

W. H. KEELER.  
STAMP HOLDER.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 16, 1905.

Fig. 1.

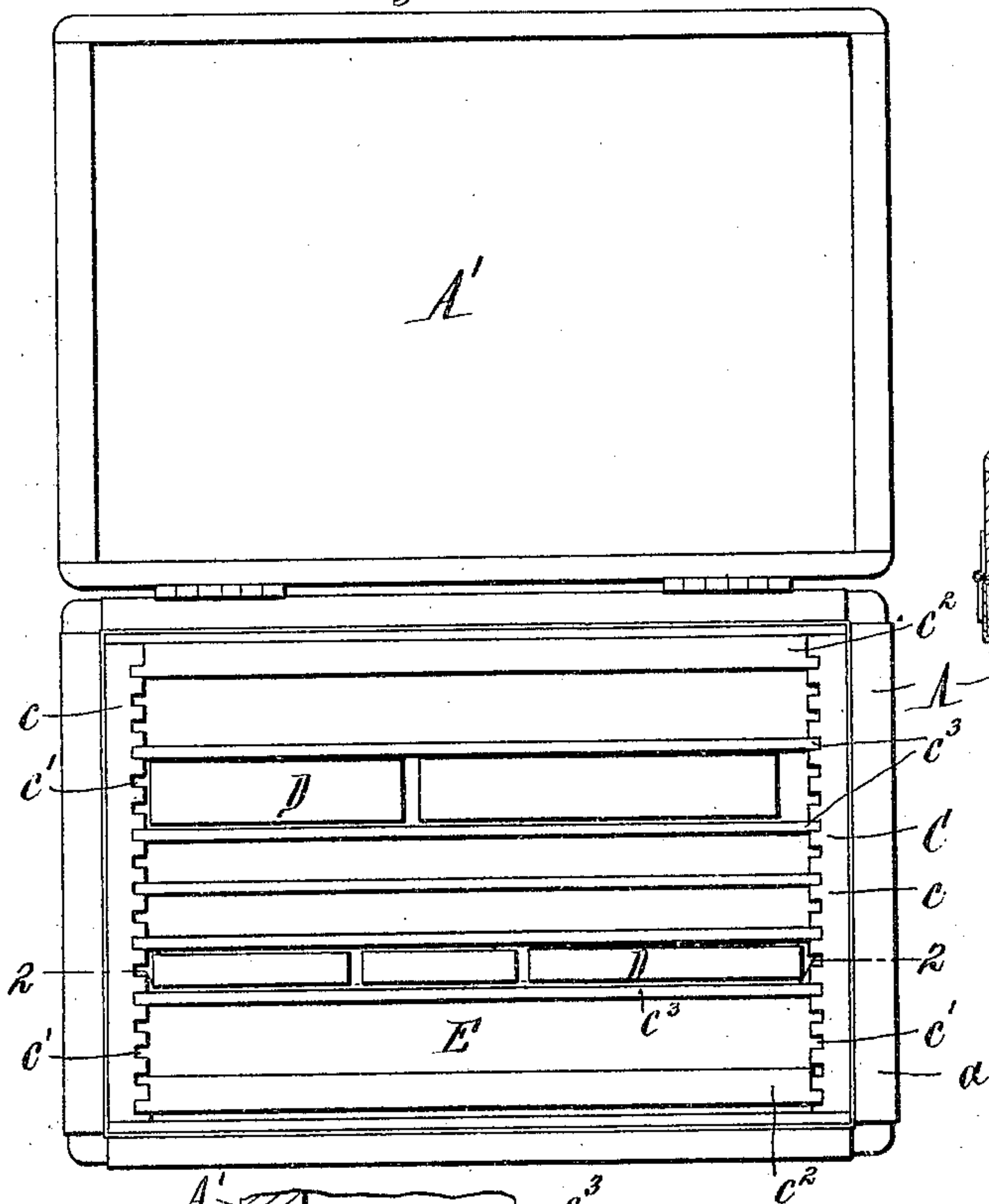


Fig. 6.

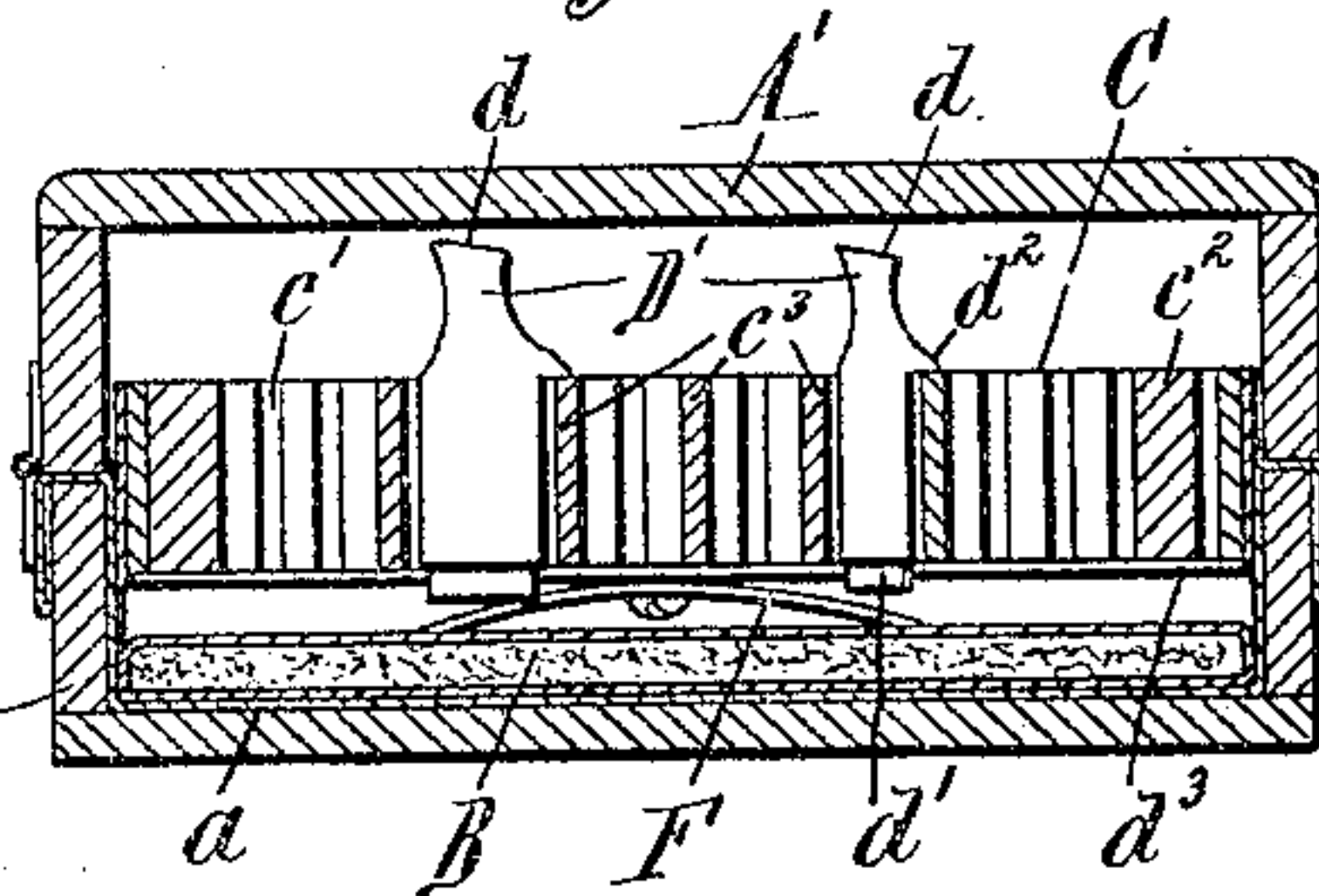


Fig. 4.

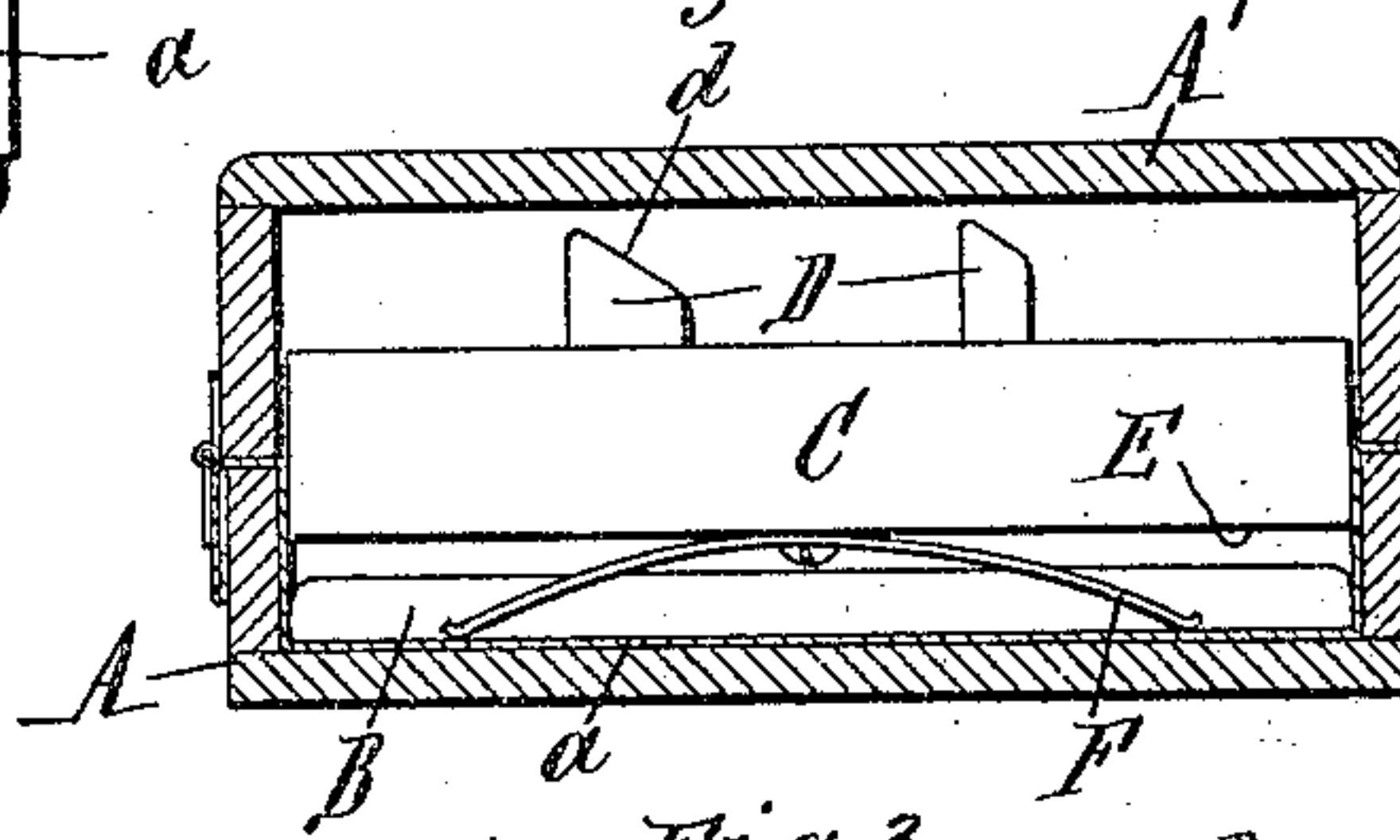


Fig. 3.

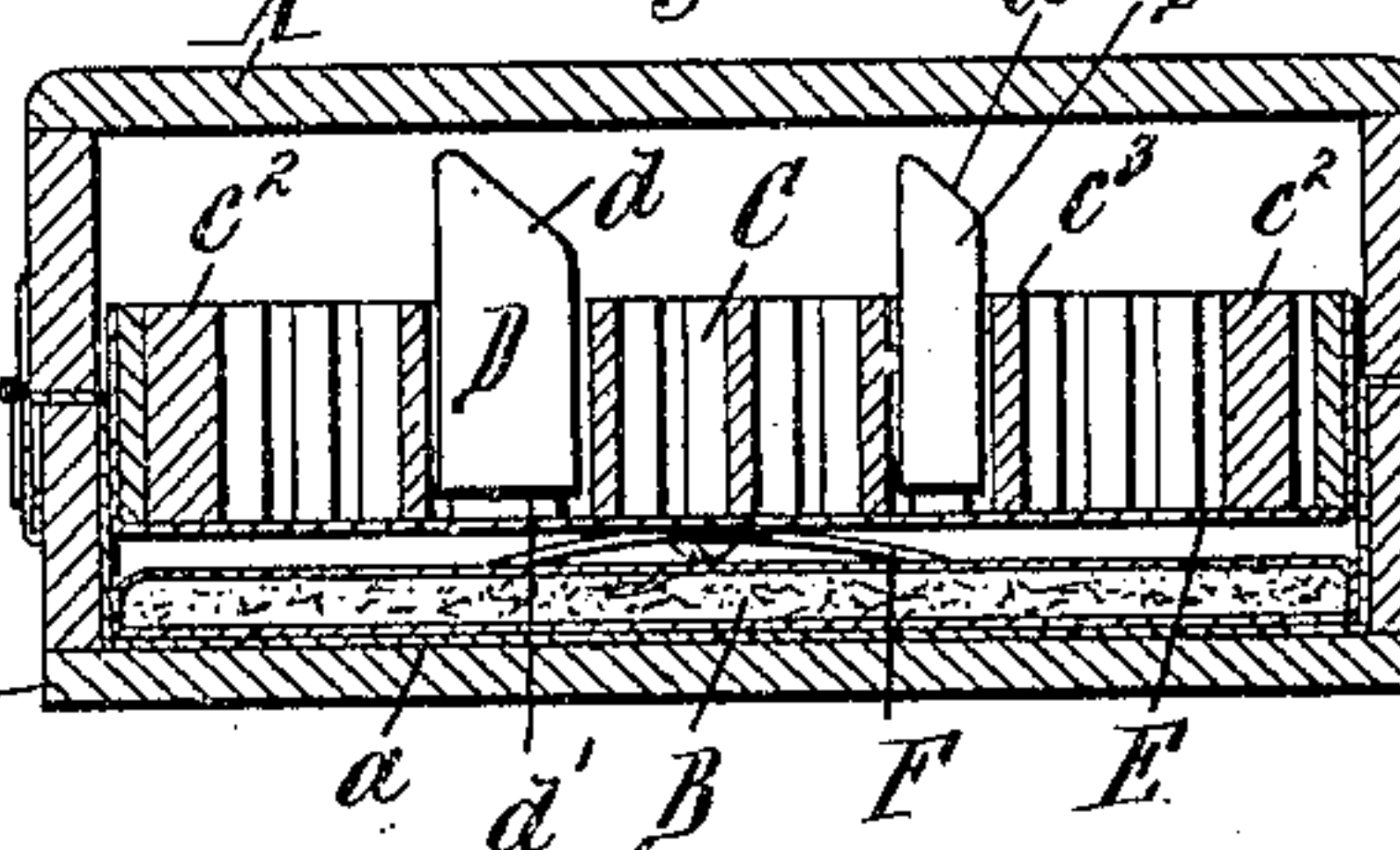


Fig. 5.

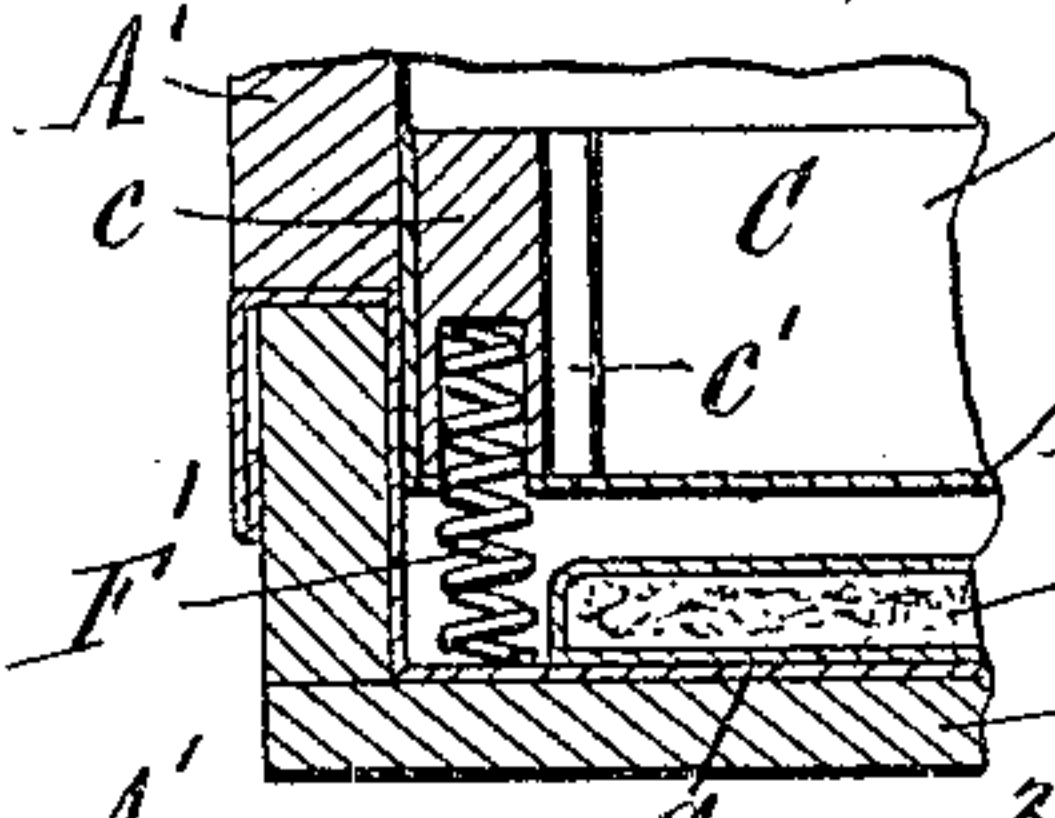


Fig. 2.

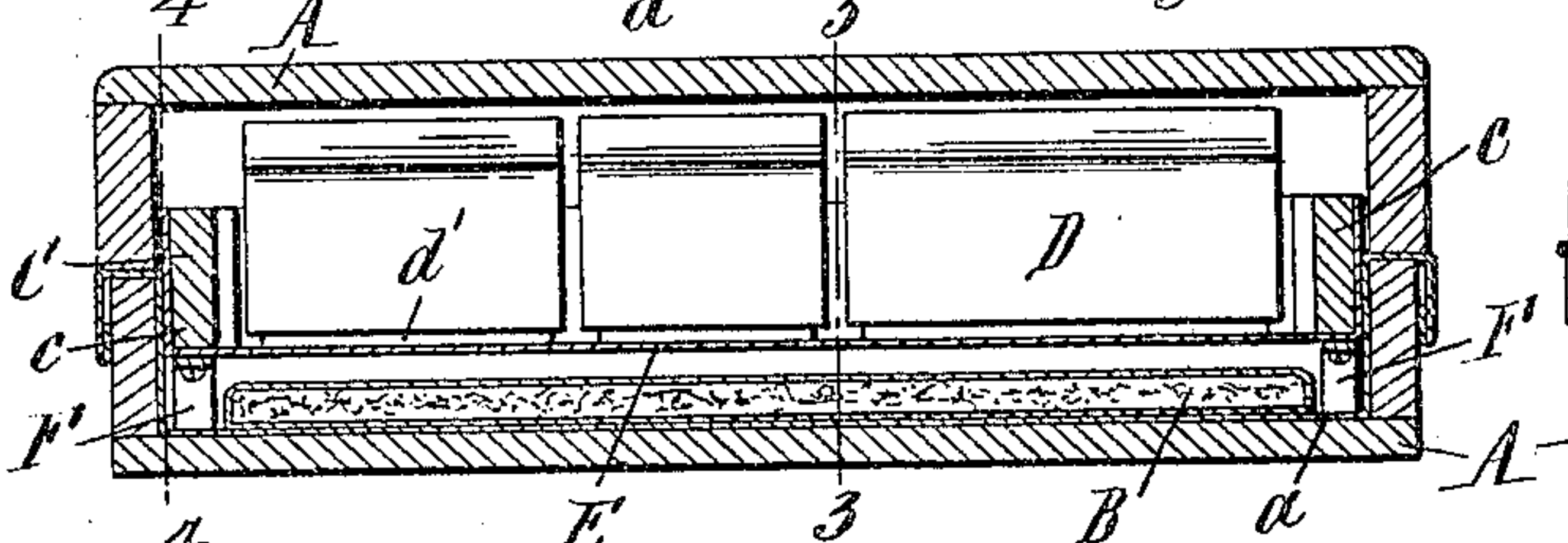


Fig. 8.

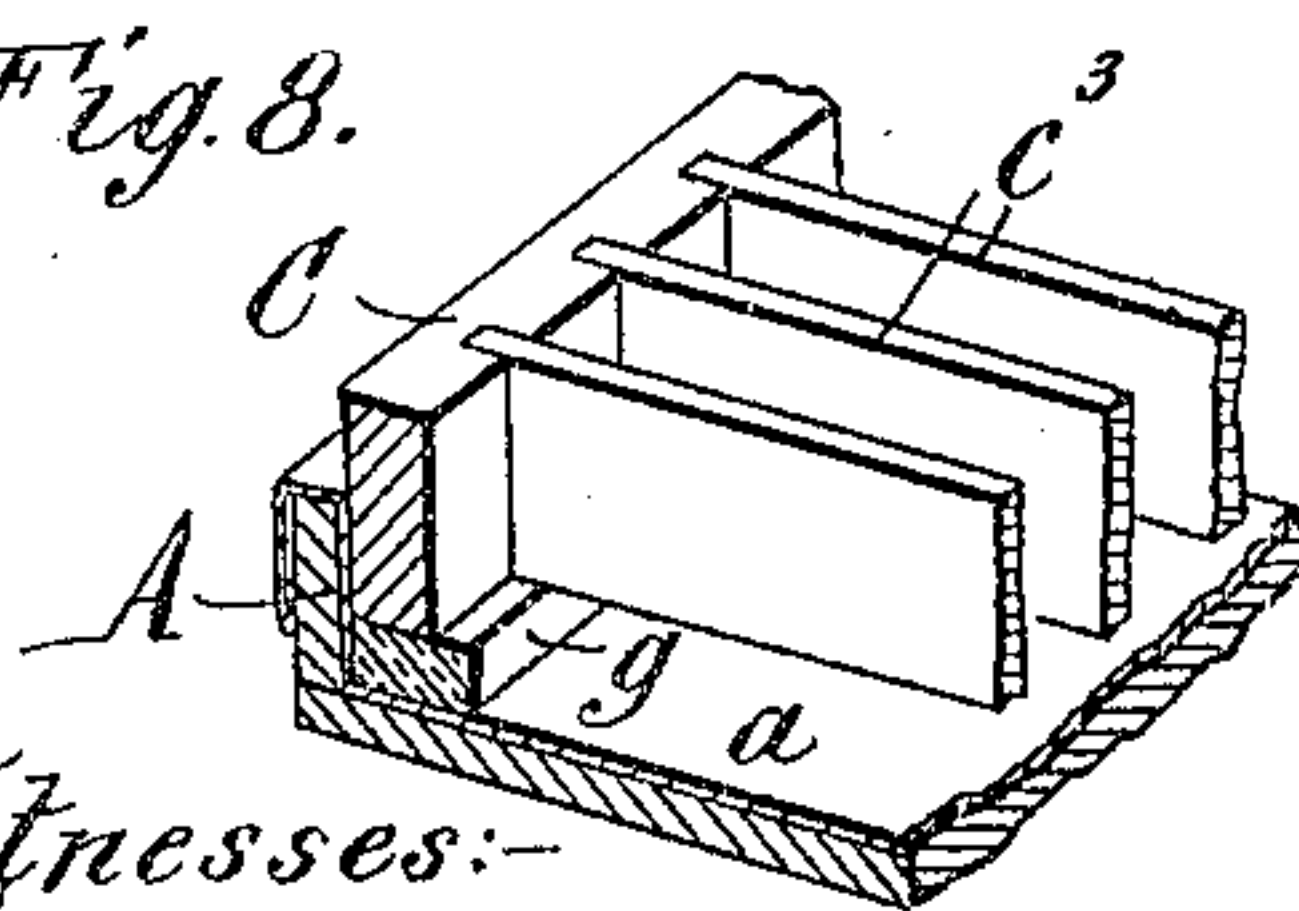
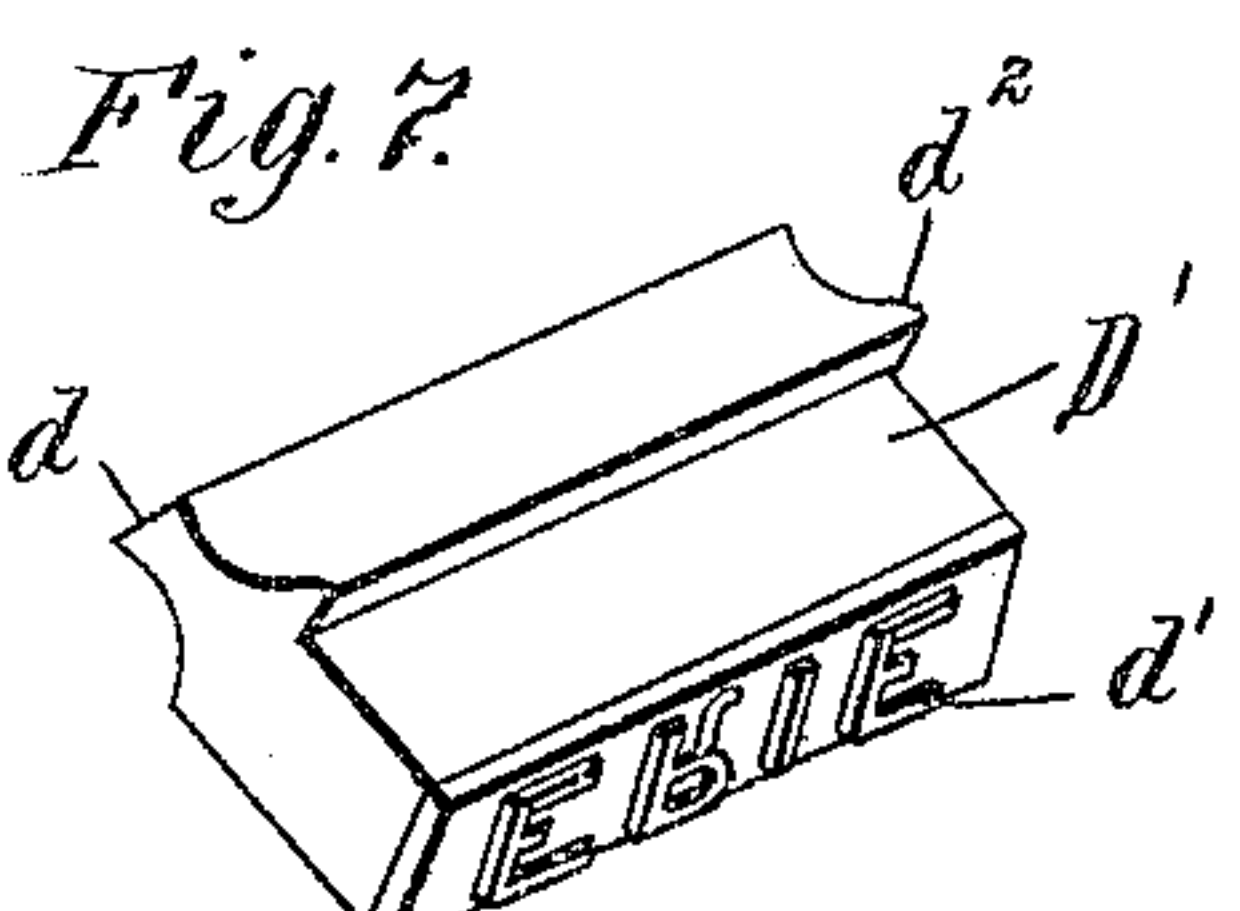


Fig. 7.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## STAMP-HOLDER.

No. 804,326.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Nov. 14, 1905.

Application filed January 16, 1905. Serial No. 241,216.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM H. KEELER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Buffalo, in the county of Erie and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Stamp-Holders, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a stamp case, cabinet, or holder which is designed to contain a number of printing-stamps and an ink-pad or other suitable inking-surface so arranged that the stamps are supported in a position which permits each stamp to be readily selected, inked, and used and returned to its position in the case.

One object of my invention is to construct the device in such manner that the stamps are held normally out of contact with the inking-surface, but can be readily inked from the same.

Another object of the invention is to construct the device in such manner that the entire set of stamps can be readily lifted from the pad or inking-surface for exposing the latter.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a top plan view of a stamp-case provided with my improvements, the lid or cover of the case being open. Fig. 2 is a vertical section through the case in line 2 2, Fig. 1, but showing the cover closed. Fig. 3 is a vertical section at right angles to Fig. 2 in line 3 3, Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a similar section in line 4 4, Fig. 2. Fig. 5 is a sectional elevation of one corner of the case on an enlarged scale, showing a spiral spring underneath the stamp-rack. Fig. 6 is a vertical section similar to Fig. 3, but showing a modified embodiment of the invention. Fig. 7 is a detached perspective view of one of the stamps shown in Fig. 6. Fig. 8 is a fragmentary sectional perspective view illustrating another modification.

Like letters of reference refer to like parts in the several figures.

A represents the body of the case, having the form of an open rectangular box, which is provided, preferably, with a metallic lining *a*. This body is preferably provided with a hinged lid or cover A'; but, if desired, it can be used without a cover. The body A of the case is provided above its bottom with any suitable device for supplying ink to the stamps. The device shown in the drawings

for this purpose consists of a pad B, which is preferably secured upon the bottom of the case by cement or other suitable means. Above this ink-supplying device the body A of the case is provided with a rack or open frame C for holding the stamps. This rack is conveniently constructed of end bars *c*, which are provided in their inner faces with upright grooves *c'*, side bars *c<sup>2</sup>*, which are provided at their ends with tongues by which they are secured in the outermost grooves *c'* by glue or otherwise, and intermediate partitions *c<sup>3</sup>*, which are removably inserted in the grooves. The partitions can be changed from one pair of grooves to another, as may be necessary for conforming the space between the partitions to the size of the stamps.

The stamps D, Figs. 1 to 5, or D', Figs. 6 and 7, are preferably composed of wooden blocks or moldings having at their upper ends faces *d*, upon which the nature of the stamp can be indicated by letters or other characters and having at their lower ends a printing-surface *d'*, preferably made of rubber. These stamps are supported in the rack by any suitable means in such manner that the printing-surfaces of the stamps are normally held above the inking-surface of the ink-supply device or pad and out of contact therewith, but can be pressed down to take ink from the inking-surface when a stamp is required for use.

In the construction represented in Figs. 1 to 5 the stamps D are supported in the rack or frame by a flexible diaphragm or bottom E, which is stretched across the under side of the rack and which is preferably made of a fabric which is pervious to ink. The stamps rest with their printing-surfaces upon this diaphragm or pervious bottom, so that upon pressing a stamp down the stamp will press the diaphragm or pervious bottom upon the inking-surface and take the ink through the diaphragm.

In the construction represented in Figs. 6 and 7 no diaphragm or pervious bottom for supporting the stamps is employed, and the stamps D' are provided with projections or shoulders *d<sup>2</sup>*, by which they rest upon the partitions *c<sup>3</sup>* or other parts of the rack or frame. These stamps are of such height that their printing-surfaces project sufficiently below the rack to bring the stamp in contact with the inking-surface upon depressing the



stamp, as indicated in Fig. 6. When a stamp is depressed, the rack or frame in which it is supported is depressed at the same time. When no diaphragm is employed for supporting the stamps, the partitions of the rack or frame, if they are removably seated in upright grooves, are supported therein by other suitable means—for instance, by a strip  $d^3$ , extending across the lower ends of the grooves.

10 The stamp rack or frame is yieldingly held in an elevated position by springs of any suitable construction, so that the stamps are held with their printing-surfaces above and out of contact with the inking-surface. In the construction shown in Figs. 2, 4, and 6 the rack is provided for this purpose with springs F, of bow or semi-elliptical form, secured at the middle to the under side of the end bars  $c$  of the rack and bearing with their free ends upon the bottom of the case near the four corners thereof. In the construction represented in Fig. 5 the rack is provided at the four corners with spiral springs  $F'$ , which are seated in sockets formed in the under side of the end bars  $c$  of the rack.

In this improved stamp-holder the stamps are normally held with their printing-faces above the inking-surface and out of contact therewith. This prevents the printing-faces from becoming surcharged or overloaded with ink, prevents the accumulation of impurities, and keeps the rubber type or other printing-surface in a clear, sharp, and satisfactory condition for printing. When a stamp is required for use, it is readily inked by pressing it down until contact is made with the printing-surface. As the stamp rack or support is yieldingly held by the springs, it readily yields to such downward pressure, allows the stamp to be inked, and rises again to its normal position when the stamp is raised.

Access is readily had to the inking surface or pad by lifting the stamp-rack out of the case. The rack carries the stamps with it, and so exposes the pad.

If desired, the partition can be arranged upon springs in such a way as to be movable independently of the rack-frame. In this construction, which is represented in Fig. 8, the end bars  $c$  of the frame and the ends of the partitions  $c^3$  rest upon rubber strips  $g$ , which permit each partition to be pressed down with the stamp and cause the partition to rise when the pressure is removed.

55 I claim as my invention—

1. The combination of an inking device, a stamp-supporting frame which is adapted to hold removable stamps and which is arranged above said inking device, and yielding means for holding said frame away from said inking device while permitting said frame to be de-

pressed by a stamp for inking the latter, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination of a case provided with an inking-surface, a stamp-supporting rack arranged in the case and movable toward and from said surface, and a yielding support for said rack tending to hold the same away from the inking-surface, substantially as set forth.

3. The combination of an inking device, a stamp-supporting frame which is adapted to hold removable stamps and which is arranged above said inking device, and springs which tend to hold said frame above said inking device, substantially as set forth.

4. The combination of a case provided with an inking-surface, a stamp-supporting rack arranged in the case and movable toward and from said surface, and springs interposed between said rack and the bottom of said case, substantially as set forth.

5. The combination of an inking device, a stamp-supporting rack movable toward and from the same, a yielding support for said rack tending to hold the rack away from the inking device, and means for supporting the stamps in the rack, substantially as set forth.

6. The combination of an inking device, a stamp-supporting rack movable toward and from the same, a yielding support for said rack tending to hold the rack away from the inking device, and a diaphragm secured to the rack for supporting the stamps therein, substantially as set forth.

7. The combination of a case provided with an inking-surface, and a stamp-supporting rack movably arranged in said case and provided with a diaphragm adapted to support stamps in the rack, substantially as set forth.

8. The combination of a case provided with an inking-surface, and a movable stamp-supporting rack arranged therein and consisting of a frame provided with upright grooves and partitions loosely arranged in said grooves and adapted to be lifted out of the same, substantially as set forth.

9. The combination of a case provided with an inking-surface, and a stamp-supporting rack movable therein toward and from the inking-surface, said rack consisting of a frame provided with upright grooves, partitions loosely arranged in said grooves and a diaphragm secured to the frame below the partitions, substantially as set forth.

Witness my hand this 9th day of January, 1905.

WILLIAM H. KEELER.

Witnesses:

EDWARD WILHELM,  
C. B. HORNBECK.