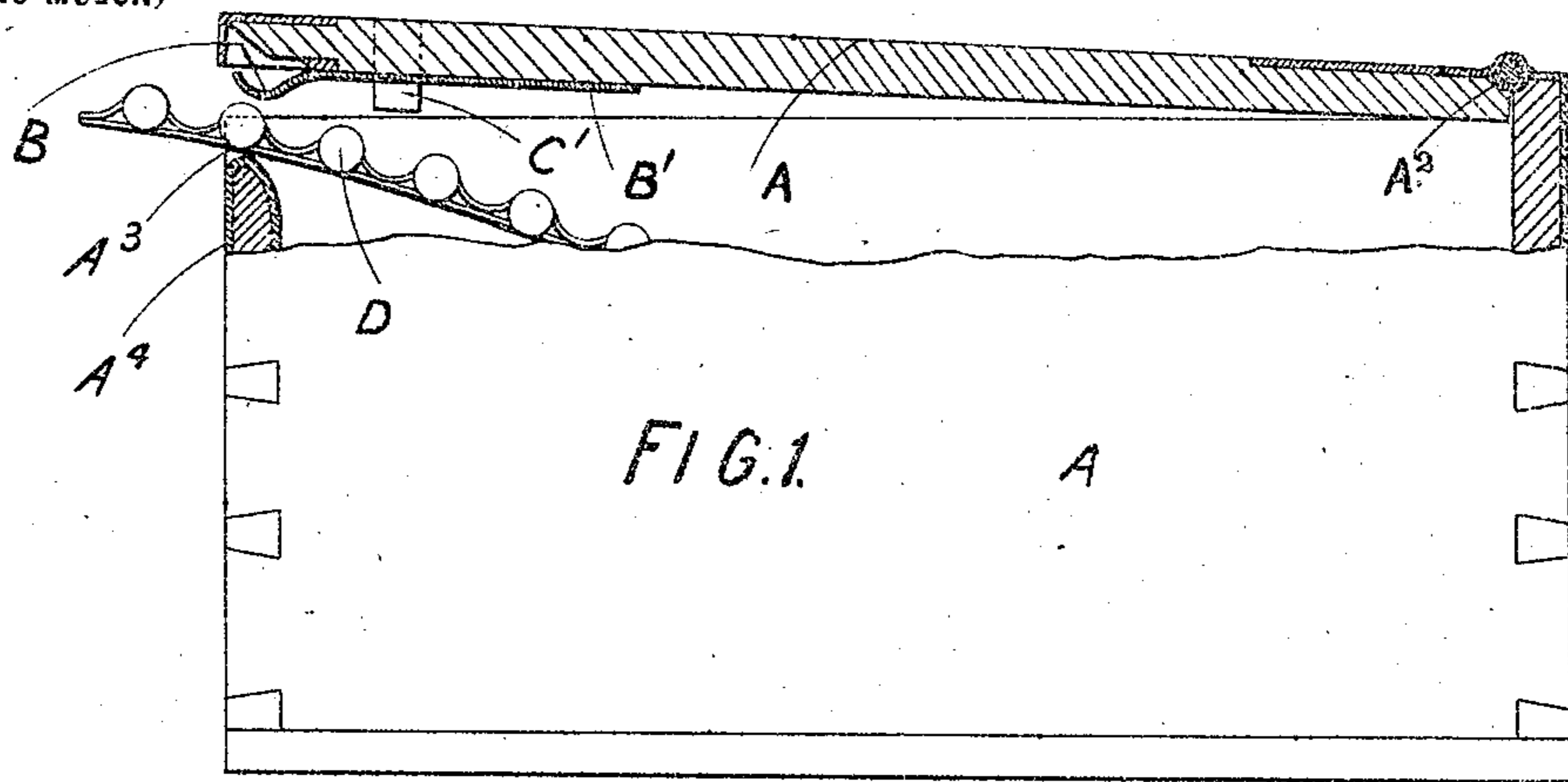
No. 561,201.

Patented Nov. 6, 1900.

J. A. WILDING.
AMMUNITION BOX.

(Application filed June 11, 1900.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses

E. Harrener

J. M. Gelman, Jr.

Inventor

James Armstrong Wilding

By Luther G. Freeman,

Attorneys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES ARMSTRONG WILDING, OF LONDON, ENGLAND, ASSIGNOR OF TWO-THIRDS TO WALTER ROTHSCHILD AND GERALD DUDLEY SMITH, OF SAME PLACE.

AMMUNITION-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 661,201, dated November 6, 1900.

Application filed June 11, 1900. Serial No. 19,933. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES ARMSTRONG WILDING, a subject of the Queen of England, residing at London England, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in or Relating to Ammunition-Boxes, (for which I have made application for Letters Patent in Great Britain, No. 743, dated January 12, 1900,) of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to ammunition-boxes, and has particular reference to boxes which hold the belts or bands of cartridges for machine-guns.

The primary object of the invention is to obviate the delay which occurs while the band is withdrawn from the gun and placed in the box, if the gun has to stop firing and be shifted when only part of a band of cartridges has been used, and the similar delay which occurs while the band is being replaced in the gun before firing can be resumed.

An ammunition-box according to this invention is so constructed that the lid may be closed without any delay whenever the gun stops firing, the lid then gripping the band firmly or engaging it between neighboring cartridges at the point which happens to be adjacent to the exit from the box. Thus the ammunition-box becomes connected to the breech of the gun by the band and may, if desired, hang suspended by the latter, so that the simple operation of again raising the lid puts the gun into immediate readiness to resume firing. Another advantage of the improved box is that there is no danger of the lid being prevented by a cartridge from closing or of a cartridge being accidentally discharged if the lid of the box is violently closed.

In the accompanying drawings, which illustrate one method of carrying out this invention, Figure 1 shows a longitudinal vertical section of an ammunition-box constructed according to this invention with the lid raised for delivering the cartridge-band, the bottom of the box being shown in elevation. Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the lid closed and the cartridge-band gripped between the lid and the box, and Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the ammunition-box in position for use.

The ammunition-box A is provided with a

lid A', hinged to one end of the box at A². The upper end of that side of the box remote from the hinge A² is recessed at A³. Above the recessed portion A³ is a downwardly-projecting tongue B. The projecting portion of the tongue B is rounded and is made integral with a longitudinal strip B', by which it is secured to the lid A'. The tongue B, with its part B', is conveniently made of some resilient substance, such as strip metal, so that the projecting portion B is normally kept away from the lid A', but may be forced back against it when pressure is brought to bear upon it. A catch C of known construction is arranged at the side of the box and adapted to automatically secure the lid when the latter is closed down upon the box, and on that side of the lid opposite the catch is arranged a guide C'. The bottom of the recess A³ is beveled or rounded and is preferably covered by a metal plate A⁴, by which that part of the box is strengthened. The cartridge-band D, contained within the box, passes over this rounded edge on its way to the breech of the gun, so that the bottom of the recess serves as a supporting edge for the traveling band.

The operation of the device is as follows: One end of the cartridge-belt D is withdrawn from the box and placed in the gun, ready for action, in the usual manner; but the lid A', instead of being thrown back, as in ordinary practice, is raised sufficiently to allow the cartridge-band to pass out freely from the recessed part A³, the lid being supported in this position by the catch C bearing upon the side wall of the box. If now the gun has to be moved and firing stopped, it is only necessary to press down the lid A', when the tongue B will engage the cartridge-band D between two of the cartridges, as shown in Fig. 2, thus gripping the cartridge-band firmly, while the lid is automatically secured by the catch C. To recommence firing, it is only necessary to release the catch C and raise the lid to its former position, when the cartridge-band D is once more free to be fed from the box, as required.

The opposing faces of the plate A⁴ and the tongue B are rounded, as described above, so that should a cartridge happen to be directly

upon the bottom of the recess at the time the lid is closed the rounded face of the tongue B, bearing against the cartridge, which itself rests upon a rounded surface, will cause any such cartridge to move back into or entirely out of the box. To prevent damage to the cartridge, the tongue B is spring-controlled, as described, so that it may be forced back upon the lid of the box against the action of the resilient part B'. To still further obviate the risk of lodgment of a cartridge upon the edge of the plate A⁴ and the consequent obstruction this would cause to the immediate closure of the lid A', the most prominent portion or the operative edge of the plate A⁴, which forms the bottom of the recess A³, is arranged to lie in a different plane from that occupied by the most prominent portion or operative edge of the tongue. In the drawings the operative edge of the tongue B is shown as lying in a plane behind that occupied by the operative edge of the plate A⁴, so that the opposing faces of the two members do not coincide when in a position of rest. This arrangement makes it impossible for a cartridge to be jammed between the tongue B and the bottom of the recess A³, as if the cartridge lies upon the operative edge of the plate A⁴ it will be forced outside the box when the lid is closed, and if it lies immediately beneath the most prominent part or operative edge of the tongue B it will be forced back into the box when the lid is closed. To strengthen the connection between the lid and box, one plate of the hinge A² is carried down the rear of the box and secured beneath it.

It will be understood that this invention is not limited to the particular construction shown in the drawings, as it is obvious that the plate A⁴ might be carried upon a spring and the tongue B secured rigidly to the lid in the form of a bead or rigid projection. Also the recess A³ might be formed in the lid, the plate A⁴ being made flush with the top of the wall of the box. The ammunition-box could be constructed according to any of these modifications without departing from the spirit of the invention, which consists in providing an ammunition-box with a device by which the cartridge-band may be instantaneously gripped, such device being operated by raising and lowering the lid.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination of a box adapted to contain a cartridge-band and having a recess in the upper edge of one of its sides for the passage of the cartridge-band, a lid hinged to the box and having a projection at its free end to cooperate with the recess to clamp the band therein, and means to lock the lid in closed position, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination of a box adapted to contain a cartridge-band and having a recess in the upper edge of one of its sides for the passage of the cartridge-band, a lid hinged to the box and having a projection at its free end to cooperate with the recess to clamp the band therein, the operative surfaces of the projection and recess being rounded and lying in different planes, and means to lock the lid in closed position, substantially as set forth.

3. The combination of a box adapted to contain a cartridge-band and having a recess in the upper edge of one of its sides for the passage of the cartridge-band, a lid hinged to the box and having a projection at its free end to cooperate with the recess to clamp the band therein, the operative surfaces of the projection and recess being rounded and lying in different planes, and one of said surfaces being fixed and the other yielding and means to lock the lid in closed position, substantially as set forth.

4. The combination of a box adapted to contain a cartridge-band and having a recess in the upper edge of one of its sides for the passage of the cartridge-band, a lid hinged to the box, a spring secured to the free end of the lid and having a downwardly-projecting portion to cooperate with the recess to clamp the band therein, and means to lock the lid in closed position, substantially as set forth.

5. The combination of a box adapted to contain a cartridge-band and having a recess in the upper edge of one of its sides for the passage of the cartridge-band, a lid hinged to the box, a spring secured to the free end of the lid and having a downwardly-projecting portion to cooperate with the recess to clamp the band therein, the operative surfaces of the recess and downwardly-projecting portion of the spring being rounded and lying in different planes, and means to lock the lid in closed position, substantially as set forth.

6. The combination of a box adapted to contain a cartridge-band and having a recess in the upper edge of one of its sides for the passage of the cartridge-band, a lid hinged to the box and having a projection at its free end to cooperate with the recess to clamp the band therein, and a catch adapted when in one position to lock the lid in closed position to clamp the band in the recess, and in another position to hold the lid partially open to permit the withdrawal of the band through the recess, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses,

JAMES ARMSTRONG WILDING.

Witnesses:

HAROLD WADE,

HARRY B. BRIDGE.