

No. 700,394.

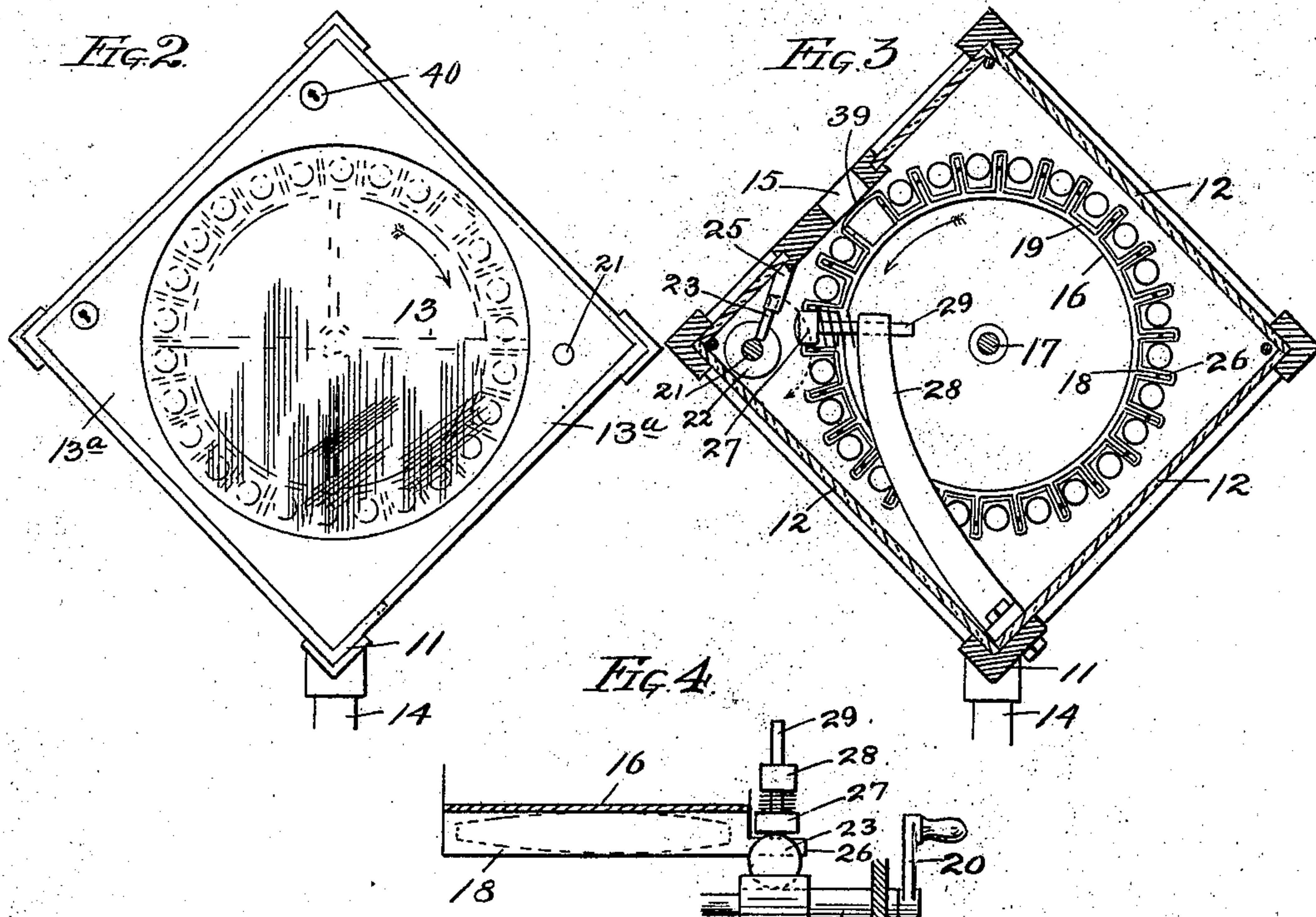
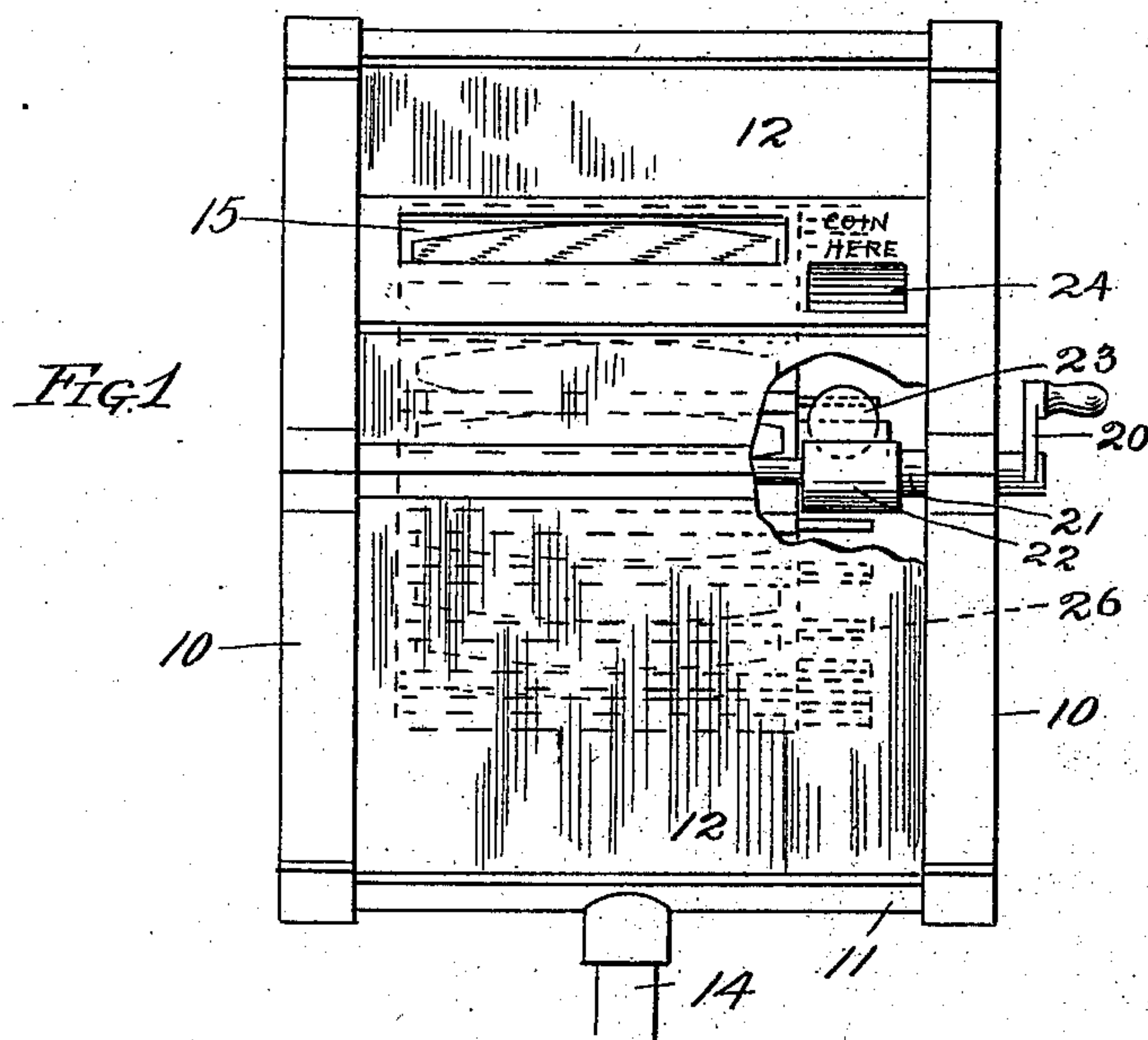
Patented May 20, 1902.

E. A. WILCOX.
VENDING MACHINE.

(Application filed Aug. 28, 1901.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.



WITNESSES:
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No. 700,394.

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(Application filed Aug. 26, 1901.)

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2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

Fig. 5.

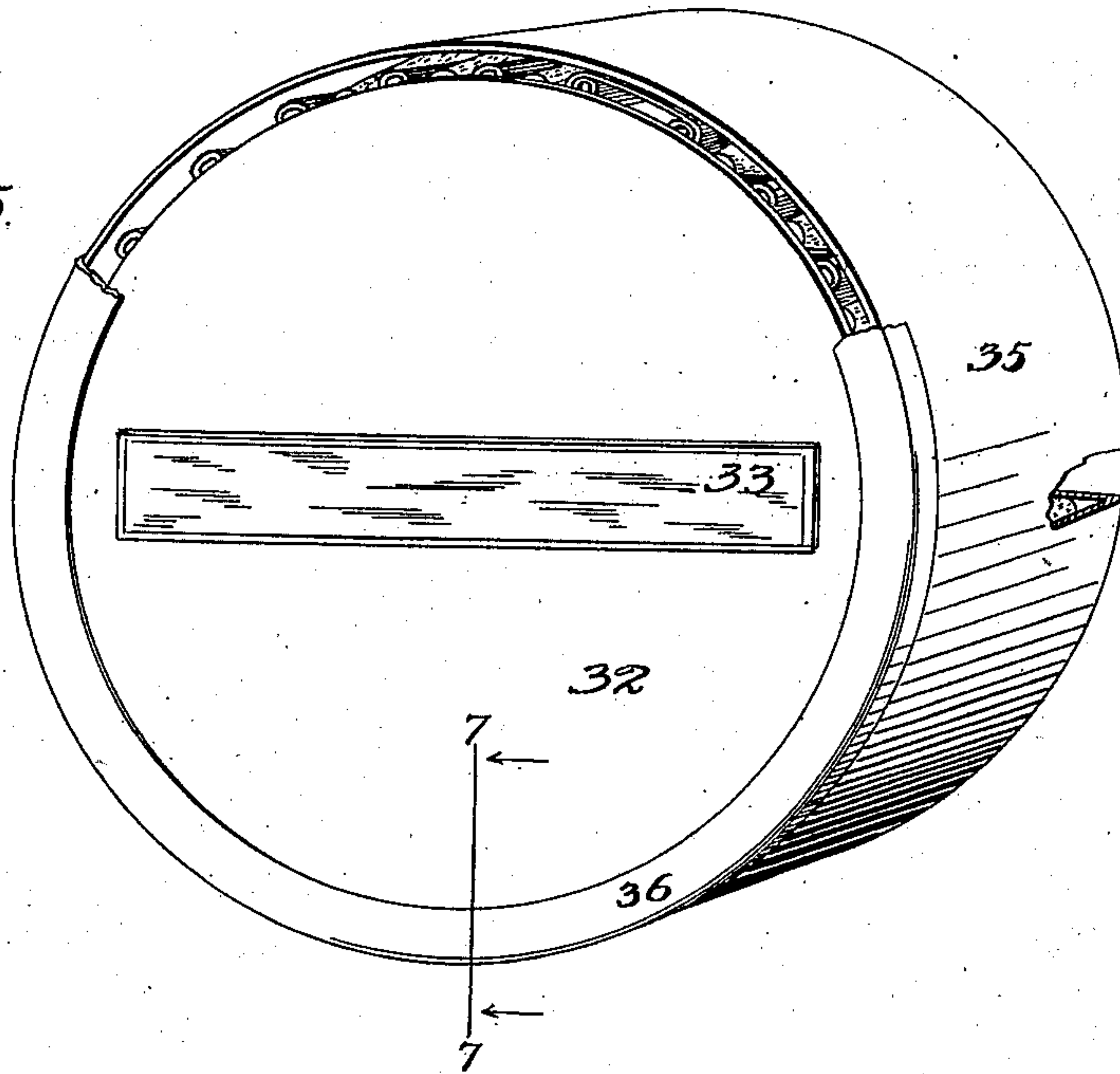


Fig. 6.

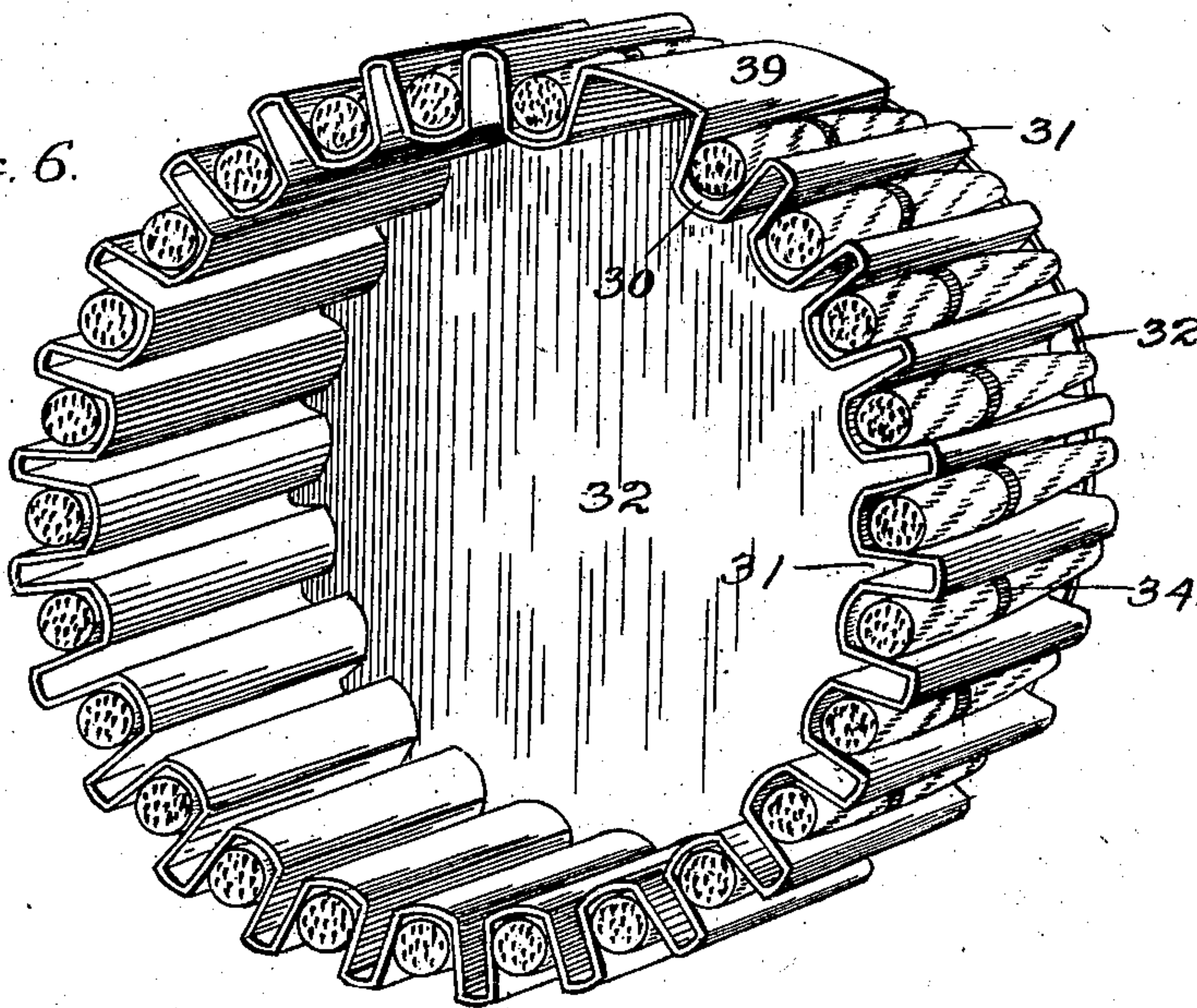
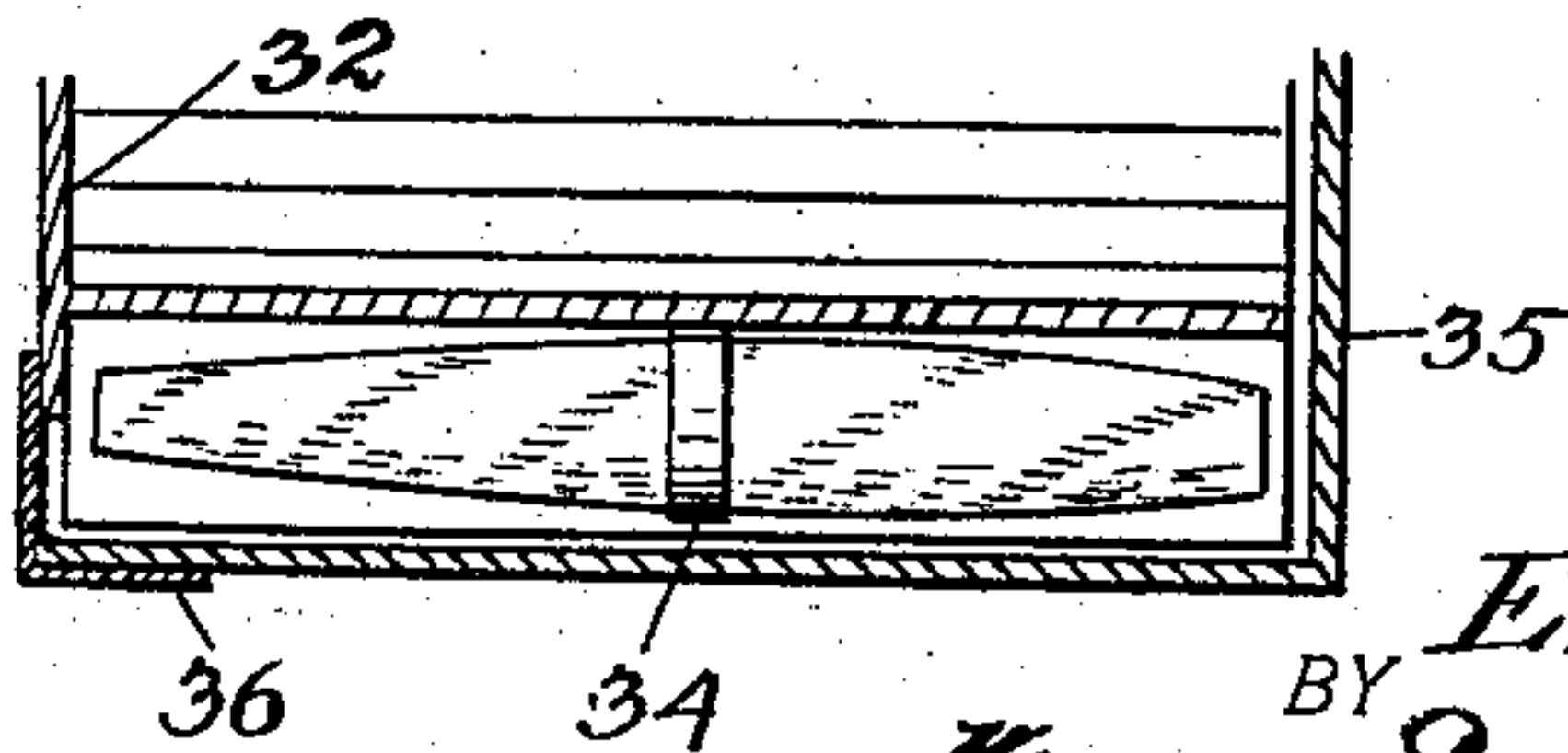


Fig. 7.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ELMER A. WILCOX, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR, BY DIRECT AND MESNE ASSIGNMENTS, TO STANDARD VENDING COMPANY, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, A CORPORATION OF ILLINOIS.

VENDING-MACHINE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 700,394, dated May 20, 1902.

Application filed August 26, 1901. Serial No. 73,280. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ELMER A. WILCOX, a citizen of the United States, residing in Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Vending Apparatus, of which the following is a specification.

My purpose in this invention has been to devise a practical construction of vending apparatus for vending cigars. It has been devised with special reference to the requirements of the Internal Revenue Department of the United States Government, and also so as to render the machine safe against some forms of robbery to which it is peculiarly liable.

In the construction of my improved apparatus I form on the face of the device or holder by which the cigars are presented to the delivery-opening of the apparatus a series of pockets, one for each cigar, and the divisions between the pockets are so constructed as to prevent attempts to cut through them or to break them down in order to gain access to cigars in adjacent pockets. The cigar-package in which the cigars are placed by the manufacturer and in which they may be kept until they are sold to the patrons of the vending apparatus is also fashioned with a series of cigar-pockets corresponding to those on the holder and is shaped on its reverse side so that its pockets will fit into the pockets of the holder, and so its divisions will receive or set over the divisions on the holder. In other words, the package is so constructed that after being filled with cigars it may be positioned on the holder with its pockets lying in the pockets of the holder and with the divisions on the holder entered in and strengthening the divisions of the package. The cigars are secured in the pockets of the package in some suitable way which will render them secure against falling out of themselves, but which will not prevent their being readily removed by persons patronizing the apparatus. These features, as well as others, by which both machine and package are enabled to conform to the requirements of the Government regarding vending-machines are fully pointed out in the description given below and will be

understood from such description and the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a vending-machine embodying my invention, partly broken away. Fig. 2 is a side elevation. Fig. 3 is a vertical section. Fig. 4 is a detail section of a portion of the machine, showing the action of the coin. Fig. 5 is a perspective of the cigar-package in which the cigars are stored and shipped. Fig. 6 shows in perspective so much of the package as is placed in the machine with the cigars. Fig. 7 is a section on the line 7 7 of Fig. 1.

In said drawings I have shown one desirable form of the vending-machine of the apparatus. It has a substantially square case consisting of end frames 10 10, connected at the corners by longitudinal angle-strips 11 11. The sides and ends of the case are formed of sheet-glass 12 13, the latter being set in a metal plate 13^a, so that the cigars in the machine are always visible. The case is supported at one of its longitudinal corners by a standard 14, the object of thus arranging it in a cornerwise position being in order that the lower corner may serve as the coin-receptacle. Another corner may give room and a desirable location to the coin-controlling mechanism, the delivery-opening 15 be permitted to be formed in the center of one of the inclined upper sides, so that customers look down into it and are enabled to clearly see the cigars they have purchased, and the casing be adapted to shed rain if placed out doors.

In the form illustrated of the invention I employ a wheel or drum 16 as the support or holder on which the package containing the cigars is placed. It revolves on the axis 17, and its outer surface is provided with a series of projecting wings or divisions 18, dividing said surface into pockets 19, each adapted to receive one of the pockets of the package. The divisions 18 are of rigid material, so they will resist any attempt to break them down or cut through them in an effort to get out the cigar lying in the pocket next to the one which may be exposed at the opening and which contained the cigar last

sold. The end of the casing shown in Fig. 2 is removable and secured by locks for which keyholes are shown at 40, and the holder is also preferably removable.

5 The holder is moved a pocket-space at each actuation, so as to enable it to bring the cigars in successive order to the delivery-opening 15, and these actuations may be imparted in any suitable way—as, for instance, to it by 10 the purchaser through the medium of the crank 20 on shaft 21, projecting through the end of the casing. Inside of the casing the shaft carries an enlargement 22, which is slotted on one side to receive the coin 23 as 15 it falls from the coin-slot 24 through the connecting-chute 25. At one end the holder carries a series of teeth 26, corresponding in number to the pockets, and entering between these teeth, so as to lock the holder, is a 20 spring-actuated catch 27, supported by a stationary arm 28. The catch has a stem 29, movably held in the arm, and is adapted to be displaced by the coin when the crank is turned, so that the holder will be released, 25 and may then be rotated to the extent of one tooth 26 by the coin. As soon as this has been done the catch enters the tooth-space next in order and again locks the holder. This coin mechanism is not illustrated very 30 fully, and I do not wish to be limited to it or to any particular construction of coin mechanism, as any mechanism which serves to cause the alternate locking and release of the holder or of any other mechanism by which 35 the cigars are caused to be exposed at the delivery on the depositing of the proper coin may be substituted. While I have shown a rotating circular holder, it will also be understood that I do not wish to be limited there- 40 to, nor to a holder made in the form of a drum, nor to a movable holder of any kind, as obviously the essentials of the holder are that it be a pocketed one and that it and the delivery-opening change their relative posi- 45 tions, so that a fresh pocket and cigar will be exposed at the opening whenever a coin is deposited.

The package containing the cigars is adapted to be placed intact in the vending apparatus 50 without change excepting such as is referred to herein. It is desirably formed from a continuous strip of paper or other inexpensive material by corrugating or bending the strip transversely, thus forming the cigar- 55 pockets 30 and the hollow divisions 31 between the pockets. If the package is to be used on a circular holder, like that shown, the series of pockets and divisions is bent into circular form, as shown at Fig. 6, so as 60 to adapt the package to be slipped endwise onto the holder, and preferably one end of the package is secured to a disk 32, which not only serves to retain the package in the circular shape, but also as a means of carrying the Government revenue-stamp 33. As 65 this disk is in no wise injured or defaced in the vending-machine, the stamp may remain

intact until the package is removed and be 70 clearly visible at all times through the end of the machine. The disk is also made of a somewhat smaller diameter than the pocketed 75 portion of the package, as seen at the upper part of Fig. 5, so as to expose the ends of the cigars and permit their being counted without removing the package or even unlocking 80 the casing. When positioned on the holder, the divisions 18 enter the divisions 31, and render the latter proof against attempts to get at cigars not directly in front of the de- 85 livery-opening. The pockets are of a size corresponding to the cigars and expose them at one side, and preferably at one or both ends, and the cigars are secured therein by any means which will render them safe against 85 accidental dropping out and at the same time will not require much force on the part of the purchasers when they take the cigars out of the pockets. A good way to thus se- 90 cure the cigars is to paste their bands 34 to the walls (or bottom) of the pockets. Of course it will be understood that the package should not only be fitted to the pockets and divisions of the machine in which it is to be 95 used, but be adapted to the machine in other respects, and that it is not essential to make it either endless or circular, or that the pockets be in one piece, or that they be open at the side.

When the package has been filled with cigars, it is desirable, of course, to cover them 100 so as to render them safe against injury and the loss of their moisture and aroma. This may be done with the package shown by slipping over the package from the end op- 105 posite to that at which the disk 32 is applied a flanged cover 35 and securing it to the disk by a binding-strip 36. When thus covered, the package forms a complete air-tight box adapted to keep the cigars in good order in- 110 definitely, and the stamp on it is never covered. The strip 36 is desirably cut away when the package is put into the machine.

The package described is not only a secure one in the protection it affords the cigars prior 115 to their being put in the vending-machine, but it is one which renders the Government secure against frauds on the revenue, and it is also so cheap that it does not increase the cost of the cigars unduly and can be thrown away after one use. When in the machine, 120 it permits inspection of the stamp and the counting of the cigars at any time and in any position which it may assume therein.

Although the casing has been described as being transparent at both sides and ends, it 125 is not essential that more than one end be so made, nor that the package be adapted to expose both ends of the cigars, because the Government regulations will be satisfied by any exposure of the cigars which will permit them 130 to be counted and the stamps to be inspected. The package shows a blank instead of a pocket at 39 and is positioned on the holder, so that this blank space will be opposite the

delivery-opening when the package is first inserted. This blank may be dispensed with if the opening is provided with a shutter.

While I have described both package and machine as intended for the vending of cigars and have shown only a single cigar in each pocket of the package, I do not wish to be limited to cigars as the article vended, as obviously the apparatus described can be used in vending other articles than cigars and can also be used in vending pluralities of cigars instead of single ones, it being understood that the pockets will be shaped and sized to correspond to the shape and size of the articles or collections of articles to be placed therein.

The disk 32 is adapted not only to receive the stamp, but also the memorandum required by the Government of the number of the factory at which the cigars are made and of the district and State where the factory is situated and the usual warning against using the box a second time.

I claim—

1. The combination in vending apparatus, of a holder for the article being vended having pockets with rigid divisions between them, a delivery-opening at which the cigars are delivered, means for causing the successive exposure of the pockets at the opening, and a package having pockets containing the cigars and corresponding to the pockets of the holder and adapted to be placed on the holder, substantially as specified.

2. The combination in vending apparatus, of a holder for the article being vended having

pockets with rigid divisions between them, a delivery-opening at which the cigars are delivered, means for causing the successive exposure of the pockets at the opening, and a package for the cigars having pockets corresponding to the pockets of the holder, and having the divisions between its pockets recessed so they will set over the divisions on the holder, substantially as specified.

3. The combination in vending apparatus of a package provided with pockets in which the articles to be sold are placed, and a holder or support for said package having pockets receiving the pockets of the package, substantially as specified.

4. The combination in vending apparatus of a package provided with exterior pockets in which the articles to be sold are placed, and a circular holder or support for the package also having exterior pockets fitting the under surface of the package, substantially as specified.

5. The combination in vending apparatus of a package containing the articles to be sold in pockets or divisions and a holder adapted to receive and support said package and provided with pockets or divisions corresponding to the pockets or divisions of the package, said holder being movable and acting to present the pockets of the package successively at the delivery-opening of the apparatus, substantially as specified.

ELMER A. WILCOX.

Witnesses:

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H. M. MUNDAY.