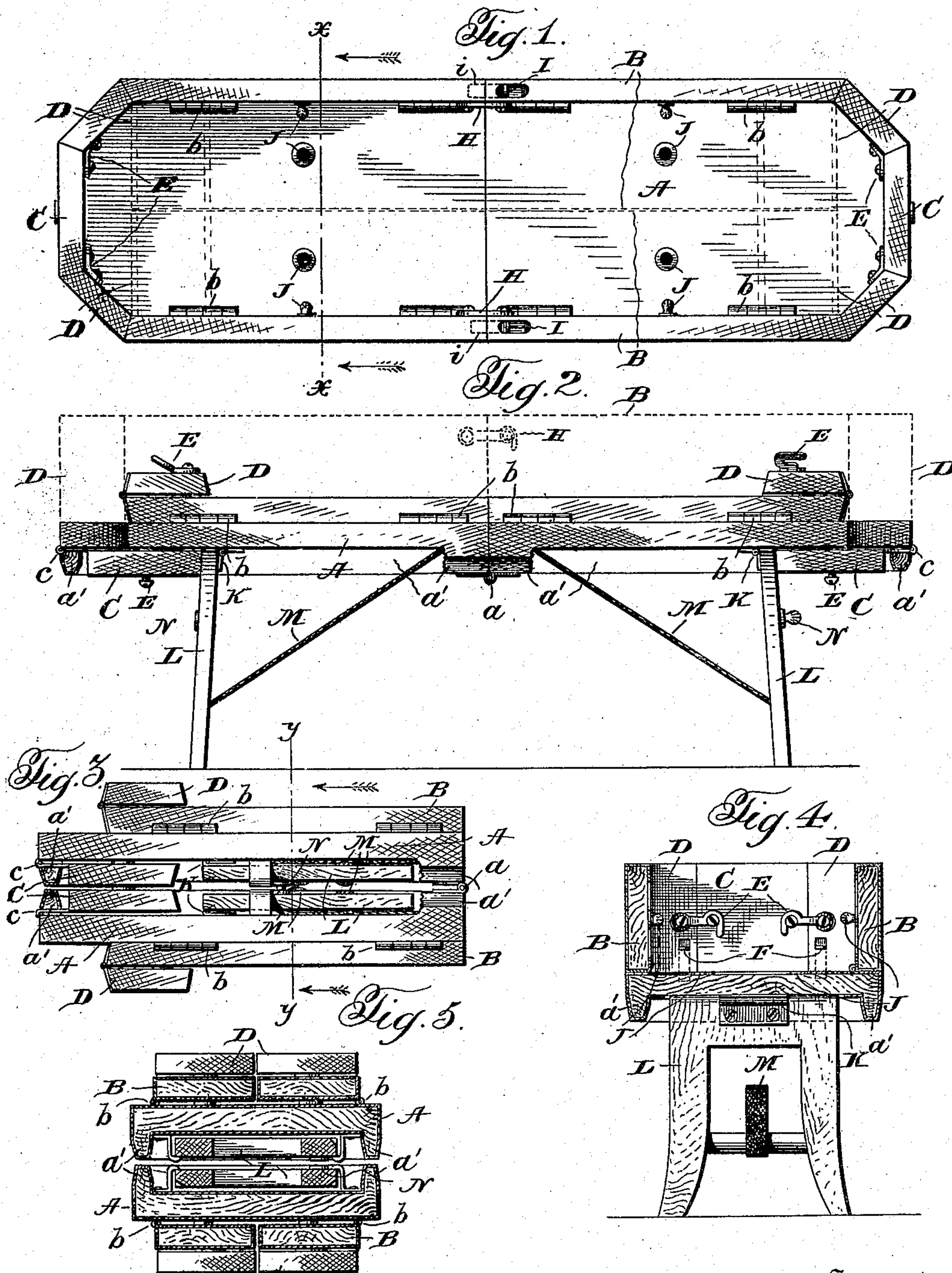


R. E. HAHN.
 COLLAPSIBLE CASKET.
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930,543.

Patented Aug. 10, 1909.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT E. HAHN, OF DAYTON, OHIO.

COLLAPSIBLE CASKET.

No. 930,543.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT E. HAHN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Dayton, in the county of Montgomery and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Collapsible Caskets, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawing.

This invention relates to a collapsible casket capable of various uses, but more particularly designed for service in connection with initiatory ceremonies in fraternal organizations or other societies.

In a casket of the character mentioned, it is desirable that the same may be folded into the smallest possible space whereby to be readily stored when not in use; also to enable its being transported from place to place.

In keeping with the spirit of my invention, I provide a casket with collapsible sides and ends, in combination with means for retaining the parts in their collapsed or folded positions; a casket having a collapsible body portion and foldable supporting means carried by the bottom thereof; and a casket having a body portion with foldable sides and ends whereby the body will be collapsed within the plane bordered by the edges of the bottom, and whereby the bottom may in turn be folded to materially reduce the length of the collapsed device.

The foregoing and also other novel features of the device will be apparent from the detailed description hereinafter contained, when read in connection with the accompanying drawings forming part hereof and wherein an embodiment of the invention is illustrated.

In the drawings: Figure 1 is an elevation of the casket in its open position showing in dotted lines the positions the sides and ends occupy when folded. Fig. 2 is a side view of Fig. 1 showing the folded positions of the sides and ends, the open position being indicated by dotted lines. Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2 showing the folding of the bottom and the supporting stand carried thereby, Fig. 4 is a cross sectional view on the line $x-x$ of Fig. 1, and Fig. 5 is a similar view on the line $y-y$ of Fig. 3.

Referring more specifically to the drawings wherein like reference characters refer to corresponding parts in the several views, A represents the bottom of the casket which is conveniently formed of two sections

hinged together at the middle of the bottom transversely thereof as at a . The sides B are sectional to correspond to the sectional bottom A, the different sections of the sides being hinged as at b to the bottom to fold inwardly to lie upon the upper surface of the bottom, the hinges being at the lower inner edges of the sides whereby the sides when open will be flush with the outer edges of the bottom, and the bottom edges of the sides will firmly support the same against excessive opening. The ends are composed of three sections, an intermediate section C hinged to the bottom as at c , and corner sections D hinged to the ends of the side sections B, the sections C being adapted to fold beneath the bottom when the device is collapsed, and the sections D in turn being adapted to fold on the outside of the sections B.

Securing hooks or other fastening devices E connect the adjoining edges of the sections C and D together when the casket is in use, and vertical sliding bolts F carried by the sections D fitting aligned openings in the bottom A securing the lower free edges of the sections D in place to preserve a neat joint. To connect the abutting side sections B similar fastening devices H are employed, the same being arranged near the upper edges of the sides to resist any tendency incident to the use of the device to bend either end of the casket downwardly on the hinges a , it being observed that the hinges just referred to are so arranged that the abutting edges of the bottom sections will prevent any downward bending of the bottom at the middle.

Sliding bolts or dowels I carried by one section of each side and fitting aligned openings i in the adjoining section, preserve alignment between the two sections whereby to present continuous flush sides. I have found that in use, when the device is properly fastened in open position, the abutting edges or joints are practically imperceptible. Spring ball and socket fasteners J between the overlying portions when folded serve to secure the different sections in place against accidental opening, also overcoming the objection to loose parts in carrying the device.

Pivoted at K to the bottom A, one to each section thereof, are supporting legs L adapted to be folded onto the bottom to occupy a position within the plane of the depending

marginal flange *a'* of said bottom. The legs are held in folded or collapsed position by springs M, and the folded halves of the casket are secured in folded position by interlocking devices N on the outer faces of the legs at points near their hinges. The device may be formed of any material desired, conveniently of cheap wood, upholstered to suit the requirements attending its use.

10 When collapsed, a coffin of ordinary or standard size will be compact, devoid of any loose parts, and occupy so little space that it may be readily carried in the hand, its size approximating that of an ordinary dress

15 suit case.

I claim:

1. A collapsible casket of the character described having a bottom, and foldable sides and ends, the side sections being arranged to fold inwardly upon the bottom, and the bottom being formed to fold upon itself.

2. A collapsible casket of the character described comprising a bottom, sides hinged thereto whereby to fold inwardly upon the bottom, and end sections consisting of an intermediate member pivoted to the bottom and adapted to fold thereonto, and corner sections hinged to the side sections whereby to fold over upon said side sections.

30 3. A collapsible casket of the character described comprising a bottom, sides hinged to said bottom and adapted to fold inwardly thereupon, and end sections hingedly secured to the opposite ends of each side section adapted to fold upon said side sections.

4. A collapsible casket of the character described comprising a sectional bottom hinged to fold downwardly, corresponding sectional sides carried by said bottom, and interfitting devices at the abutting ends of the side sections for preserving their alinement.

45 5. A collapsible casket of the character described comprising a bottom, sides and foldable ends, the members of said ends being hinged, devices for connecting said members together, and other devices for securing the ends in proper relation to the bottom.

6. A collapsible casket of the character described comprising a bottom, sides hinged to said bottom, and foldable ends consisting of an intermediate member hinged to the bottom adapted to fold thereonto, and corner members hinged to the sides and adapted to

fold thereagainst, means for securing the adjacent edges of the end sections together, and other means for securing the corner sections in proper position with reference to the bottom.

7. A collapsible casket of the character described comprising a sectional bottom hinged to fold upon itself, sectional sides and ends arranged to be folded onto said bottom, and means for securing foldable portions in place.

8. A collapsible casket of the character described comprising a foldable bottom, foldable sides for said bottom, and means operatively associated with said sides and bottom for preventing the folding of the device when in use.

9. A collapsible casket of the character described having a bottom, hinged sides thereon arranged to fold inwardly upon said bottom and toward each other to occupy the same plane, and hinged end sections adapted to fold inwardly to occupy the same plane and against that surface of the bottom opposite to the surface on which the side sections are folded.

10. A collapsible casket of the character described having a bottom, hinged sides thereon arranged to fold inwardly upon said bottom and toward each other to occupy the same plane, hinged end sections adapted to fold inwardly to occupy the same plane and against that surface of the bottom opposite to the surface on which the side sections are folded, and other end sections hinged to fold inwardly upon the sides.

11. A collapsible casket of the character described having a bottom, hinged sides thereon arranged to fold inwardly upon said bottom and toward each other to occupy the same plane, hinged end sections adapted to fold inwardly to occupy the same plane and against that surface of the bottom opposite to the surface on which the side sections are folded, and other end sections hinged to fold inwardly upon the sides, in combination with means whereby the bottom and sides may be folded transversely of the bottom.

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

ROBERT E. HAHN.

Witnesses:

JOS. H. MILANS,
THOS. R. HEATH.