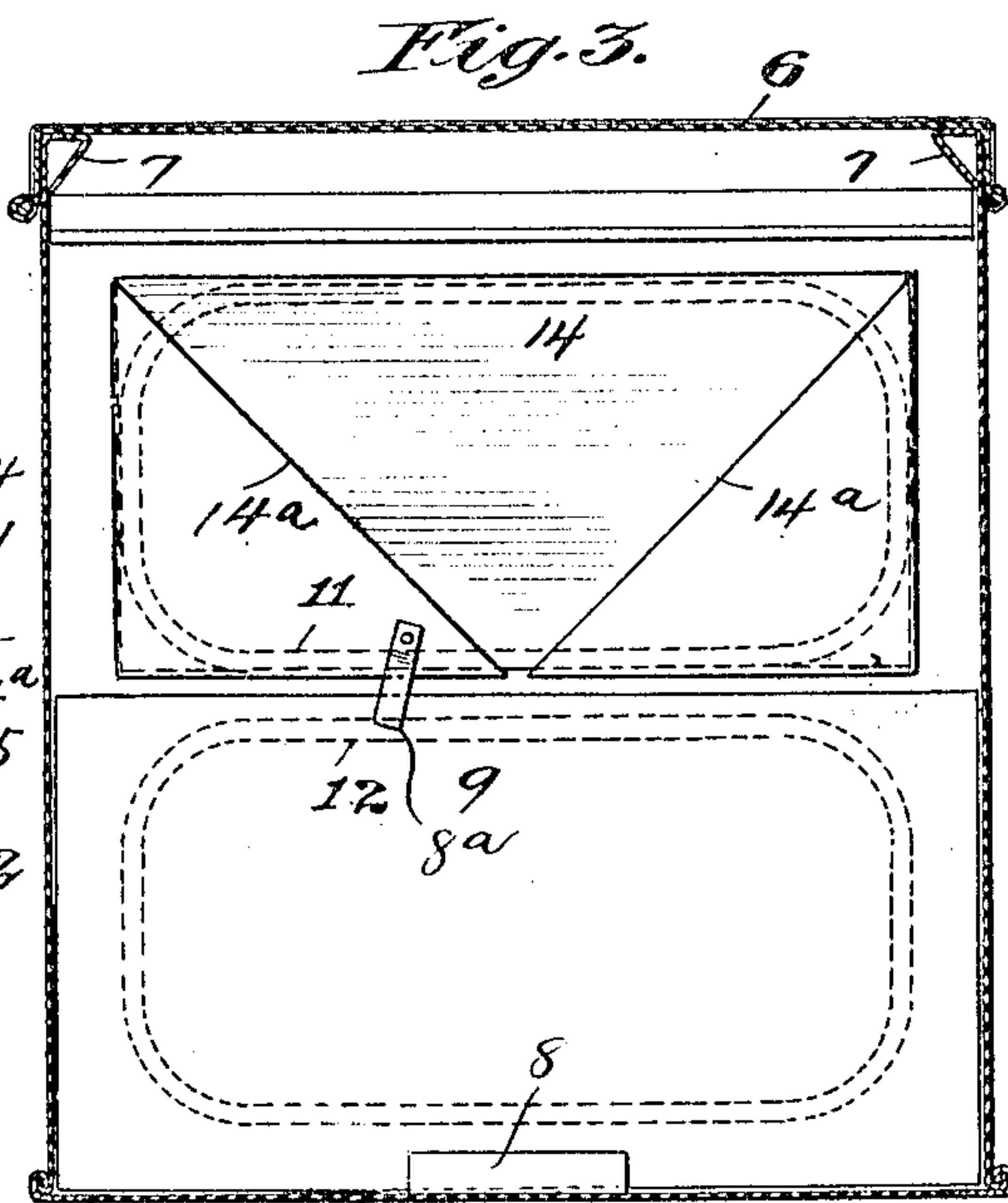
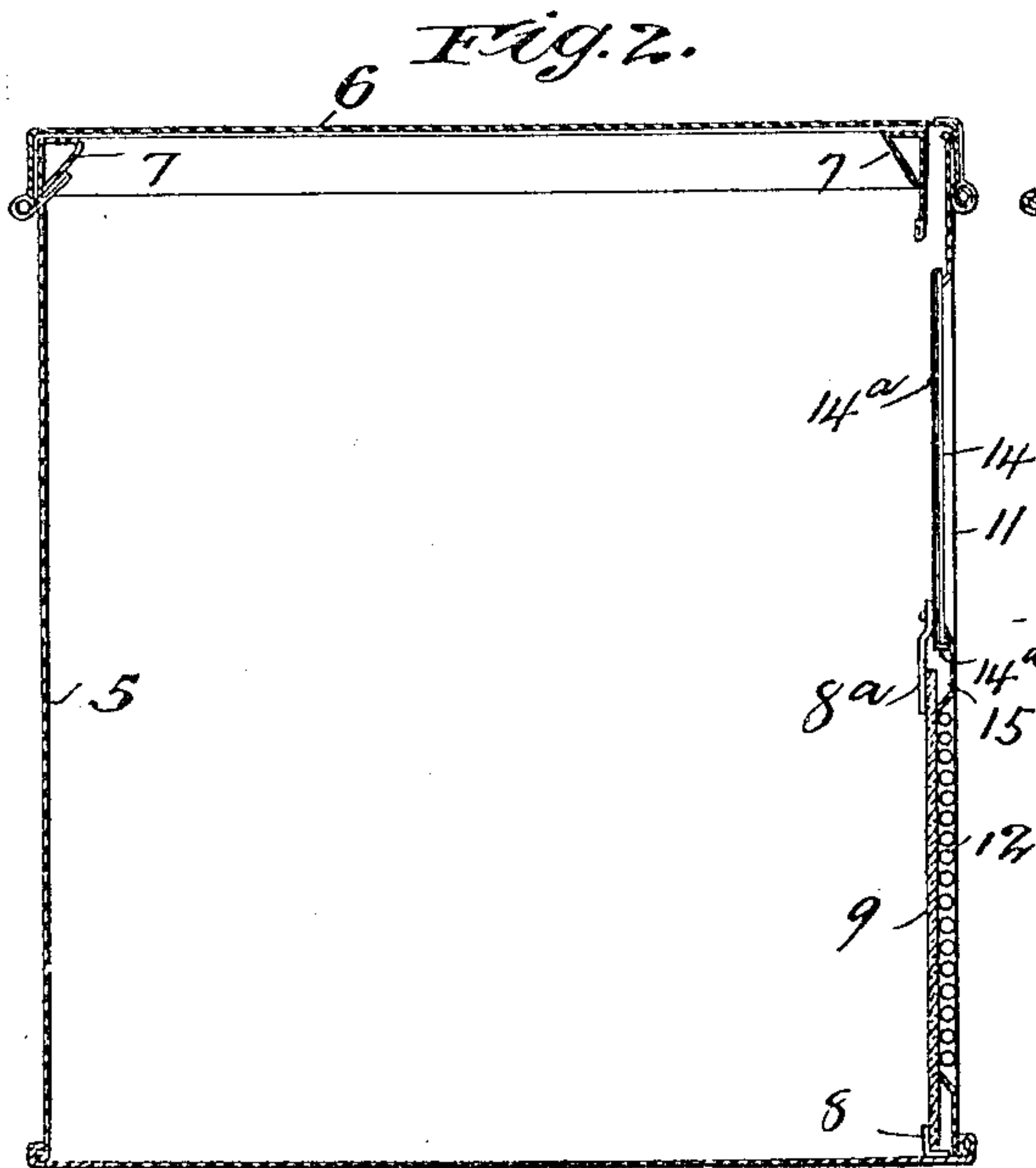
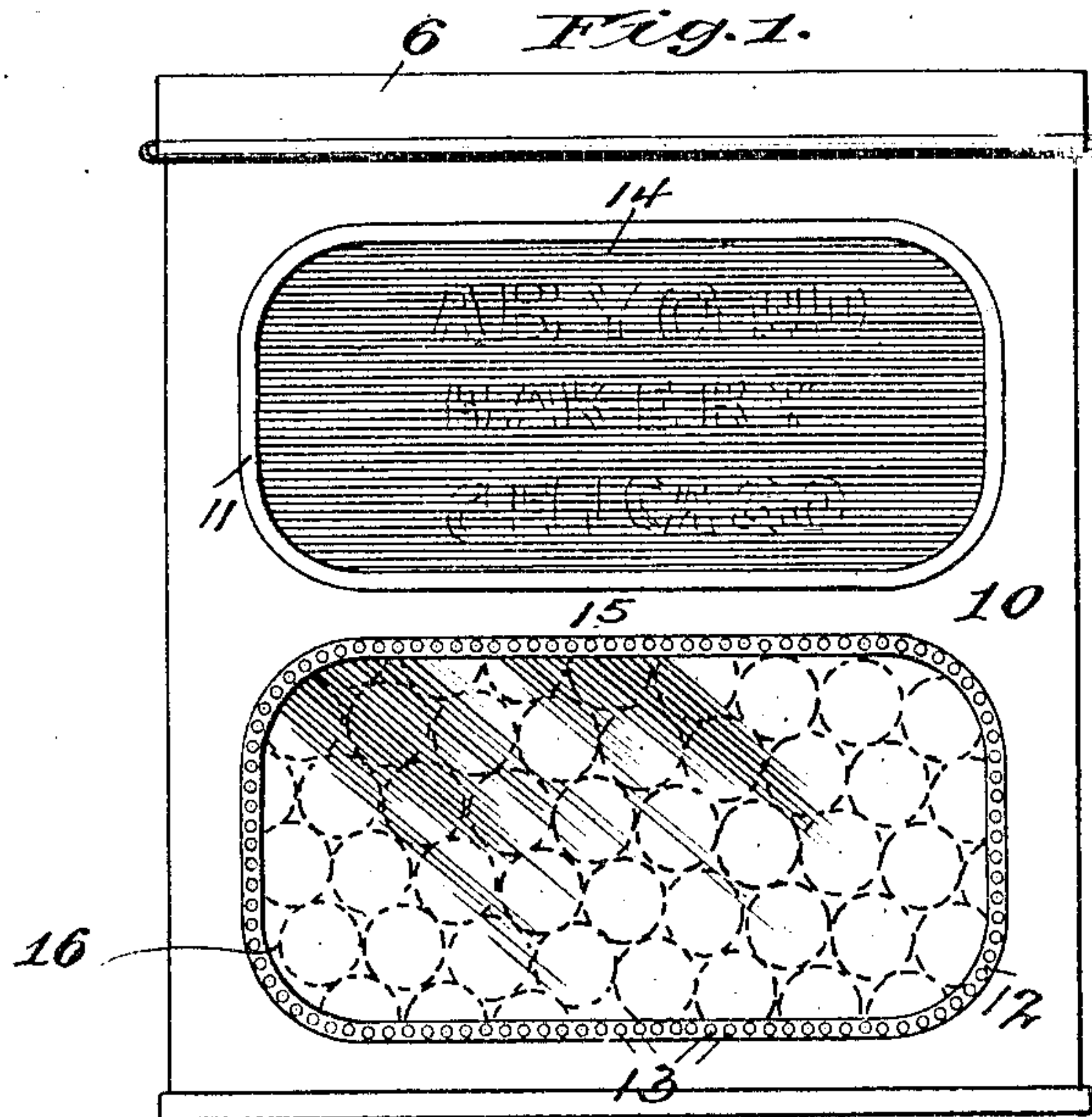


J. D. RICHARDSON.
STORAGE AND DISPLAY RECEPTACLE.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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STORAGE AND DISPLAY RECEPTACLE.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN D. RICHARDSON, a citizen of the United States, residing in St. Joseph, in the county of Buchanan and State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Storage and Display Receptacles, of which the following is a specification.

The object of this invention is to provide a receptacle for the storage and exhibition of crackers and other bakery products in retail stores. Goods of this character are usually sold by grocers and other shopkeepers directly from the can in which they are received, and after the contents are disposed of the cans are refilled from boxes or other packages of the goods. One of the important considerations in a can of this kind is to afford means for making an attractive display of the crackers or other contents of the can, and this has been accomplished heretofore by providing a false front in the form of a narrow chamber occupying one side of the can and having the outer wall thereof composed of a sheet of glass, the crackers or other bakery products being arranged flatwise against the sheet of glass and the latter covering substantially the entire front of the can. This construction is objectionable in many ways, but chiefly for the reason that the front of the can is not sufficiently strengthened, and the display of a single layer of the goods the full width of the can is undesirable because it requires time in placing them and removing them, and unless frequently removed and replaced the cakes, biscuit, or the like deteriorate, becoming dry and either crumbling or warping.

This invention provides a receptacle for the display and storage of crackers, cakes, or other bakery products in which the objectionable features above mentioned are obviated, and the receptacle itself is strong and durable. Its front is so constructed that the goods themselves are exposed so long as there are any contained within the can, and a convenient means is afforded for displaying the name of the manufacturer of the goods, together with such other matter of information or advertisement as may be found desirable. The exhibition of the name of the manufacturer in connection with the package itself is a guarantee as to the standard or

quality of the goods, and this exhibition must be so made as to not interfere with the proper display of the goods or the usefulness of the can as a receptacle in which the goods may be stored and from which they may be sold at retail.

In carrying out the invention the can or receptacle is constructed as to one side thereof in such manner as to present two panels, preferably of substantially equal size and occupying approximately the whole of the front of the can. In one of these panels there is securely fixed and prominently displayed an advertisement giving the name of the manufacturer of the goods, so as to prominently and effectually identify the name of such manufacturer with the contents of the can. The other panel is covered with a sheet of transparent material affording a view of the contents of the can itself, and the goods themselves are thus prominently displayed so long as any remain in the can.

The invention is shown in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a front view. Fig. 2 is a central sectional elevation, and Fig. 3 is a similar view taken at right angles to the view given in Fig. 2.

The body of the can is preferably of sheet metal and is marked 5, and it has applied thereto a hinged top or cover 6. In order to strengthen the can at its upper portion, a stiffening-rib of triangular form in cross-section and marked 7 is employed, thus affording a flat ledge entirely surrounding the upper end of the can upon its interior. Fastened to the bottom wall of the can is a holder or keeper 8, which may be made of sheet metal and bent into the form of a right-angled flange. In front of this keeper is inserted a sheet of glass 9. The front wall of the can (marked 10) is composed, preferably, of a single sheet of metal cut to form the two oblong openings 11 and 12. The margins of the walls surrounding these openings are inwardly curved, so as to strengthen the same, and the lower one is corrugated or beaded, as shown at 13, both to improve the appearance and increase the strength. Behind the opening 11 is secured against the inturned edge or margin thereof a name-plate 14, of tin or other material, having prominently displayed thereon the name of the manufac-

turer and other matter of identification of the goods in the can. This plate is held in a pocket formed by the keepers 14^a, and a strip of metal 8^a is pivoted to the keepers 14^a to form a button or latch to hold the top edge of the glass 9. Between the two openings the central rib or bar 15 extends, joining the sides of the front wall and very materially strengthening the same. So long as there are any goods in the can they can be observed through the transparent section and without the necessity of especially arranging or lining the front wall of the can with the display. The contents of the can are indicated in the drawings, Fig. 1, at 16.

The structure provided thus is sufficiently strong to be safe in shipment and to withstand considerable rough usage, and this result is attained chiefly by reason of the peculiar construction of the front wall of the can. Heretofore practically the whole front wall of the can has been cut away and covered with a sheet of glass. This weakens the structure very materially, and in shipment the glass is very often broken. By constructing the front wall in the form of two oblong panels separated by a bar and by inturning the margins of the can around these panels or openings the front is very considerably strengthened, and the sheet of glass need not be, and preferably is not, more than half the usual size. This not only economizes in the first cost of the can, but the smaller sheet of glass is less likely to be broken in shipment and in handling. These cans are very often returned by the dealer to the factory to be refilled, and when returned the glass is removed and thoroughly cleansed. In this cleansing operation there is a further liability to breakage, which is very considerably reduced by the use of the smaller-sized sheets. The inturning of the margins of the sheet metal around the openings not only strengthens the front wall of the can, but it also affords support for the sheet of glass, and the bearing upon the front of the sheet is along a narrow line, the margins of the sheet being left practically free or unsupported. This further reduces the liability to breakage.

With this construction the can has the appearance of being full until its contents are removed down to the upper edge of the transparent section, and any broken or misplaced goods are not exposed to view during that period.

While I prefer to arrange the transparent section at the bottom of the front wall and the imperforate section in the upper portion of the front wall, still it is obvious that the can would be superior to those in general use if the arrangement above indicated, as preferred, were reversed—that is to say, if the transparent panel were placed at the top. Also it would be understood that instead of

forming two openings in the front wall of the can, each in the form of an oblong panel, only one opening need necessarily thus be formed to secure some of the advantages of my invention, which is intended to provide a can having considerable increased strength over those commonly used by the trade. These and other variations are within the broader scope of my invention, although the particular construction described is preferred for the reasons stated.

I claim—

1. A receptacle of the class described, consisting of a sheet-metal can having a cover, and its front wall provided with oblong panel-like openings, the margins of the sheet metal surrounding said panel-openings being inturned, and sheets of material removably secured behind said openings, the upper sheet constituting a name-plate and the lower being transparent to display the contents in the bottom of said receptacle and held against the inturned margin of the metal surrounding the lower panel, substantially as described.

2. A receptacle of the class described, comprising a sheet-metal can having its front plate or side provided with two oblong panel-openings of substantially equal size and extending substantially across the front of the can, a name-plate fitted behind the upper panel-opening, the margins of the sheet along the lower panel-opening being inturned to provide a narrow ledge or bearing, and a sheet of glass removably secured behind the lower panel-opening in contact with said ledge, substantially as described.

3. A sheet-metal display can or box, comprising in combination a body having three sheet-metal sides, furnished at their upper ends with hollow, triangular strengthening bars or braces, and provided with a hollow, triangular strengthening bar or brace at its front, and a sheet-metal front plate having an upper or sign opening therein, and provided with sheet-metal guides having horizontal and upright flanges soldered to said front plate to form a pocket thereon to receive a removable sign-plate, said front strengthening-bar and said front plate forming a slot between them for removal and insertion of the sign-plate, substantially as specified.

4. A sheet-metal display can or box, comprising in combination a bottom, a body, and a hinged cover, the front of the body having two openings therein, two removable plates for closing said openings, fixed guides for holding one of said plates in place, and fastening means for holding the other removable plate in place, substantially as specified.

5. A sheet-metal display can or box having a bottom, a body and a cover, the sheet-metal front of said body having two openings therein, two removable plates for closing said openings, guides for holding one of said plates

in place, and a turn-button guide for holding the other plate in place, substantially as specified.

5 6. A sheet-metal display can or box having a bottom, a body and a cover, the sheet-metal front of said body having two openings therein, two removable plates for closing said openings, guides for holding one of said plates in place, a turn-button guide for hold-

ing the other plate in place, said turn-button 10 guide being mounted on one of the guides for said first-mentioned plate, substantially as specified.

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