

No. 682,903.

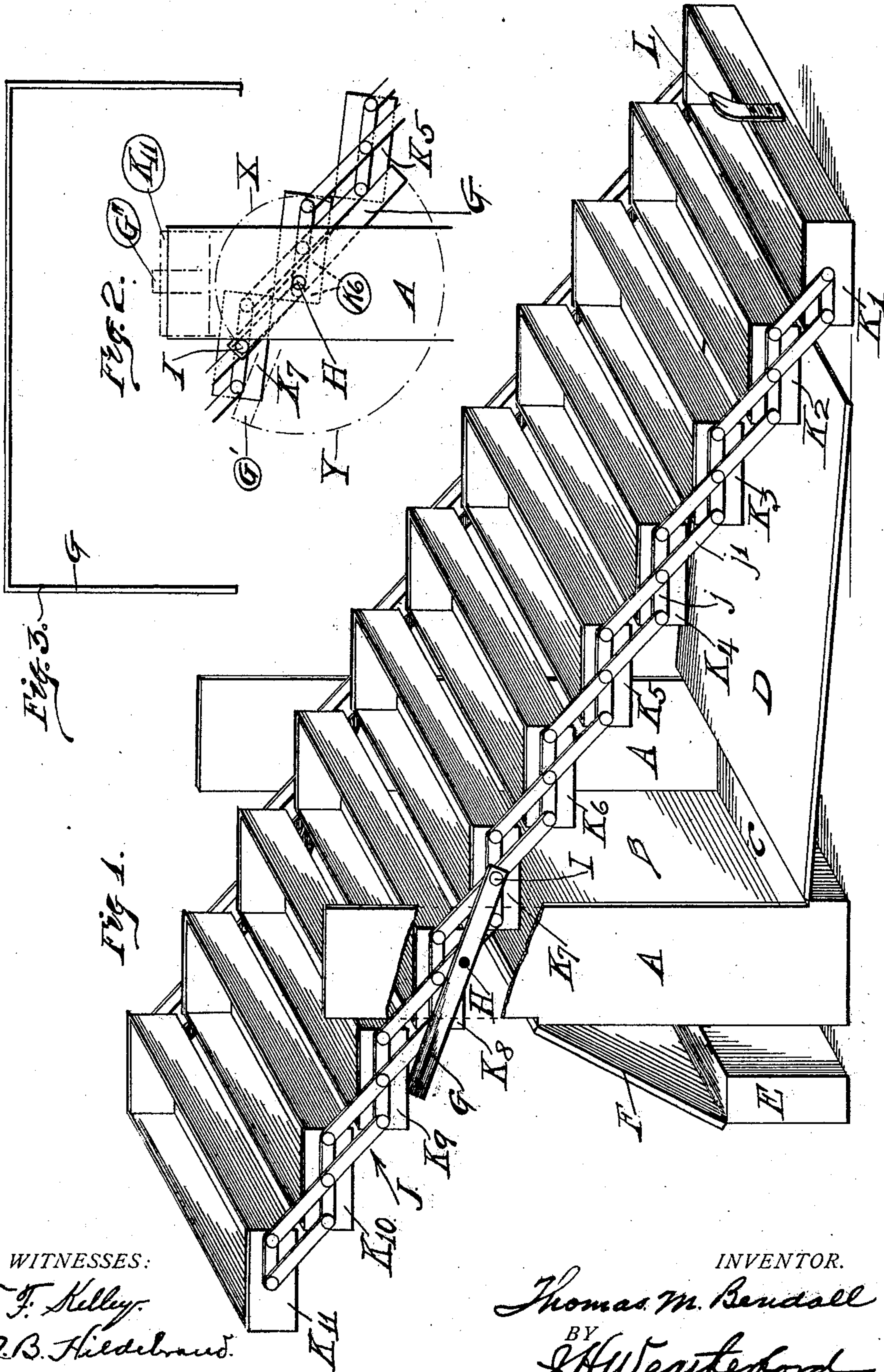
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T. M. BENDALL.

DISPLAY CASE.

(Application filed July 1, 1901.)

(No Model.)



WITNESSES:
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DISPLAY - CASE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 682,903, dated September 17, 1901.

Application filed July 1, 1901. Serial No. 66,724. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS M. BENDALL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Memphis, Shelby county, State of Tennessee, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Display Cases, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates in general to display-cases, and more particularly to portable sample-cases, which may be closed for convenient carrying and opened and spread out to display the samples.

The object of my invention is to provide a convenient portable sample-case which is self-contained, which when opened will conveniently support itself, which is adjustable to different heights, and which may be compactly closed for carrying. I carry out these objects as will be more fully hereinafter set forth in the drawings, specification, and claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective of my case, showing same fully open and in the lowest position which it may take. Fig. 2 is a partial side elevation showing a different position of the boxes and also indicating the position of the top box when closed. Fig. 3 is a detail.

Referring now to the drawings, in which like letters of reference indicate like parts in all the views, my invention comprises a carrying-case having sides A, a back B and bottom C, integral therewith to brace and stiffen said sides, a front D, hinged near the bottom of the case, and a top E, hinged to the top portion F of the back, which portion is hinged to the lower part of the back B. The front D closes against the sides A and the top E catches over it and holds it in place. Latches also may be provided to secure the before-mentioned front, back, and sides, if so desired.

G, Fig. 3, is a U-shaped arm pivoted at H against the inside of the sides A on opposite sides of the case and connected by pivots I on each side with similar lazy-tongs J J, which are in turn fastened to the opposite ends of the display-boxes K' K², &c., the pivots I being in a section of the lazy-tongs above the center box, so that the boxes will

be stably supported when the lower ones rest on the floor or table. The lazy-tongs J J have arms *j j'* of unequal length, the shorter ones of which, *j*, are fastened permanently to the ends of the boxes, preferably at the center, as shown, the longer arms, *j'*, being pivoted to them in the usual manner. When open, the upper boxes K¹¹ K¹⁰, &c., may occupy one of two positions, in both of which the bottom C of the case and the box K' rest on the counter or floor and preferably on the same level, and in the first of which the arm G, as shown in Fig. 1, rests against the under side of the K⁹, with the pivoted end carrying the box K⁷ below it and below the fixed center H. In the second position (shown in Fig. 2) the free end of the arm G rests against the box K⁵ and is lower than the pivot 2, so that the box K⁷ is brought higher than said fixed pivot. The dotted end G' and the circular arcs X and Y show the original position of the arm G and the movement necessary to bring it to the position shown. When thus supported in either position, the case and box K' form two firm supports, and the display may therefore be made without propping up or supporting the boxes by any extraneous means and with the boxes spread out to admit free inspection of the samples. In Fig. 2 I also show by the dot-and-dash line the position of the top box K¹¹ when closed into the case, as also the position of the arm G. When closed, the boxes rest one on the next, with the bottom box K' resting on the bottom C, the arms *j'* of the lazy-tongs being then inclined downward from right to left instead of from left to right, as when extended.

In use the sample-case is placed on the table or counter and the top side opened. The arm G is then depressed toward the back (the left in Fig. 2) and the box K⁷, attached to it, is raised. The tab L is then grasped and the bottom box K is raised and drawn well out to one side. By this movement the top boxes are moved to the opposite side and pass over the arm G and hold it down. If it is desired to raise the upper boxes K¹¹ K¹⁰, &c., higher, the arm G is turned under and comes against some one of the lower boxes, as K⁵. To close or rest the boxes, the arm G is depressed and

held out of the way, and the lower boxes are pushed along the front D until they slip into the case, the arm G being then swung over the top into the position G". (Shown dotted in Fig. 2.)

In this description I have used the word "box" (or "boxes") as describing the receptacles in which the articles are to be displayed. I wish it distinctly understood, however, that I do not by this wish to limit myself to any particular form of box or even to limit myself to the use of boxes, since these have nothing to do with my invention, and shelves or racks, either with or without backs, may be used, if so desired, in place of the boxes shown. It is evident, too, that if so desired my invention may be fitted to a permanent stand, in which case the ends A could be dispensed with, except in so far as they act as supports, or, in other words, supports could be provided for the pivots H instead of the ends A being used.

Having now fully described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

1. In a display-case, the combination with a plurality of display-boxes and similar pairs of lazy-tongs fastened to the opposite ends of said boxes, of a U-shaped arm pivoted to said lazy-tongs above the center box, and pivotally supported, substantially as shown and described.

2. In a display-case, the combination with a plurality of display-boxes, and similar pairs of lazy-tongs fastened to the opposite ends of said boxes, of a U-shaped arm pivoted to said lazy-tongs above the center box, and suitable

supports in which said arm is pivoted, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

3. In a display-case, the combination with similar pairs of lazy-tongs and a plurality of boxes fastened to said tongs, of parallel supporting ends, a U-shaped arm pivotally supported by said ends and pivoted to said lazy-tongs, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

4. In a display-case, the combination with similar pairs of lazy-tongs and a plurality of boxes fastened to said tongs, of parallel supporting ends and a U-shaped arm pivotally supported by said ends and pivoted to said lazy-tongs above the center box, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

5. In a portable display-case, the combination with similar pairs of lazy-tongs and a plurality of boxes fastened to said tongs, a carrying-case having a suitable bottom, parallel ends fastened to said bottom, a back the lower part of which is fastened to said bottom and ends to stiffen them, the upper part being hinged to said lower part, a top hinged to said back, and a hinged front, of a U-shaped arm pivotally supported by said parallel ends and pivoted to said lazy-tongs above the center box, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

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

THOMAS M. BENDALL.

Witnesses:

GEO. E. NEUHARDT,
J. H. WEATHERFORD.