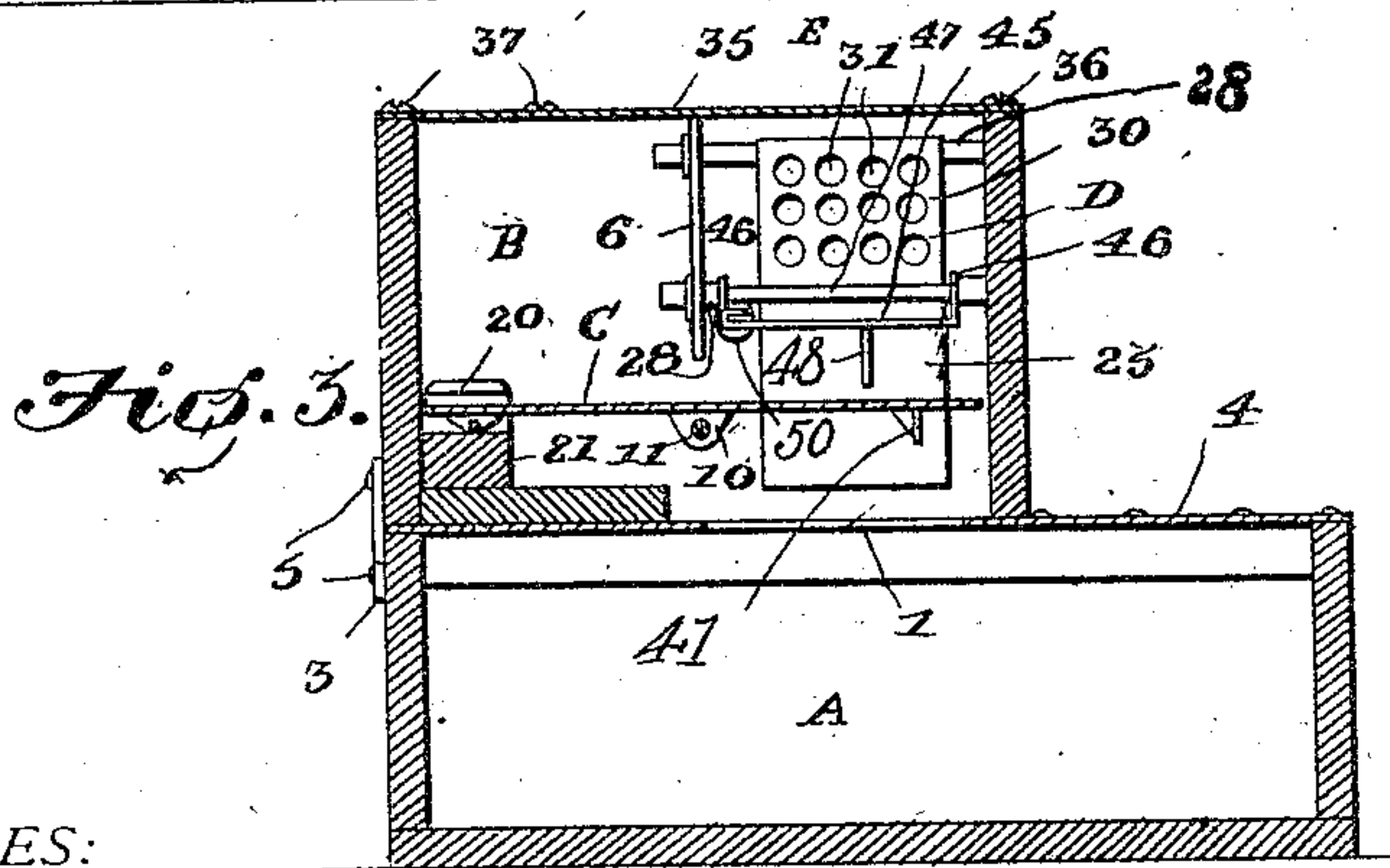
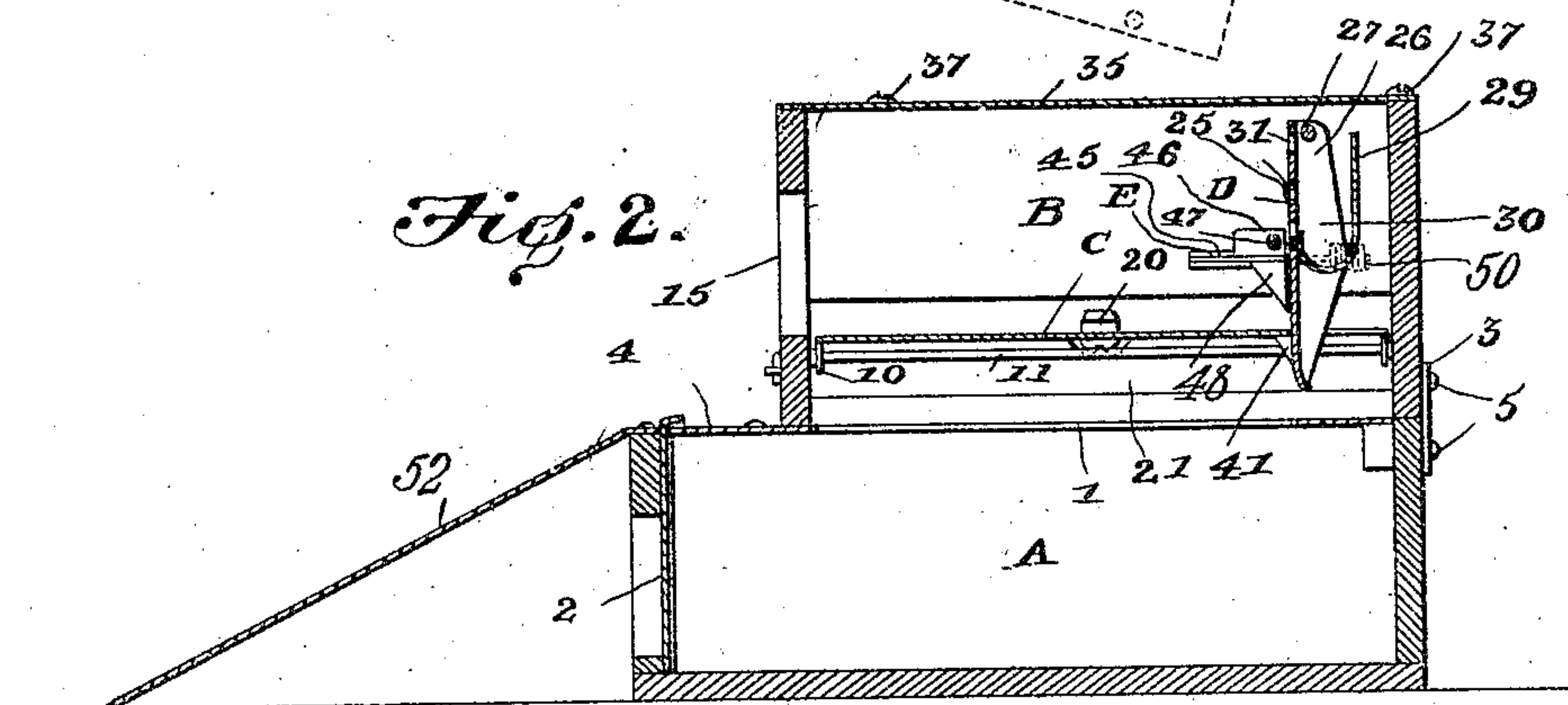
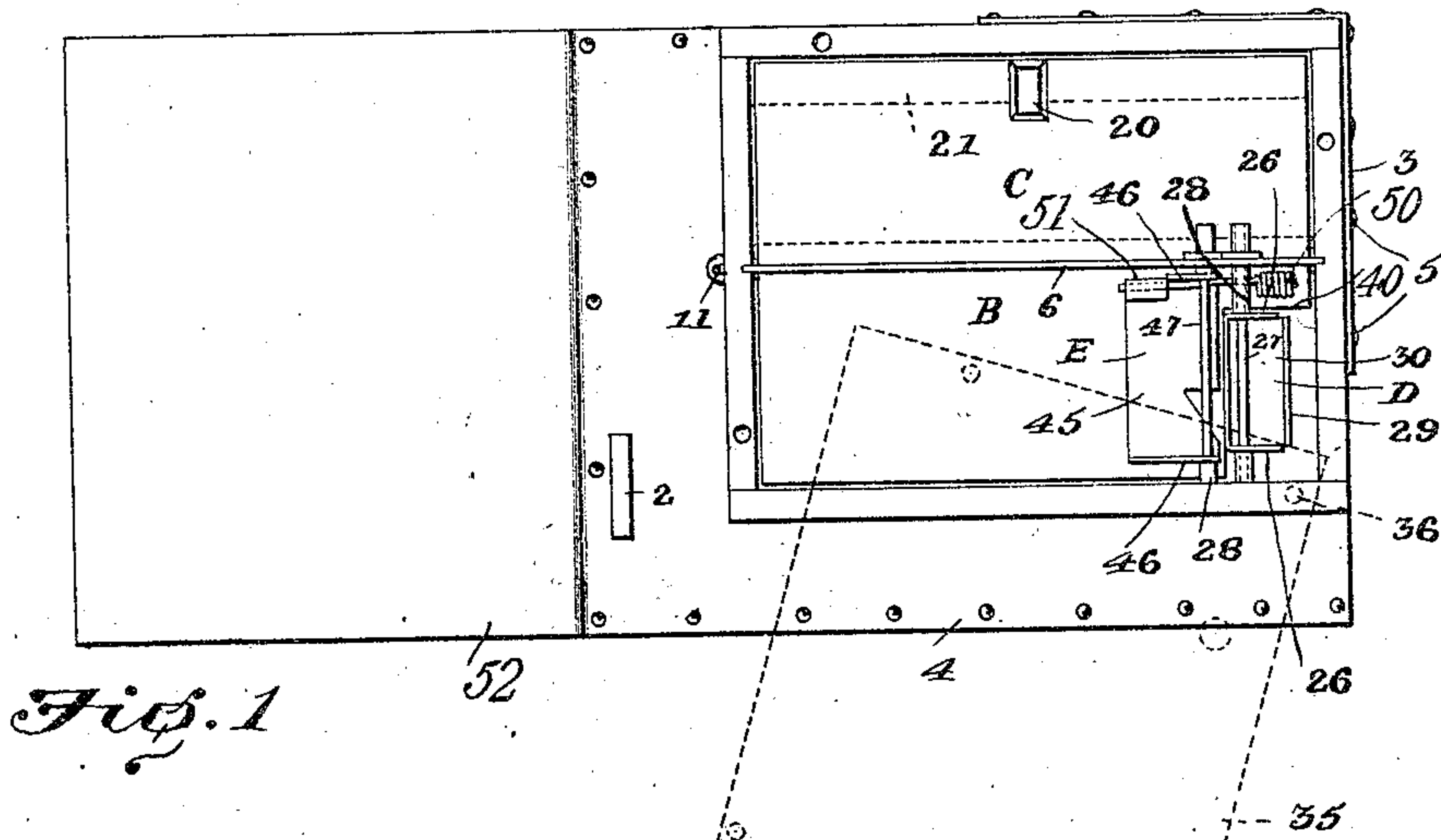


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PATENTED JAN. 29, 1907.

F. KUNKEL.
ANIMAL TRAP.
APPLICATION FILED JULY 19, 1906.



WITNESSES:
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FERDINAND KUNKEL, OF CONCORDIA, KANSAS.

ANIMAL-TRAP.

No. 842,837.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Jan. 29, 1907.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FERDINAND KUNKEL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Concordia, in the county of Cloud and State of Kansas, have invented a new and useful Animal-Trap, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to animal-traps.

The objects of the invention are to improve and simplify the construction of such devices; furthermore, to increase their efficiency in operation and to decrease the expense attending their manufacture.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, which will appear as the description proceeds, the invention resides in the combination and arrangement of parts and in the details of construction hereinafter described and claimed, it being understood that changes in the precise embodiment of invention herein disclosed can be made within the scope of the following claims without departing from the spirit of the invention or sacrificing any of its advantages.

In the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification. Figure 1 is a plan view of the improved trap with the cover shown by dotted lines in opened position. Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal section. Fig. 3 is a transverse vertical section.

Like reference-numerals indicate corresponding parts in the different figures of the drawings.

Broadly stated, the improved trap of this invention comprises, preferably, a lower compartment, an upper compartment having an entrance-opening, a tilting platform, a gravity-actuated trigger and bait-holder of novel construction, and a tiltable releasing-pan of novel construction for releasing the trigger, and thus permitting the tilting platform to operate.

The lower compartment, which is designated generally by A, preferably is rectangular in shape and is provided in its upper end with an elongated entrance-opening 1 and in one of its sides with an exit-door 2, through which the trapped animals can be removed from the lower compartment A when it has become filled. The lower compartment A is provided with an angular attaching plate or flange 3, which fits around one corner thereof, as shown in Fig. 1, for the purpose of securing the upper compartment in position, as will hereinafter appear.

The upper compartment (designated gen-

erally by B) preferably is rectangular in shape and is smaller than the lower compartment A, so that when said upper compartment B is suitably fitted at one corner against the angular flange 3 and detachably secured thereto in any suitable manner a ledge 4 will be left around the compartment B, said ledge being formed by the upper end of the compartment A. The preferred means for detachably securing the upper compartment B to the angular flange 3 consists of a plurality of bolts, screws, or similar devices 5. The compartment B is divided longitudinally by means of a vertical partition 6, below the lower end of which is mounted a tilting platform C, which is of sufficient size to close the lower end of the compartment B and form a floor. At its opposite ends the tilting platform C is formed with depending ears 10, through which extends a pivot-rod 11, which is suitably mounted in the ends of the compartment B. The compartment B is formed at one end thereof with an entrance-opening 15, which is located entirely on one side of the partition 6. It will be observed that the partition 6 constitutes means for preventing the animal, which enters through the opening 15, from passing across the pivot-point of the tilting platform C, which pivot-point of course is parallel with the partition 6, for which reason the animal is confined entirely on one side of the pivot-point of the tilting platform. On the side of the partition 6 opposite the entrance-opening 15 the tilting platform C is provided on its upper surface with a counterweight 20, which serves normally to hold the platform in horizontal position, the downward movement of the weighted side of the platform being limited by a ledge 21, formed along one side of the compartment B at the lower end thereof.

The gravity-actuated trigger and bait-holder, which is indicated generally by D, preferably is located at the end of the tilting platform C opposite the entrance-opening 15. The front wall of the trigger and bait-holder D preferably consists of a piece of sheet metal 25, the side edges of which are bent rearwardly to form flanges 26, which taper from their upper to their lower ends, as shown. Extending through the upper ends of the tapering flanges 26 is a suspension-rod 27, one end of which is connected with the partition 6 and the other end with the side wall of the upper compartment B. The trigger and bait-holder is properly spaced

upon the suspension-rod 27 by means of sleeves 28, it being understood that the trigger is loosely mounted upon the rod 27, so that its lower end can swing back and forth. About midway of its length the trigger and bait-holder D is provided with an upwardly-extending rear plate 29, which is soldered or otherwise suitably connected to the sheet-metal piece or front plate 25, as shown, the rear plate 29 and front plate 25 serving to form a suitable bait-box 30, the front plate 25 of which is formed adjacent its upper end with a plurality of perforations 31, through which the bait in the bait-box 30 can be detected by the animal. The upper end of the bait-box 30 preferably is open, as shown, and is disposed close to the upper end of the compartment B, the upper end of the rear plate 29 terminating in a lower plane than the upper end of the front plate 25, so that it will not strike against the top of the compartment B when the trigger and bait-holder is swung rearwardly. For convenience in placing the bait in the bait-holder D the top 35 of the compartment B is pivotally mounted at 36, so that it can be swung in a horizontal direction from the compartment B to expose the interior thereof whenever necessary, the swinging top 35 being locked in closed position in any suitable manner, such as by means of the screw 37. It will be understood that when it is desired to supply bait to the bait-holder and trigger D the screw 37 is removed and the top swung to open position, as described. At its lower end the gravity-actuated trigger and bait-holder D extends through a cut-away portion 40, formed in one corner of the platform C. The front plate 25 of the trigger and bait-holder is formed with a projection 41, having a horizontal upper end and an inclined lower end, the projection 41 for the sake of economy being stamped out of the sheet metal in the shape of an approximately V-shaped tooth, which is adapted to engage or fit under the adjacent edge of the tilting platform, so as to hold the same normally in raised or horizontal position.

The means for swinging the trigger and bait-holder D away from the tilting platform C so as to release the same consists, preferably, of a tiltable releasing-pan E, which consists, preferably, of a sheet-metal plate 45, having its side edges formed with upstanding ears 46, which are engaged by a suspension-rod 47. The rear edge of the plate 45 is preferably cut and bent to form an integral depending arm 48, the rear edge of which is disposed approximately at a right angle with respect to the upper surface of the pan. The depending arm 48 rests closely against the front plate 25 of the gravity-actuated trigger, and said depending arm is arranged practically in a line with the pivot-point of the releasing-pan E, which

consists of the suspension-rod 47. The releasing-pan E is maintained normally in a horizontal position by means of a counterweight 50, which consists, preferably, of a piece of wire formed at its rear end with a plurality of closely-arranged coils, which serve to give it weight, the forward end or shank of the weight 50 being extended across one edge of the pan E and held thereon by an integral flange 51, which is bent over to engage the shank of the counterweight, thus holding the same in position in a simple and inexpensive manner. As shown in the drawings, the side of the platform C which is adapted to tilt downward is disposed immediately over the elongated entrance-opening 1 in the lower compartment A.

From the foregoing description it will be apparent that when the device is in use the animal will enter through the opening 15 and pass along one side of the platform C, the partition 6 serving to give the animal access to only one side of the platform. When the animal draws near to the bait-holder, it places its paws upon the releasing-pan E, with the result that the forward edge of said pan is depressed so that the lower end of the depending arm 48 is swung rearwardly, and thus moves the gravity-actuated trigger and bait-holder D away from the tilting platform. The weight of the animal then causes the platform to tilt and precipitate the animal through the elongated opening 1 into the lower compartment A. By reason of the fact that the partition 6 gives the animal access to only one side of the platform C it will be apparent that said platform can be given considerable length, so that when the platform is released the animal will be so far from the entrance-opening 15 that it will be impossible for him to escape, it being understood that the platform C and releasing-pan E by reason of their metallic construction present only smooth surfaces, which afford no projection to be grasped by the animal in the endeavor to save itself from falling into the lower compartment.

The reference-numeral 52 indicates an inclined plane or platform up which the animals can pass to the entrance-opening 15.

It will be observed that through the medium of the counterweight 20 the improved trap of this invention is adapted automatically to set itself each time an animal has been precipitated into the lower compartment A. This resetting of the trap is facilitated by the inclined projection 41, over which the adjacent portion of the tilting platform C slides as it rises into horizontal position. As soon as the tilting platform C has reached its true horizontal position the gravity-actuated bait-holder causes the projection 41 to move under the platform, so as to hold the same in raised position until said bait-holder is again released by the entrance of an animal.

The improved trap of this invention is strong, simple, durable, and inexpensive in construction, as well as thoroughly efficient in operation.

5 What is claimed is--

1. A trap provided with a tilting platform having only one side of its pivot-point accessible to an animal, a gravity-actuated trigger and bait-holder for engaging the tilting platform and holding it in raised position, and a releasing-pan for moving the trigger and bait-holder out of engagement with the tilting platform.

2. A trap provided with a tilting platform, a gravity-actuated trigger and bait-holder engaging the platform, and a pivotally-mounted releasing-pan having a depending arm located adjacent the trigger and bait-holder for moving the same out of engagement with the tilting platform.

3. A trap provided with a tilting platform, a trigger and bait-holder formed of sheet metal and having a stamped-out projection to engage the tilting platform, and a sheet-metal releasing-pan having its rear edge cut and bent to form a depending arm adapted to bear against the trigger and bait-holder and move it away from the tilting platform.

4. A trap provided with a tilting platform, a trigger and bait-holder engaging the platform, and a releasing-pan comprising a sheet-metal plate having upstanding ears, a bent flange and an integral depending arm, a suspension-rod extending through the upstanding ears and constituting the pivot-point of the pan, and a counterweight consisting of a

piece of wire having its rear end coiled and its forward end engaged by the bent flange of the releasing-pan.

5. A trap provided with a tilting platform, a trigger and bait-holder comprising a sheet-metal front plate having tapering side flanges and being formed with perforations and a rear plate forming a bait-box, the lower end of said front plate having an integral V-shaped projection to engage the tilting platform, a suspension-rod extending through the upper ends of the tapering flanges, and a tiltable releasing device for the trigger and bait-holder.

6. A trap comprising a lower compartment having an entrance-opening in its upper end and an angular flange, an upper compartment detachably secured to the angular flange, and having a swinging top, a partition extending longitudinally of the upper compartment, a tilting platform mounted below the partition, an entrance-opening on one side of the partition in one end of the upper compartment, a trigger and bait-holder pivotally mounted at the other end of the compartment and engaging the tilting platform, and a pivotally-mounted releasing-pan having a depending arm to engage the trigger and the rearwardly-extended counterweight.

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

FERDINAND KUNKEL.

Witnesses:

ISAAC C. MOORE,
S. B. PRICE.