

Feb. 24, 1953

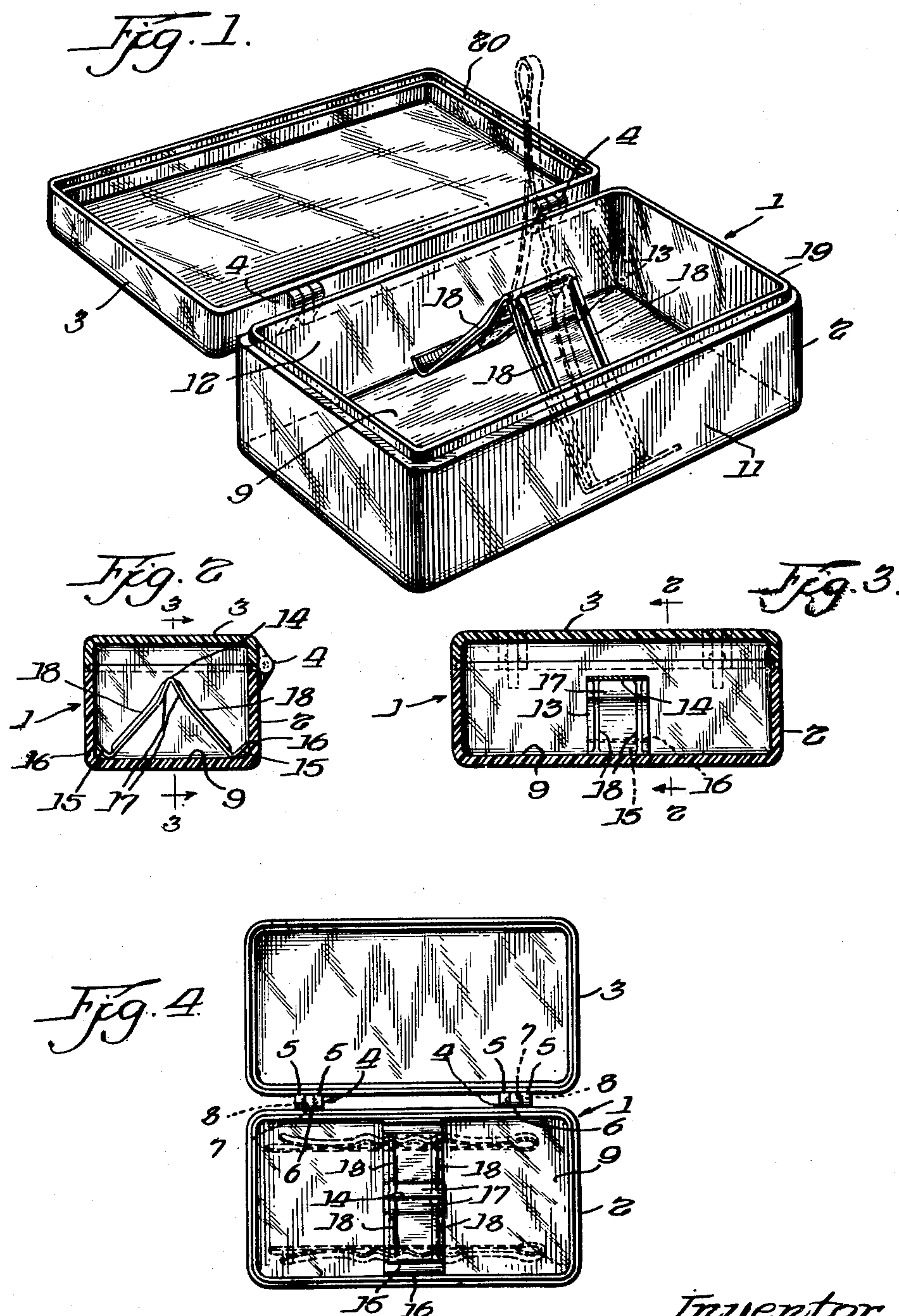
L. R. WESTBY

2,629,389

BOBBY PIN BOX

Filed June 25, 1949

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1



Inventor.
Lloyd R. Westby.
By *Shirley Lee* Atty.

Feb. 24, 1953

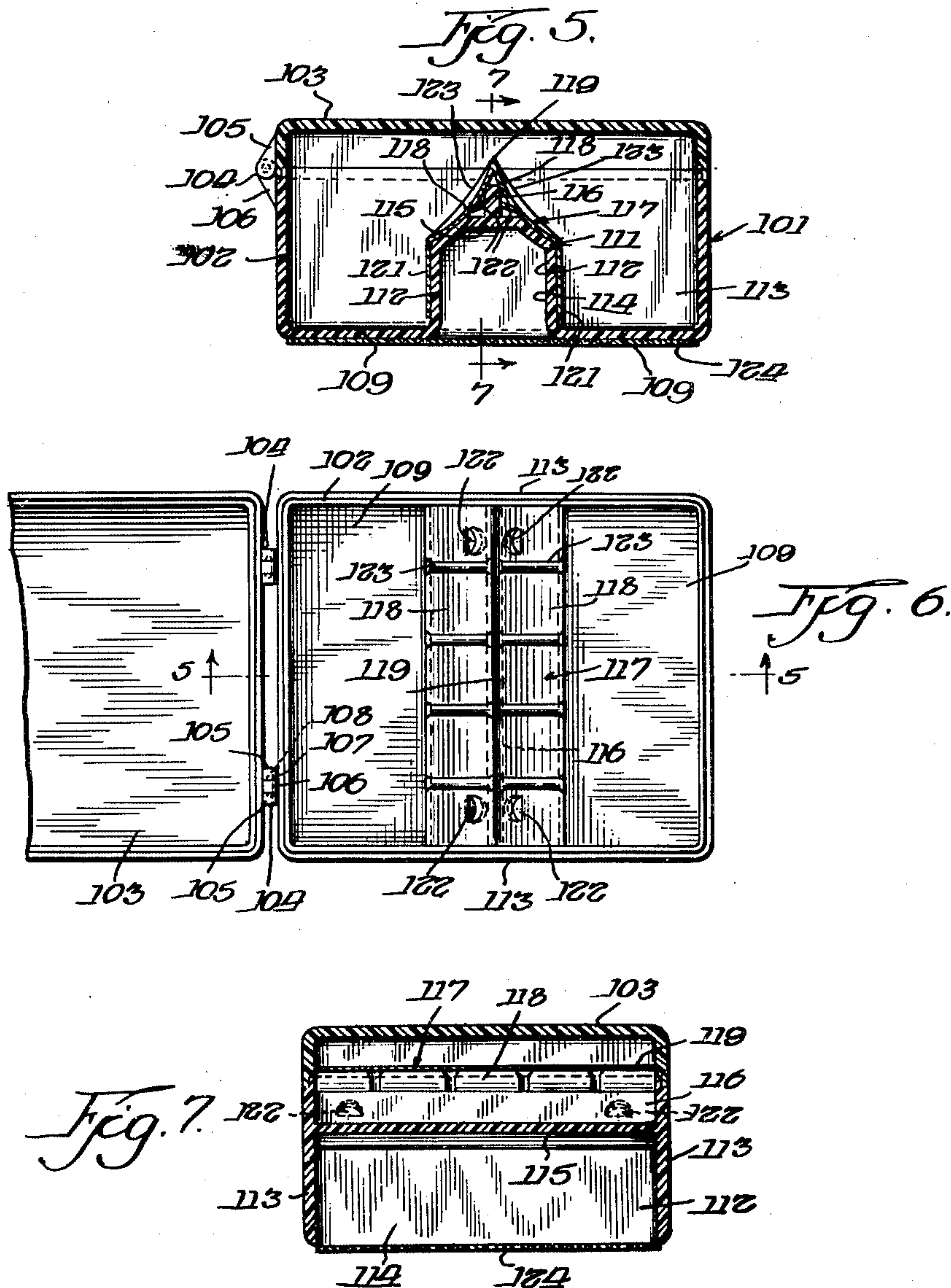
L. R. WESTBY

2,629,389

BOBBY PIN BOX

Filed June 25, 1949

2 SHEETS—SHEET 2



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,629,389

BOBBY PIN BOX

Lloyd R. Westby, Berwyn, Ill.

Application June 25, 1949, Serial No. 101,278

9 Claims. (Cl. 132-1)

1

The invention relates generally to receptacles and, more particularly, to a receptacle for holding bobby pins, or the like, and provided with means for facilitating opening of the bobby pins.

The invention has among its objects the production of a covered receptacle of the above type which is provided with means within the receptacle for facilitating opening of the bobby pins prior to their insertion in the user's hair, which device is simple in construction, inexpensive to manufacture, attractive in appearance, and very efficient in use.

Another object of the invention is the production of such a covered receptacle in which the pin opening means forms a partition in the box for keeping the pins aligned and ready for use, and is completely concealed when the cover is in closed position.

Another object of the invention is the production of such a receptacle which is so designed that the box will remain in position during the use of the pin opening means without any tendency to overturn, tilt, or the like, and in which such pin opening means may be constructed of metal, or the like, whereby the same is very durable in use.

Many other objects and advantages of the construction herein shown and described will be obvious to those skilled in the art from the disclosure herein given.

To this end my invention consists in the novel construction, arrangement, and combination of parts herein shown and described, and more particularly pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings, wherein like reference characters indicate like or corresponding parts:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a box embodying the present invention form of the pin opening structure;

Fig. 2 is a sectional view of the box illustrated in Fig. 1 taken approximately on the line 2-2 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 3 is a sectional view taken approximately on the line 3-3 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a top plan view of the box illustrated in Fig. 1 with the cover in open position;

Fig. 5 is a sectional view of a box illustrated in Figs. 1 to 4 illustrating a modified form of the pin opening structure taken approximately on the line 5-5 of Fig. 6, but with the cover in closed position;

Fig. 6 is a top plan view of the box illustrated in Fig. 5 with the cover in open position;

Fig. 7 is a sectional view taken approximately on the line 7-7 of Fig. 5; and

2

Fig. 8 is a sectional view similar to Fig. 5 illustrating a slightly different construction.

Referring to the drawings, and more particularly to Figs. 1 to 4, 1 indicates generally a receptacle having a lower section or box 2 and a cover member 3 constructed of any suitable material as, for example, molded plastic. The cover member 3 is hinged to the box 2 along one edge by means of hinges 4, illustrated in the present instance as each comprising a pair of spaced ears 5 integrally formed with the cover member 3, between each of which is positioned an ear 6 integrally formed on the box 2. The ears 6 on the member 2 may each be formed with outwardly extending projections 7 adapted to be positioned in complementary recesses 8 in the ears 5 to form a pivotal connection between the box 2 and cover 3. The cover may be assembled with the box portion 2 by springing the co-operating portions of each hinge member into operative, interlocked relation.

Extending upwardly from the bottom 9 adjacent the front wall 11 and rear wall 12 is a wedge-shaped member having downwardly and oppositely inclined walls with respect to the bottom, indicated generally by the numeral 13, formed in the construction illustrated from suitable sheet metal and bent intermediate its ends to form a relatively sharp edge 14, with the free ends of the member 13 bent outwardly to form flanges 15, each having its outer edge 16 in engagement with the adjacent side wall of the box 2, the material comprising the member 13 possessing sufficient inherent resiliency to form a resilient wedge member to frictionally hold the member 13 securely in engagement with the box 2 as the member 13 is attachably carried thereby in the position illustrated in the drawings.

As clearly illustrated in Fig. 2, the portions 17 of the member 13 adjacent the edge 14 extend at a more acute angle than the remainder of the leg portions of the member. The member 13 is provided adjacent the edges of the respective inclined surfaces with raised beads 18 extending substantially parallel to one another.

In use, bobby pins may be positioned in the box 2, as illustrated in dotted lines in Fig. 4, with the member 13 operative to urge or direct the pins towards the front and rear walls, thereby providing a space at each side of the member 13 adjacent the central portion of the box for facilitating the removal of pins therefrom. The member 13 also provides means for opening the pins, which may be accomplished by positioning the pin adjacent the edge 14, and upon downward

3

movement of the pin, the opposite legs of the pin may be urged outwardly, as illustrated in dotted lines in Fig. 1. When sufficiently spread, the pin may be held in open position between the fingers and inserted in the hair. The portion 17 of the member 13 extends at a relatively sharp angle so that the angle of inclination of the oppositely inclined portions with respect to the bottom 9 of the box is greater at the intersection with respect to the bottom of the box than the angle of inclination at the remaining portions of the member 13 spaced therefrom, thereby facilitating the initial opening of the pin, whereas the remaining portions of the member 13 serve to spread the pin a sufficient distance for the purposes intended. The beads 18 serve to guide the opposite legs of the pin and maintain the same in operative engagement with the outer faces of the member 13, and the flanges 15 also provide means for preventing the ends of the pins from scratching the side walls of the box.

It will be noted that the forces resulting from downward movement of the pin are transmitted downwardly and outwardly to the bottom of the box; consequently, no tendency to tilt or tip the box when opening the pin is present, nor is there any tendency of the box to slide on its supporting surface, so that the box is very steady in use, and pins may be easily and readily opened.

The upper edge of the box 2 is preferably provided with an inset rim 19 engageable with a complementary-shaped edge 20 on the cover 3 whereby the cover is accurately maintained in alignment with the box when in a closed position.

In the construction illustrated in Figs. 5 to 7, illustrating a box preferably adapted for use as a vanity box, or the like, 101 indicates generally a receptacle having a lower box 102 and a cover member 103 therefor constructed of any suitable material as, for example, molded plastic. The cover member 103 is hinged to the member 102 along one edge by means of hinge members 104, integrally formed with the respective members, illustrated in the present instance as each comprising a pair of spaced ears 105 integrally formed with the cover member 103 between which is positioned an ear 106 carried by the box 102. The ear 106 on the member 102 may be formed with outwardly extending projections 107 adapted to be positioned in complementary recess 108 in the ears 105 to form a pivotal connection between the box 102 and cover 103. The co-operating portions of each hinge may be sprung into position and thus interlocked. Extending upwardly from the bottom 109 of the box 102 is a platform, indicated generally by the numeral 111, having side walls 112 integrally formed with the bottom 109 and side walls 113 of the box. For facilitating molding and conserving of the molding material, the bottom 109 of the box is provided with a recess 114, more or less complementary to the side walls 112 of the platform 111. Extending upwardly from the top 115 of the platform 111 is a more or less vertically extending flange 116, and extending along the side walls 112 and positioned above the top 115 of the platform is a wedge-shaped member 117 constructed from sheet metal, or other suitable material, and having slightly concave walls 118 which are downwardly inclined toward the bottom of the box and intersect at their upper edges to form a relatively sharp edge 119, the lower portion of the member 117 terminating in walls 121 positioned adjacent the walls 112. Struck from the walls 118 adjacent each end of the member 117 are a pair of in-

4

wardly extending opposed ears 122 which are frictionally engaged with the flange 116, thereby firmly securing the member 117 on the platform 111.

As illustrated in Figs. 5 and 6, the concave walls 118 are each provided with a plurality of raised beads 123 located at spaced intervals on each of the respective walls, with the beads on one wall aligned with the beads on the other wall.

The device illustrated in Fig. 7 is substantially the same in operation as that illustrated in Figs. 1 to 4, with the spaces between the respective walls 112 and the adjacent side walls of the box forming a compartment at each side of the member 117, the latter providing means for opening the pins in substantially the same manner as has been heretofore described with respect to the construction illustrated in Figs. 1 to 4, the concave surfaces 118 functioning to spread the ends of the pin and thereby open the same. Likewise, the beads 123 provide guiding means for the pin during the opening operation.

The meeting edges of the cover 103 and box 102 may be constructed with offset portions similar to that described with respect to the construction illustrated in Fig. 1 and, if desired, a layer of felt 124, or other suitable material may be secured to the bottom of the box 102, thereby concealing the recess 114.

The construction illustrated in Fig. 8 is similar to that illustrated in Figs. 5 to 7, with the exception that the flange 116' on the platform 111' is offset toward the front of the box, whereby the member 117' is provided with a concave front wall 118a extending more or less vertically but inclined downwardly toward the bottom of the box, and the rear wall 118b inclined downwardly toward the bottom of the box at a lesser interior angle with respect to the bottom of the box than that of the wall 118a and extending at a greater angle with respect to the vertical so that the member 117' is, in effect, tilted forward toward the edge 131 of the box 102'. Thus with this construction a pin may be opened by moving the latter at an angle with respect to the vertical, instead of moving the pin substantially vertical, as illustrated in Fig. 1. The construction of the box illustrated in Fig. 8, other than as to the details above pointed out, is similar to that of the box illustrated in Fig. 5, the member 117' being provided with guide ribs 123' and lock ears 122'.

It will be noted from the above description that I have provided a box of the type described wherein the opening means is constructed from metal, or other relatively hard material, to provide a durable opening surface which will withstand hard usage without injury; thus assuring easy opening of the pins at all times. Likewise, means is provided for firmly retaining the opening member securely in position within the box, and when the cover is in closed position, the opening means is completely concealed. It will be particularly noted that the opening member is so designed and positioned with respect to the receptacle or box that there is substantially no tendency of the box to slide or tilt during the pin opening operation.

Having thus described my invention, it is obvious that various immaterial modifications may be made in the same without departing from the spirit of my invention; hence, I do not wish to be understood as limiting myself to the exact form, construction, arrangement, and combination of parts herein shown and described or uses mentioned.

5

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In a receptacle for bobby pins, and the like, a pin container having a bottom, side and end walls connected thereto, an upwardly extending resilient wedge member positioned in said receptacle and attachably carried thereby, said member having oppositely inclined walls intersecting at an acute angle to form a relatively sharp edge adjacent the top of the receptacle for engagement with the free ends of a bobby pin for initially separating the same, the portions of one of said walls being at a greater inclination than the corresponding portions of the other wall, said walls being operative upon downward movement of a pin initially engaged with the wedge member to spread the pin a desired distance.

2. In a receptacle for bobby pins, and the like, a pin container having a bottom, side and end walls connected thereto, and a movable cover therefor, an upwardly extending resilient wedge member positioned in said receptacle and carried thereby, means formed on said wedge member frictionally engageable with portions of said container for maintaining the member in operative position therein, said member having oppositely inclined walls intersecting at an acute angle to form a relatively sharp edge adjacent said cover member for engagement with the free ends of a bobby pin for initially separating the same, the inclination of said inclined walls being greater adjacent the intersection than at portions spaced therefrom, said walls being operative upon downward movement of a pin initially engaged with the wedge member to spread the pin a desired distance.

3. In a receptacle for bobby pins, and the like, a pin container having a bottom, side and end walls connected thereto, and a movable cover therefor, an upwardly extending wedge member positioned in said receptacle and carried thereby, said member having oppositely inclined walls intersecting at an acute angle to form a relatively sharp edge adjacent said cover member for engagement with the free ends of a bobby pin for initially separating the same, the inclination of said inclined walls being greater adjacent the intersection than at portions spaced therefrom, the portions of one of said walls being at a greater inclination than the corresponding portions of the other wall, said walls being operative upon downward movement of a pin initially engaged with the wedge member to spread the pin a desired distance.

4. In a receptacle for bobby pins, and the like, a pin container having a bottom, side and end walls connected thereto, and a movable cover therefor, said container having an upwardly extending projection therein integrally formed therewith, a resilient wedge member positioned in said receptacle and frictionally mounted on said projection and having oppositely inclined walls intersecting at an acute angle to form a relatively sharp, upwardly extending edge adjacent said cover member for engagement with the free ends of a bobby pin for initially separating the same, said walls being operative upon downward movement of a pin initially engaged with the wedge member to spread the pin a desired distance.

5. In a receptacle for bobby pins, and the like, a pin container having a bottom, side and end walls connected thereto, and a movable cover therefor, said container having an upwardly ex-

6

tending flanged projection therein integrally formed therewith, a resilient wedge member positioned in said receptacle and frictionally mounted on said flanged projection and having oppositely inclined walls intersecting at an acute angle to form a relatively sharp, upwardly extending edge adjacent said cover member for engagement with the free ends of a bobby pin for initially separating the same, the inclination of said inclined walls being greater adjacent the intersection than at portions spaced therefrom, said walls being operative upon downward movement of a pin initially engaged with the wedge member to spread the pin a desired distance.

6. In a receptacle for bobby pins, and the like, a pin container having a bottom, side and end walls connected thereto, and a movable cover therefor, said container having an upwardly extending projection therein integrally formed therewith, a resilient wedge member positioned in said receptacle and frictionally mounted on said projection and having oppositely inclined walls intersecting at an acute angle to form a relatively sharp, upwardly extending edge adjacent said cover member for engagement with the free ends of a bobby pin for initially separating the same, the portions of one of said walls being at a greater inclination than the corresponding portions of the other wall, said walls being operative upon downward movement of a pin initially engaged with the wedge member to spread the pin a desired distance.

7. In a receptacle for bobby pins, and the like, a pin container having a bottom, side and end walls connected thereto, and a movable cover therefor, said container having an upwardly extending projection therein integrally formed therewith, a wedge member positioned in said receptacle and mounted on said projection and having oppositely inclined walls intersecting at an acute angle to form a relatively sharp, upwardly extending edge adjacent said cover member for engagement with the free ends of a bobby pin for initially separating the same, the inclination of said inclined walls being greater adjacent the intersection than at portions spaced therefrom, the portions of one of said walls being at a greater inclination than the corresponding portions of the other wall, said walls being operative upon downward movement of a pin initially engaged with the wedge member to spread the pin a desired distance.

8. In a receptacle for bobby pins, and the like, a pin container having a bottom, side and end walls connected thereto, and a cover therefor hinged thereto along adjacent edges, an upwardly extending projection in said container integrally formed with the latter, a wedge member positioned in said receptacle and mounted on said projection, said member having oppositely inclined walls intersecting at an acute angle to form a relatively sharp edge adjacent said cover, portions of said inclined walls spaced from said intersection having less inclination than the portions thereof adjacent said intersection, said portion of greater inclination being operative upon engagement of the free ends of a bobby pin therewith and downward movement of the pin relative to the member to initially separate the same, and the portions of said walls of less inclination being operative to spread the legs of the pin a desired distance, the portions of one of said inclined walls being at a greater inclination than the corresponding portions of the other inclined wall, each of said inclined walls having a plurality of spaced

7

raised ribs, the respective ribs on one wall being aligned with the ribs on the other wall and providing means for guiding a pin engaged with said walls.

9. In a receptacle for bobby pins, and the like, a pin container having a bottom, side and end walls connected thereto, and a movable cover therefor, an upwardly extending wedge member positioned within said receptacle and carried thereby, said member having oppositely inclined walls intersecting at an acute angle to form a relatively sharp edge adjacent said cover, portions of said inclined walls spaced from said intersection having less inclination than the portions thereof adjacent said intersection, said portion of greater inclination being operative upon engagement of the free ends of a bobby pin therewith and downward movement of the pin relative to the member to initially separate the same, and the portions

8

of said walls of less inclination being operative to spread the legs of the pin a desired distance, each of said inclined walls having a pair of spaced raised ribs, the respective ribs on one wall being aligned with the ribs on the other wall and providing guiding means for a pin engaged with said walls.

LLOYD R. WESTBY.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number.	Name.	Date.
D. 132,851	Cooper	June 23, 1942
D. 150,143	Lemke et al.	July 6, 1948
D. 158,812	Solomon	May 30, 1950
2,226,237	Cooper	Dec. 24, 1940