

No. 786,334.

PATENTED APR. 4, 1905.

N. B. WOOD.  
SIGN.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 2, 1903.

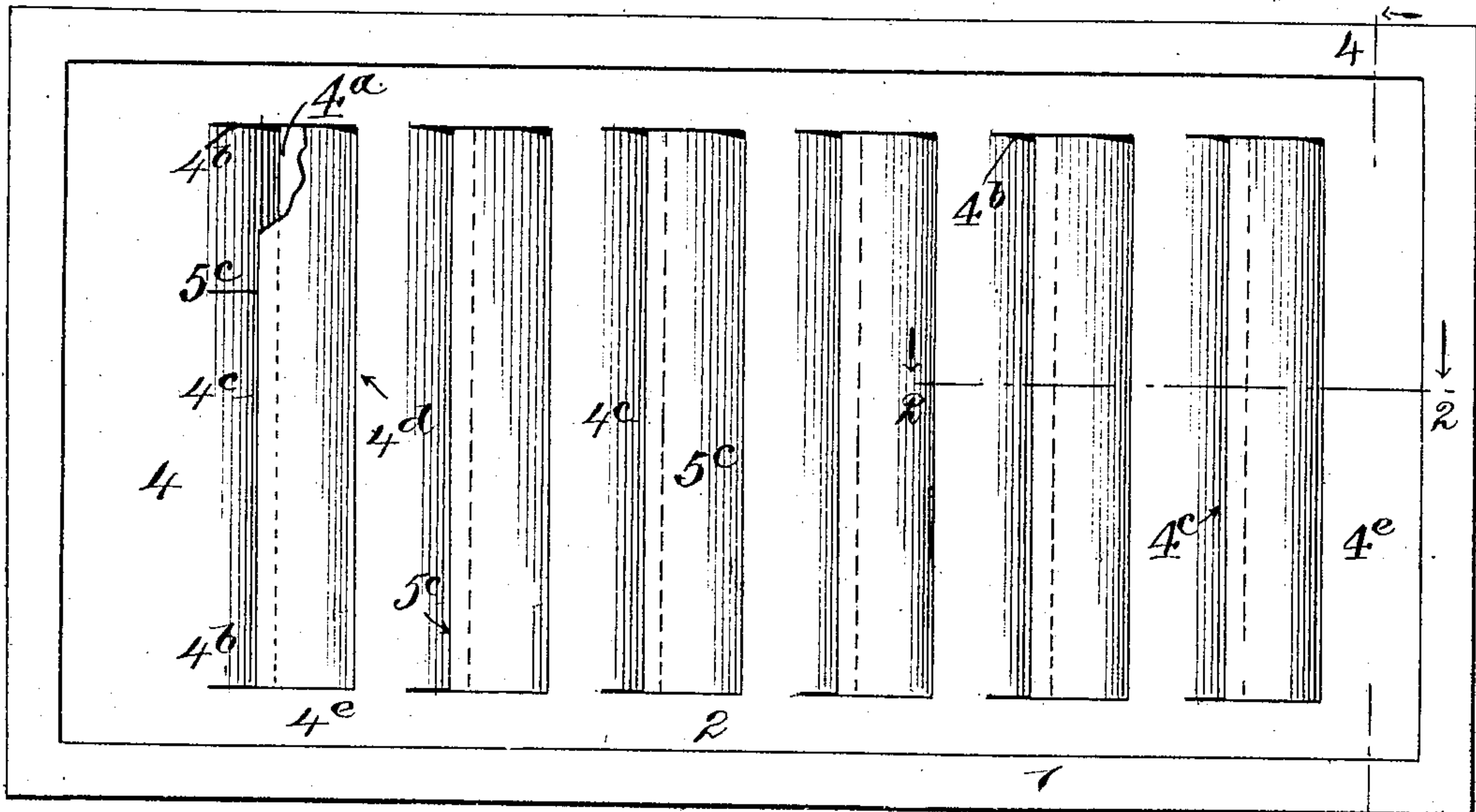


Fig. 1.

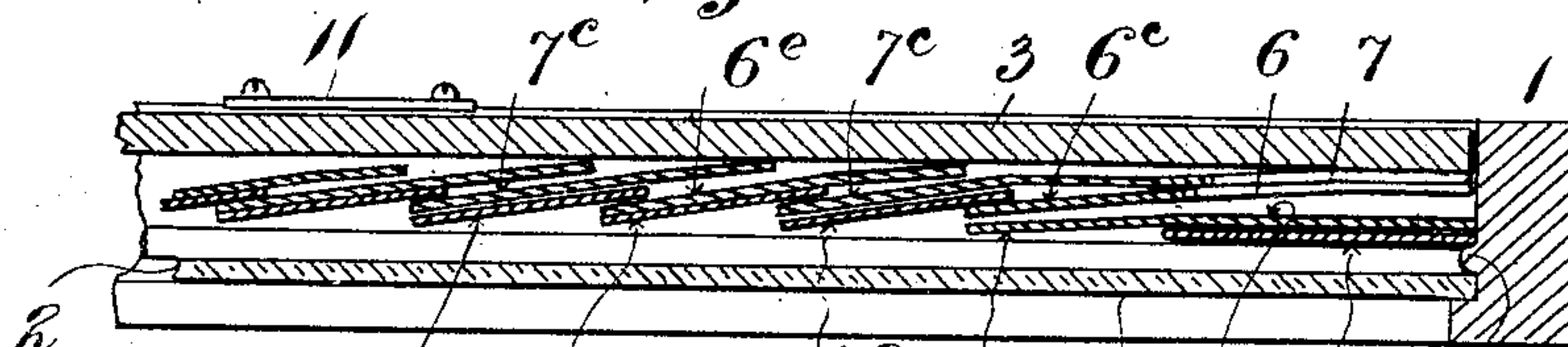


Fig. 2.

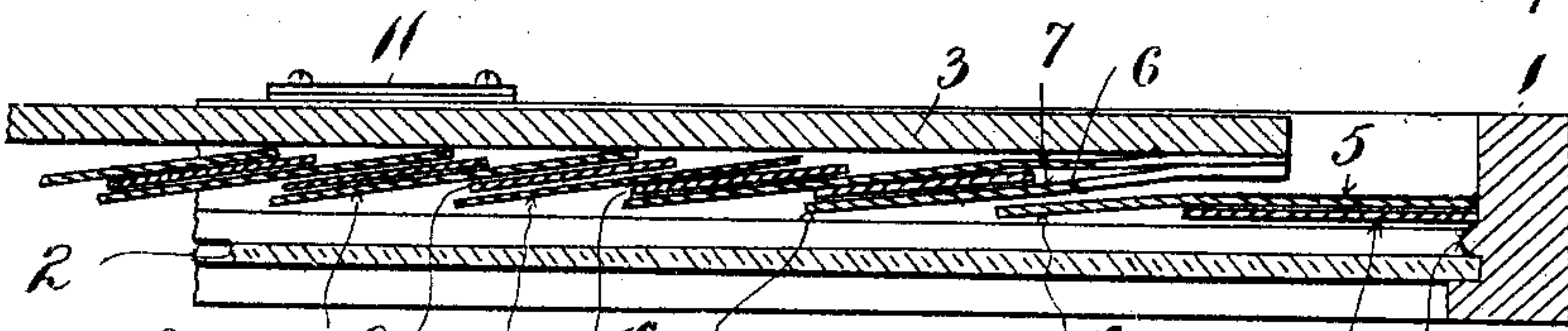
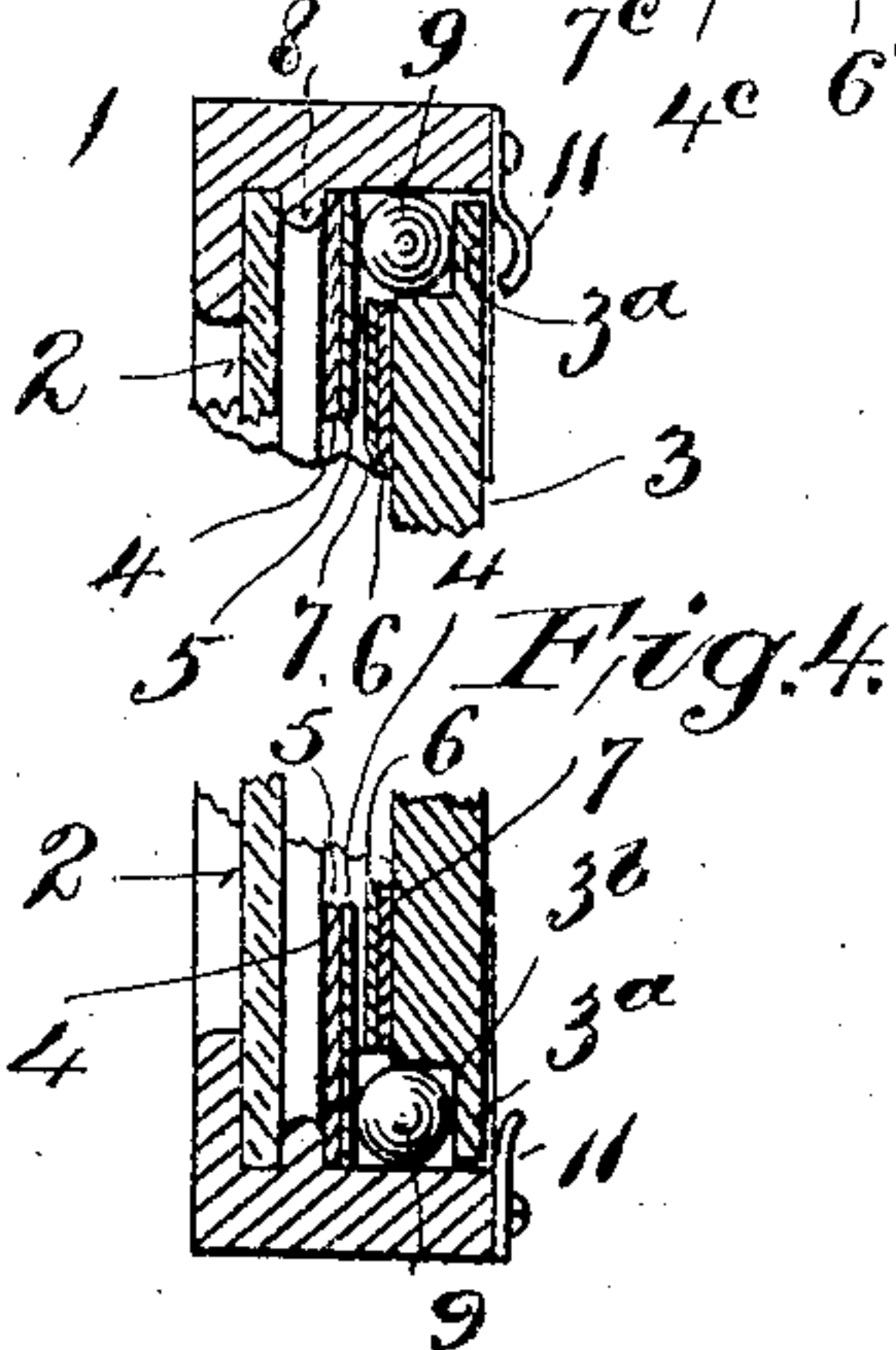


Fig. 3.





# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## SIGN.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 786,334, dated April 4, 1905.

Application filed December 2, 1903. Serial No. 183,429.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, NATHAN B. WOOD, a citizen of the United States, residing in New York city, borough of Manhattan, New York, have  
5 invented certain new and useful Improvements in Signs, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my invention is to provide a sign in which the advertisement or other display may be alternately changed from one  
10 designation to another by means of contrasting colors, lettering, or design, or one or more of the same; and to such end my invention comprises the novel details of improvement  
15 that will be more fully hereinafter set forth and then pointed out in the claims.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming part hereof, wherein—

Figure 1 is a face view of a sign embodying  
20 my invention. Fig. 2 is a section on the line 2 2 in Fig. 1, enlarged, looking in the direction of the arrows, showing the parts in one position to display a certain coloring, lettering, or the like. Fig. 3 is a similar view showing  
25 the parts in a different position to indicate a change in the sign. Fig. 4 is a broken sectional view, enlarged, on the plane of the line 4 4 in Fig. 1. Fig. 5 is a rear view of the sign, partly broken. Fig. 6 is a detail  
30 view of one of the sheets of the sign, showing a detail of manufacture; and Fig. 7 is a detail perspective view showing the relative arrangement of the operative parts of the sign.

Similar numerals of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several views.

In the drawings the numeral 1 indicates a frame which may be similar to a picture-frame and which is shown provided at 2 with a front glass and at 3 with a movable back, adapted  
40 to slide back and forth in frame 1. The main parts of my improved sign consist of sheets of cardboard, paper, metal, or other suitable material, placed one upon the other, certain of which are adapted to have movement relative to the other, and such sheets are constructed and arranged as follows: At 4 5 are  
45 two front sheets fitting within the frame 1, so as not to have movement with respect

thereto, and at 6 7 are two rear sheets secured to the back 3, so as to move therewith. The  
50 two front sheets are provided with parallel slots and strips or tongues at the sides of such slots, and one sheet is laid upon the other, so that its strips lie partly upon the strips of the  
55 latter sheet and lap the slots of the same, and the back sheets 6 7 are similarly arranged, but in reverse order, so that the strips or  
60 tongues of the back sheets may slide through the slots of the front sheets and between the strips thereof and when pushed in one direction will overlap the material of the front  
65 sheets and when pushed in the reverse direction will be drawn behind said sheets to be concealed from view. In forming such slots and strips or tongues I take, for example, the  
70 sheet 4 and provide the same with a series of parallel slots 4<sup>a</sup>, and at the top and bottom edges of such slots and on the corresponding sides thereof I cut slits 4<sup>b</sup>, which produce projecting strips or tongues 4<sup>c</sup>, that  
75 extend from the main cross-pieces 4<sup>d</sup>, a margin 4<sup>e</sup> being left all around. (See Fig. 1.) The sheet 5 is similarly cut to provide strips or tongues 5<sup>c</sup> and cross-pieces 5<sup>d</sup>, and the two  
80 sheets are then placed one upon the other and adjusted to position lengthwise of each other in such manner that the strips of one sheet will pass through the slots of the other sheet and extend behind the cross-pieces thereof,  
85 or, in other words, the strips 4<sup>c</sup> of sheet 4 pass through the slots of sheet 5 and extend behind the cross-pieces 5<sup>d</sup> thereof, and thereby the cross strips and pieces of the sheet 4 conceal or fill the slots in sheet 5, and likewise the  
90 cross strips and pieces of sheet 5 conceal or fill the slots in sheet 4. The result of this arrangement is that from a face view of the sheets there is produced substantially the appearance of a single sheet or series of strips.  
95 As the strips or tongues of one sheet thus fold behind the cross-pieces of another sheet, they provide guides or ways for corresponding strips of the rear sheets 6 7 to travel on through the spaces formed by the members of the two front sheets. The rear sheets 6 7 are made in substantially the same manner as the



sheets 4 5 and put together similarly, provid-  
 ing the strips or tongues 6<sup>c</sup> 7<sup>c</sup> and cross-pieces  
 6<sup>d</sup> 7<sup>d</sup>; but by preference the strips or tongues  
 6<sup>c</sup> 7<sup>c</sup> are made wider than the strips 4<sup>c</sup> 5<sup>c</sup>,  
 5 which may be accomplished by merely verti-  
 cal slits, corresponding with the slots 4<sup>a</sup>, in-  
 stead of making slots wide, as in Fig. 6, by  
 removing the interposed material. The two  
 sheets 4 5 when arranged as described above  
 10 are preferably pasted together, and the two  
 sheets 6 7 are pasted together and secured by  
 paste or otherwise to the back 3, and the  
 front sheets 4 5 are laid upon the rear sheets  
 6 7 and adjusted with respect to the latter, so  
 15 that the strips or tongues 6<sup>c</sup> 7<sup>c</sup> alternately  
 pass through slots of the front sheet, so that  
 the strips or tongues 6<sup>c</sup> 7<sup>c</sup> lie behind the strips  
 or tongues 4<sup>c</sup> 5<sup>c</sup>. As shown in Fig. 5, the  
 back 3 is narrower or shorter than the width  
 20 of the frame 1, so as to have movement rela-  
 tive thereto. The sheets 4 5 constitute one  
 member and the sheets 6 7 another member  
 of the sign.

When the parts are adjusted together and  
 25 the back 3 is moved to the right, as in Fig. 2,  
 the strips 6<sup>c</sup> 7<sup>c</sup> will be shifted behind the cor-  
 responding strips of the front sheets and con-  
 cealed, and thereby the lettering or design  
 placed upon the front sheets will be exposed  
 30 to view. Any suitable lettering or design for  
 an alteration of the sign will be placed upon  
 the strips of the back sheets, and when the  
 back 3 is adjusted to the left the strips 6<sup>c</sup> 7<sup>c</sup>  
 will be pushed through between the corre-  
 35 sponding strips of the front sheets, (see Fig.  
 3,) concealing the latter and exposing to view  
 the lettering, &c., upon the back sheets. The  
 front sheets may be colored to contrast with  
 the rear sheets, so that when the latter are in  
 40 one position one color will be exposed and  
 when moved to another position a different  
 color will be exposed to attract attention, and  
 likewise different designs and other arrange-  
 ments familiar to the sign-makers art may be  
 45 adopted on the front and back sheets to vary  
 the design as one set of sheets is adjusted with  
 respect to the other.

As indicated in the drawings, a rib 8 may  
 be provided all around frame 1, against which  
 50 the front sheet 4 may lie to provide a space  
 between that sheet and the glass 2 to keep the  
 strips from the back sheets from engaging the  
 glass as they are projected through between  
 the front sheets. To permit the back 3 to  
 55 readily slide with respect to frame 1, said  
 back may be mounted upon ball-bearings, and  
 in order that such bearings may act efficiently  
 when the sign is placed at an angle to the ver-  
 tical, as along the upper corner of a railway-  
 60 car, the back 3 is shown provided with lon-  
 gitudinally-disposed recesses or grooves pro-  
 viding webs 3<sup>a</sup>, whereby the balls 9 may rest  
 in the races formed between the frame 1, the  
 front sheet 5, the web 3<sup>a</sup>, and the edge 3<sup>b</sup> of  
 65 the back 3. Pins or stops 10 at the ends of

the back and between said ends limit the move-  
 ment of the balls. The back 3 being thus  
 freely mounted may slide within the frame  
 without undue friction, and such sign being  
 placed in a railway-car the sudden stopping 70  
 or starting of the car may be utilized as a  
 means for causing the shifting or changing of  
 the sign. In other words, when the car is  
 suddenly brought to a stop the back 3 may  
 shift in one direction with respect to the frame 75  
 1, and when the car is suddenly started the  
 reverse shifting may take place, thereby caus-  
 ing the automatic shifting of the sign. How-  
 ever, it is also contemplated that any suitable  
 mechanism may be provided for causing the 80  
 back 3, with its attached sheets 6 7, to shift  
 back and forth for alternately exposing the  
 different displays on the front and rear sheets.

At 11 are indicated clips attached to frame  
 1 and overlying the back 3 to keep the vari- 85  
 ous parts in position. By having the front  
 sheets fitted snugly within frame 1 and the  
 rear sheets adapted to move relatively to the  
 front sheets the changing of the display is  
 readily effected by the movement of one set 90  
 of sheets relatively to the other.

My invention is not limited to the particu-  
 lar details of arrangement shown and de-  
 scribed—as, for instance, instead of strips and  
 tongues and cross-pieces being produced from 95  
 a sheet of material by cutting slots, &c., the  
 same may be made by taking separate strips  
 of material and pasting them in proper parallel  
 positions upon cross-bars, thus virtually build-  
 ing up the sheets—and other modifications 100  
 may be made in the details set forth without  
 departing from the spirit of my invention.

Having now described my invention, what  
 I claim is—

1. A sign comprising a pair of sheets pro- 105  
 vided with slots and strips, the strips of one  
 sheet overlapping the slots of the next sheet,  
 and another pair of sheets provided with over-  
 lapping strips respectively located between  
 strips of the first-named sheets and adapted 110  
 to slide across the latter and to be concealed  
 behind the same, substantially as described.

2. A sign comprising a pair of sheets pro-  
 vided with slots and strips placed one upon  
 the other with strips of one sheet passing 115  
 through the slots of the other sheet and over-  
 lapping the transverse pieces thereof provid-  
 ing openings therebetween, and another pair  
 of sheets provided with strips overlapping  
 each other and alined with the spaces between 120  
 the corresponding first-named strips and ar-  
 ranged to slide in front of the latter to con-  
 ceal them and to slide behind said strips to  
 expose the latter to view, substantially as de-  
 scribed. 125

3. A sign comprising a pair of sheets pro-  
 vided with transverse slots and having slits at  
 corresponding sides of said slots providing  
 extended strips, the strips of one sheet pass-  
 ing through the slots of another sheet, and 130



another pair of sheets provided with strips respectively located between two strips of the first-named sheets and arranged to slide therebetween over the faces of the first-named strips to conceal the latter, substantially as described.

4. A sign comprising a member having strips, part of one strip overlapping part of an adjacent strip and providing spaces therebetween, and another member having strips lying partly one upon another arranged adjacent to the first-named strips and alined with said spaces to pass therethrough, a frame to which the first-named strips are attached, said frame having horizontally-disposed guiding-ways, and a back to which the second-named strips are attached, said back being guided by said ways and arranged to have movement with respect to said frame for causing the last-named strips to alternately con-

ceal and expose the first-named strips, substantially as described.

5. In a sign the combination of a frame having horizontally-disposed guideways, transverse strips secured to said frame and having openings between them, with a back for said frame arranged to have movement therein, strips carried by said back arranged to slide between the first-named strips to alternately expose and conceal the latter, and antifriction-balls located between said frame and said back, the latter having two bearing-surfaces for the corresponding balls, said balls being mounted to travel along said ways, substantially as described.

NATHAN B. WOOD.

Witnesses:

T. F. BOURNE,  
M. HOLLINGSHEAD.