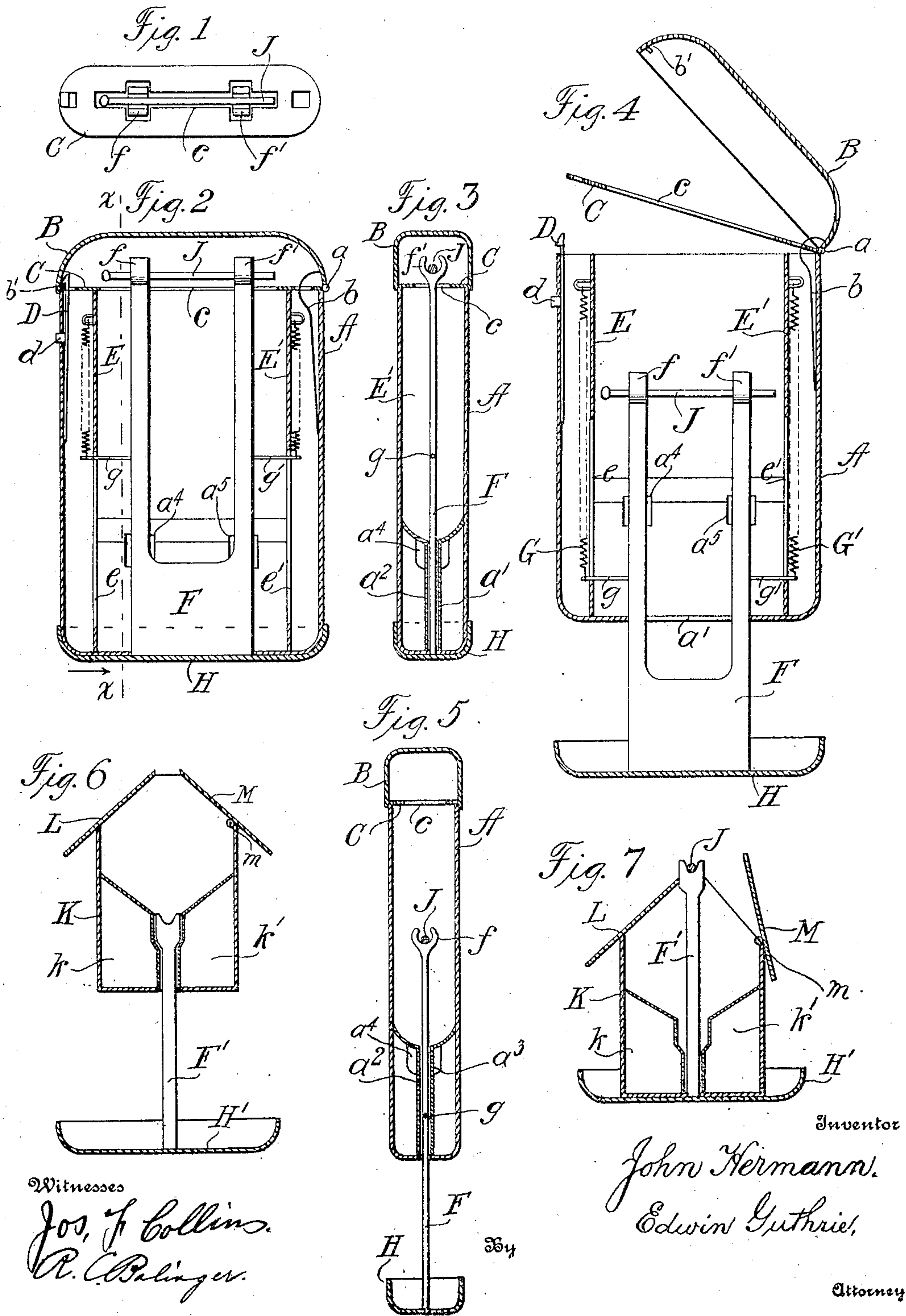


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MATCH SERVING BOX.
APPLICATION FILED JULY 6, 1908.

913,132.

Patented Feb. 23, 1909.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN HERMANN, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

MATCH-SERVING BOX.

No. 913,132.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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Application filed July 6, 1908. Serial No. 442,057.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN HERMANN, citizen of the United States, residing at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Match-Serving Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to match-serving boxes, and belongs to that class of devices employed for serving matches or toothpicks one at a time, taking them from a number within the box and passing them to the exterior where they may be readily reached by hand.

The object of this invention is the production of a serving box of the nature set forth, and having parts of special construction and particular arrangement by which it is believed the matches are more certainly and conveniently served, one at a time, and are held when served in position to be more easily taken by the hand, than is done by any like serving box with which I am acquainted.

The construction and arrangement of parts constituting this invention are illustrated in the accompanying drawings, of which—

Figure 1 represents a plan view of the inner and flat hinged lid of the box, and shows the form of the slot through the lid. Fig. 2 is a vertical section of the box in the direction of its width and shows the box closed, and the sliding match-server entirely within the box. Fig. 3 is a vertical section on line $x-x$ of Fig. 2, the match-server being shown within the box. Fig. 4 is a vertical section similar to that of Fig. 2 showing the cover and inner lid of the box raised, and the match-server drawn partly out of the box. Fig. 5 represents a vertical section on line $x-x$ of Fig. 2, showing the match-server partly withdrawn. Fig. 6 is a vertical section of a modified form of this invention, with the box raised, and Fig. 7 is a like section showing the box lowered.

The same letters of reference designate the same parts in the description and drawings.

The body of the box A is provided with an outer cupped cover B and an inner flat lid or partition C, both being pivotally connected with the body of the box by the hinge a . The spring catch D holds the cover B closed against the force of the spring b tending to throw it open. The lug upon the interior of the cover arranged to engage the catch is marked b' . When the catch is operated by

the pushbutton d , the spring throws the cover open, but does not affect the flat lid C which remains normally in the position illustrated in Fig. 2. The flat lid C may be opened as shown in Fig. 4 to refill the box with matches. Near its narrower sides the box has two vertical, transverse partitions E and E' provided with corresponding slots e and e' . A match server or picker slide F works up and down through a slot a' in the bottom of the box, its path being between the partitions E and E'. The regular location of the match server F is within the box, as shown in Fig. 2, and it is held thus by the springs G and G' which are attached to pins g and g' that pass through slots e and e' , already mentioned, and are secured to the match server. The springs are constructed to draw the match server F within the box until the cupped base or extra bottom H is in contact with the real bottom of the box, and the springs retain the match server yielding within the box as will be readily understood. The matches are held within the box upon a downwardly inclined or curved false bottom formed by the internal additions a^2 and a^3 to the walls of the box. It is thought to be clear that by reason of such construction should there be but a single match remaining in the box, it will gravitate to the middle of the false bottom.

To operate the preferred form of this invention shown in Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, the base or extra bottom H is grasped and drawn downwardly, which lowers the prongs f and f' of the match server until those prongs occupy the recesses a^4 and a^5 in the false bottom. Any match or matches within the box are moved out of the way by the prongs as they descend. When the prongs are in their lowest positions a match stick falls into them, and by permitting the springs to return the base into contact with the bottom of the box, the match is passed upwardly through the slot c in the flat lid C, and may be readily taken from the prongs after the cover B is thrown up as already explained. The slot c is shown to be of proper form to allow the prongs and the match to pass through the lid.

Figs. 6 and 7 illustrate a modification of this invention. The match server F' is not provided with springs, and the base H' is intended to rest upon a table or other convenient support. The box K has the internal additions k and k' resulting in the false bot-

tom with the convergent shape as in the form above described. In this modification, the normal position of the top of the match server is as shown in Fig. 7, that is to say, it
 5 extends slightly above the box K, and between the upwardly inclined plates L and M that constitute the top of the box. The plate M swings upon the hinge *m* thus permitting access to the inside of the box for
 10 filling it with matches.

The operation of the modified form of this invention is mechanically the same as that described for the preferred form, with the exception that in separating the box and
 15 base, it is the box that is moved and not the base, and the weight of the box returns it into contact with the base. When the box is raised a match falls into the grooved upper ends of the match server, and upon lowering
 20 the box the match is rendered within reach for the reason as stated, the ends of the match server project slightly above the box.

Having now described my invention and explained the mode of its operation, what I
 25 claim is—

1. In a serving box, the combination with a box having an opening at its top, the said box having a slot through its bottom, the said box having an internal false bottom pro-
 30 vided with a slot corresponding with the slot in the said bottom, the portions of the said false bottom being constructed downwardly convergent towards its slot, a match server adapted to be given a reciprocating move-
 35 ment in the said slots, a base attached to the match server and adapted to come to rest against the bottom of the box, and springs contained in the box for yieldingly holding the match server within the box, the said
 40 match server being constructed and arranged

to project above the said opening at the top of the box when the said base and bottom are together, the portions of the match server thus projecting being constructed to receive and hold a match stick and a cupped cover
 45 movably connected with the box and adapted to cover the portions of the match server projecting above the box, substantially as described.

2. In a serving box, the combination with 50 a box having a slot in its bottom, of a match server movable in the said slot, a cupped cover and a flat lid arranged below the said cover and having a slot adapted to permit the passage of the match server and a match,
 55 the said match server when in its innermost position having portions projecting above the flat lid and constructed to hold a match between the said lid and the said cupped cover, substantially as described. 60

3. In a serving box, the combination with a box having a slot in its bottom, of a match server movable in the said slot, a cupped cover and a flat lid arranged below the said cover and having a slot adapted to permit
 65 the passage of the match server and a match, the said match server when in its innermost position having portions projecting above the flat lid and constructed to hold a match between the said lid and the said cupped
 70 cover, and springs contained by the box and arranged to yieldingly hold the said match server in its said innermost position, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature 75 in presence of two witnesses.

JOHN HERMANN.

Witnesses:

ALEX ROSEN,
 BESSIE ROSEN.