

G. C. KERKOW, DEC'D.
 E. KERKOW, ADMINISTRATRIX.
 ATTACHMENT FOR BEER CASES.
 APPLICATION FILED JULY 26, 1907.

970,237.

Patented Sept. 13, 1910.

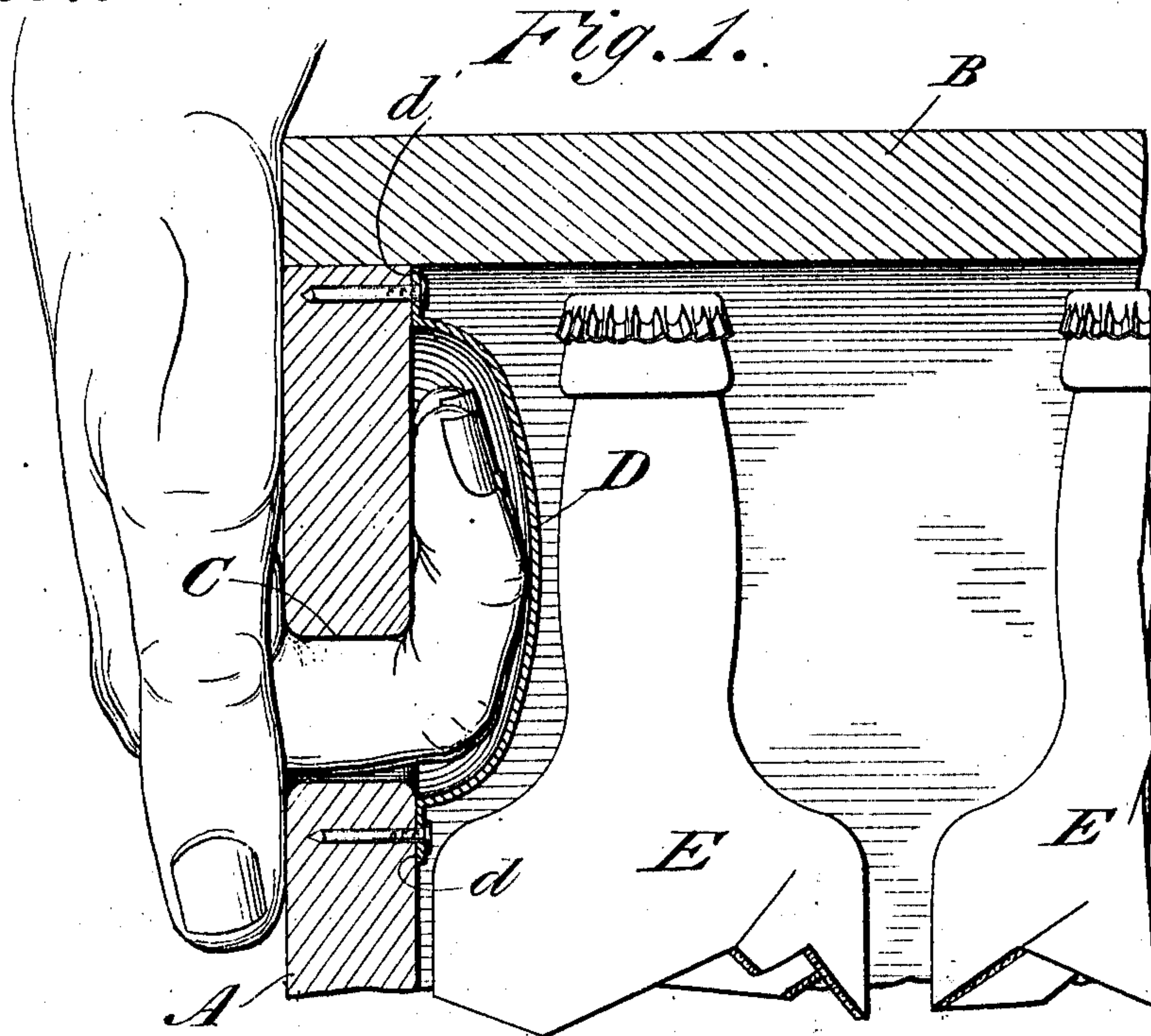


Fig. 2.

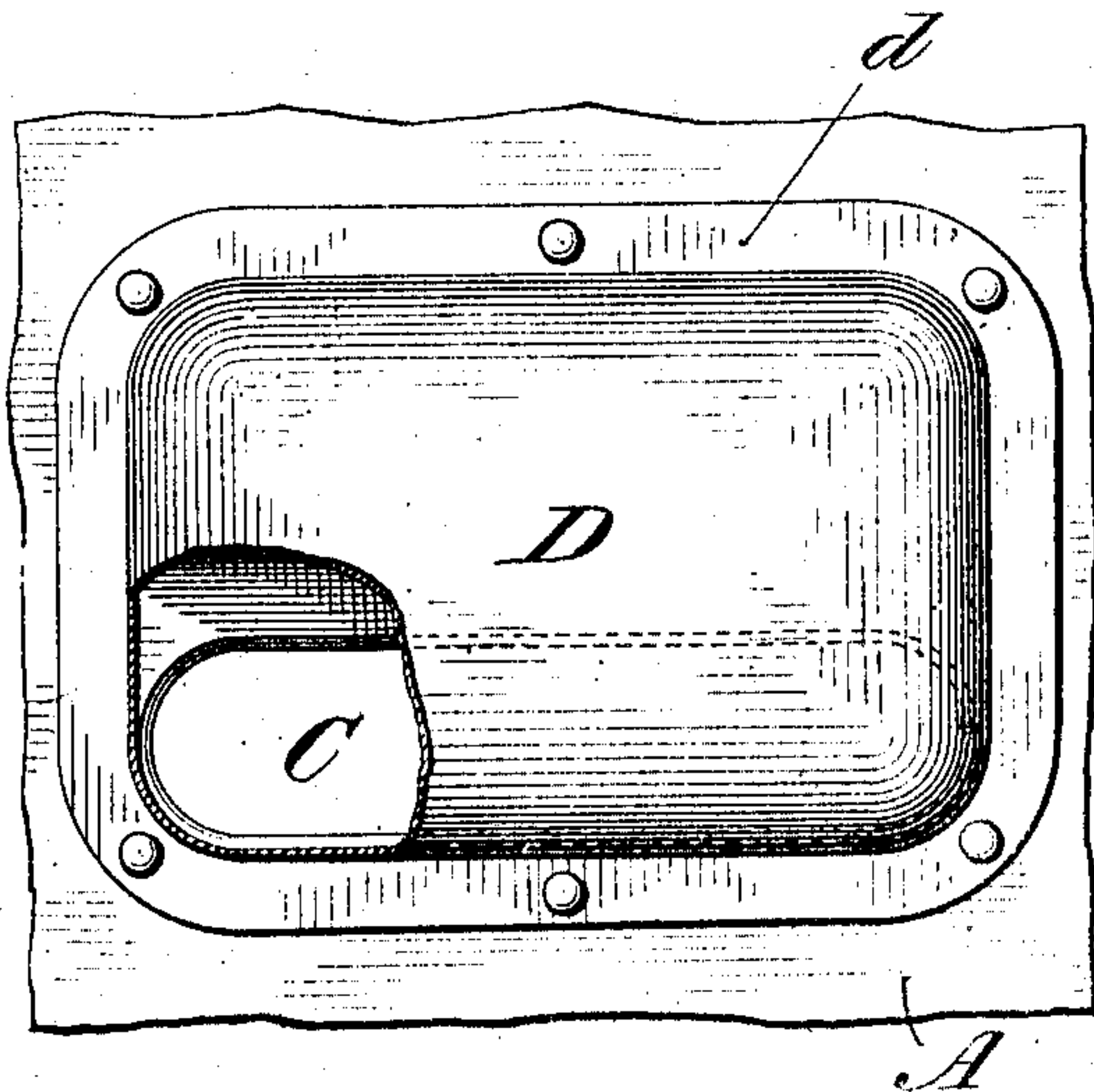
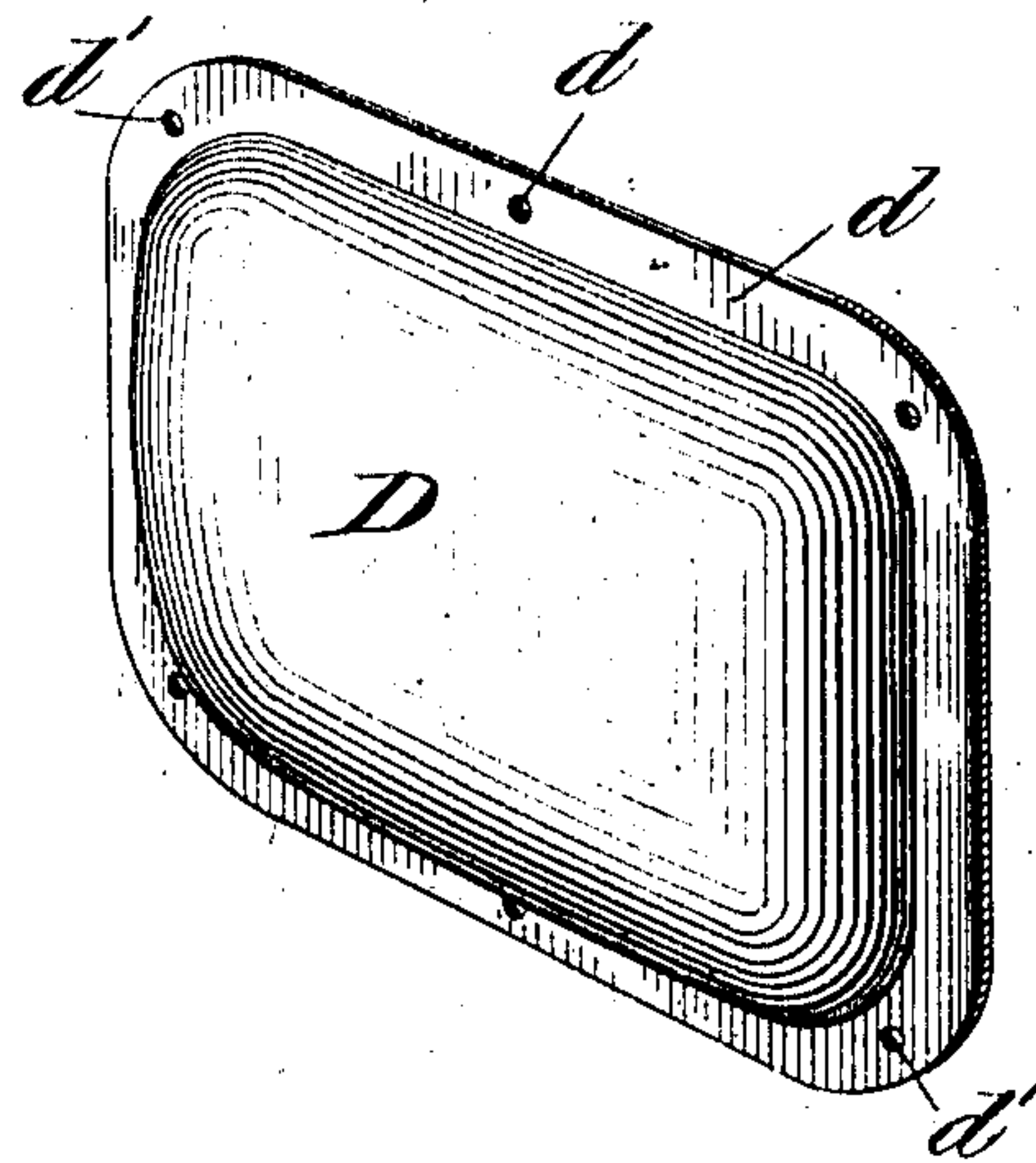


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GUSTAV C. KERKOW, OF FREMONT, NEBRASKA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO JOHN GUMB, OF FREMONT, NEBRASKA; EMMA KERKOW ADMINISTRATRIX OF SAID GUSTAV C. KERKOW, DECEASED.

ATTACHMENT FOR BEER-CASES.

970,237.

Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Sept. 13, 1910.

Application filed July 26, 1907. Serial No. 385,746.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GUSTAV C. KERKOW, a citizen of the United States, residing at Fremont, in the county of Dodge and State of Nebraska, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Attachments for Beer-Cases; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to shipping-cases for bottled beer and other liquids, as soft drinks, mineral waters, etc., and pertains more particularly to an improved attachment intended as an inside hand-hold cover, that is a cover for excluding light, cold and damp from the openings in the heads or ends of the case usually provided to afford a hold for the hands in lifting or handling the case. The chief purpose of such attachment is to protect bottled liquids, more especially bottled beer, from the deteriorating influence of light. As well known, all beer packaged in light bottles, when exposed to light, even through the hand-holes in the heads or ends of the case, will invariably deteriorate in taste and flavor, become more or less cloudy, and acquire a noxious odor known among brewers as "skunky." Since light bottles have come into general use, much beer is spoiled in this manner, in transportation or shipping as well as while kept on hand by retailers and consumers. To avoid this trouble, it has been customary, when shipping beer in light bottles, to wrap the bottles in colored tissue-paper or in paste-board hoods or wrappers, which, of course, incurs extra trouble and expense for each and every shipment. Special constructions of shipping-cases have also been devised with hand-holes made or arranged to exclude the light, but such constructions, besides involving an objectionable departure from the standard beer-cases universally used and demanded by the trade, have also been more expensive and heavier than the regular beer-cases. To increase the cost of the cases is, of course, wholly impracticable. Brewers and shippers, who pay about fifty or sixty cents for their beer-cases, charge the same to the retailer or consignee, and credit or refund the cost upon return of the cases. But where

beer is shipped to distant points, frequently the cases are not returned on account of freight or express charges; for which reason, among others, any increase in the cost of the cases would meet the opposition of the trade. It is likewise impracticable to materially increase the weight of the cases, not only because of the objection to handling heavier cases, but also on account of increased express charges which would amount to a considerable aggregate for a large consignment. Aside from special constructions of cases, which have not found favor and have not come into general use, the only mode of excluding light from the hand-holes, so far as I am aware, has been by affixing flat boards or plates on the insides of the cases over the hand-holes; but such contrivances are impracticable and almost useless for beer-cases, since they allow only the tips of the fingers to be inserted in the hand-holes to lift a weight from 100 to 150 pounds, which is the weight of a full shipping-case for beer.

In view of the foregoing, the object of my invention is to provide a very simple, cheap and practicable attachment, which can be made and furnished in quantities at slight expense, and which can be readily applied as an inside hand-hole cover to the standard or ordinary beer-cases now in universal use, in such manner as to exclude the light yet affording an ample hold for the hands to lift the heavy cases.

In the accompanying drawings, which are to be taken as a part of this specification: Figure 1 is a vertical section through the head or end portion of an ordinary wooden shipping-case for beer, showing my improved attachment or hand-hole cover applied thereto. Fig. 2 is an inside view of a fragment of the head of the shipping-case, with the attachment covering the hand-hole thereof, a portion of said attachment being broken away to disclose the hand-hole which is also indicated in part by dotted lines. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the attachment.

In said drawings, the letter A denotes one of the heads or ends of the shipping case, B the lid or cover thereof, and C the usual slot-like opening provided in the head for inserting the hand to lift the case.

D denotes my improved attachment or hand-hole cover, which as shown comprises a dish-like plate of concavo-convex form having a marginal flange d , said attachment
 5 being applied with its hollow or concave side facing the hand-hole C, with its marginal flange d affixed to the inner face of the head A by any suitable means, as by tacking or nailing it thereto, for which purpose the said flange d is shown provided
 10 with apertures d^1 to receive the fastening tacks or nails.

The attachment is so applied as to provide a hollow chambered cover behind and
 15 above the hand-hole, so as to permit the hand to enter and obtain the usual firm grip in the hand-hole, the same as if the cover were not attached, as shown in Fig. 1; said cover accommodating the knuckles and fingers inside the case. In other words, when
 20 the cover D is affixed on the inside of the case, the bottom and side portions of its marginal flange d surrounds the bottom and side edges of the hand-hole, while the upper portion of the cover extends to or toward the top of the case and is affixed at
 25 a distance above the hand-hole. The depth of the cover is sufficient to accommodate the knuckles and fingers when the hand is gripping the hand-hole, and this without
 30 having to recess the inner face or otherwise destroy the integrity of the wall of the case. The cover is not, however, of a depth to interfere with the bottles, which are indicated
 35 in Fig. 1 by the letter E. The usual location of the hand-holes places the cover above the shoulders of the bottles, so that the cover comes besides the bottle-necks.

This attachment is desirably made of
 40 metal, preferably stamped from sheet-metal, as galvanized sheet-iron or other suitable sheet-metal. It may also be pressed, stamped or formed from papier-maché or other suitable material. The device is also
 45 adapted for attachment to steel or metal bottle cases, which are lately coming into use. When applied to such steel or metal

cases, the marginal flange d may be riveted to the heads or ends of the case.

It will be seen that the attachment can
 50 be manufactured cheaply, as by stamping from sheet-metal, and is easily affixed to the cases, as by tacking to ordinary wooden cases or riveting to steel or metal cases, so that neither the cost nor the weight of the
 55 cases are increased by the attachment except in an insignificant degree. The device is strong and durable, and will outlast the life of the ordinary wooden cases themselves; so that when the cases become worn
 60 out or broken the attachment may be transferred to other cases if desired, though the cheapness of the attachment would obviate any need of considering its further use. In
 65 addition to excluding light, while yet allowing the usual facility for entering the hand and lifting the case, the attachment also serves for excluding dampness and cold. A further utility is protection to the fingers
 70 against contact with broken glass in the event of breakage of bottles.

I claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States:

A shipping case for bottled goods having
 75 in its end wall a slot-like hand-hole formed wholly therethrough, and a substantially rectangular concavo-convex dish-like cover composed of sheet material and attached to the inner face of the case, said cover being
 80 disposed with its concavity facing and wholly inclosing the hand-hole, and the upper edge of the cover being disposed sufficiently above the upper margin of the hand-hole to accommodate and protect the
 85 fingers of the hand when grasping the case, while at the same time shielding the contents of the box from the exterior.

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

GUSTAV C. KERKOW.

Witnesses:

GEO. F. LOOSCHEN,
 JOHN SCHIPMANN.