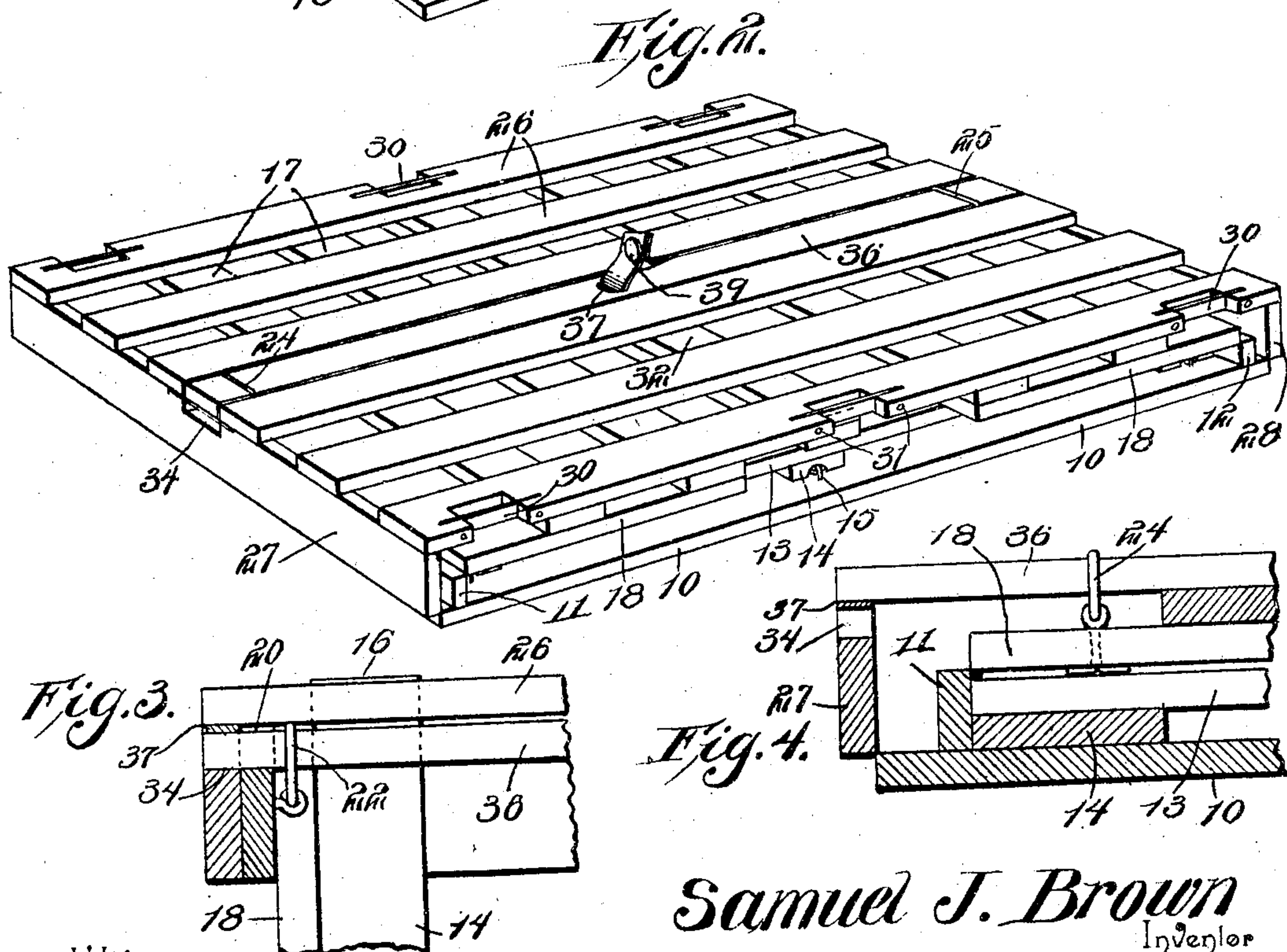
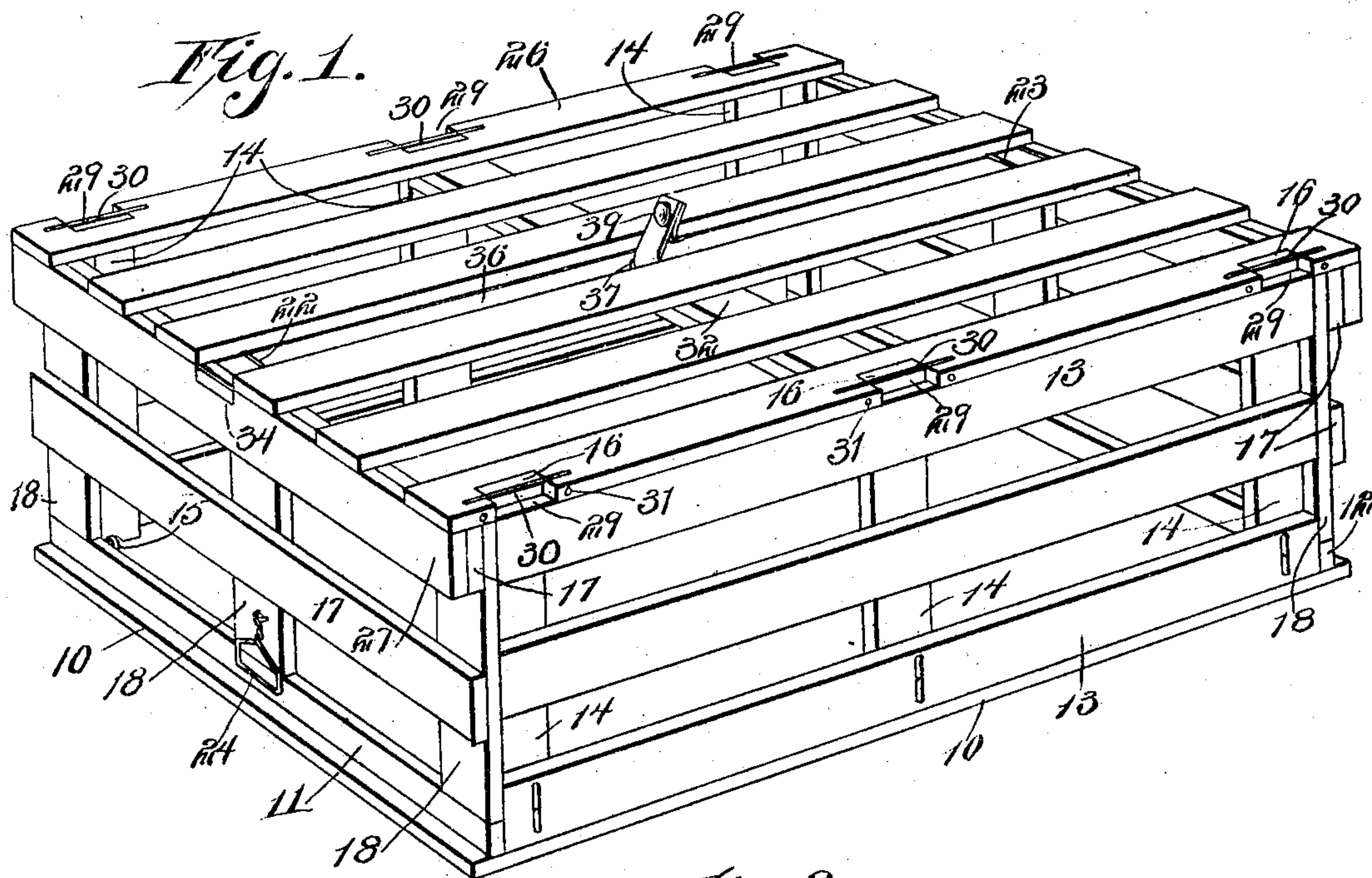


No. 796,560.

PATENTED AUG. 8, 1905.

S. J. BROWN.
FOLDING CRATE OR BOX.
APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 15, 1904.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



Witnesses
E. H. Stewart
Le N Woodward

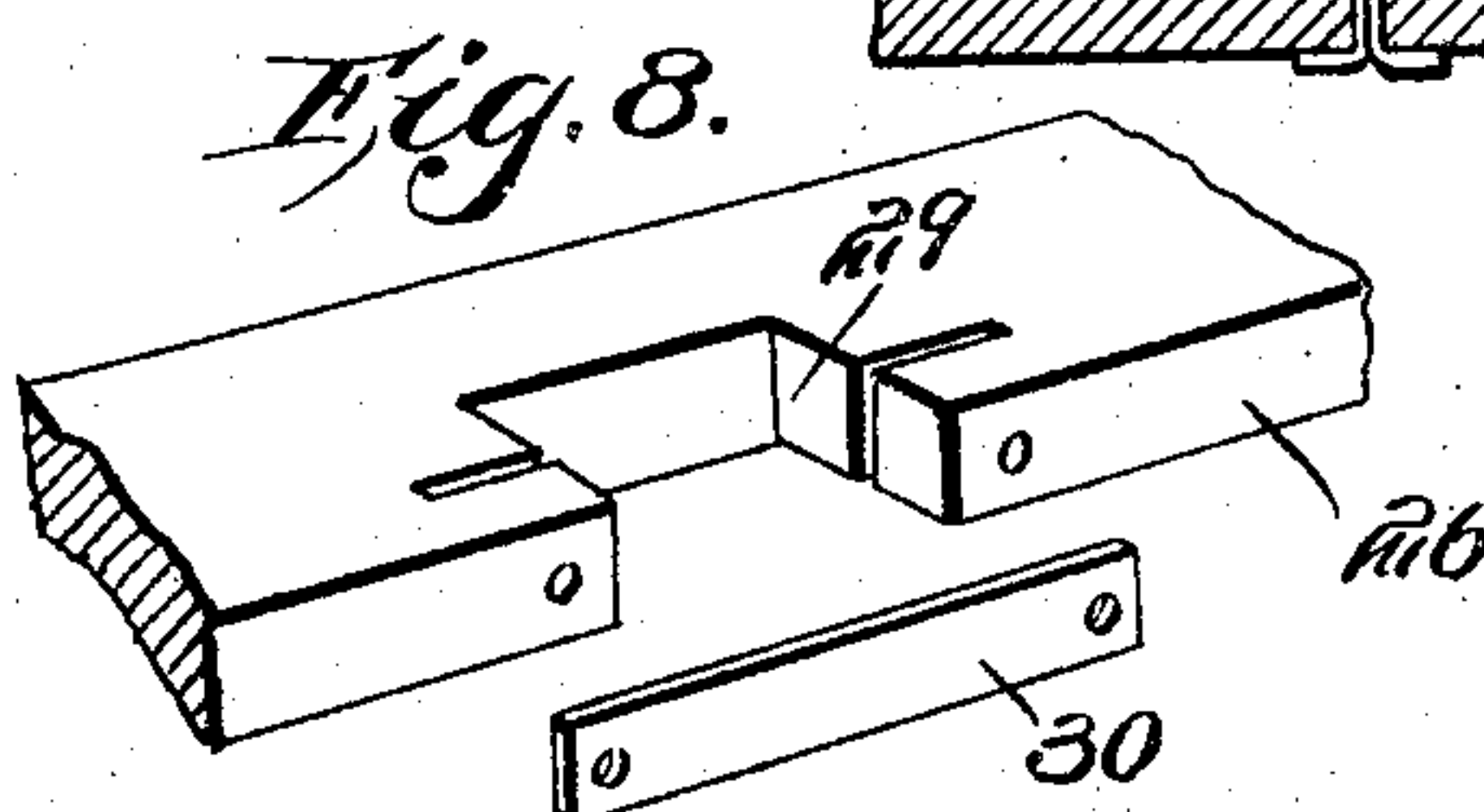
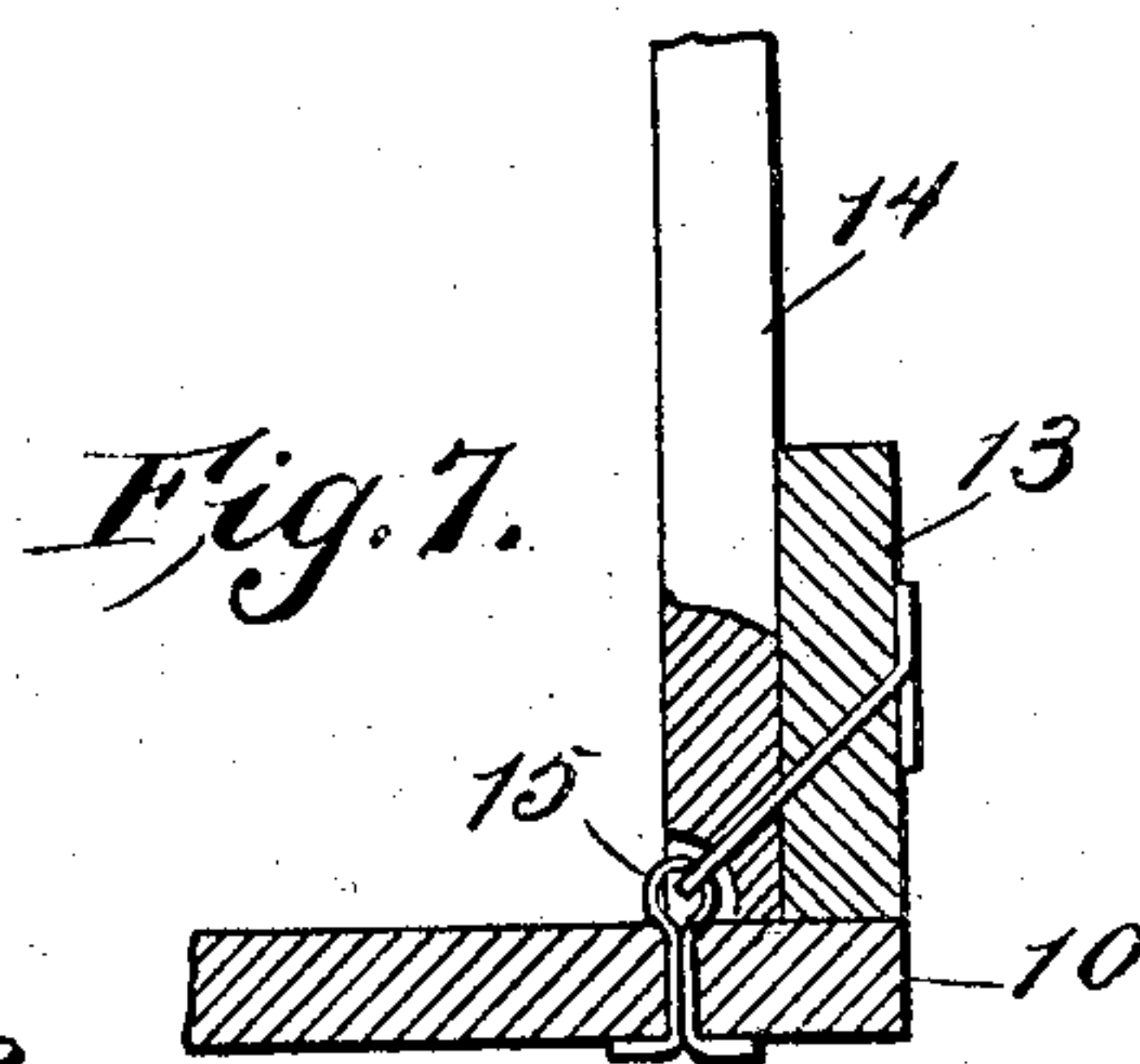
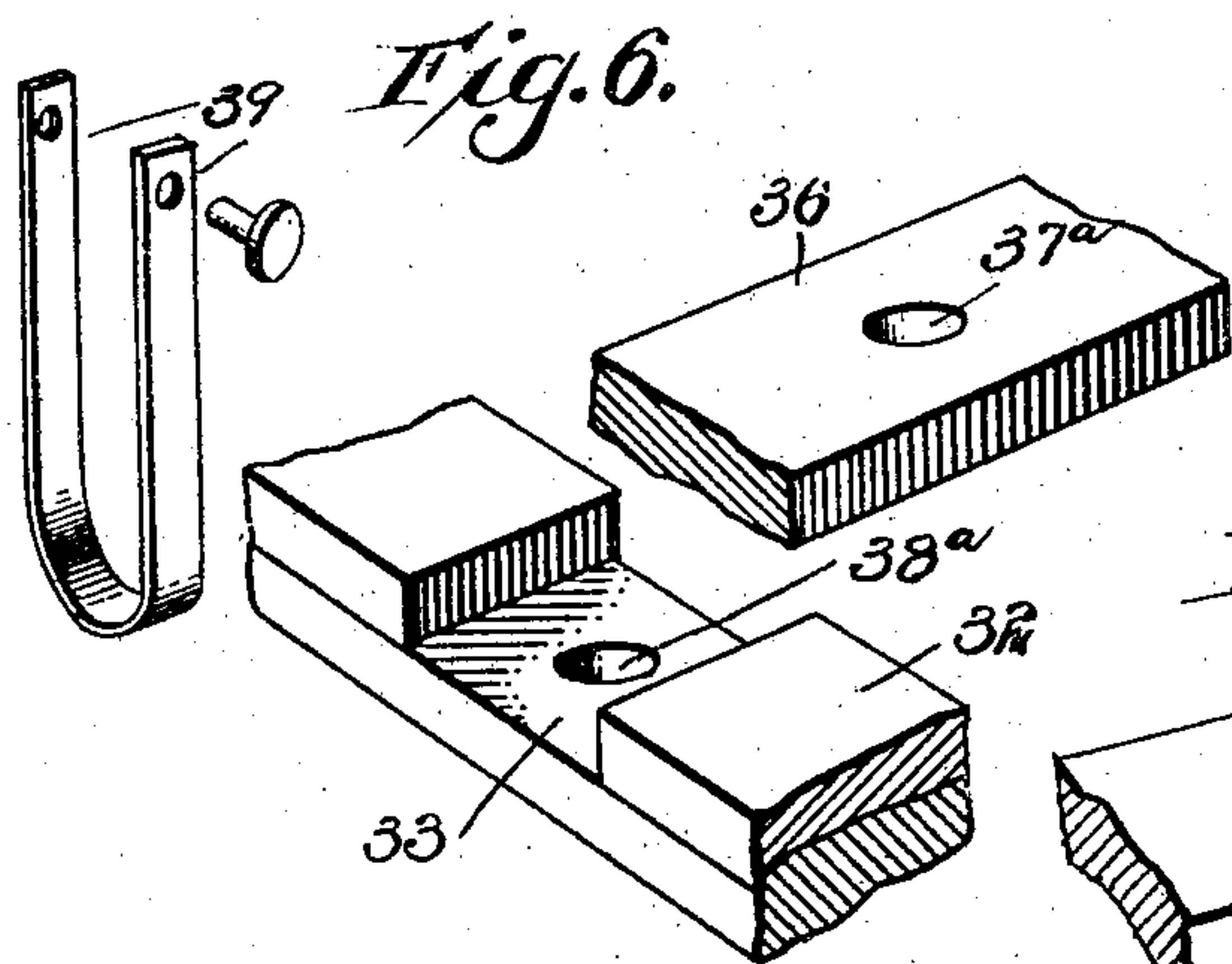
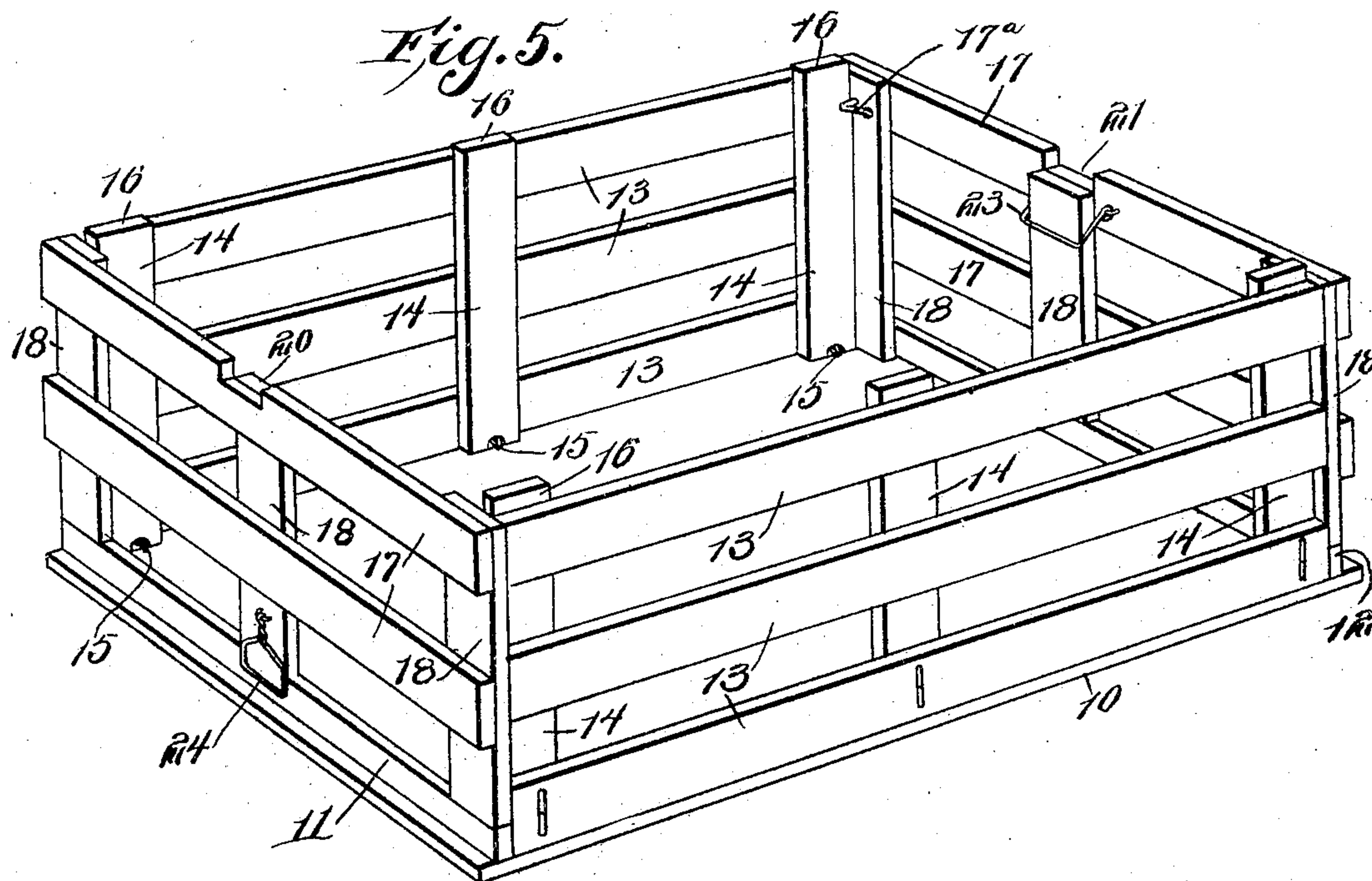
Samuel J. Brown
Inventor
by *C. A. Snow & Co.*
Attorneys

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



Witnesses
E. H. Stewart
C. H. Woodward

Samuel J. Brown
Inventor
by *Chas. Snow & Co.*
Attorneys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL J. BROWN, OF EKRON, KENTUCKY, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO
WILLIAM A. MORGAN, OF EASTMAN, GEORGIA.

FOLDING CRATE OR BOX.

No. 796,560.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Aug. 8, 1905.

Application filed September 15, 1904. Serial No. 224,608.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SAMUEL J. BROWN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Ekron, in the county of Meade and State of Kentucky, have invented a new and useful Folding Crate or Box, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to folding crates or boxes, and has for its object to provide a simply-constructed and easily-operated receptacle of this character having novel features of construction and arrangement of parts; and the invention consists in certain novel features of construction, as hereinafter shown and described, and specified in the claims.

In the drawings illustrative of the invention, in which corresponding parts are denoted by like designating characters, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the improved device set up, and Fig. 2 is a similar view of the device collapsed or folded. Figs. 3 and 4 are sectional details of the means for locking the device open or closed. Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the device set up with the cover removed. Fig. 6 is a collective detail view of the parts comprising the central sealing means. Fig. 7 is a sectional detail of one of the hinges between the folding sides and ends and the base. Fig. 8 is a perspective detail view, on an enlarged scale, showing a portion of one of the cover members.

The improved device consists of a base member 10, having transverse cleats 11 12 at the ends, and between these cleats the side members are foldably disposed, as shown. The side members consist of spaced longitudinal slats 13 and transverse ribs 14, the latter hinged by one end to the base member, as at 15, and with their upper ends extending in advance of the outermost of the slats 13, as shown at 16. As many of the slats and ribs may be employed as required, depending on the size of crate desired; but for the purpose of illustration three slats and three transverse ribs are shown. The width of the base member 13 and the ribs 14 should be so proportioned that when the side members are folded inward upon the base member they will not overlap, and the cleats 11 12 should be as high as the combined thickness of the slats 13 and ribs 14, as will be obvious. The end members of the crate are formed of longitudinal slats 17 and transverse ribs 18, the ribs hinged to the cleats 11 and 12 in the same manner as

the ribs 14 are hinged to the base 10. The transverse ribs are provided with spring-catches 17^a, one only being shown in Fig. 5, which are designed to engage the side members and hold them against inward yielding. These spring-catches are adapted to be pressed inward against the transverse ribs when the side members are to be collapsed. It will be noted that the lowermost of the side slats rest directly upon base member 10, so that no crevices remain at the sides through which the legs or feet of fowls can pass, and thus become injured, when the crate is employed for shipping poultry, while the cleats 11 12 serve the same purpose at the ends. By this arrangement of parts shown the side members are foldable inward upon the base member 10 and the end members foldable over the folded side members, as shown in Fig. 2.

The upper slats 17 of the end members are provided, respectively, with central recesses 20 21 and the recesses provided with hinged loops of wire 22 23, adapted when elevated to register with the recesses. The loops 22 23 are disposed interiorly of the end members, and attached to the lower or hinged edges of the end members exteriorly thereof are similar loops 24 25, the object of the loops to be hereinafter explained.

The cover member is formed of longitudinal-spaced slats 26, connected at their ends by transverse cleats 27 28, the latter depending beyond the upper slats 17 of the end members when the latter are distended, as shown in Fig. 1. The outer slats of the cover member are provided with recesses 29, in which the projecting ends 16 of the ribs 14 extend when the cover is in position, and each of these recesses will be provided with oppositely-disposed clefts to receive metal stop-plates 30 to form closures to the recesses, as shown, the plates being held in position by nails or screws, as indicated at 31.

The cover member is provided with a central transverse rib 32, and centrally of this rib is a depression or recess 33, and in the end cleats 27 28 similar recesses 34 are formed, one only being shown in Fig. 2. Metal strips 37 are inserted between the cleats 27 28 and the slats 26, adjacent to the recesses 34, to form closures thereto and transform them into apertures to confine a lock-bar 36 and hold the cover member in position. The recesses 33 and 34 are in longitudinal alinement and will

also come in alinement with the recesses 20 21 and loops 22 23 when the cover is in position upon the extended receptacle, as in Fig. 1, the alined and registering loops and recesses providing means for the reception of a locking-bar 36, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. By this simple means when the parts are distended and the locking-bar inserted the whole is firmly supported and prevented from collapsing so long as the bar is in position. To prevent the accidental or surreptitious removal of the bar and the premature opening of the crate, the recess 33 and the center of the bar 36 are provided with registering apertures 37^a 38^a, through which a "seal" or lock, as 39, of approved form may be passed.

When the crate is to be collapsed or folded, the bar 36 is removed, the cover detached, and the sides and ends folded inward, this action bringing the loops 24 25 in position opposite the path of the bar 36, and by inserting the bar through these loops means are provided for locking the crate in its collapsed position, the apertures 37^a 38^a being available for applying a lock or seal both to the closed and open crate, as will be obvious.

The crate may be employed for shipping poultry, fruit, vegetables, or any desired produce or merchandise and may be constructed in any required size and of any required material and may be formed with slotted or closed sides, as may be found advantageous.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

1. In a folding crate or box, side and end members foldable inwardly into superimposed position and provided with transverse recesses and swinging loops for registration with said recesses, a cover member for engagement with said side and end members when set up and having apertures corresponding with said recesses and swinging loops, and with a trans-

verse rib having a recess disposed in longitudinal alinement with the recess in said end members and provided with a transverse aperture, and a locking-bar for engagement with said recesses and apertures and loops and having a transverse aperture for registration with the aperture in said transverse rib, said registering apertures providing means for the application of a sealing member, substantially as described.

2. In a folding crate or box, side and end members separable at the corners and foldable inwardly, said side members having spaced projections at their free edges, in combination with a cover member having spaced recesses in the side edges to receive said projections, and with oppositely-disposed clefts in said recesses to receive metal stop-strips in advance of said projections, substantially as described.

3. In a folding crate or box, side and end members foldable inwardly into superimposed position and provided with transverse recesses and swinging loops for registration with said recesses upon the inner surfaces of said end members, swinging loops carried by the lower outer edges of said end members for extension in advance of their outer surfaces, a cover member for engagement with said side and end members when folded and having a central longitudinal recess, and a locking-bar for engagement with the longitudinal recess and said outwardly-extending loops, whereby said crate or box may be locked in its closed position, substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

SAMUEL J. BROWN.

Witnesses:

A. G. GUÉDRY,
C. H. MILLS.