E. ELLIS.

MATCH BOX.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 17, 1908.

929,411. Patented July 27, 1909.

Fig. 1.

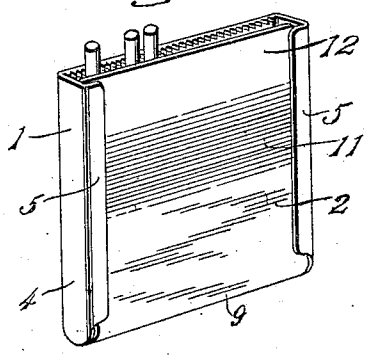


Fig. 2.

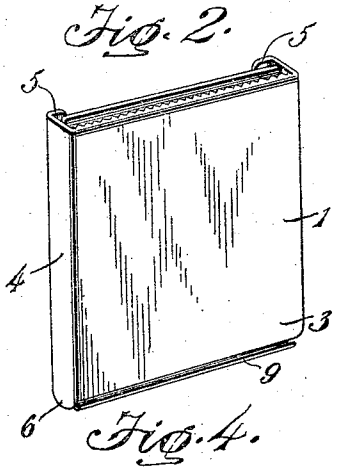


Fig. 3.

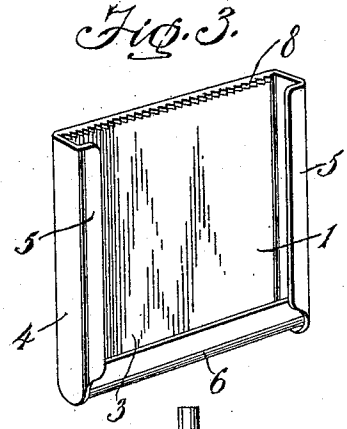


Fig. 4.

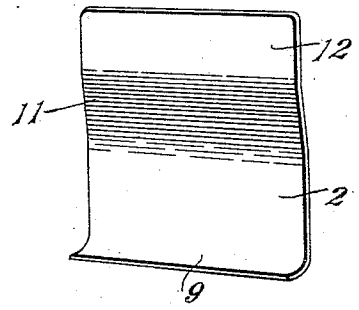


Fig. 5.

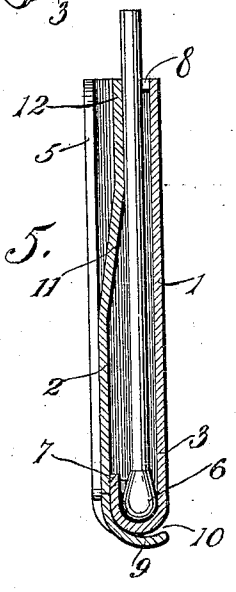
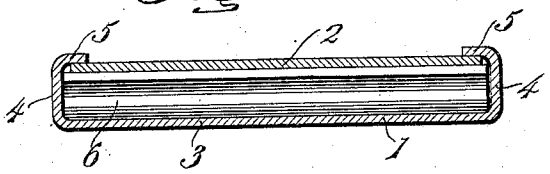


Fig. 6.



Witnesses

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MATCH-BOX.

No. 929,411. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented July 27, 1909.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD ELLIS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Match-Boxes, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

This invention is an improved pocket match box having means for automatically igniting the matches as they are drawn therefrom.

The object of the invention is to provide a match box or safe of this character which will be more simple and less expensive than devices of the kind heretofore produced and which will be at the same time stronger and more durable and also more convenient to fill with matches.

With the above object in view, the invention consists of the novel construction illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figures 1 and 2 are perspective views of the complete match box or safe looking toward opposite sides of the same; Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the body member of the box; Fig. 4 is a similar view of the cover member; and Figs. 5 and 6 are longitudinal and transverse sectional views.

The improved match box consists of a body member 1 and a cover member 2 each of which is formed from a single metal blank by suitably cutting and bending the same. The body member 1 has a square portion 3 which forms the back of the box and bent up at right angles from its opposite sides are portions or wings 4 which form the side walls of the body. The longitudinal edges of the sides 4 are bent inwardly at right angles to form retaining flanges 5 for the cover member 2, which latter is adapted to form the front of the box. The bottom of the box is formed by bending the bottom edge of the back portion 3 inwardly and upwardly into substantially U-form, as shown in Fig. 5, the upper edge 7 of said curved or rounded bottom portion having its ends projecting under the lower ends of the flanges 5 and spaced therefrom to permit of the insertion of the top or cover member 2, as will be readily understood upon reference to both Figs. 5 and 6 of the drawings. The top of the box is open so that the ends of the match stems may project therefrom as seen in Fig. 1, and when it is desired to automatically ignite the matches as they are drawn from the box, a suitable roughened or igniting surface 8 is provided, preferably, upon the inner face of the back portion 3 at its upper edge. As illustrated, the striking surface or member 8 is formed by thickening or flanging the upper edge of the back portion 3 and then forming a row of V-shaped notches in said flanged or thickened portion, as will be understood upon reference to the drawings. The top or cover member 2 is made from a piece of resilient metal and is of rectangular form, its lower end being bent substantially at right angles to form a curved portion 9 adapted to serve both as a stop and a finger piece. This lower end 9 of the cover member has a curvature corresponding to that of the curved bottom 6 of the box so that it will serve as a stop to limit the inward or upward movement of the cover member when it engages said bottom; but its extreme edge is so shaped as to be slightly spaced from the bottom 6 of the box, as shown at 10 in Fig. 5, in order that the thumb or finger may be readily engaged with said projecting end to slide the cover member downwardly or outwardly.

The upper portion of the top or cover member 2 is bent or offset slightly in a transverse direction, as shown at 11, so that its upper extremity 12 serves as a retaining member or tongue to press the stems of the matches against the roughened igniting portion or teeth 8 and thereby effectively preventing the matches from dropping out of the open top of the box. The resiliency of the metal from which the cover member 2 is formed causes its bent or offset upper portion 12 to spring inwardly and frictionally engage the match stems and press them against the igniting surface or teeth 8 so that the matches will not only be retained in the box but will be automatically ignited as they are drawn out of the same.

In use, when it is desired to fill the box with matches its cover member 2 is removed and a row of matches placed upon the back portion 3 with their heads inserted in the curved or U-shaped bottom 6, as seen in Fig. 5. The cover member 2 is then slipped into position by inserting its upper edge beneath the curved lower ends of the retaining flanges 5 and the projecting portion or flange 7 of the bottom 6 and then forcing the cover member upwardly over the matches until its bent lower end or stop 9 engages the bottom 6 of

the box. The latter is of less height than the length of the match stems so that their upper ends project out of the open end of the box, as seen in Fig. 1, and may be readily grasped between the fingers and pulled outwardly. As above stated, the resiliency of the offset upper portion or tongue 12 causes the matches to be frictionally retained in the box and as they are drawn out of the same causes their heads to be ignited by contact with the roughened surface or teeth 8, as will be readily understood.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the invention is exceedingly simple in construction and may therefore be produced at a very small cost. It consists of merely two small metal blanks which may be quickly and inexpensively made by the use of proper machines and which are strong and durable and cannot be broken or otherwise injured to render the device useless. The provision of the removable cover enables the box to be quickly filled or loaded with matches and the peculiar construction of the cover enables it to serve not only as a cover but also as a match retaining means and a co-acting portion of the automatic match igniting means. The device is also exceedingly compact in form so that it may be conveniently carried in the vest pocket.

Having thus described the invention what is claimed is:

1. A pocket match box comprising a body member formed from a single blank and having an open top and front, a closed back, side walls bent up from the opposite edges of the side, cover retaining flanges bent inwardly from the side walls, a bottom bent up from the bottom edge of the back portion, and a cover member formed from a single piece of resilient material and having its bottom edge bent to form a stop portion to engage the bottom of the box, the upper portion of said cover member being bent or offset to form an inwardly projecting match retaining tongue to engage the match stems and press them against the back portion of the body to frictionally retain them in the box.

2. A pocket match box comprising a body member formed from a single blank and having an open top and front, a closed back, side walls bent up from the opposite edges of the side, cover retaining flanges bent inwardly from the side walls, a bottom bent up from the bottom edge of the back portion, a cover member formed from a single piece of resilient material and having its bottom edge bent to form a stop portion to engage the bottom of the box, said cover member being bent or offset to form an inwardly projecting match retaining tongue to engage the match stems and press them against the back portion of the body to frictionally retain them in the box, and means at the open top of the box whereby the matches will be automatically ignited as they are drawn out of the same.

3. A pocket match box comprising a body member formed from a single blank and having an open top and front, a closed back portion formed at its upper edge with an inwardly projecting enlargement or flange notched to provide a row of match igniting teeth, side walls bent upwardly from the opposite edges of the back portion, cover retaining flanges bent inwardly from said side walls and a bottom bent upwardly from the lower edge of the back portion and having its edge or flange extending under but spaced from the lower ends of the cover retaining flanges, and a cover member formed from a single piece of resilient material and having its lower end bent to form a stop to engage the bottom of the body and also to form a finger piece spaced from said bottom, the upper portion of the cover member being bent inwardly or offset to provide a resilient match stem engaging tongue to retain the matches in the box and press their heads against the igniting teeth when they are drawn out of the box, substantially as described.

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

EDWARD ELLIS.

Witnesses:

JAMES H. DRAKE,

SADIE A. MEYER.