

No. 798,296.

PATENTED AUG. 29, 1905.

E. PRAEGER.
LATCH.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 28, 1905.

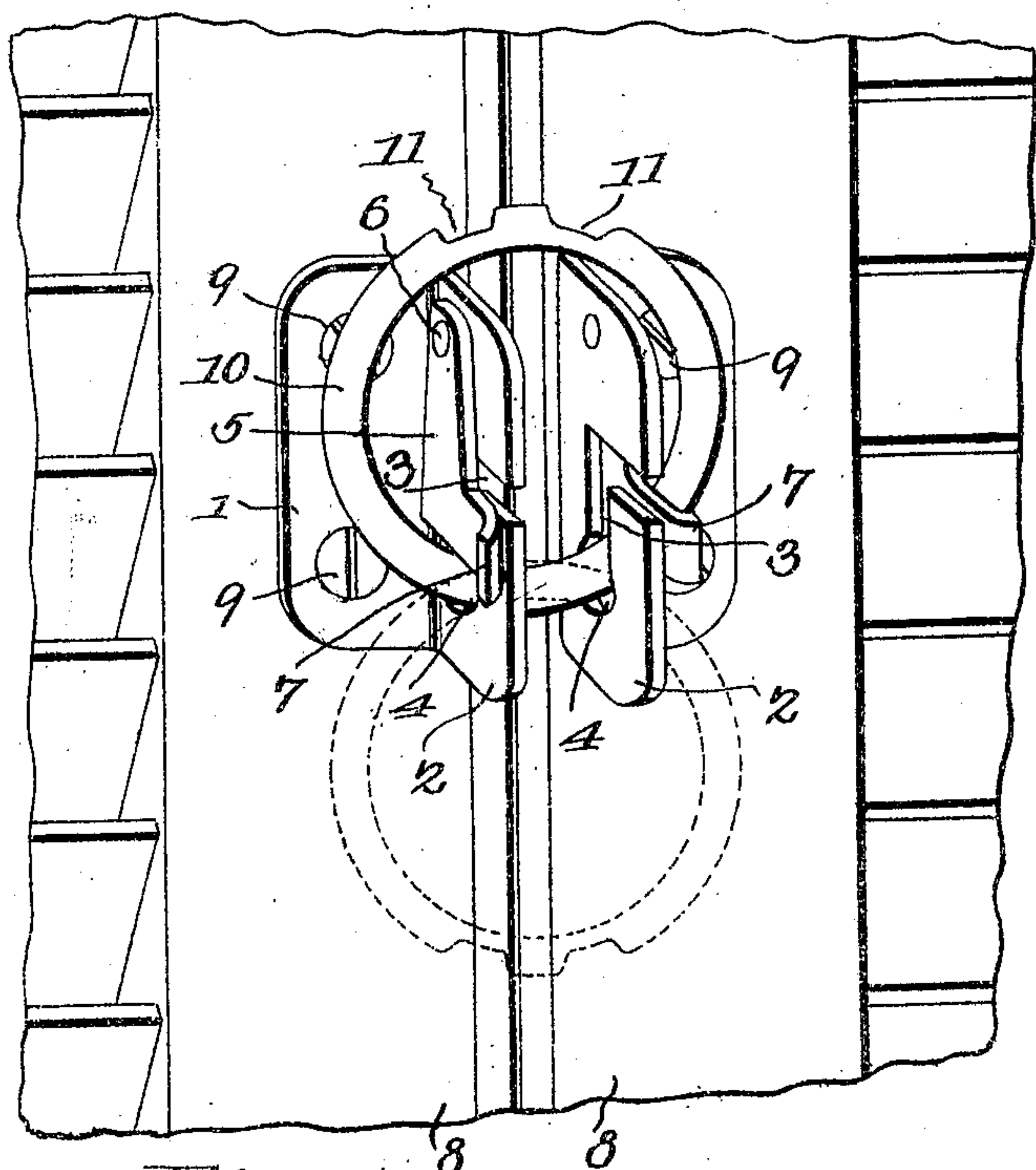


Fig. 1.

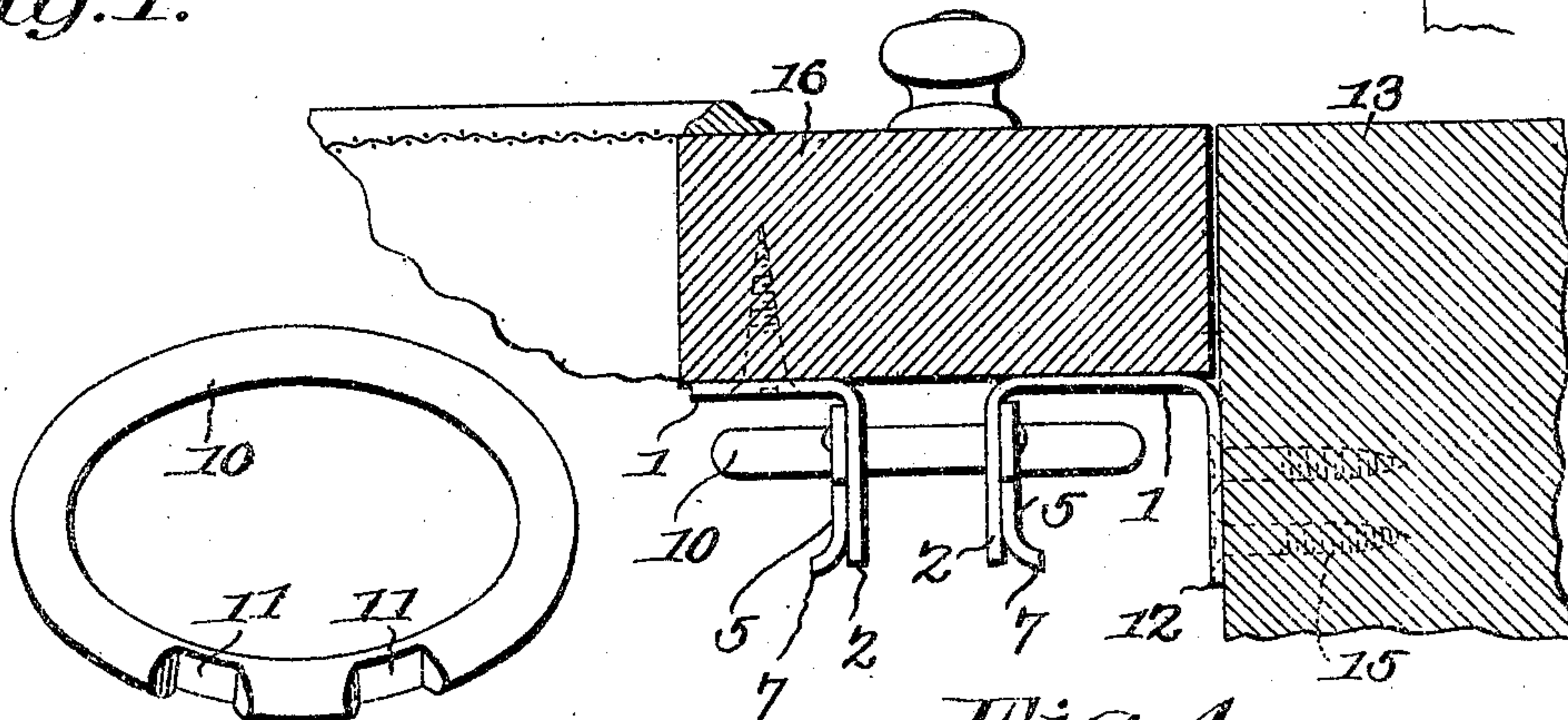
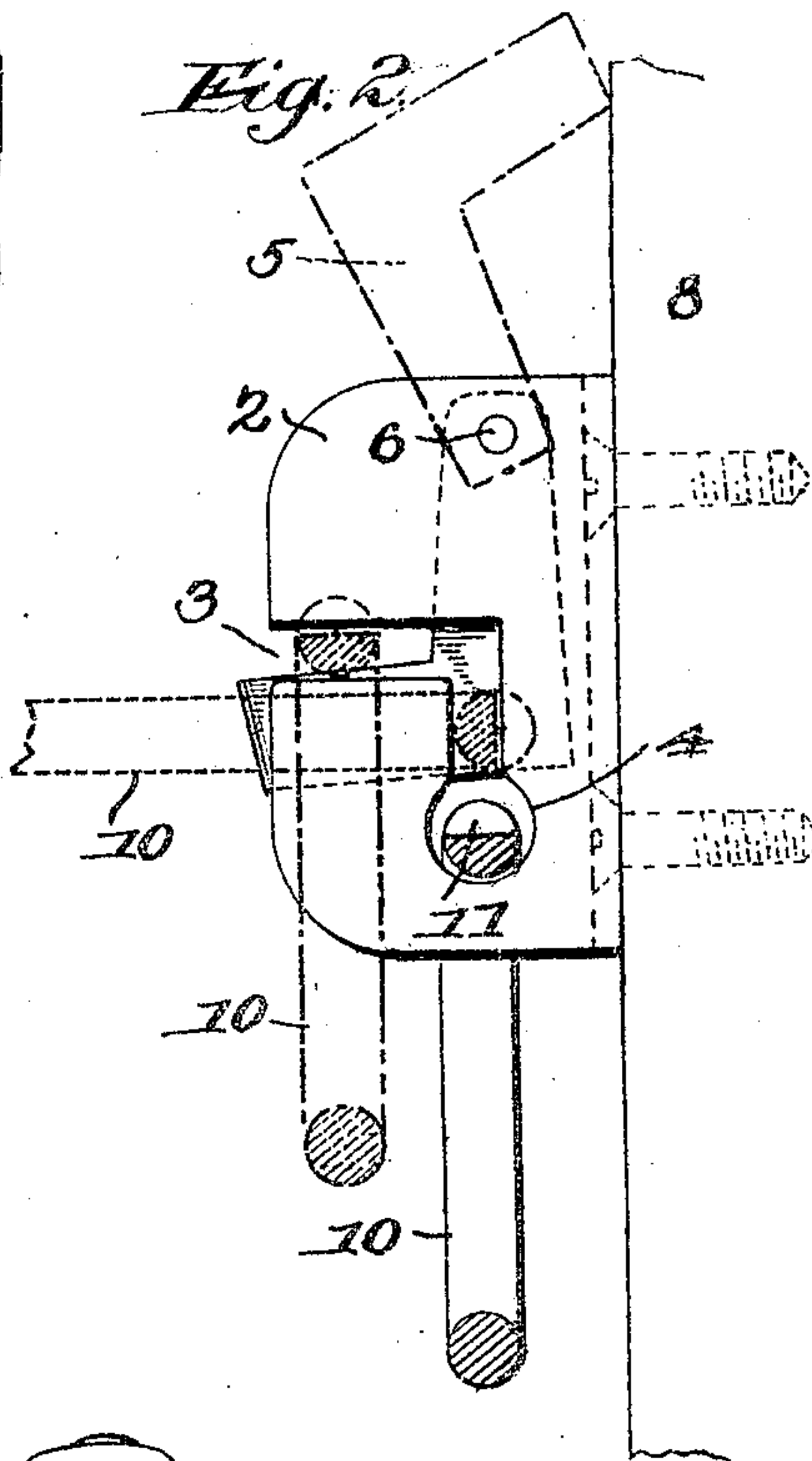


Fig. 3.

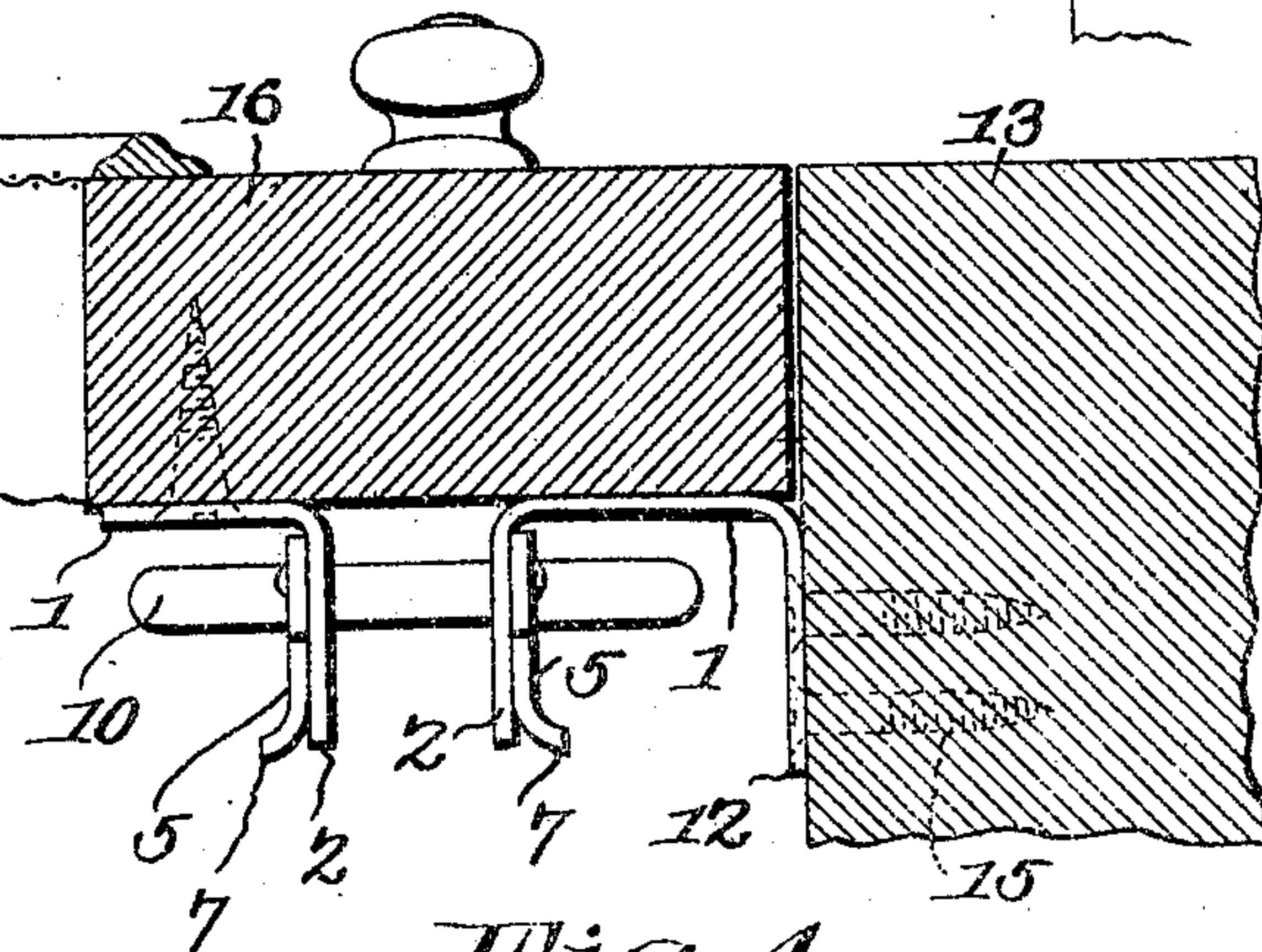


Fig. 4.

Witnesses

E. W. Stewart
W. A. Shepard

Ewald Praeger

Inventor

by *C. A. Snow & Co.*
Attorneys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

EWALD PRAEGER, OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS.

LATCH.

No. 798,296.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Aug. 29, 1905.

Application filed March 28, 1905. Serial No. 252,569.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EWALD PRAEGER, a citizen of the United States, residing at San Antonio, in the county of Bexar and State of Texas, have invented a new and useful Latch, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to latches, and while it is capable of general use it has also been particularly designed as a blind-fastener for locking a pair of blinds at their meeting edges at any point between the top and bottom thereof supplemental to the ordinary blind-catch.

It is also proposed to so construct and arrange the latch as to require a complicated manipulation thereof to release the latch and to compel the use of both hands, so as to guard against the fraudulent releasing of the latch from the exterior of the blinds.

With these and other objects in view the present invention consists in the combination and arrangement of parts, as will be hereinafter more fully described, shown in the accompanying drawings, and particularly pointed out in the appended claims, it being understood that changes in the form, proportion, size, and minor details may be made within the scope of the claims without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view illustrating the latch of the present invention mounted upon a pair of blinds. Fig. 2 is an elevation looking at the edge of one of the blinds with the locking-link in section and the successive positions of the link indicated in dotted lines. Fig. 3 is a detail perspective view of the locking-link removed. Fig. 4 is a plan section taken through the free edge of the door and the adjacent door-frame with the latch of the present invention applied to lock the door to the frame.

Like characters of reference designate corresponding parts in each and every figure of the drawings.

The device of the present invention includes a pair of complementary members, each of which has an attaching-plate 1, with an up-standing flange 2 projecting from one longitudinal edge of the plate at substantially right angles thereto; it being preferred to form the flange by bending the same from the plate 1. The flange portion 2 is provided with a bayonet-slot 3, preferably of invert-

ed-L shape, with the transverse or horizontal branch of the slot intersecting the front edge of the flange and the lower end of the upright branch of the slot terminating in an enlargement 4. Upon that side of the flange which is adjacent the attaching-plate 1 there is a substantially L-shaped latch member 5, which is pivotally hung by its upper end upon the flange 2, as indicated at 6, in an exceedingly loose manner, while its lower transverse member is adapted to lie across the upright branch of the slot, the outer extremity of the lower portion of the latch being turned out, as at 7, to form a convenient finger-piece. The complementary members thus described are designed to have their attaching-plates 1 applied to the inner sides of the respective members of a pair of window-blinds, which have been shown at 8 in Fig. 1 of the drawings, said parts being attached to the upright meeting rails or edges of the blinds and secured thereto by means of suitable fastenings, such as screws 9, with the flanges 2 spaced at a suitable distance—say, for instance, a half-inch.

For coöperation with the stationary members of the latch there is a locking-link 10, preferably circular in form and provided with a pair of adjacent notches 11 in its external periphery, the thickness of the link being greater than the width of the slots 3.

To lock the present latch, the pivotal latch members 5 are swung upwardly, as in Fig. 2, and then the notched portions of the locking-link are passed through the horizontal branches of the slots, as indicated by the vertical dotted-line position of the link in Fig. 2 of the drawings, the link being gradually turned into a horizontal position, so as to be passed downward through the upright branches of the slot until the link is received in the enlarged bottom portions of the slots, whereupon the latches 5 are swung downwardly, so as to close the upright branches of the slots, and thereby prevent accidental and unauthorized removal of the locking-link. While it is not absolutely essential, it is preferred to turn the locking-link so as to bring its notched portions out of the enlarged closed lower ends 4 of the slots, and, if desired, the link may be swung upwardly, so as to embrace the top edges of the fixed members of the latch, as shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings, in order to prevent looseness, and consequent rattling, of the link. The upper corners of the parts 2 are rounded or

beveled, and the parts are so proportioned that the link or ring has a frictional engagement with the tops of the members 2 sufficient to hold the same against rattling.

5 The present latch is designed to be supplemental to the ordinary blind-catches mounted upon the window-sill, and it is preferred to locate the present latch about midway between the top and bottom of the blinds.

10 The particular advantage of the present invention resides in the fact that the swinging members 5 and the locking-link 10 cannot be so manipulated as to release the latch by a blade or the like passed through the
15 slatted portion of the blinds, as it requires the use of both hands to individually manipulate the pivotal members 5 and the locking-link 10.

In order that the device may be employed
20 as a latch for doors, it is proposed to provide the part 1 of one of the stationary members with a flange 12, as shown in Fig. 4 of the drawings, said flange being opposite the part 2 and designed for connection with a door-
25 frame 13 by means of suitable fastenings 15, whereby this member of the latch forms a stop for the door 16, which carries the other complementary member, the other portions of the latch being precisely the same as that
30 hereinbefore described, the only difference residing in the addition of the flange 12.

From the foregoing description it will be understood that the device of the present invention is exceedingly simple from the stand-
35 point of manufacture, while the operation of releasing the latch is rather complicated, so as to effectually foil any attempt at releasing the latch from the exterior of the blinds, a door, or wherever the latch may be em-
40 ployed. When the latch is released and the door or blind is opened, the locking-link 10 may be hung in either of the slots 3, the adjacent latch 5 serving to hold the link therein and prevent accidental displacement thereof,
45 whereby the locking-link is always connected to the latch in readiness for use.

Having fully described the invention, what is claimed is—

50 1. A latch comprising a pair of members having complementary bayonet-slots, and a locking member having a thickness exceeding the width of each slot and provided with a pair of notches to enable the engagement and disengagement of the locking member
55 with respect to the slots, said slots having corresponding enlarged portions to receive the unnotched portion of the locking member.

2. A latch comprising a pair of independent members provided with complementary 60 slots intersecting corresponding edges thereof, and a separate locking member having a thickness exceeding the width of each slot and provided with a notched portion to pass through the slots, said slots having corre- 65 sponding enlargements to receive the unnotched portion of the locking member.

3. A latch comprising a pair of separate members having complementary inverted substantially L-shaped slots intersecting the 70 front upright edges of the members and terminating at their lower ends in corresponding enlargements, and a locking-link having a thickness exceeding the width of each slot and provided with a notched portion to be 75 entered into the slots, the unnotched portion of the link capable of being turned through the enlarged portions of the slots.

4. A latch comprising a pair of independent members having complementary bay- 80 onet-slots intersecting corresponding edges of the members and provided with corresponding enlargements, a separate locking-link having a thickness exceeding the width 85 of each slot and notched to pass through the slots, the unnotched portion of the link capable of being turned through the enlarged portions of the slots, and movable means carried by one of the pair of members for ad- 90 justment across its slot to close the same and prevent accidental releasing of the locking-link.

5. A latch comprising a pair of separate plate members having attaching-flanges at 95 corresponding edges and their other corresponding edges intersected by inverted substantially L-shaped slots which terminate at their lower ends in enlargements, a separate locking-link having a thickness exceeding 100 the width of each slot and notched to pass through the slots into the enlarged portions thereof, said link capable of being turned through the enlarged portions of the slots to bring its unnotched portion into the slots, and pivotal latches hung upon the members 105 and capable of being turned across the locking-link to hold the same in the enlarged portions of the slots.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature 110 in the presence of two witnesses.

EWALD PRAEGER.

Witnesses:

R. B. MINOR,
JOHN A. WARBURTON.