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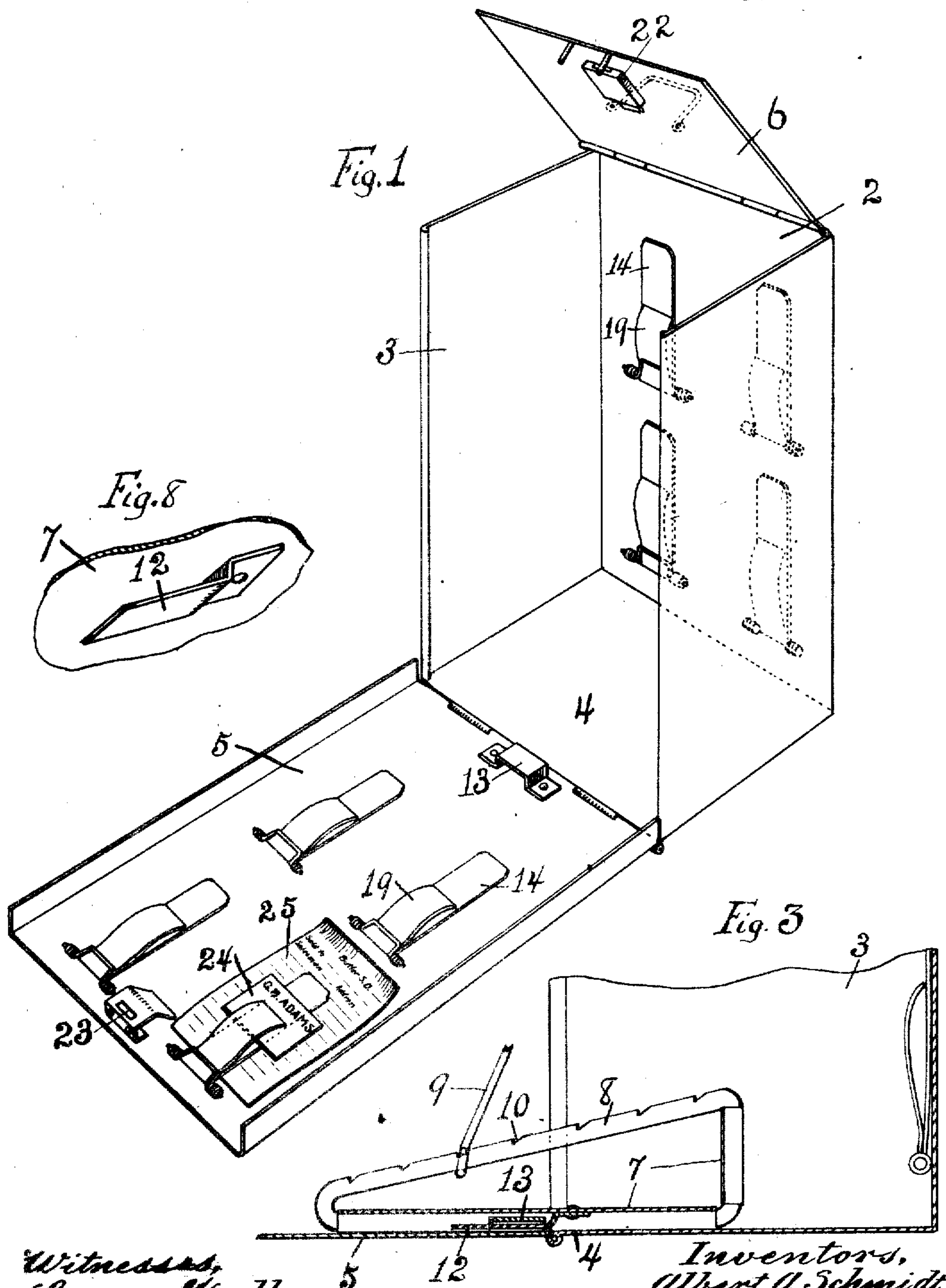
ACCOUNT FILE.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 8, 1908.

Patented Feb. 16, 1909.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

912,419.



Witnesses,
George Voelker
Hattie Smith

Inventors,
Albert A. Schmidt
Theodore W. Huwe
by Lothrop & Johnson
their Attorneys.

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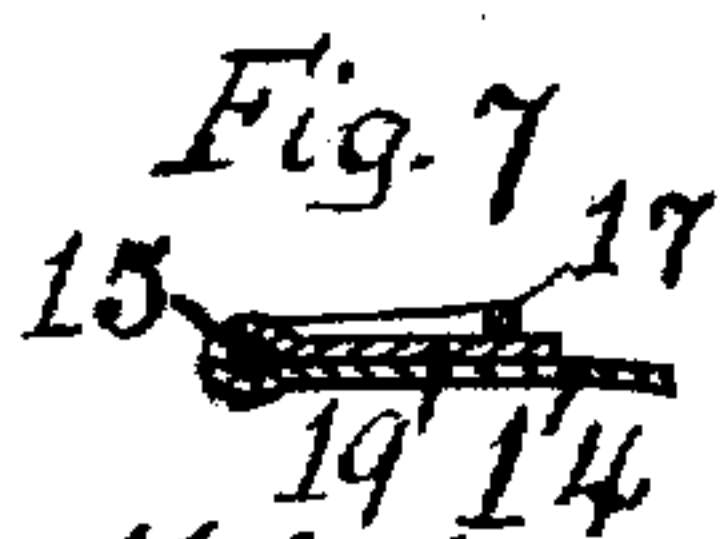
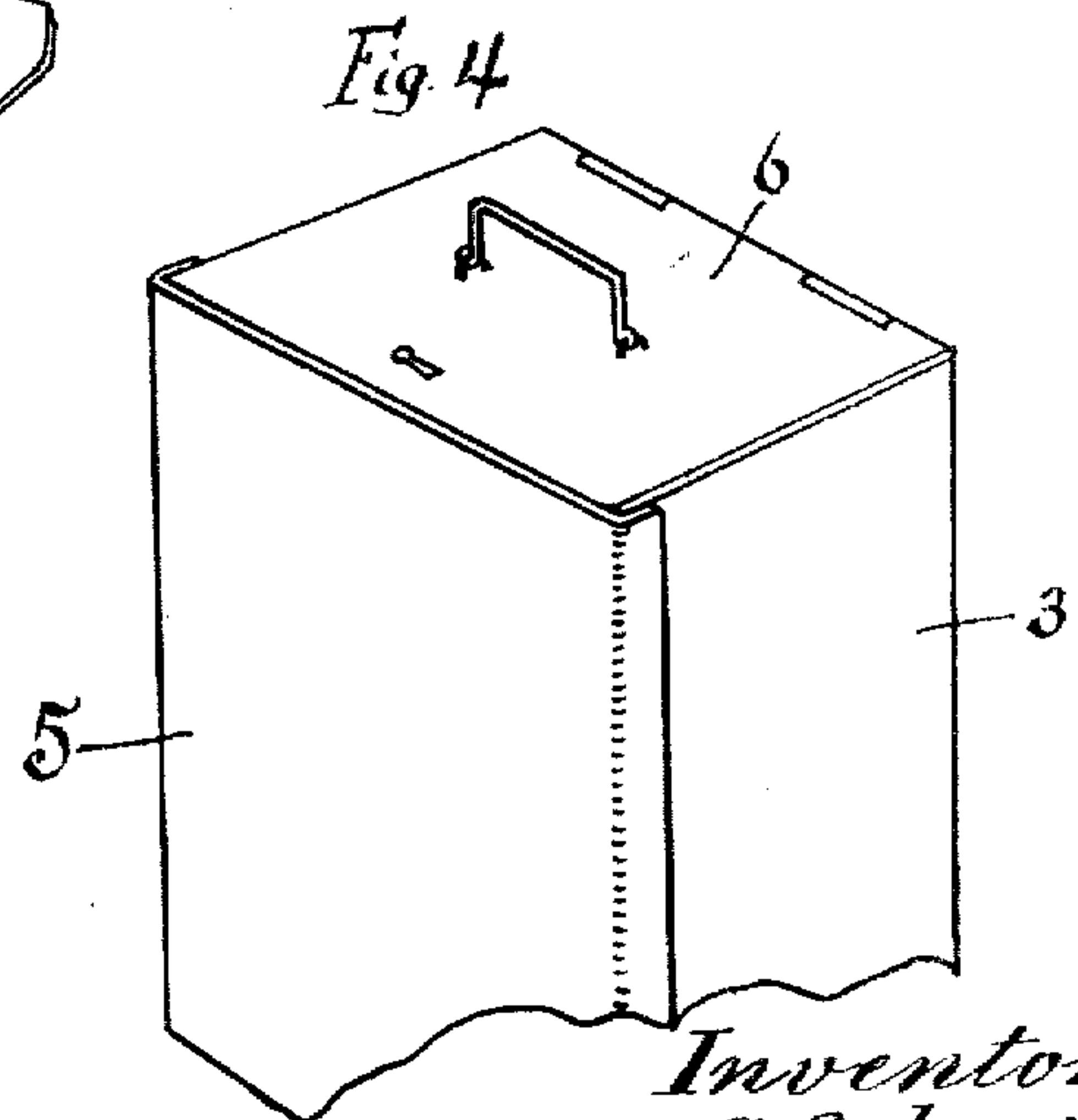
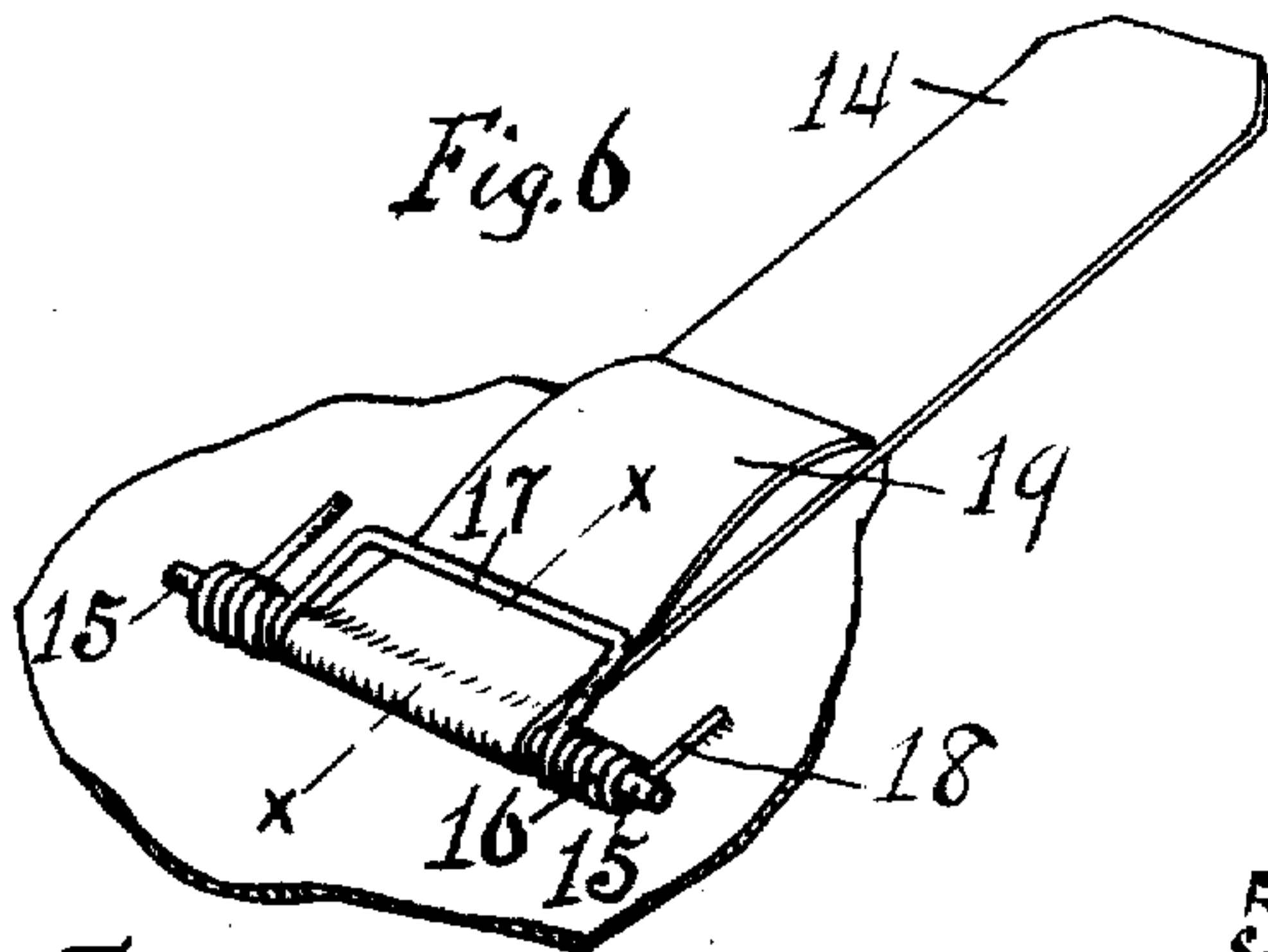
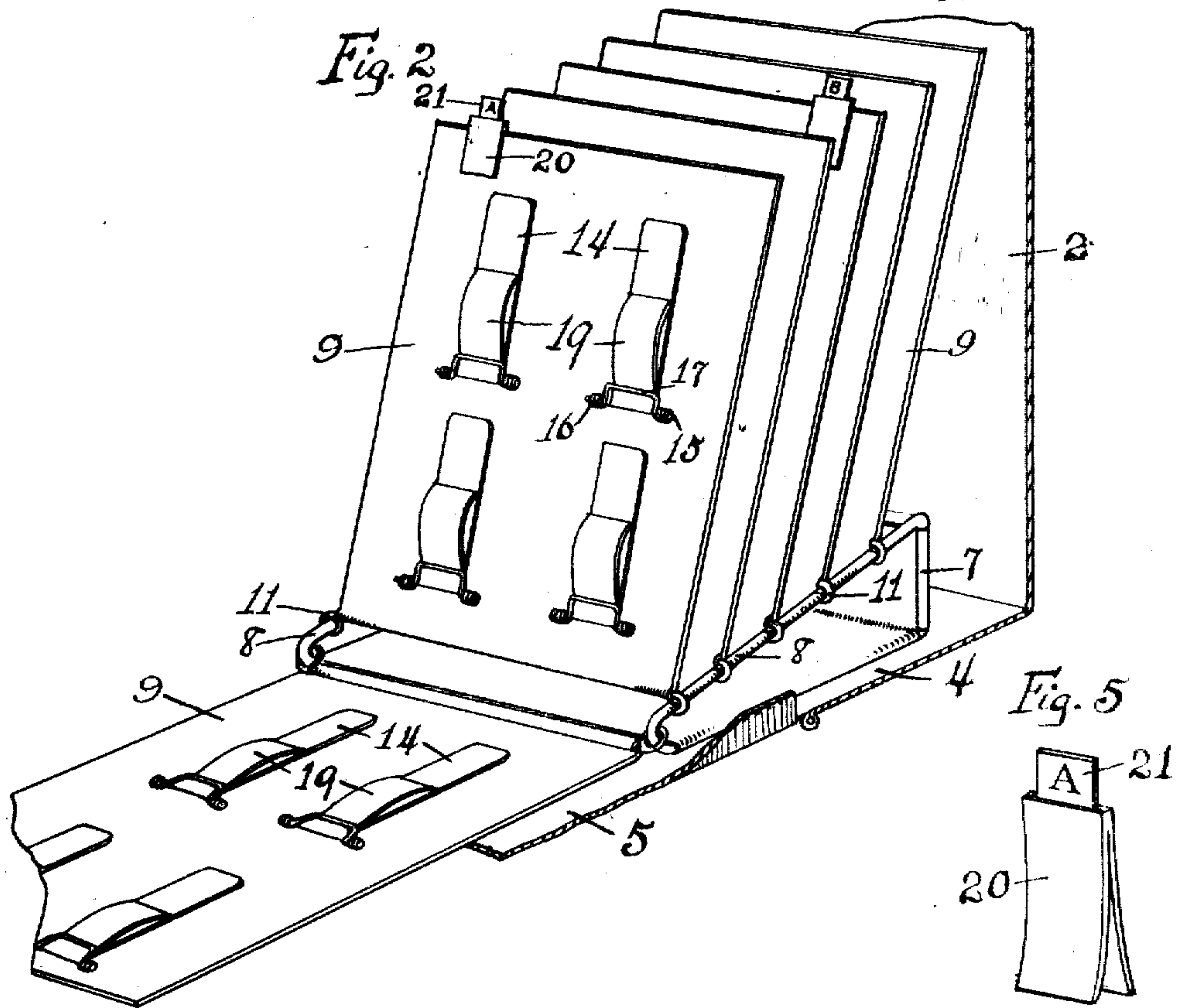
ACCOUNT FILE.

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALBERT A. SCHMIDT AND THEODORE W. HUWE, OF BUTLER, SOUTH DAKOTA.

ACCOUNT-FILE.

No. 912,419.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Feb. 16, 1909.

Application filed June 8, 1908. Serial No. 437,247.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, ALBERT A. SCHMIDT and THEODORE W. HUWE, citizens of the United States, residing at Butler, in the county of Day and State of South Dakota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Account-Files, of which the following is a specification.

Our invention relates to improvements in account files, and has for its object to provide means for conveniently holding and filing account slips for a number of different accounts.

The invention is designed particularly for grocers, butchers and other tradesmen who have a large number of small retail accounts. These accounts are now commonly kept in manifolding books forming what is known as the "short account system."

In this system there is a separate book for each customer having a series of original and duplicate or impression sheets. After each transaction is entered the original sheet is torn out and delivered to the customer, while the duplicate or impression sheet is retained in the book. In the present invention these individual books, as a means for preserving a record of the transactions are done away with, it being possible to make the entries for all customers in the same book. When the entry has been made, the duplicate sheet, instead of being left in the book, is filed in a clip carried by one of a series of hinged leaves, as will be hereinafter more particularly described, the file leaves being arranged within a box which may be closed and put in the vault.

More particularly the invention consists in the construction, combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings forming part of this specification, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the box or receptacle for holding the file leaves, showing the same in open position; Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the leaves in place in the box, with the box and one of the leaves partly broken away; Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section through the middle of the box and leaf-frame, with the box and one of the leaves partly broken away, the other leaves being omitted; Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the closed box, shown partly broken away; Fig. 5 is a perspective view of one of the index tabs; Fig. 6 is a perspective view of one of

the clips and a fragment of the leaf to which it is secured; Fig. 7 is a section on line $x-x$ of Fig. 6, and Fig. 8 is a perspective view of the lip upon the leaf frame, showing the leaf frame partly broken away.

As shown in the drawings the box comprises a back wall 2, side walls 3 and bottom wall 4, all rigidly secured together. The front wall 5 is hinged at the lower end to the box bottom 4, so that it can be turned down to lie flush with the bottom of the box. Hinged to the top of the back wall 2 is a top or cover 6 which completes the box closure.

Carried by the front wall of the box upon the inner side thereof is a frame 7 having downwardly and forwardly inclined members 8, upon which are pivotally supported, at suitable intervals, a plurality of swinging file leaves 9, made, preferably, of sheet metal. In the form shown in the drawings the side members 8 consist of rods having notches 10 at the desired intervals, and the leaves are formed with eyes or loops 11 which pass loosely around, and have sliding engagement with, the rods. The leaves are held normally spaced apart by the lodging of the loops or eyes in the notches, but they may be lifted out of the notches and pushed back one against the other when it is desired.

The frame 7 can be secured to the front wall 5 of the box in any desired way. In the drawings the frame is shown extending part way back into the box, but this is not essential. When the frame is made to extend back into the box, the connection between the frame and the front wall 5 must be detachable, in order that the frame may be moved forwardly onto the front wall when in use, or back into the box when the front wall 5 is to be turned up and the box closed. The detachable connection here shown consists of a forwardly projecting lip 12 offset from the underside of the frame and a cooperating loop 13 upon the hinge end of the front wall 5, the lip fitting within the loop.

Arranged upon each leaf are a number of spring file clips 14. As shown in the drawings the clip consists of a piece of sheet metal supported upon a horizontal pin 15 journaled in the coils 16 of a spring 17, the ends 18 of the coils being soldered or otherwise rigidly secured to the leaf. Also carried by the pins 15 are shorter clips 19 arranged upon the face of the clips 14. In the form shown in the drawings the two clips consist

of a single strip of sheet metal folded over the pin 15, and the shorter clips 19 are bowed outward to strengthen their grip. Detachably secured to the tops of the leaves are a plurality of split tabs 20 carrying, each, an index letter 21. The top of the box and the upper end of the front wall are provided with cooperating locking devices 22 and 23, respectively, whereby the box may be locked after it has been closed. To increase the capacity of the box the clips may be secured to the front wall 5 or the back wall 2, as shown in Fig. 1, and they may also be secured upon the backs of the leaves as shown in the downturned leaf in Fig. 2.

When in use the front wall of the box is turned down into the position shown in Fig. 1, so as to rest upon the desk or counter. The frame 7, when constructed as shown in Fig. 2 of the drawings, is then detachably secured to the front wall 5 by the cooperating devices 12 and 13 described, and the leaves are adjusted to the notches so as to be spaced apart as shown in Fig. 2. The filing apparatus is then ready for use. When a sales slip is made out for a customer the duplicate slip 25 is placed within the file clip 14 appropriated to the account of that particular customer, the leaf carrying the desired clip being indicated by the index tab 20 which bears the first letter of the customer's name, while the particular clip is indicated by a tab 24 bearing the customer's name. This tab is held within the shorter clip 19 upon the face of the file clip 14. Thus each file clip will contain all of the slips belonging to the account of a particular customer, and these slips can at any time be removed, examined, checked up, and replaced. And as the index tabs 24 are removably held within the clips, they can be removed when the account is closed and replaced by other tabs bearing different names.

It will be seen that the clips 14 are held against the leaves, and the clips 19 against the clips 14, by the elastic pressure of the springs 17 which bear against the clips 19, as illustrated in Fig. 6, so that the duplicate slips are firmly held between the file clips 14 and the leaves.

We claim as our invention:

1. An account file comprising a receptacle having a hinged front wall, a leaf-supporting frame arranged to be carried upon the inner side of said wall, a plurality of leaves having swinging support on the frame, a plurality of spring file clips secured to the leaves, and a spring index clip upon the face of each file clip, for the purpose set forth.
2. An account file comprising a receptacle having an outwardly swinging front wall hinged at the bottom, a frame adapted to be carried upon the inner side of said wall, a plurality of leaves having swinging support on the frame and arranged one in advance of the other, a plurality of spring file clips secured to the leaves and means for holding an indicating card on the face of each file clip, said frame and leaves fitting within the receptacle when the front wall is swung up.
3. In an account file of the class described, the combination, with a receptacle having a bottom-hinged outwardly swinging front wall, of a frame adapted to be carried upon the inner side of said wall, a plurality of leaves having hinged support upon said frame, a plurality of spring held file clips secured to said leaves, an index clip upon the face of each file clip, and index tabs carried by the leaves, for the purpose set forth.
4. In an account file of the class described, the combination, with a receptacle having a bottom-hinged front wall, of a frame arranged to be carried upon the inner side of said wall, a plurality of leaves having swinging support on the frame, a plurality of clip-strips carried by each leaf, each strip being folded upon itself to form two clips, an inner clip bearing against the leaf and a shorter outer clip bearing against the longer clip, and spring means for holding the outer clips normally pressed against the inner clips and the inner clips against the leaf.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures in presence of two witnesses.

ALBERT A. SCHMIDT.
THEODORE W. HUWE.

Witnesses:

JOHN T. LANGAGER,
F. C. RILEY.