

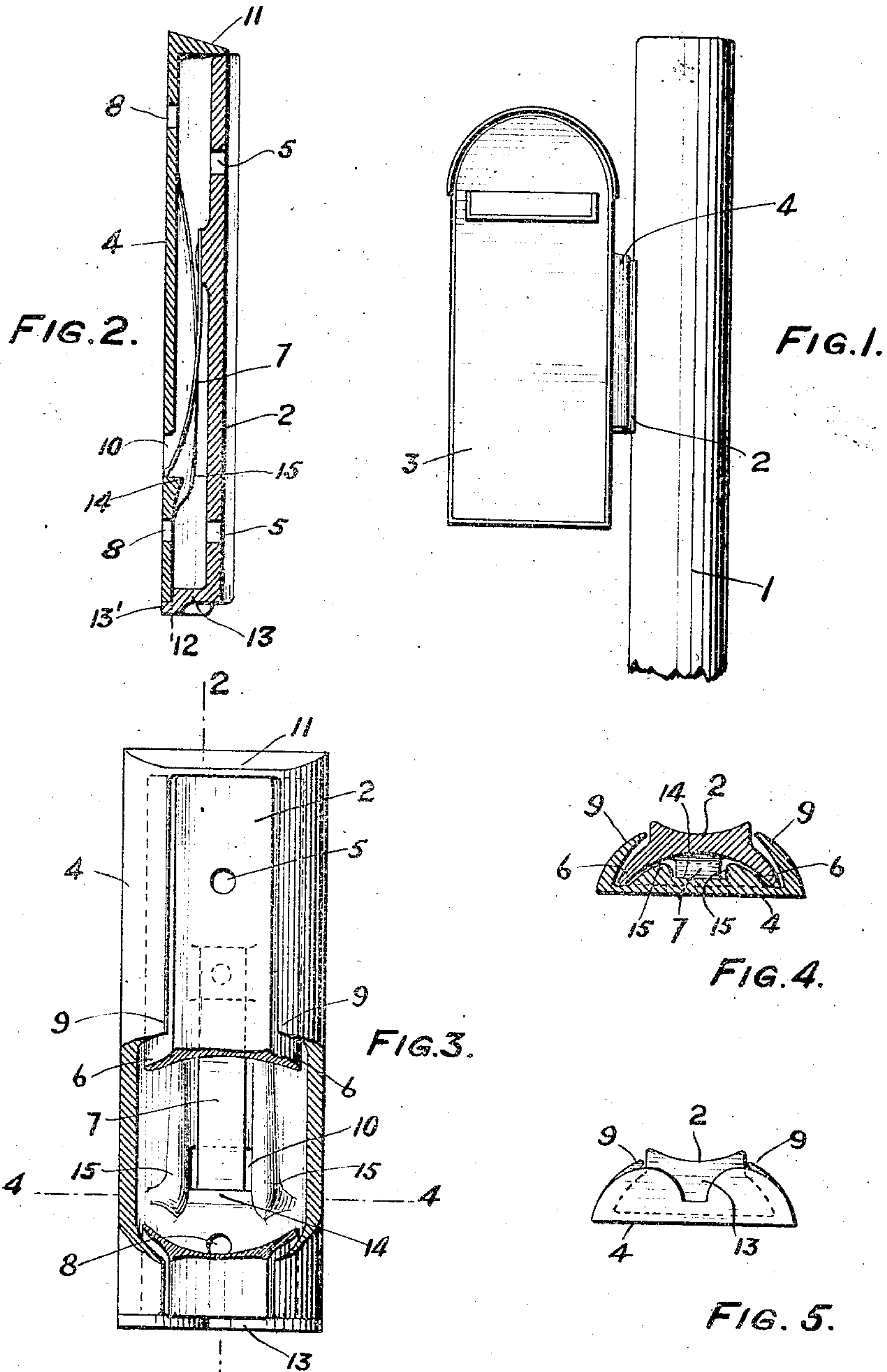
J. A. STEINMETZ.

LETTER BOX.

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925,524.

Patented June 22, 1909.



WITNESSES:

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JOSEPH A. STEINMETZ, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

LETTER-BOX.

No. 925,524.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented June 22, 1909.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH A. STEINMETZ, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city of Philadelphia, county of Philadelphia, and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain Improvements in Letter-Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

My improvements relate more particularly to letter boxes provided with exterior flanges in combination with a base piece having counter-flanges engaging therewith and a detachable catch for automatically engaging such parts together, and it is their primary object to provide means for preventing tampering with the catch or the separation of said parts excepting through the box.

In usual forms of mechanism for supporting letter boxes, it is possible to disengage a spring which connects a flanged shoe on the box with a flanged base piece or bracket, commonly fixed to a post. This may be done by inserting a long and thin knife-blade, wire hook, or the like between the shoe and bracket and withdrawing the spring on the bracket from its engagement with a hole formed in the shoe. By my improvements effectual guarding means are provided so that it is impossible to tamper with the spring and provision is made for the better engagement of the spring, which in existing constructions sometimes fails to effect a secure connection.

The characteristic features of my improvements are disclosed in the following description and the accompanying drawings in illustration thereof.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is an end elevation of a letter box connected to a post by means of my improvements; Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view of mechanism embodying my improvements, taken on the line 2-2 of Fig. 3; Fig. 3 is a rear elevation of the same with parts broken away for the purpose of showing the interior construction; Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken on the line 4-4 of Fig. 3; and Fig. 5 is a bottom plan view of the construction.

As shown in the drawings, the post 1 has fixed thereto the base piece or bracket 2 and the letter box 3 has fixed thereto the shoe 4 which slides down upon and is held by the part 2. The bracket 2 is provided with holes 5 through which screws may be passed to secure it in position, with the outwardly extending vertical flanges 6 adapted for

guiding and holding flanges on a shoe, and with the spring 7 adapted for engaging a notch or projection on a shoe to prevent its withdrawal from the bracket.

The shoe 4 is provided with holes 8 adapted for the insertion of bolts to engage it to the letter box, with the vertically disposed inwardly inclined flanges 9 movable on and held by the flanges 6 on the bracket, and with the hole 10 adapted for receiving the free end of the spring 7 to prevent the shoe from being disengaged from the bracket.

In usual constructions, the flanges 9 and the flange 11 joining them at the top of the shoe form a guard which prevents access to the spring from the top or sides, but access can be had by means of a thin instrument through a straight joint on the line 12 between the shoe and the flange 13 on the bracket, which has heretofore ended at the line 12, so that by inserting a suitable tool between this flange and the shoe the latter can be sprung outward and the spring detached.

In my improved construction, I have formed a lip 13' on the flange 13, which lip crosses and closes the otherwise straight joint on the line 12. A projection or flange 14, extending beyond the general surface of the shoe at the bottom of the hole 10, is provided for the better engagement of the free end of the spring 7. Parallel flanges or ribs 15 extend longitudinally of the shoe on opposite sides of the spring 7 and hole 10 so that if the lip 13' is broken off and a tool inserted through the joint, the guards provided by the flanges 14 and 15 will prevent the engagement and withdrawal of the spring 7 from the hole 10 or out of engagement with the projection or flange 14. It will be observed that all joints, in line with said spring, are covered so that an instrument cannot be passed through any of such joints to said spring as might otherwise occur.

Having described my invention, I claim:

1. A letter box having thereon a flanged shoe with an aperture therein, in combination with a flanged base piece on which said shoe is adapted to slide, a spring fixed to said base piece and adapted to engage said shoe within said aperture, a flange on said base piece and flanges on said shoe covering all joints in line with said spring.

2. A letter box having thereon a shoe with inwardly extending vertical flanges and a

top flange connecting said vertical flanges,
in combination with a base piece having
thereon outwardly extending vertical flanges
on which said first named flanges slide and a
5 bottom flange which covers the lower end of
said shoe, and a spring fixed to said base
piece between said flanges and adapted for
automatically engaging said shoe to fix said
base piece and shoe together.
10 3. A letter box having thereon a shoe with
an aperture therein and guards on opposite
sides of said aperture, a base piece adapted
for engaging said shoe, and fixed to said
base piece a spring having a free end adapt-
15 ed to drop into said aperture between said
guards.

4. A letter box having thereon a shoe
with guiding devices, guards between said
devices and a projection between said
guards, in combination with a base piece 20
having guiding means adapted for engaging
said guiding means of said shoe, and fixed
to said base piece a spring adapted to en-
gage said projection between said guards.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set 25
my name this sixth day of April, 1909, in
the presence of the subscribing witnesses.

JOSEPH A. STEINMETZ.

Witnesses:

ROBERT JAMES EARLEY,
JOS. G. DENNY, Jr.