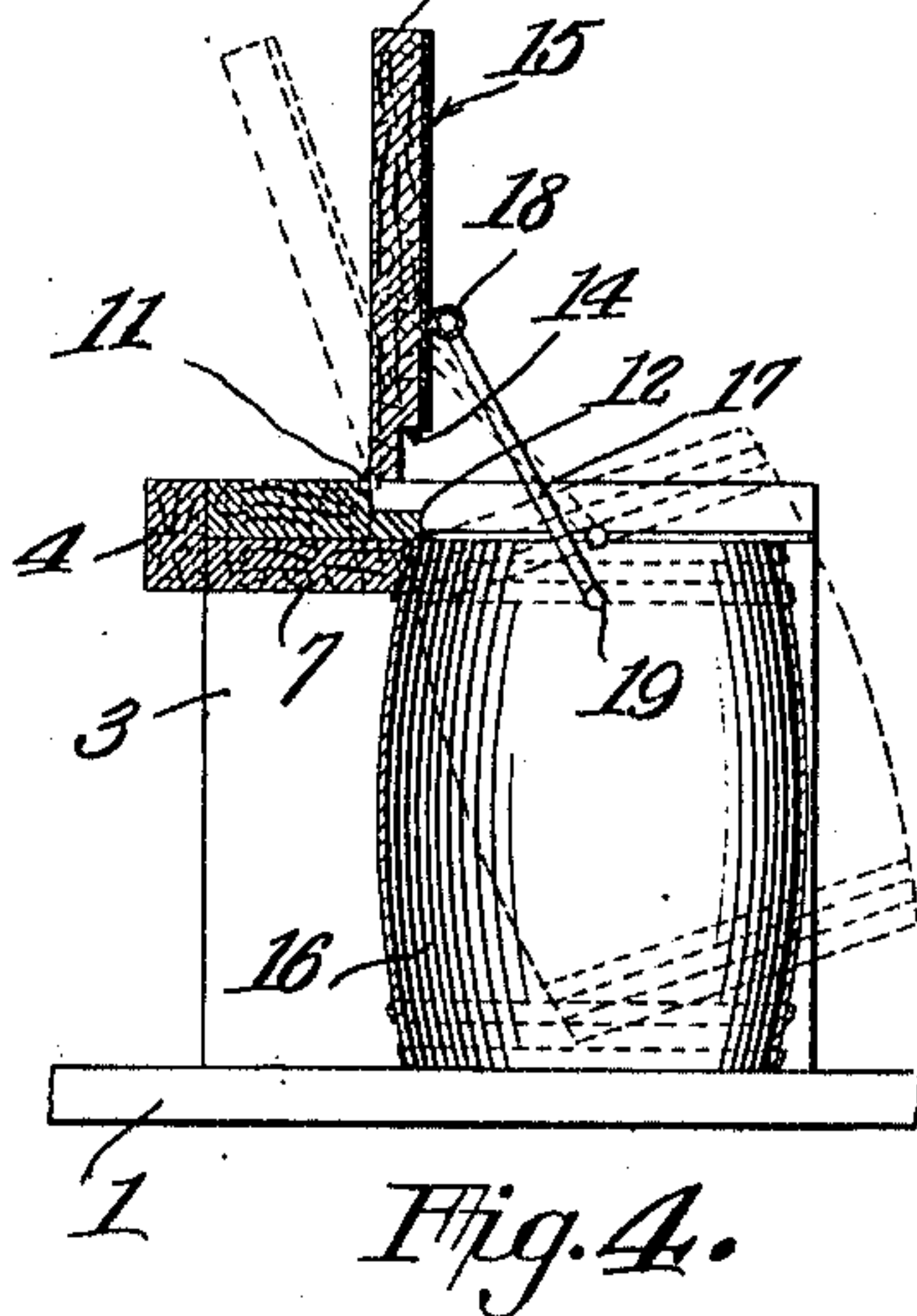
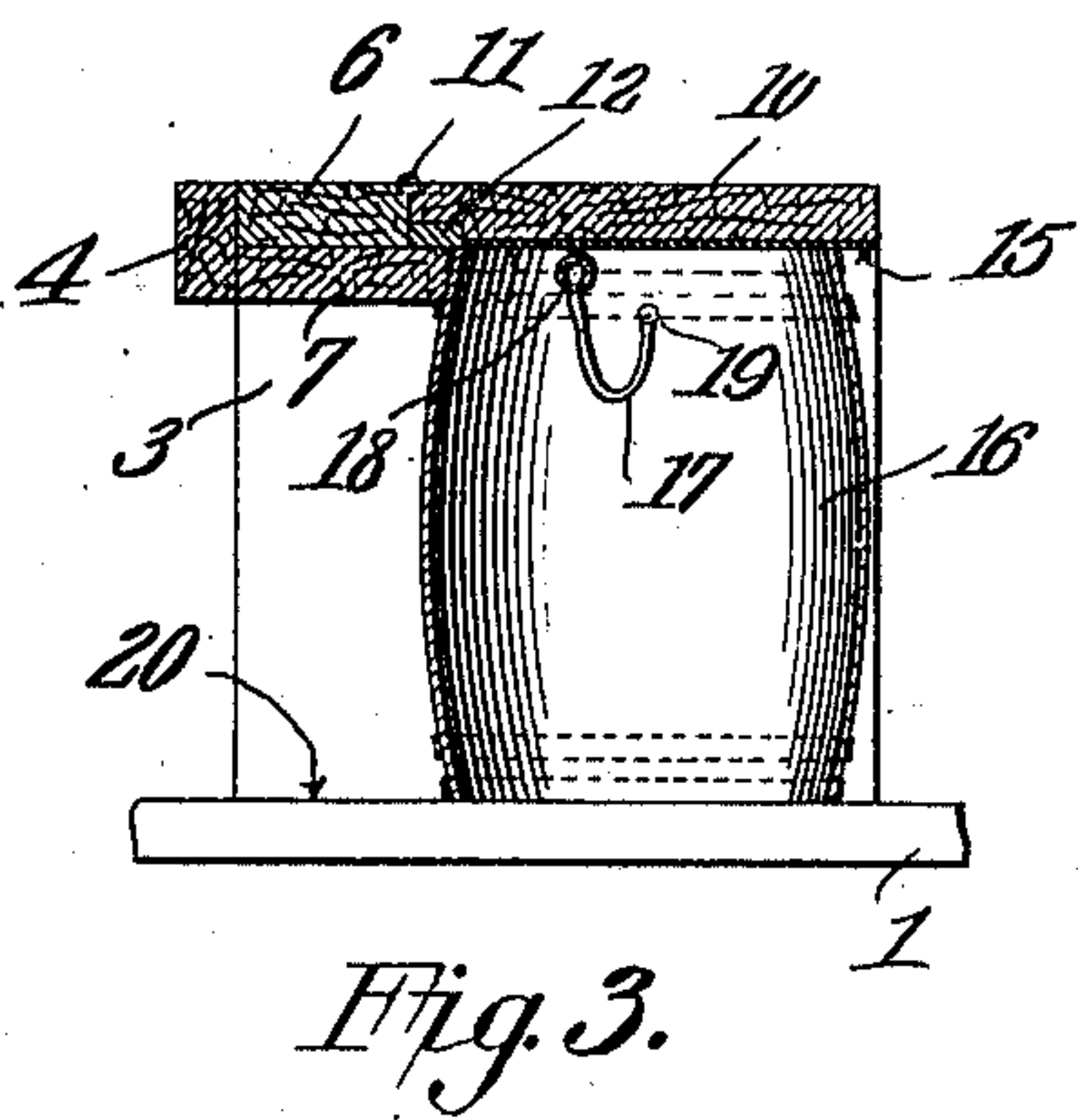
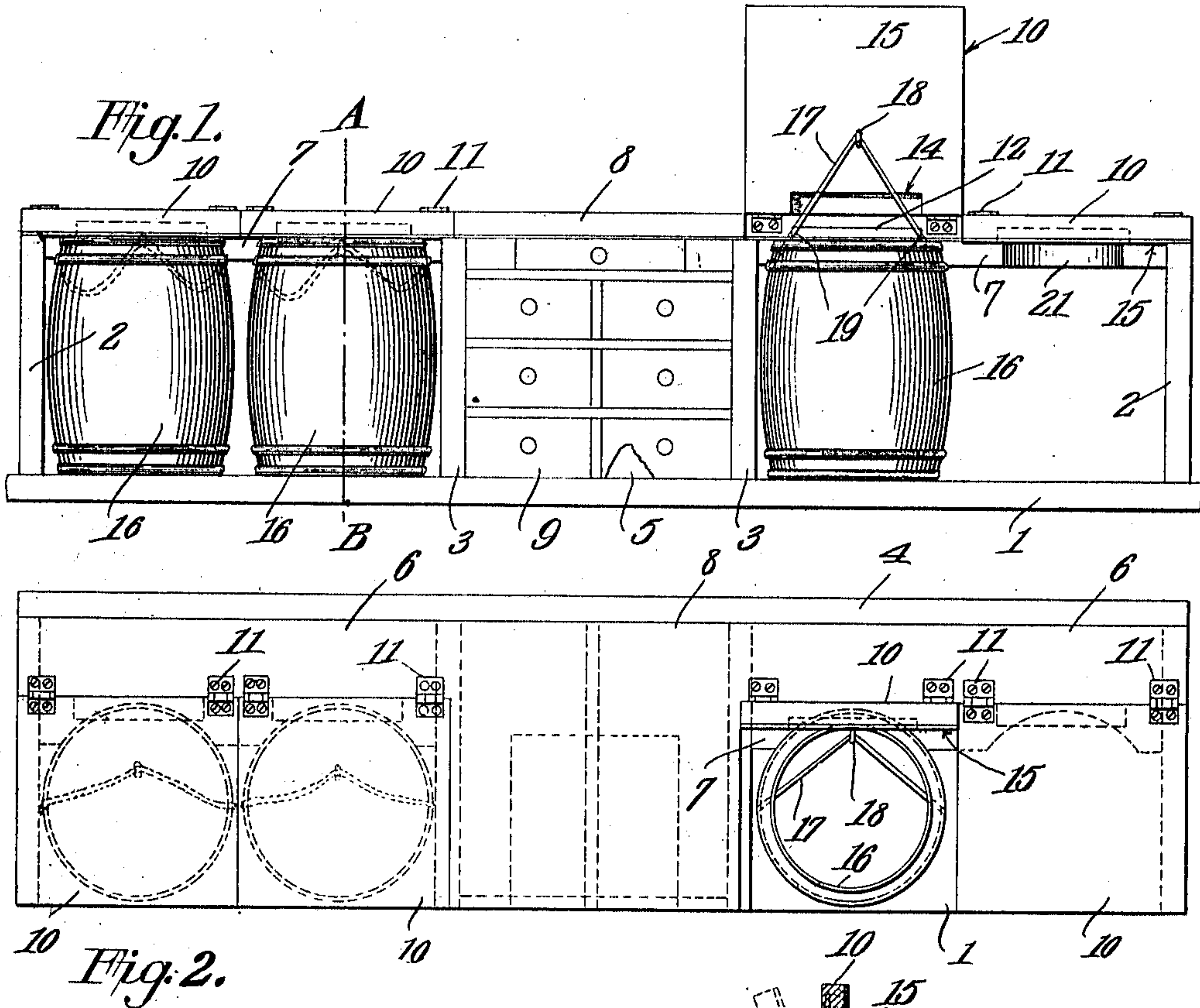


R. D. RALSTON.
STORE COUNTER.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 26, 1910.

988,594.

Patented Apr. 4, 1911.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT D. RALSTON, OF WILSCOT, GEORGIA.

STORE-COUNTER.

988,594.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Apr. 4, 1911.

Application filed September 26, 1910. Serial No. 583,960.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT D. RALSTON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Wilscot, in the county of Fannin and State of Georgia, have invented a new and useful Store-Counter, of which the following is a specification.

It is the object of this invention to provide a counter, having in its top a plurality of lids, these lids constituting at once a portion of the top of the counter, and closures for a series of receptacles disposed beneath the counter.

Another object of the invention is to provide a counter having a lid in its top, the lid being connected with a receptacle, disposed within the counter, whereby the tilting of the lid may be limited, the lid acting as a lever to tilt the receptacle, upon a projecting portion of the counter as fulcrum.

With the foregoing and other objects in view which will appear as the description proceeds, the invention resides in the combination and arrangement of parts and in the details of construction hereinafter described and claimed, it being understood that changes in the precise embodiment of invention herein disclosed can be made within the scope of what is claimed without departing from the spirit of the invention.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a rear elevation; Fig. 2 is a top plan; and Figs. 3 and 4 are transverse sections upon the line A—B of Fig. 1, showing the movable elements of the structure in their different positions.

The counter consists of a bottom 1, which, if desired, may be the floor of the apartment in which the device is positioned. Fixed to and rising from the bottom 1 are end walls 2. Intermediate walls 3 are secured to the bottom 1 between the end walls 2. These several walls 2 and 3 are connected by front walls 4 which extend downwardly from the top of the counter but a short distance, so that the counter is open upon its forward side between the walls 2 and 3. Between the walls 3, that is, in the central portion of the counter, the front wall is carried downwardly into contact with the bottom 1, as denoted by the numeral 5 in Fig. 1.

Along the forward edge of the counter, and to the rear of the front walls 4, fixed top portions 6 are disposed. These top portions 6 do not extend the entire width of the counter. The fixed top portions 6 are upheld by cleats 7 which project rearwardly

beyond the top portions 6. Disposed between the top portions 6 and in a common plane therewith is a top plate 8, supported upon the intermediate walls 3. This top plate 8 represents the full width of the counter, and beneath it, between the walls 3, a plurality of drawers 9 may be placed. Upon the top plate 8, weighing scales (not shown) may be placed.

A plurality of lids 10 are shown, these lids 10 being hinged as at 11 to the fixed top portions 6 of the counter. The cleats 7 are recessed upon their rear faces, as shown at 21. Resting upon the cleats 7 and abutting against the top portions 6 of the counter are bars 12 constituting projections which outstand rearwardly, over the recesses 21. The lower faces of the lids 10 are cut-away as shown at 14 to receive these projections 12. The lower surfaces of the lids 10 are covered with facings 15, preferably fashioned from rubber.

By referring to Fig. 1 it will be seen that the rear portion of the counter is open, so that receptacles 16, ordinarily barrels, may be mounted beneath the lids 10, the receptacles fitting into the recesses 21 and the projections 12 overhanging the forward edges of the receptacles 16 as seen to best advantage in Fig. 3. The lids 10, when in closed position, constitute a part of the top of the counter, the lids likewise resting upon the open upper ends of the receptacles 16 and serving as closures therefor, the resilient facings 15 of the lids 10 sealing the receptacles 16 closely. The ends of a flexible element 17, ordinarily a cord or chain, are secured in any desired manner as at 19 to oppositely disposed points upon each of the receptacles 16, the intermediate portion of the flexible element 17 being passed through an eye 18 or the like, inserted into the lower face of the lid 10. When the lid 10 is swung into an open position, the flexible element 17, being connected with the receptacle 16, will prevent the lid 10 from tilting too far toward the front of the counter.

When the contents of the receptacle 16 have been removed to a considerable extent, so that there is but a small amount left in the receptacle, the operation of removing the residue of the contents of the receptacle is a matter of considerable difficulty. Referring, however, to Fig. 4, it will be seen that the lid 10 may be employed as a lever to tilt the receptacle into the inclined posi-

tion shown in dotted lines in Fig. 4, the upper edge of the receptacle being engaged beneath the projection 12, the projection 12 thus acting as a fulcrum to facilitate the tilting of the receptacle. This tilting of the receptacle will cause the contents thereof to slide into the lower angle of the receptacle, from which position the contents of the receptacle may readily be scraped or scooped.

By referring to Fig. 3 note that a considerable amount of space exists as shown at 20 between the receptacle 16 and the forward face of the counter. In this space 20, another small receptacle, such, for example, as a box of soap, or a keg of nails may be placed.

The construction of the device is such that the shop-keeper standing behind the counter will have access to his goods by simply raising one of the lids 10, there being no occasion for his passing from behind the counter to gain access to a remote barrel.

The contents of the receptacles 16 are protected, in the device of my invention, and continually under the shopkeeper's eye, while he is behind the counter. The receptacles

are closed by means of the lids 10, which said lids also constitute a part of the top of the counter, and by manipulating these lids, as hereinbefore described, and as shown in Fig. 4, the receptacles may be tilted to remove the last vestige of their contents.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:—

A counter having a fixed top; a lid hinged to the top; and a removable receptacle disposed beneath the lid, the lid constituting at once a closure for the receptacle and a continuation of the top, there being a projection outstanding from the top and overhanging the upper edge of the receptacle; and a flexible element uniting the lid and the receptacle to limit the tilting of the lid, the lid constituting a lever to tilt the receptacle upon the projection as a fulcrum.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

ROBERT D. RALSTON.

Witnesses:

FRANK ANDERSON,
W. A. ANDERSON.