

No. 704,431

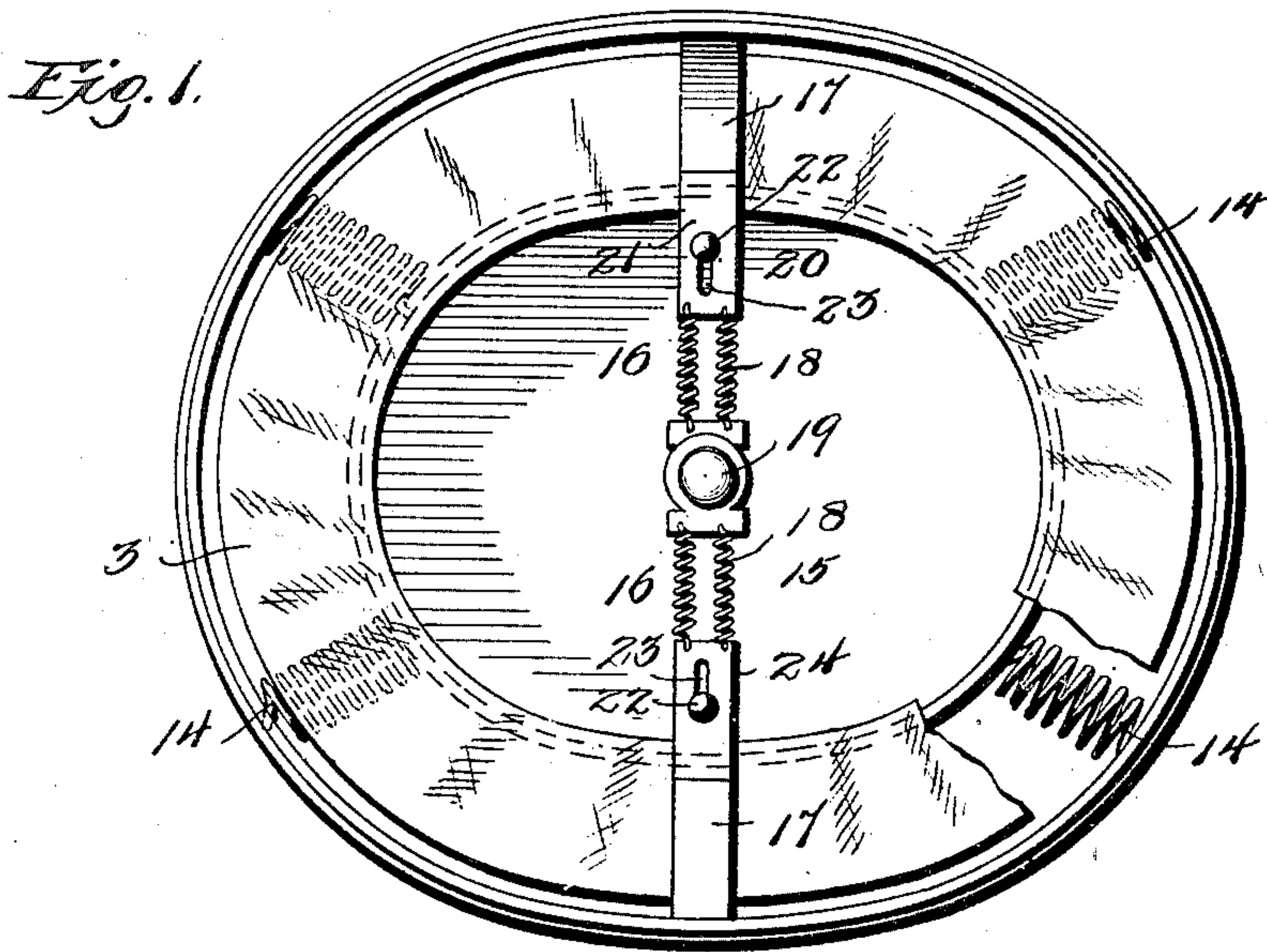
Patented July 8, 1902.

J. M. BIRD.  
HAT BOX.

(Application filed Feb. 7, 1902.)

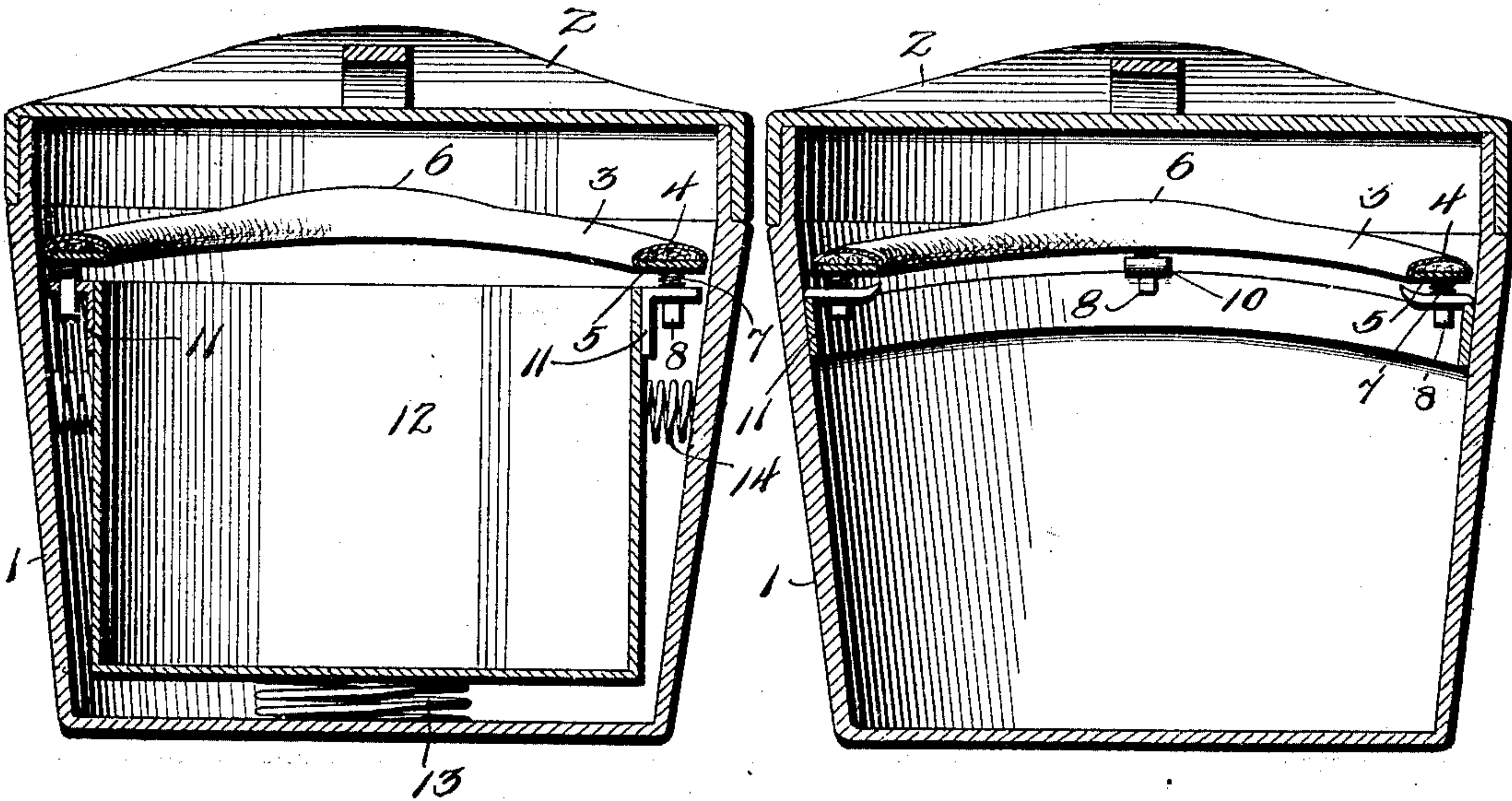
(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.



*Fig. 2.*

*Fig. 3.*



Witnesses  
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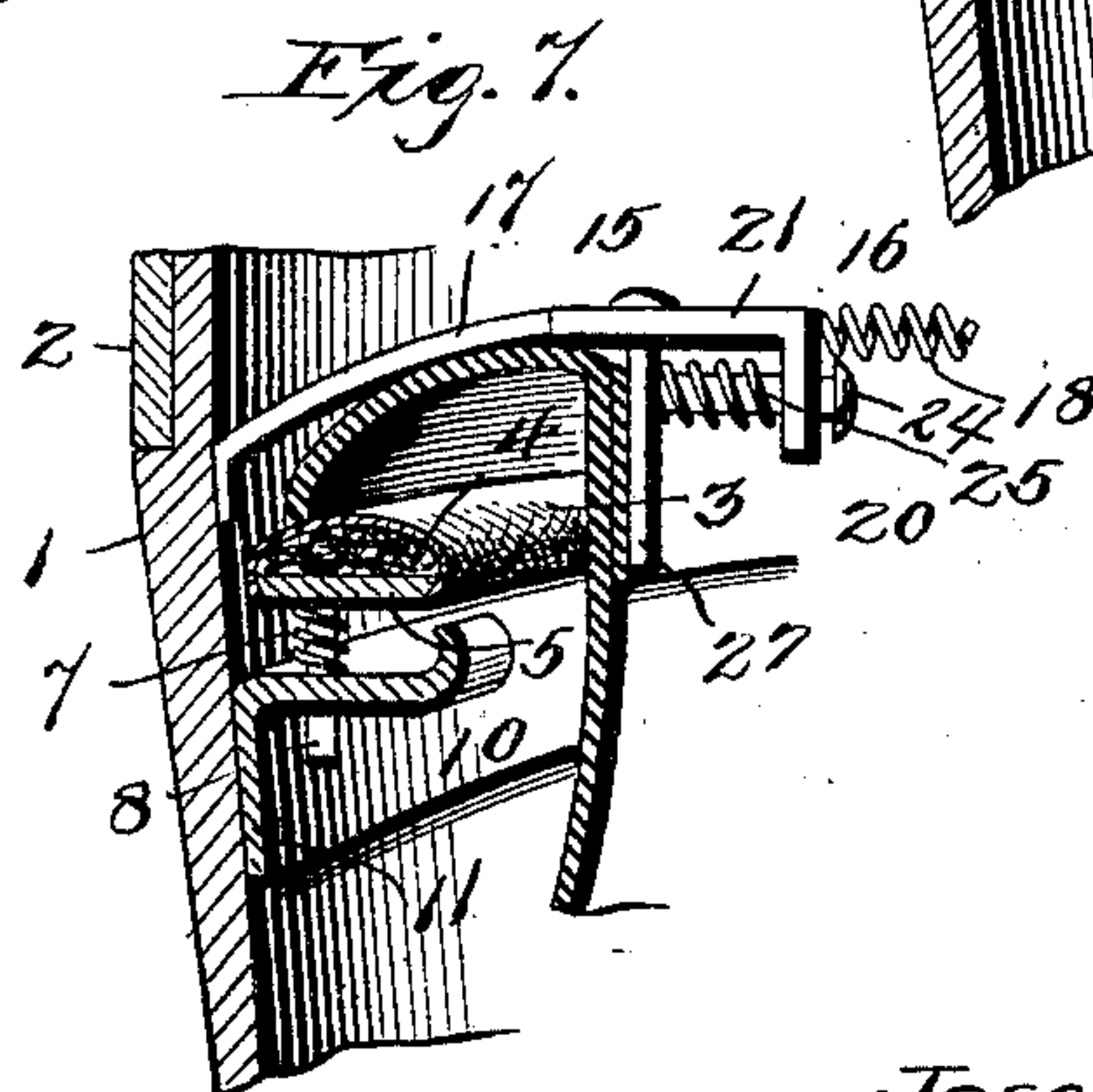
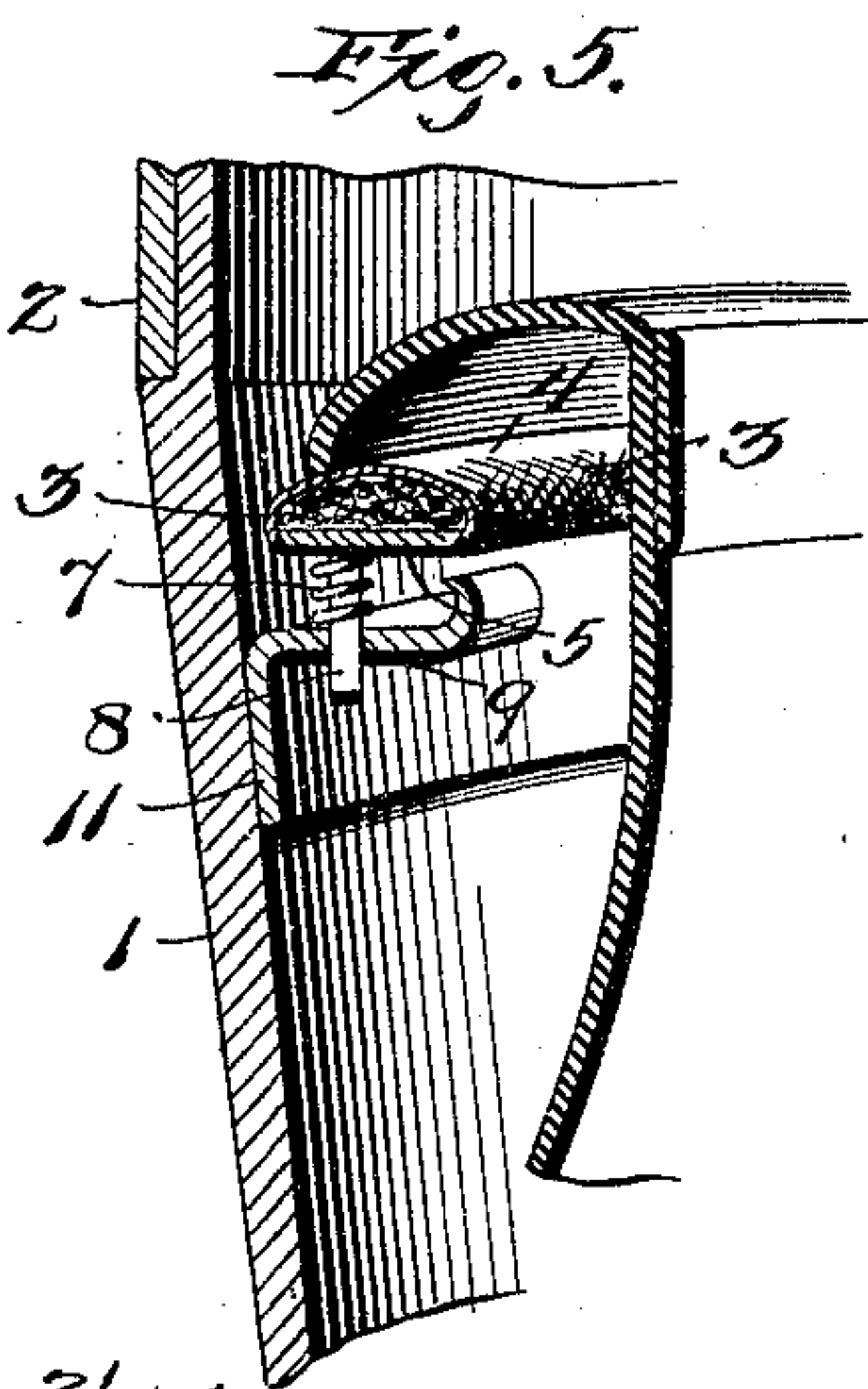
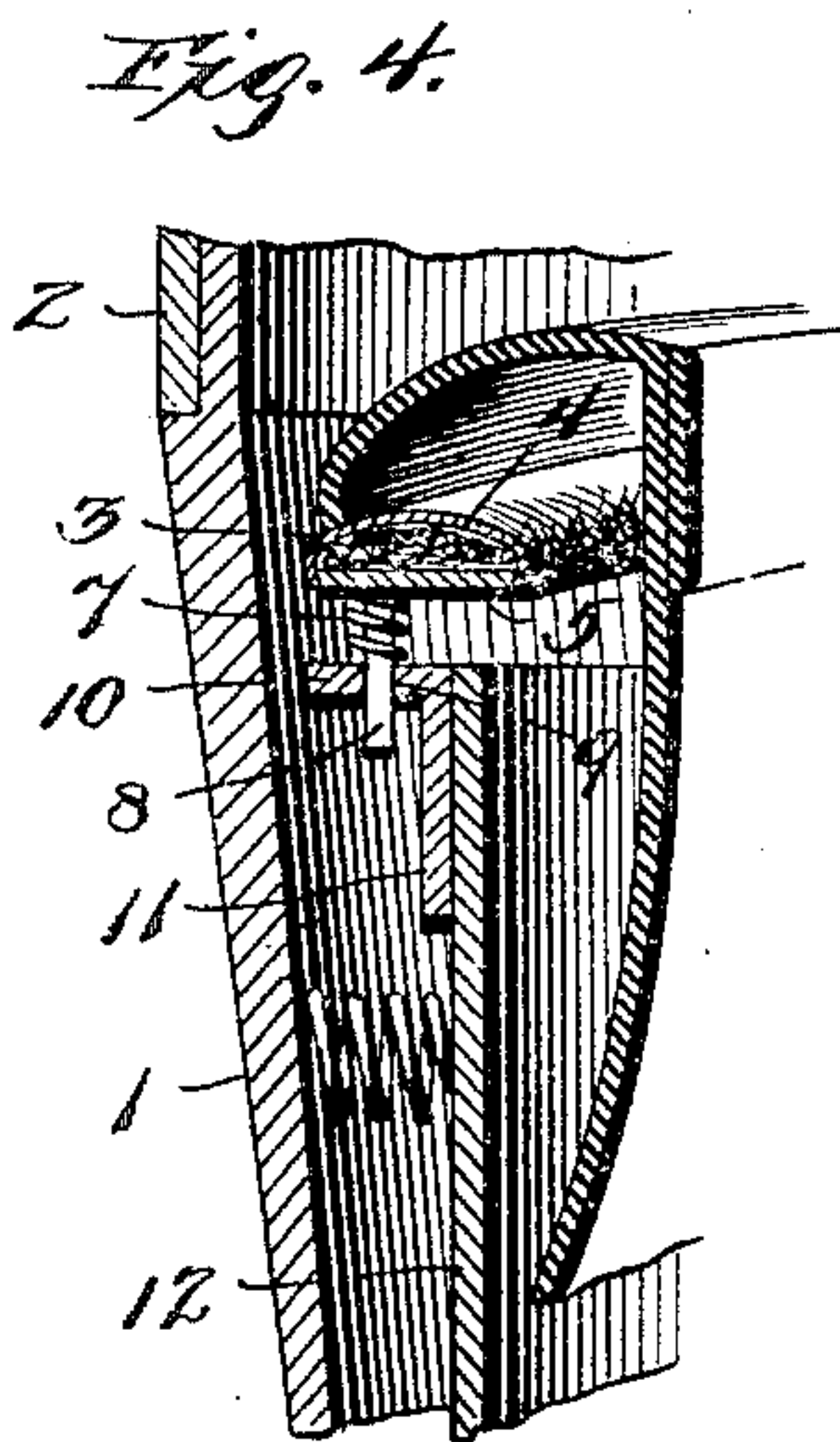
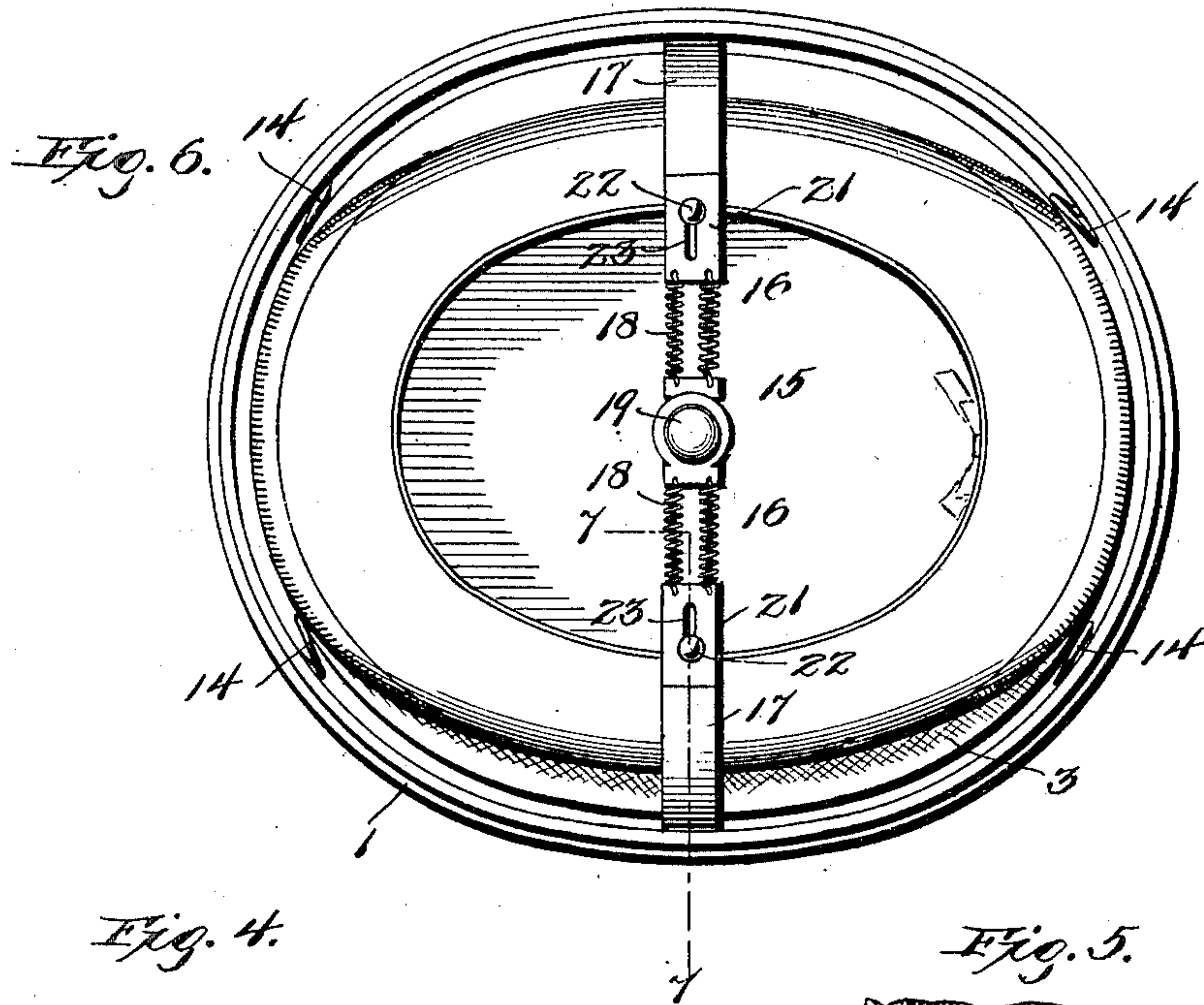
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HAT BOX.

(Application filed Feb. 7, 1902.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 2.



Witnesses

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH MAURICE BIRD, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

## HAT-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 704,431, dated July 8, 1902.

Application filed February 7, 1902. Serial No. 92,949. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOSEPH MAURICE BIRD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Washington, District of Columbia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Hat-Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to hat-boxes, particularly of the type designed for holding silk or other stiff hats, such as usually worn by men, and has special reference to an improved box of this character possessing special utility for traveling purposes and providing positive and reliable mean for supporting the headwear in such a manner as to prevent injury thereto from rough usage or handling. To this end the invention contemplates a hat-box, preferably of the traveling type, embodying interior supporting or holding means for the hat, said supporting or holding means being of a cushion or yielding character, so as to act as a cushion-buffer to strain imposed upon the headwear in any direction.

A further object in this connection is to provide interior holding or supporting means which insures carrying the hat in a rigid position without any strain on the brim thereof, thus obviating the objections to ordinary forms of traveling boxes or cases wherein the brim of a stiff hat very frequently becomes crushed or broken in traveling.

Another object of the invention is to associate with interior yielding supporting or holding means for the hat an improved form of fastener or fastening-stay also contributing to the proper positioning of the hat, as well as preferably assisting in the yielding, bracing, or support thereof.

With these and many other objects in view, which will more readily appear as the nature of the invention is better understood, the same consists in the novel construction, combination, and arrangement of parts to be hereinafter more fully described, illustrated, and claimed.

The essential features of the invention involved in the yielding supporting or holding means within the box are necessarily susceptible to a wide range of modification without departing from the spirit or scope thereof; but certain preferred embodiments of the

invention are shown in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a hat-box with the cover removed and showing equipped with yielding supporting and holding means constructed in accordance with the present invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view of the construction shown in Fig. 1, illustrating the interior supporting and holding means as including not only a yielding brim-rest, but also a yielding crown-receiver. Fig. 3 is a similar view showing a form of the invention in which the interior yieldable crown-receiver may be dispensed with. Fig. 4 is an enlarged detail sectional view of the construction shown in Fig. 2, illustrating more clearly the manner of supporting the brim-rest and also the interior crown-receiver when the two are associated together. Fig. 5 is an enlarged detail sectional view of the construction shown in Fig. 3, illustrating more plainly the mounting of the yieldable brim-rest when employed alone. Fig. 6 is a view similar to Fig. 1, showing a hat held in position within the box. Fig. 7 is an enlarged detail sectional view on the line 7 7 of Fig. 6, showing more plainly the construction of one of the members of the fastening-stay.

Like reference-numerals designate corresponding parts throughout the several figures of the drawings.

In carrying out the invention it is obvious that any shape or form of box, whether of the traveling type or such as designed for store use, may be equipped with the yielding supporting and holding means contemplated by the present invention. It is likewise obvious that the supporting and holding means for the hat may be associated and mounted within the box in any suitable or approved manner without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention; but for illustrative purposes certain preferred embodiments of the interior supporting and holding means for a hat are shown in the drawings as associated with the form of hat-box such as usually employed as a traveling box or case for the well-known silk or "beaver" hat. The invention will therefore be explained in connection with this illustration, and referring particularly to the drawings the numeral 1 designates the box proper,



essentially consisting of an outer case of the ordinary frusto-conical shape and having the usual cover 2. These parts of the box constitute no part of the present invention; but in carrying out the latter an important feature thereof resides in arranging within the outer case 1 of the box an interior yieldable brim-rest 3. The brim-rest is yieldable in a vertical direction with reference to the upright position of the box and is usually constructed in an elliptical or approximately elliptical ring form to conform to the cross-sectional shape of the case 1. The said brim-rest is also somewhat smaller in diameter than the cross-sectional area of the portion of the box or case within which it is arranged in order that it may freely yield when any strain is imposed thereon, and thus cushion the brim of the hat, which fits over and is supported on the said rest. The latter may be formed of any suitable material. Ordinarily it is preferably of an upwardly-flaring form and may consist of a convexed cushion-body 4, suitably fitted on a base ring or plate 5, and it is also preferable in the construction of the brim-rest to provide the same at what might properly be termed the "end portions" thereof with the upstanding swelled retaining-bosses 6, which are designed for engagement particularly with the inclined flat vizor portions at the front and rear ends of the hat-brim in order to prevent displacement of the brim from its rest in a longitudinal direction. Of course the said portions of the brim are in rolled or curled form usually and fit over opposite side portions of the brim-rest, and thus prevent displacement in a transverse direction.

The yieldable brim-rest 3 has associated therewith cushion-supports 7. These cushion-supports may be of any character that will provide for yieldingly supporting the brim-rest, so that it will freely yield to strain imposed thereon, and after removal of strain will resume a normal position for naturally holding the brim of the hat. This action of the brim-rest entirely relieves the brim of the hat from a crushing or breaking strain. The said cushion-supports 7 for the brim-rest may be in the form of coiled supporting-springs arranged on guiding-stems 8, working through guide-openings 9, formed in the horizontal portions 10 of holding-brackets 11, arranged within the interior of the outer case 1 of the hat-box. The holding-brackets 11 may be individual brackets for each guiding-stem 8 or may be in the form of a continuous ring or band, such as suggested in certain figures of the drawings. In a simple form of the invention, wherein the yieldable brim-rest 3 constitutes the sole supporting means for the hat, the holding-bracket 11 is preferably fitted fast to the inner wall of the outer case 1 of the box with the flange or member 10 projected inwardly to provide for receiving and sustaining the guiding-stems 8 of the brim-rest. It is obvious in this construction that

the holding-bracket 11 may be fitted to the case of the box in any suitable or approved manner and held in a perfectly stationary position by any means without departing from the spirit of the invention. This embodiment of the invention is plainly shown in Figs. 3 and 5 of the drawings, and it may be found desirable under some conditions to associate with the brim-rest a crown-receiver 12, such as suggested in Fig. 2 of the drawings. In the construction shown in Fig. 2 of the drawings, where a crown-receiver is employed, the holding-bracket 11 for the yieldable brim-rest 3 may be fitted directly to the upper edge portion of the receiver 12; but in such an arrangement the same independent yielding or cushion support is provided for the brim-rest. In the construction herein described—namely, that shown in Fig. 2—the crown-receiver is in the form of an inner box or well to receive therein the crown portion of the hat, and thus constitute additional holding means other than the brim-rest. The said crown-receiver is yieldable in all directions to accommodate itself to any strain imposed thereon. It is not only supported but braced through the medium of cushions. A supporting-cushion 13 is interposed between the bottom of the receiver 12 and the bottom of the box-case 1, and a plurality of bracing-cushions 14 are arranged about the receiver 12 and interposed between the wall thereof and the inner wall of the said case 1. It will thus be seen that the receiver 12 will readily yield in any and all directions, so as to entirely relieve the stiff crown of the hat from such strain as might be imposed thereon independent of the brim. The said cushions 13 and 14 are preferably in the form of spiral springs, as shown in the drawings, and may obviously be any equivalent cushion device.

In connection with the devices described there is also preferably utilized a fastening-stay, (designated in its entirety by the reference-number 15.) This fastening-stay is designed to take the place of the ordinary fastening or holding strap usually buckled over the hat within the box, but in the present invention is designed to act in an auxiliary capacity to the yielding supporting means already described. The said stay consists of the opposite spring-sections, which are intended to provide a yielding fastening for the hat and at the same time overcome the objections to the ordinary elastic straps usually employed for that purpose. Each of the yielding members 16 of the stay is provided with an inelastic attaching-section 17, securely fastened to one side of the box-case 1 and bent to curve over the convex body portion 4 of the brim-rest, and at the end portion opposite the section 17 each yielding member 16 is also provided with a spring-section 18, having one or a plurality of springs and carrying the catch element 19 for detachable engagement with the complementary catch element carried by the spring-section of the



other yielding member 16. These interlocking catch elements 19 may be the ordinary hook-and-eye or any of the forms of catches employed in strap-fastenings of the character described. Interposed between this spring 18 and inelastic section 17 each of the yielding members 16 of the stay 15 carries a supplemental holding device 20, essentially consisting of a support 21 and the hat-engaging member 22. This hat-engaging member is preferably in the form of a pin designed to extend inside of the hat at the edge thereof and preferably slidably mounted in the guide-slot 23, formed in the support 21 and provided with a laterally-offset guiding-stem 24, working through an opening in a portion of the support 21 and receiving thereon a cushion-spring 25, which yieldingly holds the member or pin 22 in engagement with the edge portion of the hat-body. Of course the hat-engaging member or pin 22 may be held fixed in relation to the support 21, carrying the same, inasmuch as the spring-sections 18 of the separate members 16 provide for a spring or yielding action.

It will be obvious from the construction described that the hat-box equipped with the means contemplated is necessarily of a self-sizing character, as it readily conforms itself to different sizes and shapes of hats, while at the same time cushioning a jar imposed upon the hat in any direction.

From the foregoing it is thought that the construction, use, and many advantages of the herein-described hat supporting and holding means for a hat-box will be readily understood by those familiar with the art without further description, and it will also be understood that various changes in the form, proportion, and minor details of construction may be resorted to without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention or sacrificing any of the advantages thereof.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed, and desired to be secured by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a hat-box, a movable support for the brim of the hat, and a cushion-rest for the said support located beneath the same.

2. In a hat-box, a vertically-movable brim-rest consisting of a frame having a cushion-body, and a cushion-support for the said rest located beneath the same.

3. The combination with a hat-box, of a stay comprising elastic and inelastic sections and secured to the box so as to bear on the hat to hold it in the box.

4. A hat-box having an interior yieldingly-supported brim-rest, and a separate elastic fastening-stay having supplemental yielding holding means.

5. In a hat-box, the combination with the supporting means for the hat, of a supplemental holder for the hat comprising holding means engaging the brim portion.

6. In a hat-box, the combination with the supporting means for the hat, of a supple-

mental holder for the hat carried by the casing and comprising holding means engaging the brim portion.

7. In a hat-box, the outer case, a vertical yieldable brim-rest arranged within the case and cushion-supports for the said rest located beneath the same.

8. In a hat-box, the outer case, an interior brim-rest yieldably supported within the case, and guiding means for the brim-rest located beneath the same.

9. In a hat-box, the outer case, and a yieldable continuous brim-rest provided with swelled retaining-bosses for engagement with the vizor portions of the hat-brim.

10. In a hat-box, the outer case, an interior yieldable brim-rest, a plurality of cushion-supports for the rest, and guiding means for the rest.

11. In a hat-box, the outer case, an interior holding-bracket, a yieldable brim-rest having a plurality of guiding-stems loosely engaging the bracket, and spring-cushions interposed between the bracket and the end side of the said brim-rest.

12. In a hat-box, the combination with the outer case, of a yieldable brim-rest, and a yieldable crown-receiver arranged within the case, said brim-rest and said crown-receiver having an operative connection.

13. In a hat-box, the outer case, a vertical yieldable brim-rest having cushion-supports, and a crown-receiver cushioned to yield in any direction.

14. In a hat-box, the outer case, a crown-receiver arranged within the case and having a cushion-support at the bottom, cushion-braces interposed between the sides of the receiver and the sides of the case, and a vertical yieldable brim-rest yieldingly supported upon the crown-receiver.

15. In a hat-box, the combination with the interior supporting means for the hat, of a fastening-stay consisting of separate yielding members detachably connected and each provided with a supplemental holder for the hat.

16. In a hat-box, the combination with the interior supporting means for the hat, of a fastening-stay consisting of separate yielding members detachably connected and each provided with a yielding supplemental holder for the hat.

17. In a hat-box, the combination with the supporting means for the hat, of a fastening-stay consisting of separate yielding members detachably connected and each comprising a spring-section, an inelastic section and a holding device, said holding device being provided with an independently-yielding hat-engaging pin or member adapted to extend within and engage each portion of the hat-body.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JOSEPH MAURICE BIRD.

Witnesses:

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D. P. WOLHAUPTER.