

No. 692,852.

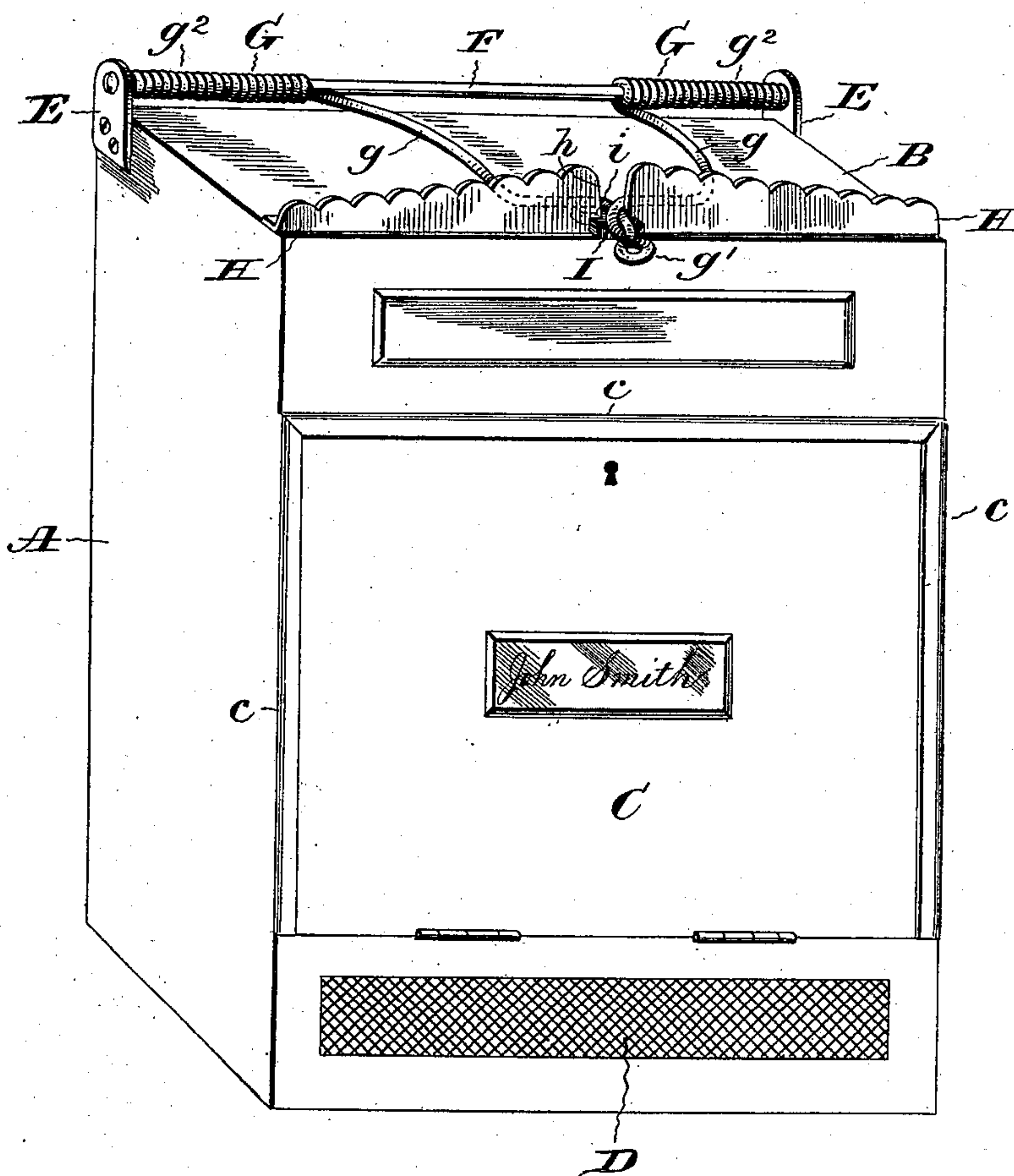
Patented Feb. 11, 1902.

H. HETTINGER.

LETTER BOX.

(Application filed Jan. 31, 1901.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses:
Jas E Hutchinson
Chas J Williamson.

Inventor.
Henry Hettinger, by
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY HETTINGER, OF AURORA, ILLINOIS.

LETTER-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 692,852, dated February 11, 1902.

Application filed January 31, 1901. Serial No. 45,500. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY HETTINGER, of Aurora, in the county of Kane, and in the State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Letter-Boxes; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, in which is shown in perspective a view of a letter-box embodying my invention.

The object of my invention is to provide a letter-box which is especially adapted for use as a house letter-box, although capable of other uses, such box having convenient, efficient, and noiseless means for holding objects such as letters, papers, and packages; and to such ends my invention consists in the letter-box hereinafter specified.

In carrying my invention into practice I provide a box A of any desired construction. Such box preferably has a top B, that inclines from the rear to the front. A door C, preferably hinged at its bottom, affords access to the interior of the box. The door has its edges rounded by turning over a narrow strip along each edge, so that the hands will not be cut. If desired, the edges of the opening in the box can be protected in a manner similar to those of the door. An opening D, guarded as by a lattice or glass, is provided in the lower portion of the front of the box, so that the interior thereof can be seen.

Lugs E and E are formed on or secured to the upper rear corners of the box. A rod F is supported by the lugs E and E and is secured thereto, as by having its ends passed through openings therein and headed over. A spring-clip G is mounted on the rod F. Such clip consists of a central loop *g*, having a handle *g'* projecting from its front portion and having its rear ends connected with coiled springs *g*² and *g*², that are mounted on the rod G. The ends of the springs *g*² and *g*² engage the lugs E and E, as by being passed through openings therein and headed down. The springs are so coiled as to tend to press the loop toward the top of the box. A plate H is formed on or secured to the top of the box in a substantially vertical position, and such plate has a slot *h* in the line of movement of the handle and which normally receives the handle. In the lower portion of the slot a

cushion, preferably of rubber, is secured, as by forming such cushion of a block I, that is wider than the slot, and providing slits *i* and *i* in the sides of the block, in which slits the edges of the plate at the sides of the slot are received.

When it is desired to insert an object beneath the spring-clip, the latter is raised by means of the handle, and the object is inserted either laterally or from the front. Upon releasing the handle the object will be securely held from escape by the spring-clip, in conjunction with the top of the box and the lugs, and it will be prevented from accidental displacement forward by the plate H. When it is desired to release the object, it can be drawn laterally from under the clip. The blow of the clip on the box caused by its snapping down as the object is withdrawn is received on the cushion, and the unpleasant sound of a blow on the hollow box is avoided.

Changes can be made in the construction illustrated that are within the scope of my invention.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

1. In a letter-box, the combination of a spring-clip attached to the top of the box at or near the back thereof, and a plate projecting upwardly on the forward portion of the said top, said clip projecting forward of the said plate, substantially as and for the purpose described.

2. The combination in a letter-box, with a spring-clip attached to the top of the box, of a substantially vertical plate on the said top, such clip having a handle, and said plate having an upwardly-opening slot in which such handle is normally received, substantially as and for the purpose described.

3. The combination in a letter-box, with a spring-clip attached to the top of the box, of a substantially vertical plate on the said top, such clip having a handle and said plate having an upwardly-opening slot in which such handle is normally received, and a cushion in said slot and beneath such handle, substantially as and for the purpose described.

4. The combination in a letter-box, with a spring-clip attached to the top of the box, of a substantially vertical plate on the said top, such clip having a handle, and said plate hav-

ing an upwardly-opening slot in which such
handle is normally received, and a cushion in
said slot and beneath such handle, said cush-
ion having slits in its sides by which it is en-
5 gaged by the edges of the plate, substantially
as and for the purpose described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I

have hereunto set my hand this 13th day of
November, 1900.

HENRY HETTINGER.

Witnesses:

W. H. MOREY,

PHIL. LOHRMANN.