

No. 725,484.

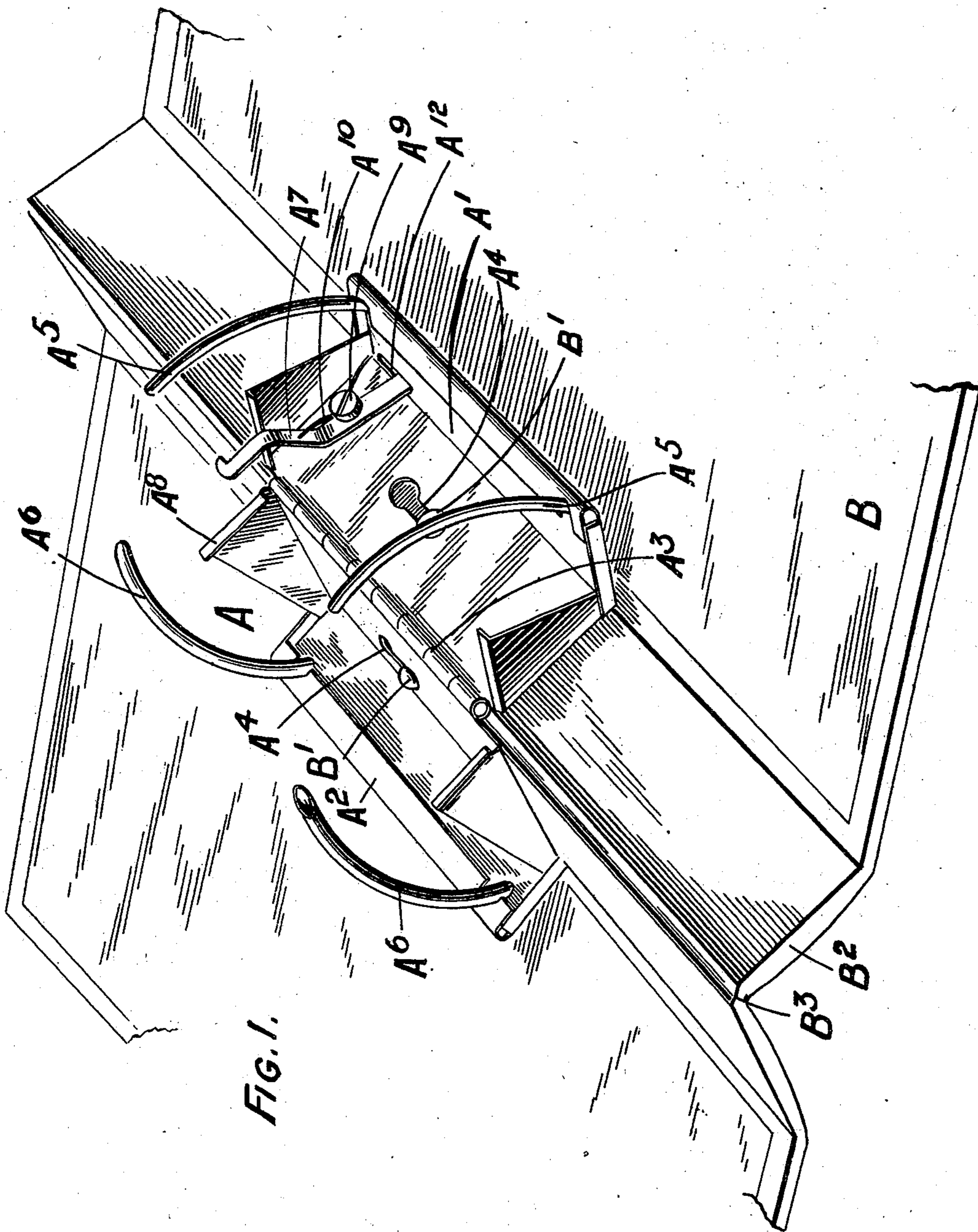
PATENTED APR. 14, 1903.

W. J. RICHARDSON.  
LETTER OR SIMILAR FILE.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 2, 1902.

NO MODEL.

3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



Witnesses  
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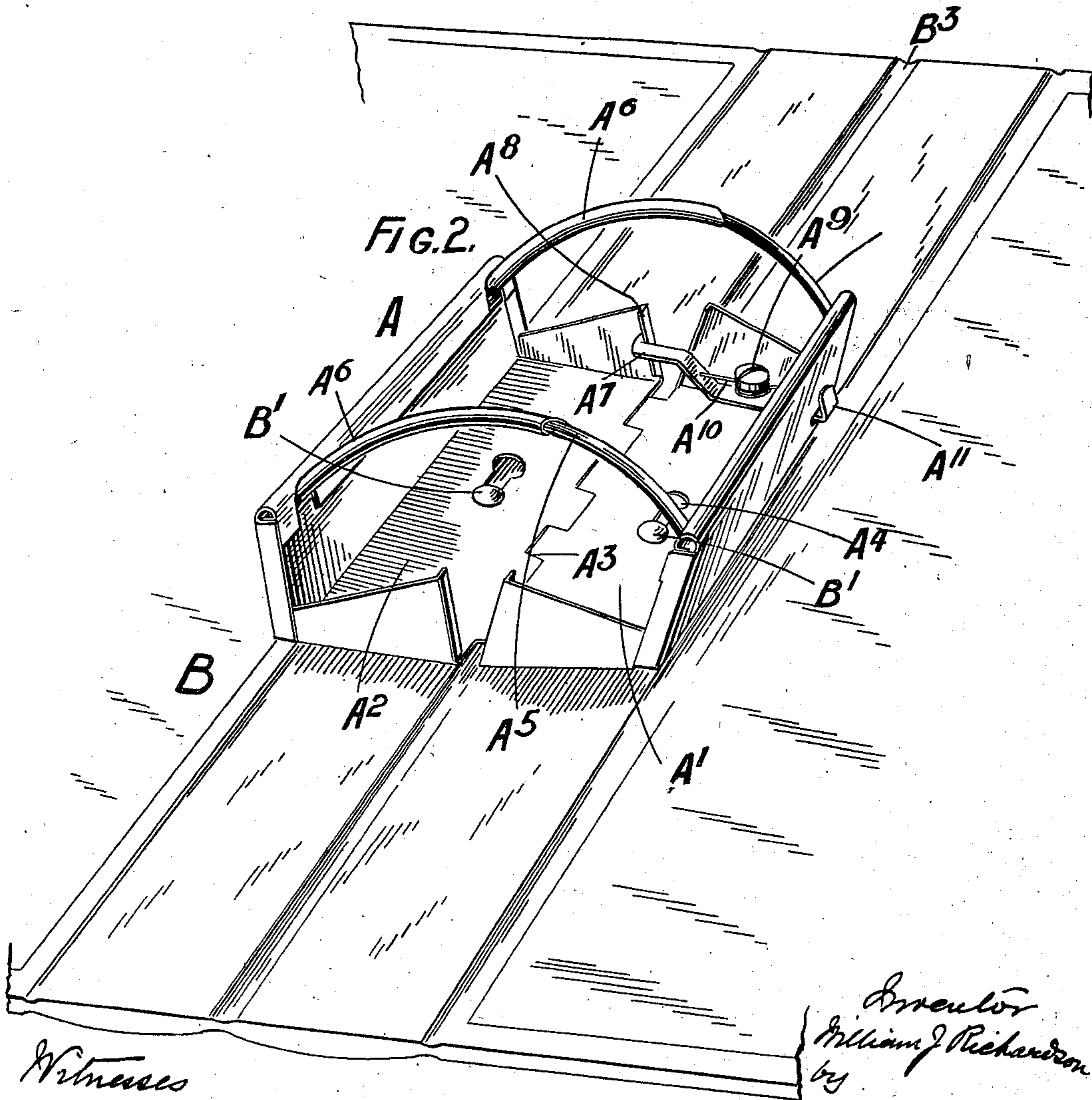
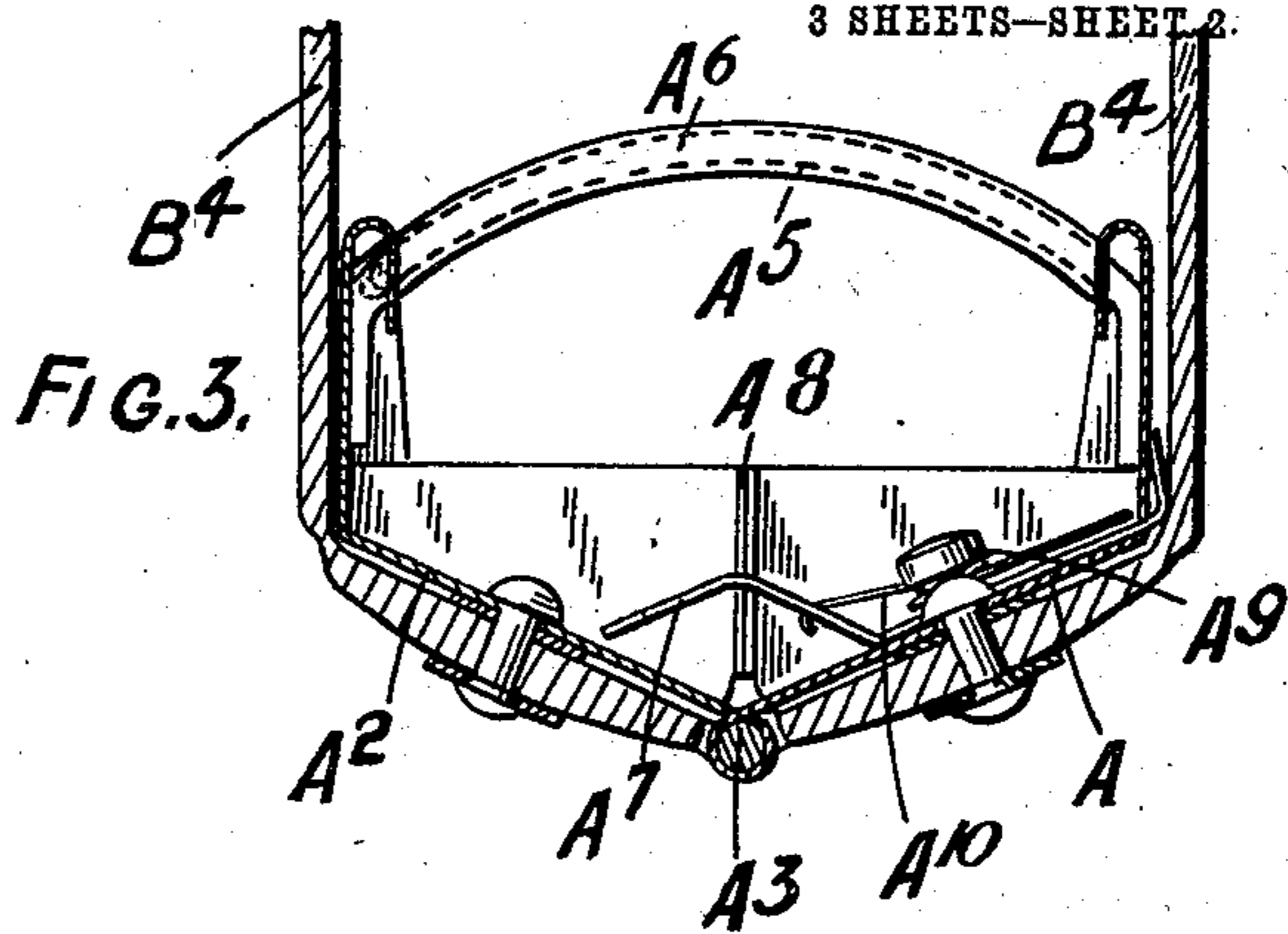
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NO MODEL.

3 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



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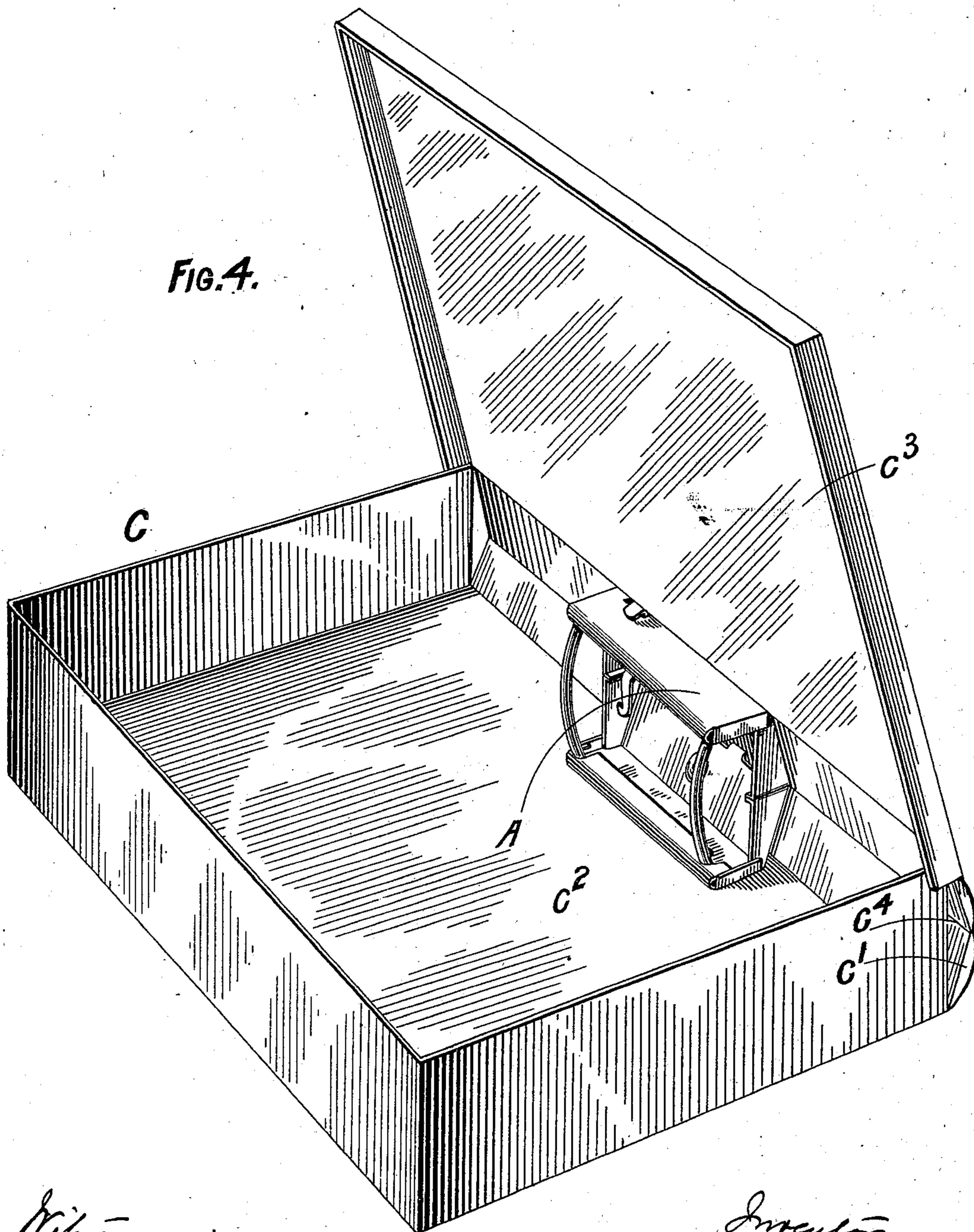
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NO MODEL.

3 SHEETS—SHEET 3.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM J. RICHARDSON, OF LONDON, ENGLAND.

## LETTER OR SIMILAR FILE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 725,484, dated April 14, 1903.

Application filed September 2, 1902. Serial No. 121,909. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM JAMES RICHARDSON, a subject of the King of England, residing at London, England, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in or Relating to Letter or Similar Files, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to letter and similar files, and has for its object to provide a file which can be opened to release the papers without the operator requiring to insert his fingers between the documents and which can be moved to an intermediate or inspection position in which the documents on the file may be examined without requiring to be detached therefrom.

According to this invention the file proper comprises two members which are hinged together and carry threaders for the documents, the threaders on one member being preferably in the form of bent or curved wires and on the other tubes into which the wires pass, so that when the file is closed the documents are all retained by the tube and when in inspection position the wires are partially withdrawn from the tubes.

The cover of the file is provided with a narrow back portion after the manner of a book, and this back portion is provided with a central longitudinal fold or crease which when the file is open allows the back to be folded inward upon itself to correspond with the hinges of the file. In order that the file may be readily detached from the back after it has been filled and placed in a storing case or cover, the back part of the cover is provided with headed studs which engage with keyhole or other slots in the file, so that the latter may be readily detached, if desired, or the file may be connected permanently to the cover, which may be in the form of a box provided in its back portion with a central longitudinal fold. One member of the file is provided with a detent which engages with the other member of the file to lock the parts together, but in such a manner that the file can move from the fully-closed to the intermediate position without the detent requiring to be operated, and the detent is provided with a portion which extends to the outside of the file, so that it may be operated externally.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the file in its fully-open position. Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the parts in position for examining the documents in the file; Fig. 3, a cross-section showing the file in its closed position, and Fig. 4 shows a modified form of cover for the file.

The file proper, A, consists of two parts A' A<sup>2</sup>, which are hinged together at A<sup>3</sup> and provided with keyhole-slots A<sup>4</sup>, which are adapted to be engaged by studs B' on the back part B<sup>2</sup> of the cover B. The studs are so disposed that the hinge A<sup>3</sup> of the file coincides with a central division B<sup>3</sup> in the back part B<sup>2</sup> of the cover, and a slot or opening is preferably formed in the back of the cover for the reception of the hinge, as shown in Fig. 3. When the sides B of the cover are in a closed position, they lie close against the upturned parts of the portions A' A<sup>2</sup>. The threading-wires or threaders A<sup>5</sup> are soldered or otherwise connected to the upturned part of the portion A' and are bent to an arc of a circle, so that when the file is closed they enter the threading-tubes or threaders A<sup>6</sup>, which are carried by the upturned part of the portion A<sup>2</sup>. The hook or detent A<sup>7</sup> is pivoted at A<sup>9</sup> to the portion A', and a spring A<sup>10</sup>, having one end attached to the hook and another to the file, is bent around a pivot-pin A<sup>9</sup> in order to retain the hook in a position to engage with an inwardly-extending projection A<sup>8</sup> on the portion A<sup>2</sup> of the file. This hook prevents the file from opening beyond the intermediate or inspection position, as shown in Fig. 2, and when it is desired to open the file farther the end A<sup>11</sup> of the hook, which extends through a slot A<sup>12</sup> to the outside of the file, can be operated by hand without disturbing the papers to release the parts and allow the threading-wires to be withdrawn from the tubes.

When the file is in the fully-open position, as shown in Fig. 1, the portions A' A<sup>2</sup> are folded back toward each other on their hinge A<sup>3</sup>, the back of the cover being folded inward along its central division B<sup>3</sup> to lie between the portions A' A<sup>2</sup>, so that the wires and tubes are clear of one another, permitting letters or other documents to be readily placed onto or removed from the file.

In the intermediate or inspection position (shown in Fig. 2) the back of the cover is flat

and the wires are partially withdrawn from the tubes, thereby increasing the space between the upturned part or edges of the portions A' and A<sup>2</sup> and allowing greater space for the documents in the file to be separated and inspected without requiring to be removed from the threading wires and tubes. In this position the portions A' and A<sup>2</sup> are retained by the hook A<sup>7</sup>, the point of which engages with the projection A<sup>8</sup>, and the file can be removed from the cover without danger of its opening and papers becoming displaced.

In the closed position (shown in Fig. 3) the wires are fully inserted into the threading-tubes, and the point of the hook moves along the portion A<sup>2</sup>, but is still in a position to engage with the projection A<sup>8</sup> whenever the file is opened.

Instead of providing the file with a cover which can be folded along a central division in order to lie flat for convenience in storing or packing, the file being removable from the cover for this purpose, the file may be attached to a cover which, as shown in Fig. 4, is in the form of a box C. As will be noticed, the back portion C' of this box is attached to the body C<sup>2</sup> only along its lower edge and is connected to the lid C<sup>3</sup> along its upper edge, the end parts being free, so that when it is desired to inspect the documents on the file or to remove some of them or insert others the back part is free to fold down and is provided with a longitudinal division C<sup>4</sup>, similar to the cover above described, so as to allow for the manipulation of the parts of the file, as above stated. The file in this form of cover is preferably riveted permanently to the back part of the box, or it may be connected thereto in any other appropriate manner.

When the file is removably attached to the cover, it may when all the documents are placed upon it be detached by being moved longitudinally to disengage the studs from the slots, and the file can then, without disturbing the documents, be inserted in a filing case or cover, to which it can be attached by studs engaging with the slots in the file, as already described.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a letter or similar file, the combination with two hinged members, of threading-tubes carried by one member, threading-wires carried by the other member, a detent pivoted to one hinged member which is slotted to receive part of the detent, a handle on the detent passing through the slot in the member to the outside of the file, a spring controlling the detent, and a catch on the other hinged member with which the detent engages, substantially as described.

2. In a letter or similar file, the combination with two hinged members, of threading-tubes carried by one member, threading-wires carried by the other member, a detent pivoted to one hinged member, a handle on the detent

passing through a slot in the member to which it is pivoted to the outside of the file, a spring for the detent, a catch on the other member, with which the detent engages when the file is in the intermediate position and which allows the members to move freely from the intermediate to the fully-closed position, substantially as described.

3. In a letter or similar file, the combination with two hinged members, of threading-tubes carried by one hinged member, threading-wires carried by the other hinged member, a detent pivoted to one hinged member, a handle on the detent passing through a slot in the member to which it is pivoted to the outside of the file, a spring controlling the detent, a projection on the other hinged member with which the detent engages when in its intermediate position and which allows the members to move freely from the intermediate to the fully-closed position, and a cover for the file and means for attaching the file to the cover, substantially as described.

4. In a letter or similar file, the combination with two members hinged together, of threading-tubes carried by one hinged member, threading-wires carried by the other hinged member, a detent pivoted to one member, a handle to the detent passing through a slot in the member to which it is pivoted to the outside of the file, a spring controlling the detent, a catch for the detent on the other hinged member with which the catch engages when the file is in its intermediate or inspection position and which without disconnection permits the file to move into its fully-closed position, a cover for the file comprising side parts hinged to a back part having a central longitudinal division, substantially as described.

5. In a letter or similar file, the combination with two members hinged together, of threading-tubes carried by one hinged member, threading-wires carried by the other hinged member, a detent pivoted to one hinged member, a handle for the detent passing through a slot in the side of the member to which it is pivoted to the outside of the file, a spring controlling the detent, a catch on the other hinged member, with which the detent engages when the file is in its intermediate or inspection position and which without disconnection permits the members to move to the fully-closed position, a cover for the file, comprising a back part to which the hinged members are connected, having a central longitudinal division and side parts hinged to the back part, substantially as described.

6. In a letter or similar file, the combination with two members hinged together, of threading-tubes carried by one hinged member, threading-wires carried by the other hinged member, a detent pivoted to one hinged member, a handle for the detent passing through a slot in the side of the member to which it is pivoted to the outside of the file, a spring controlling the detent, a catch on the other

hinged member with which the detent engages when the file is in its intermediate position and which without disconnection permits the file to move to its fully-closed position, a cover for the file, comprising a back part having a central longitudinal division and side parts hinged to the back parts, and means for detachably connecting the hinged members to the back part, substantially as described.

7. In a letter or similar file the combination with two members hinged together, of threading-tubes carried by one hinged member, threading-wires carried by the other hinged member, a detent pivoted to one hinged member, a spring controlling the detent, a catch for the detent on the other hinged member, a cover for the file, a back part to the cover, studs on the back part, keyhole-slots in the hinged members engaging with the studs, side parts hinged to the back part and a central longitudinal division in the back part substantially as described.

8. In a letter or similar file, the combination of two members hinged together, of threading-tubes carried by one hinged member, threading-wires carried by the other hinged member, a detent pivoted to one hinged member, a handle to the detent passing through a slot in the hinged member to the outside of the file,

a spring controlling the detent, a catch for the detent on the other hinged member; a cover for the file, a back part to the cover, studs on the back part, keyhole-slots in the hinged members engaging with the studs, side parts hinged to the back part, and a central longitudinal division in the back part, substantially as described.

9. In a letter or similar file, the combination with two hinged members, of threading-tubes carried by one hinged member, threading-wires carried by the other hinged member, a detent pivoted to one hinged member, a spring controlling the detent, a catch on the other hinged member for engaging with the detent, a box-cover for the file, the back member thereof being connected along one edge to the bottom of the cover and along the other edge to the lid of the cover, having a central longitudinal division coinciding with the hinge in the file, and means for connecting the file to the back part, substantially as described.

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

W. J. RICHARDSON.

Witnesses:

HAWS WADE,  
HARRY B. BRIDGE.