O. LEWIS.

LATCH.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 31, 1907.

921,852. Patented May 18, 1909.

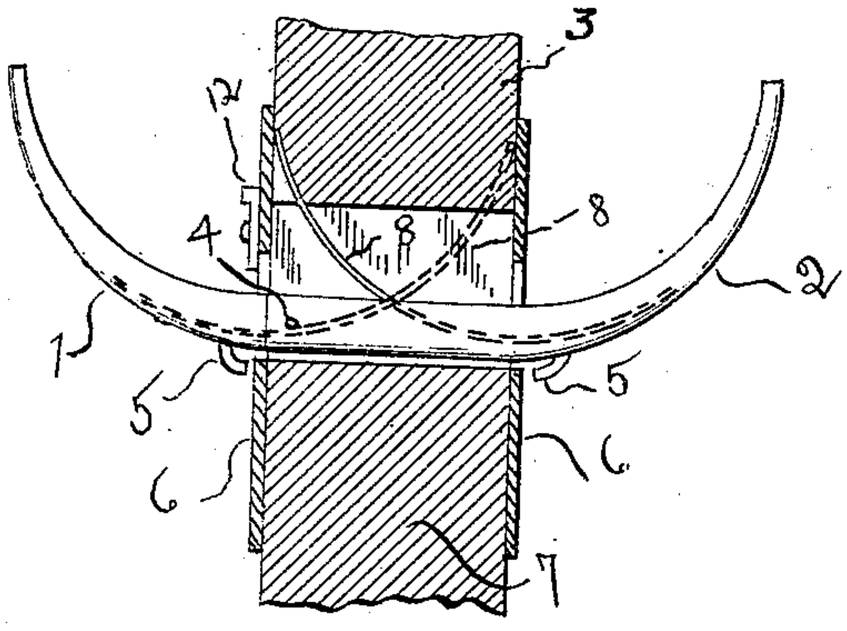

Fig. 1.

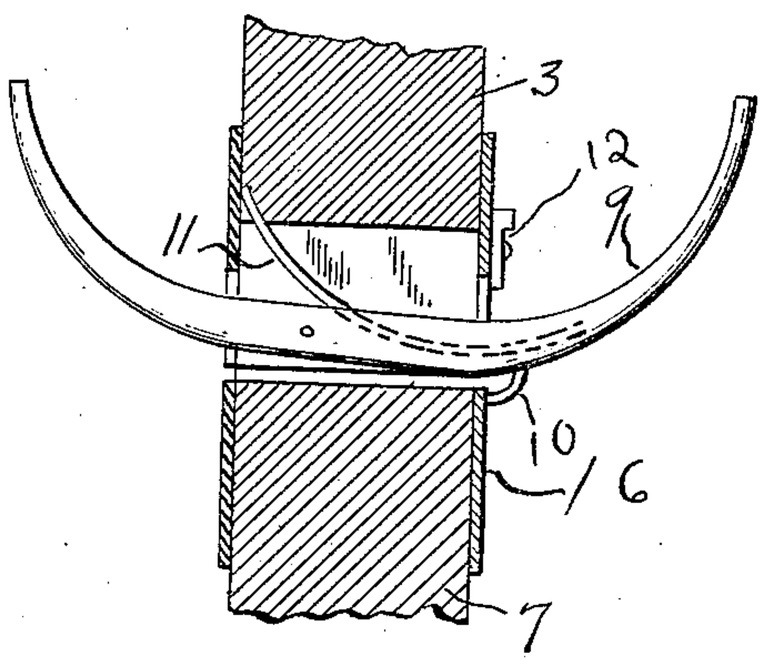

Fig. 4.

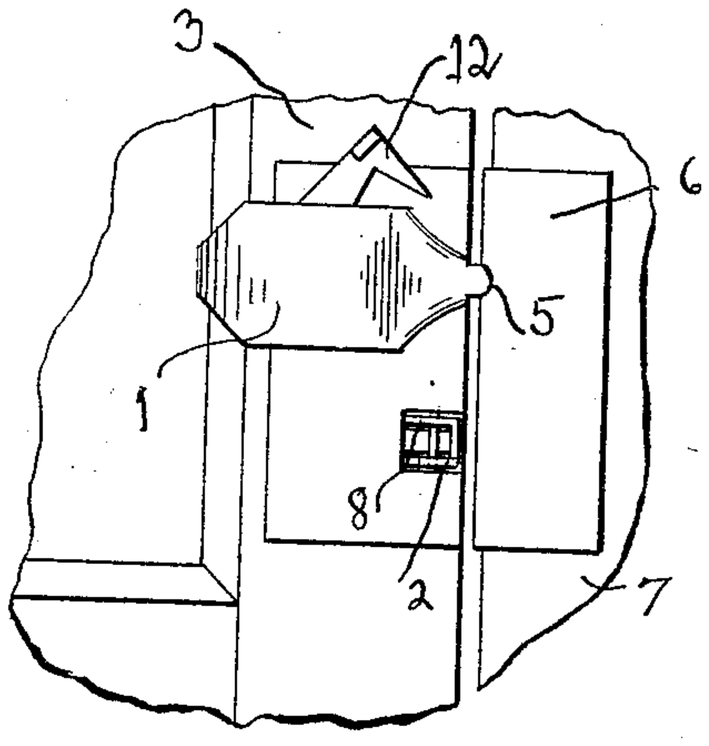

Fig. 2.

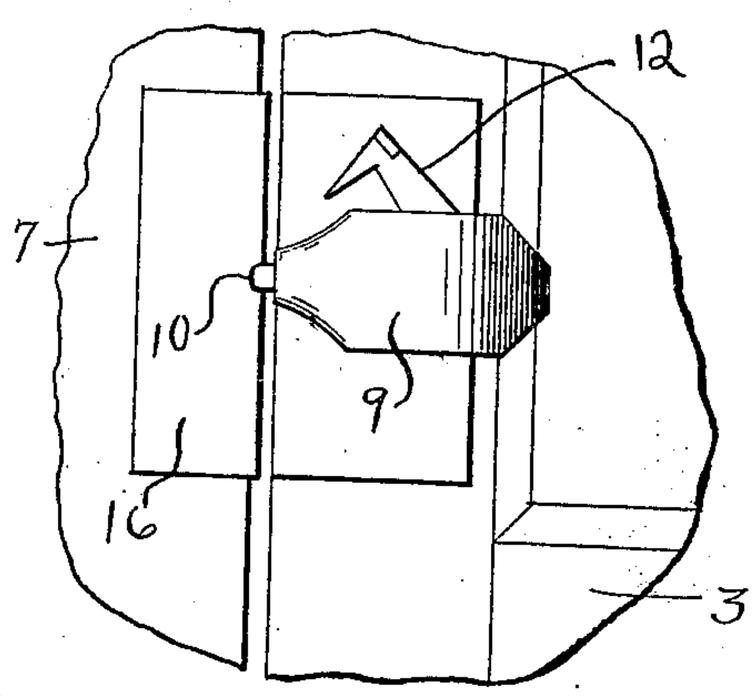

Fig. 5.

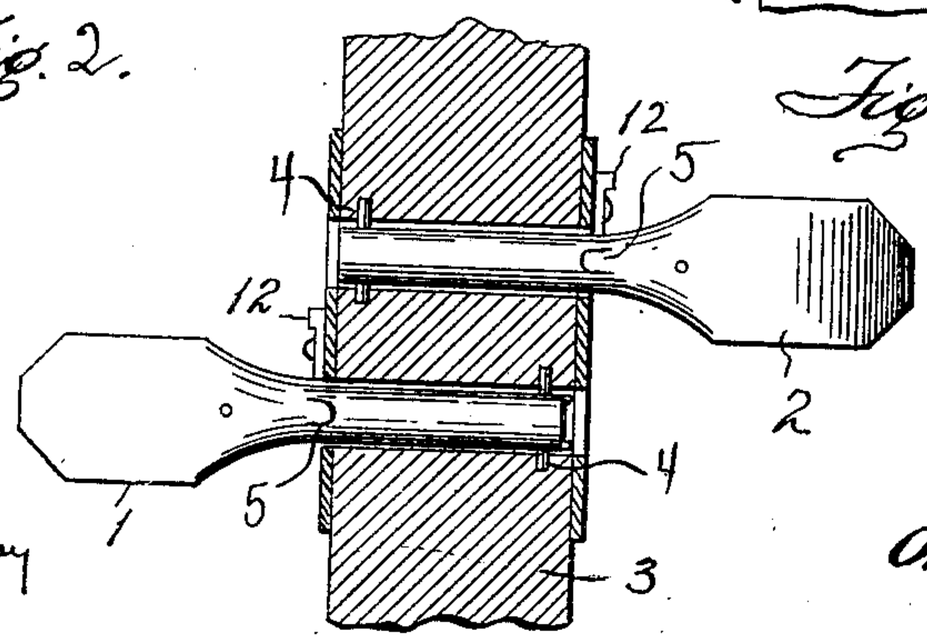

Fig. 3.

WITNESSES:

E. V. Hardway

Glynn Davis

INVENTOR

Oliver Lewis,

BY John J. McSpellman

ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

OLIVER LEWIS, OF WHITESBORO, TEXAS.

LATCH.

No. 921,852. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented May 18, 1909.

Application filed October 31, 1907. Serial No. 399,938.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, OLIVER LEWIS, citizen of the United States, residing at Whitesboro, in the county of Grayson and State of Texas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Latches, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to new and useful improvements in latches, and more particularly to that class of latches suitable to be used on swinging doors.

The object of my invention is to provide an efficient door latch of simple and durable construction, which may be released from either side to permit the door to be swung inwardly or outwardly, as may be desired.

A further object of the invention is to provide a latch which may be used so as to release the door held by said latch from either side.

A still further object of the invention is the provision of means for locking said latch in such a manner as to prevent the normal operation of the same.

With the above and other objects in view, the invention has relation to certain new and novel features, an example of which is described in the following specification and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein like figures of reference refer to similar parts in the several views.

In the drawings:—Figure 1 is a horizontal sectional view of a portion of a door and its jamb showing the latch in plan, Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the same, Fig. 3 is a transverse vertical sectional view of the door showing the latch in elevation. Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 1, showing a modified form of latch, and Fig. 5 is a side view of the same.

Referring now more particularly to the drawings, the numerals 1 and 2 in Fig. 1 designate two latch levers let into a door 3 and projecting from opposite sides thereof. These levers are pivoted at 4 and have projecting lugs 5 adapted to engage strike plates 6 secured on the door jamb 7. The levers are forced outward by flat curved springs 8.

The description just given is that of the double latch suitable to be used on a swinging door. Another form of the latch, substantially the same as that shown in Figs. 1, 2, and 3, is shown in Figs. 4 and 5, wherein the numeral 9 designates a single pivoted lever let into the door and projecting from both sides thereof. This lever is provided with a single lug 10 and one spring 11 for holding the same in its proper position. A suitable hook 12 may be pivoted on the side of the door and swing down over the lever to lock the same open when the lever is depressed. The double latch is likewise provided with the hooks 12 for the purpose of locking the levers when depressed.

It is obvious that when the swinging door to which my double latch is secured swings opposite its opposing jamb, the lugs 5 will engage said jamb on either side, thus locking the door and securely holding the same in its closed position. It is also obvious that by depressing either of the levers 1 or 2 the lug on the lever so depressed will be disengaged from the jamb and the door may be then swung open from that side. Either or both of said levers may be held in their depressed position by means of the hook 12, and the door may thus be prevented from latching. It is further obvious that when the door carrying the latch, as shown in Figs. 4 and 5, swings to a closed position, the lever 9 will be forced outward by the spring 11 and the lug 10 will engage a strike plate 16 on the jamb 7, and thus stop the door in the desired position. The door may be opened from the side on which the lug is set by depressing the lever on that side, or it may be opened from the opposite side by forcing said lever outward and thus disengaging the lug 10 from the door jamb.

I wish to call particular attention to the handle and levers and their broadened handle portions curving away from the jamb and toward the door. It is obvious that only a gentle pressure exerted against the handle portion will force it toward the door and withdraw the lug from the plate. Thus in case of a door swinging away from the person approaching, pressure exerted by him on the handle portion would release the latch and swing the door, and he could accomplish this by bringing his elbow, shoulder or arm in lieu of his hand, into engagement with the lever, thus leaving his hands free for carrying any articles he might desire to take through the door-way. This is better accomplished when the lever curves toward the door away from the jamb as it not only makes the operation more easy, but provides more room for operator to engage the latch.

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

1. In a swinging door latch, the combination with a door and its jamb, said door hav-

ing a cut away portion, of a handle lever having a narrow portion pivoted in and at one side of the cut-away portion of the door and adapted to be swung away from the jamb, a spring located in said cut-away portion in rear of the lever and having one end bearing against the same, a strike plate mounted on the side of the jamb, and a lug projecting from the lever adapted to engage the plate, said lever having a broadened curved portion extending away from the jamb permitting the lever to be swung by pressure toward the door.

2. In a swinging door latch, the combination with a door having a transverse recess and its jamb, of a handle lever latch having a narrow portion projecting into the recess and pivoted at the far side thereof, a curved and broadened handle formed on the lever extending in close proximity to the near side of the recess, a spring having one end secured in the far side of the recess and engaging the near side of the lever adjacent the near side of the recess, a strike plate mounted on the jamb, and a lug projecting from the lever between the handle and the narrow portion outside of the door and adjacent the near side of the recess adapted to engage the plate and to be withdrawn when the handle is swung toward the door.

3. In a swinging door latch, the combination with a door having a transverse recess and its jamb, of a handle lever latch having a channeled narrow portion projecting into the recess and pivoted at the far side thereof and a broadened handle portion projecting from the near side of the recess and curving toward the door, a flat spring having one end secured in the recess and the other bearing in the channel of the narrow portion of the lever, a plate carried by the jamb, and a lug projecting from the lever between the handle portion and the narrow portion adapted to engage the plate.

4. In a swinging door latch, the combination with a door and its jamb, said door having a cut away portion, of a handle lever having a narrow portion pivoted in and at one side of the cut away portion of the door and adapted to be swung from the jamb, a spring located in said cut away portion in rear of the lever and having one end bearing against the same, a strike plate mounted on the side of the jamb, a lug projecting from the lever adapted to engage the plate, said lever having a broadened curved portion extending away from the jamb permitting the lever to be swung by pressure toward the door, and means for locking the handle lever against operation.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

OLIVER LEWIS.

Witnesses:
G. D. Baker,
W. S. Omohundro.