

No. 720,060.

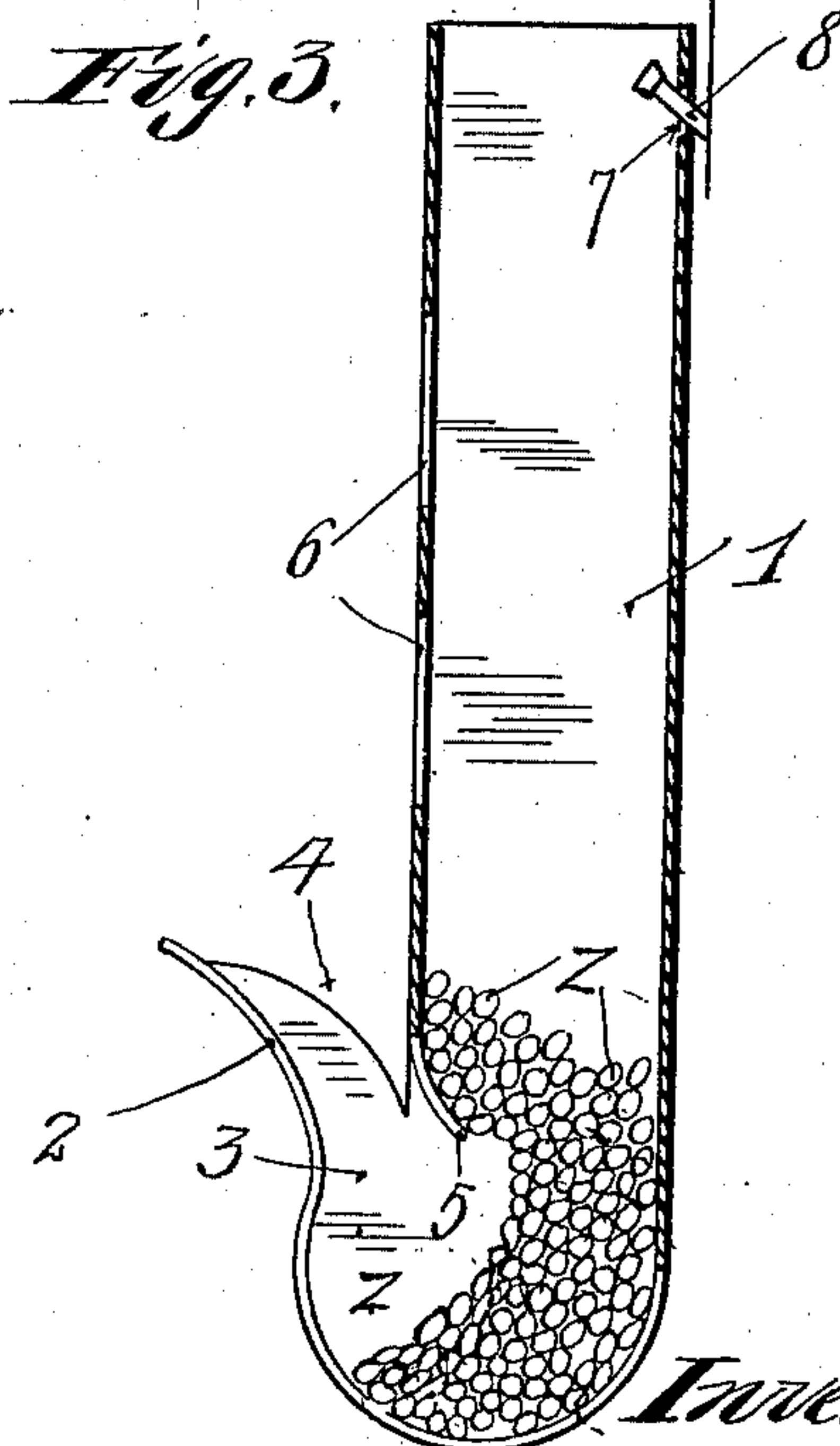
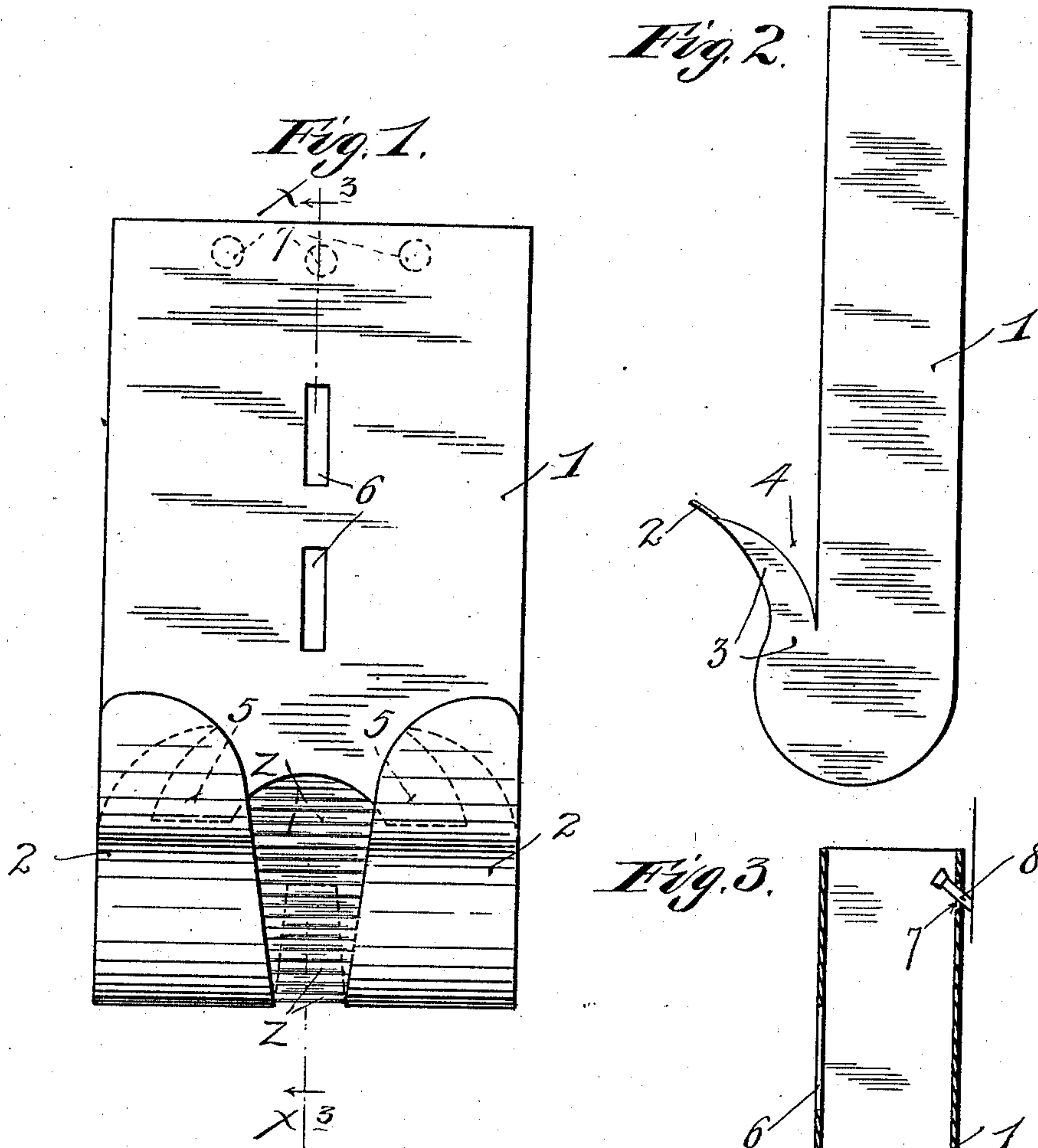
PATENTED FEB. 10, 1903.

W. A. PATTEN.  
MATCH SAFE.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 15, 1902.

NO MODEL.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



Witnesses,  
H. D. Kilgore  
A. B. Opsahl

Inventor,  
William A. Patten  
By his Attorneys,  
William M. Merchant

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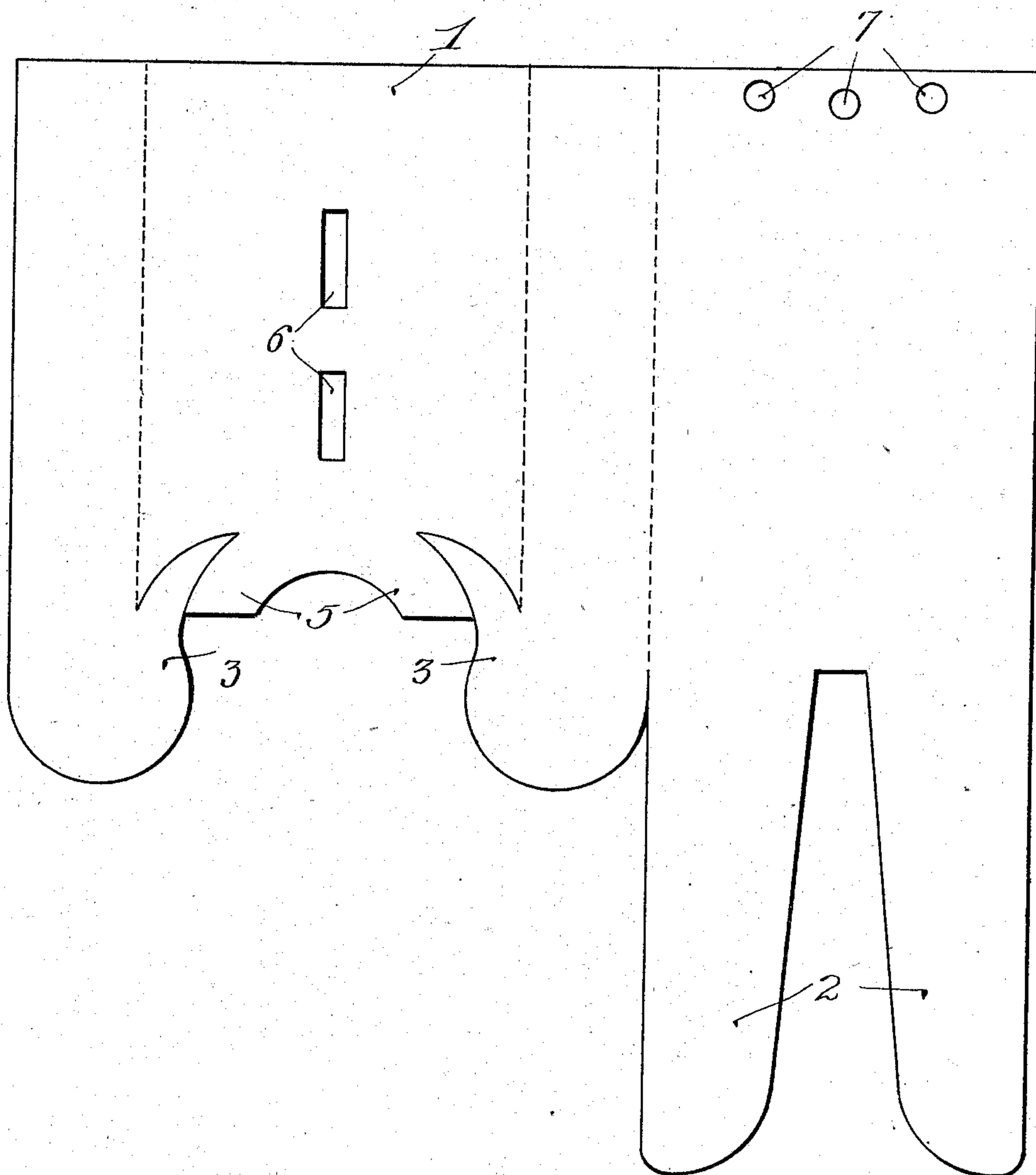
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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

*Fig. 4.*



*Witnesses,*  
*H. D. Kilgore*  
*A. B. Opsahl*

*Inventor,*  
*William A. Patten,*  
*By his Attorneys,*  
*Williamson Merchant*



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM A. PATTEN, OF LESUEUR, MINNESOTA.

## MATCH-SAFE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 720,060, dated February 10, 1903.

Application filed March 15, 1902. Serial No. 98,287. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM A. PATTEN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Lesueur, in the county of Lesueur and State of Minnesota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Match-Safes; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My present invention relates to match-safes, and has for its object to improve the same in the several particulars hereinafter noted.

To the above ends the invention consists of the novel devices and combination of devices hereinafter described, and defined in the claim.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein like characters indicate like parts throughout the several views.

Figure 1 is a view in front elevation showing a match-safe designed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the said match-safe. Fig. 3 is a vertical section on the line  $x^3 x^3$  of Fig. 1, and Fig. 4 is a plan view showing the blank or stamped sheet from which the match-safe is formed.

The body of the match-safe is of rectangular form, as indicated by the numeral 1. It is open at its top and bottom; but at its bottom the matches are supported by a pair of laterally-spaced retaining-fingers 2, which are formed as extensions of the rear plate of the safe and are curved first downward and forward and then upward, so that their outer and upper extremities project outward of and above the lower extremity of the front plate of the safe, as best shown in Fig. 3. The sides of the safe are extended downward, outward, and upward, as indicated at 3, to form side guard-plates to hold the stack of matches against endwise movement. The outward and upwardly extended portions of the guard-plates 3 are soldered or otherwise rigidly secured to the outer edges of the retaining-fingers 2, so as to rigidly support said fingers. As best shown in Fig. 3, an outlet-throat is formed between the lower end of the front plate of the match-safe and the upwardly-curved ends of the fingers 2.

To hold back the column of matches, or, in other words, to prevent the same from falling in too large quantities onto the retaining-fingers 2, I provide the front plate of the safe with a depending and inwardly or rearwardly turned "choke-plate" 5, preferably afforded by a pair of prongs stamped from or formed as a part of the blank from which the safe is formed. In the front plate of the safe are preferably cut one or more slits 6, through which a match or pointed instrument may be inserted to force the matches downward in case they should become clogged. These slits further serve to show the height of the column of matches in the safe. In the upper edge of the back plate of the safe is one or more perforations 7, which adapt the safe to be hung from the wall on a nail 8.

To fill the match-safe, first take an ordinary box of matches, and after having broken out one end thereof hold the same at a proper angle to prevent the spilling of the matches, and slide the same into the safe. Then turn the safe into a vertical position and withdraw the box. The column of matches within the safe will then be substantially as indicated in Fig. 3, by reference to which it will be noted that the so-called "choke-plate" 5 contracts the column of matches at a point in line therewith and prevents the said matches from completely filling the pocket afforded by the retaining-fingers 2 and side guard-plates 3. As is obvious, one or more matches may at any time be easily removed from the safe simply by passing the fingers into engagement with the same through the passage left between the so-called "retaining-fingers" 2 and forcing the same upward through the throat 4.

The match-safe in its best form is formed of metal, such as thin sheet-tin, and is formed from a single blank. This blank in its flat form is shown in Fig. 4, and in this view the various portions of the blank are marked with those characters which indicate the parts which they form in the completed safe. It will be noted that the upwardly-projecting portions of the so-called "side guard-plates" are cut out of the lower portion of the front plate of the safe and serve to separate the depending prongs of the so-called "choke-plate" 5 from the blank. This effects an

economy in the material used. It will be noted that the body of the safe is formed from a blank with a single seam at one corner edge thereof. The match-safe above described  
5 may be thus made from thin sheet metal, such as tin, at a very small cost and is not only efficient for the purposes had in view, but is strong and durable.

From what has been said it will be understood that the match-safe above described is  
10 capable of considerable modification within the scope of my invention, as herein set forth and claimed.

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is as follows:  
15

A metal match-safe formed from a single blank and involving the body 1, laterally-spaced retaining-fingers 2, side guard-plates 3 and choke-plate 5, said retaining-fingers and guard-plates being rigidly secured together and extended outward and upward  
20 from said choke-plate, to afford the throat 4, substantially as described.

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

WILLIAM A. PATTEN.

Witnesses:

JOHN TAYLOR,  
P. W. GORRIE.