

J. Y. WERRICK & P. F. DAILEY.

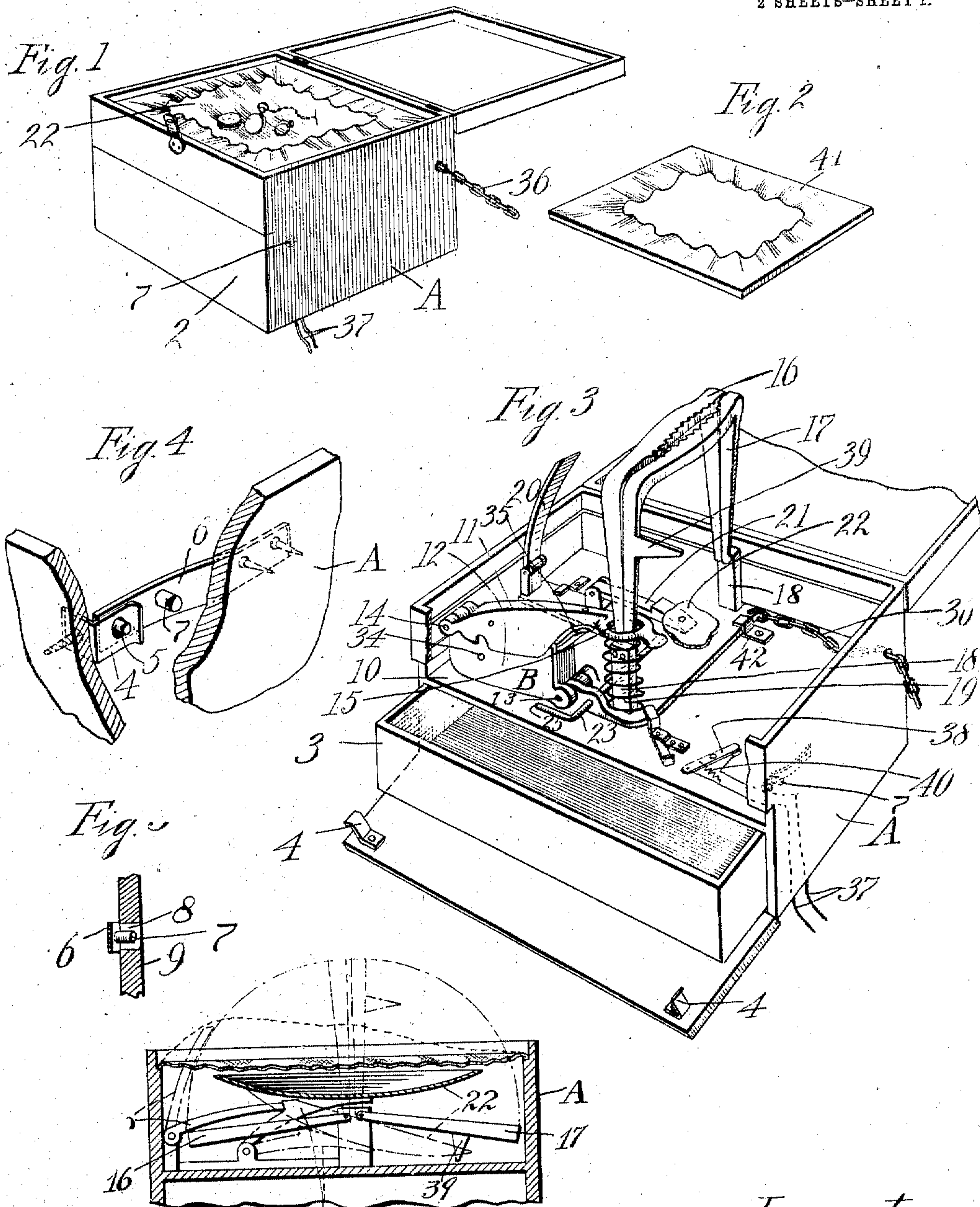
BURGLAR TRAP.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 5, 1909.

Patented Jan. 31, 1911

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

982,911.



Witnesses,
George Voelker
H. Smith.

Fig. 11.

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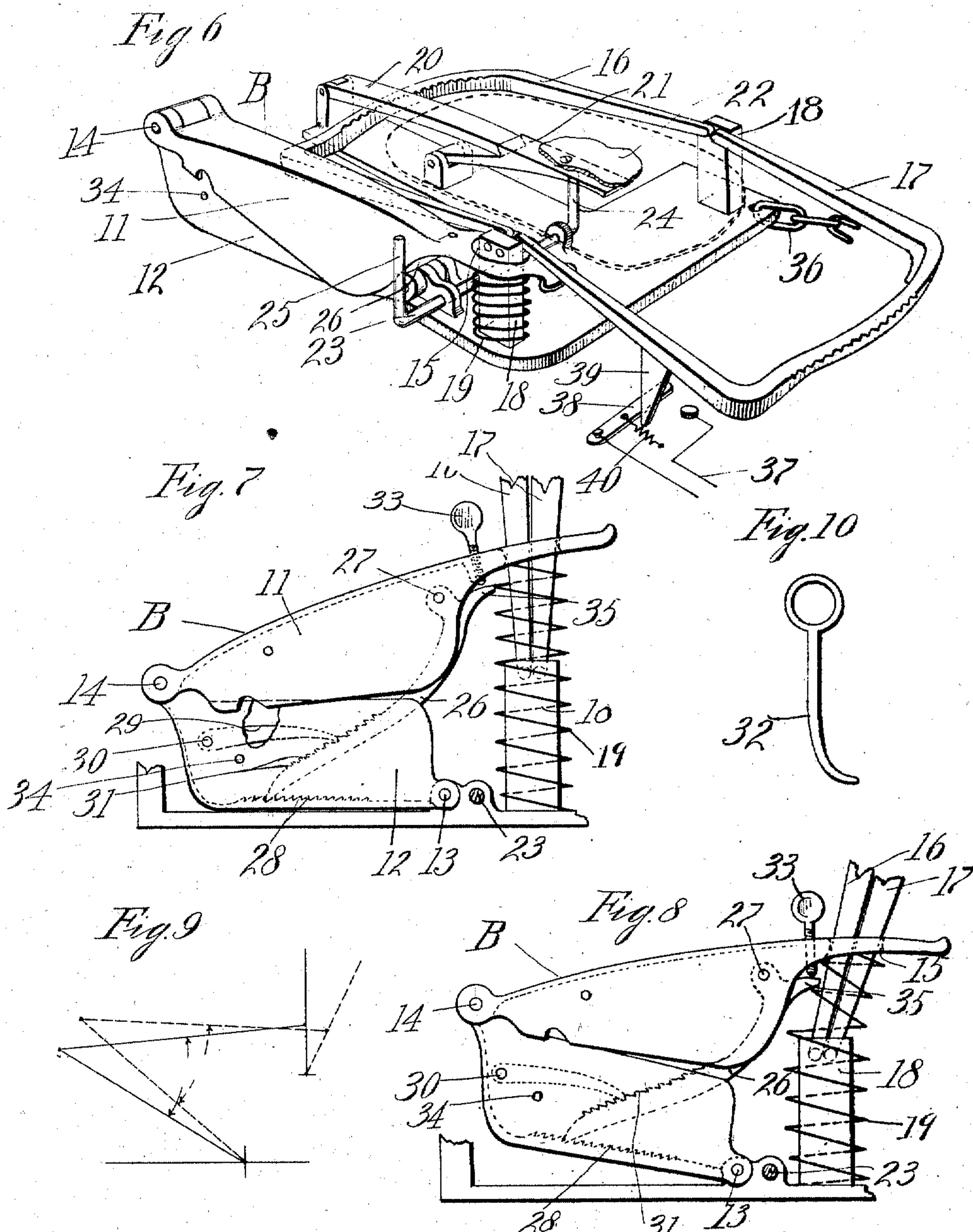
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES Y. WERRICK AND PATRICK F. DAILEY, OF ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA.

BURGLAR-TRAP.

982,911.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Jan. 31, 1911.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, JAMES Y. WERRICK and PATRICK F. DAILEY, citizens of the United States, residing at St. Paul, in the county of Ramsey and State of Minnesota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Burglar-Traps, of which the following is a specification.

Our invention relates to improvements in burglary preventive devices, its object being particularly to provide improved means in connection with a jewel box or other receptacle for trapping the hand of a person attempting to remove the contents of the box.

To this end our invention consists in the features of construction, combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter particularly described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings forming part of this specification, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a jewel box fitted with our improvements; Fig. 2 is a similar view of a false top for the box; Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a box shown opened and the trap sprung and showing the false partition wall broken away to better expose the features of construction of the trap; Fig. 4 is a view of an inside catch for the door of the box; Fig. 5 is a sectional view of the same; Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the trap in set position; Figs. 7 and 8 are side elevations of the trap in sprung position; Fig. 9 is a diagrammatic view illustrating the swinging movements of the trap; Fig. 10 is a detail of a key adapted to be used in unlocking the trap, and Fig. 11 is a vertical cross section of the invention illustrating the operation of the parts.

In the drawings A represents a jewel box supplied with a suitable end door 2 inside of which is arranged a jewelry drawer 3. The door 2 may be formed with spring catches 4 to engage with studs 5 carried by spring arms 6 secured to the inner sides of the box. The spring arms 6 will be forced inwardly to release the catches by pressing the studs 7 extending through openings in the side walls of the box underneath the outer fabric covering 9 so as to be hidden from view. This prevents strangers from knowing how to open the door.

Secured upon the horizontal floor 10 of the box by clips 42 is our improved trap B. The trap comprises arms 11 and 12, the arm 12 having hinge support 13 upon the floor

and the arms having pivotal connection 14. The arm 11 is formed with an opening 15 to receive adjacent sides of the jaws 16 and 17, which jaws are pivotally supported in the vertical posts 18. When in set position as indicated in Fig. 6 one post 18 will extend through the opening 15, a coil spring 19 surrounding the post between the end of the arm 11 and the bottom 10. In order to set the trap jaws we provide the ordinary pivotally supported lever 20 adapted to extend over one end of the jaw 16 as indicated in Fig. 6 and interlock with a pivoted trip 21 secured to the underside of the false partition wall 22. To assist in setting the trap we provide the horizontal shaft 23 journaled upon the floor 10 and having an offset end 24 to engage with the underside of the trap 21 and having a handle 25 at its opposite end.

In order to hold the trap sprung and also to increase the grip of the jaws as the same are pulled upon we provide a lever 26 having pivotal support 27 inside the arm 11, the lower end of the lever 26 engaging with a horizontal row of teeth 28 inside the arm 12. A second lever 29 has pivotal support 30 inside the arm 12 and engages with teeth 31 upon the inner side of the lever 26. Thus when the trap jaws are sprung the end of the lever 26 will engage with the teeth 28 and be locked against disengagement by the lever 29. Any effort of the party caught between the jaws to free himself will only tend, as the jaws move closer together, to allow the end of the arm 11 to be forced upwardly by the spring 19 and carry the lower end of the lever 26 outwardly to more tightly and closely grip the jaws. In order to release the levers 26 and 29 to allow the trap to be set, the key 32 and pin 33 are employed. The key 32 may be inserted through the opening 34 to lift the lever 29, and the lower end of the lever 26 then lifted out of engagement with the teeth 28 by screwing downwardly the pin 33 into engagement with the upper end 35 of the lever 26.

In operation the jaws may be set as shown in Fig. 6, the shaft 23 then being turned downwardly out of engagement with the trip 21. The trip 21 will hold the false bottom 22 raised into position shown in Fig. 1 and upon this false bottom the jewels may be placed to deceive a burglar. As the person then attempts to take the jewelry

from the false bottom 22 the consequent pressure upon said false bottom will slightly depress and disengage the trip 21 in the ordinary manner, allowing the jaws to be raised under the impulse of the spring 19 to grip the hand. As the jaws turn into gripping position the lever 26 will drop downwardly into engagement with the teeth 28 and the lever 29 will engage with the teeth 31 locking the jaws. Any movement of the gripped hands will simply swing the arms 11 and 12 upon their pivotal support as indicated in Figs. 8 and 9 and it will be impossible to withdraw the hand from the jaws without the use of the key 32 and pin 33. In order to prevent the box being bodily removed a suitable chain 36 may be employed connecting the same with a suitable support.

In order to electrically sound an alarm a circuit 37 may be employed with a switch 38 and an arm 39 carried by one of the jaws in position to engage with and hold the switch open against the tension of the spring 40 while the jaws are set. When the jaws are sprung to carry the arms 39 away from the switch the spring 40 will close the switch and sound the alarm.

With the trap set as shown in Fig. 6 the false bottom covers the trip 21 closing the opening in the top of the box as indicated in Fig. 1 and when the trap is sprung the jaws are carried upwardly past the false bottom into the position shown in Fig. 3.

The false bottom 41 shown in detail in Fig. 2 is suitably positioned in the top of the box and is preferably formed of flexible material overlapping the edge of the partition wall 22 when the parts are in normal position. With the parts in the position shown in Fig. 1 a slight downward pressure upon the false partition 22 will disengage the trip 21 from the interlocking end of the lever 20 whereupon the upward spring pressure against the jaw 16 will throw upward the lever 20 and allow the jaws 16 and 17 to close. In the set position shown in Fig. 6 the interlocking of the lever 20 and trip 21 will hold the spring jaws set, and the pressure of the spring pressed jaw 16 against the inner side of the lever 20 will hold said lever and trip into interlocking engagement. The jaws and co-

operating interlocking trip and lever it will be noted are arranged to cooperate in a similar manner to the corresponding parts in an ordinary spring trap of the same character. The false bottom 41 is of such thin, flexible material that it will be thrown upward by the jaws as they pass upwardly past the partition wall 22 to sprung position, as indicated in Fig. 11.

We claim as our invention:

1. In combination with a receptacle a false wall, a trap underneath said wall, a tripping device for said trap releasable by the movement of said wall, and concealed means for holding said trap sprung.

2. In combination with a receptacle a false wall, a trap concealed thereby, a tripping mechanism releasable by the movement of said wall, concealed locking mechanism for holding said trap sprung, and manually actuated means for releasing said locking mechanism.

3. In combination with a receptacle a false wall, a spring jaw trap concealed thereby, tripping mechanism releasable by the movement of said wall, concealed lever arms for holding said trap sprung, and means for disengaging said lever arms.

4. In combination with a receptacle of the class described, a false wall, a trap concealed thereby, tripping mechanism releasable by the movement of said wall, a pair of spring pressed pivotally connected arms for holding said trap sprung, and lever mechanism carried by one arm and having toothed engagement with the other arm to hold said arms in set position holding said trap sprung.

5. In combination with a receptacle of the class described, a false wall, a concealed trap, a tripping mechanism releasable by the movement of said wall, spring pressed pivotally connected arms for holding said jaws sprung, a lever carried by one arm in position to interlock with the other arm, and a safety lever engaging with said locking arm.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures in presence of two witnesses.

JAMES Y. WERRICK.
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Witnesses:

H. S. JOHNSON,
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