

(No Model.)

C. ROGERS.

APPARATUS FOR RECEIVING WRITTEN MESSAGES.

No. 509,140.

Patented Nov. 21, 1893.

Fig. 1.

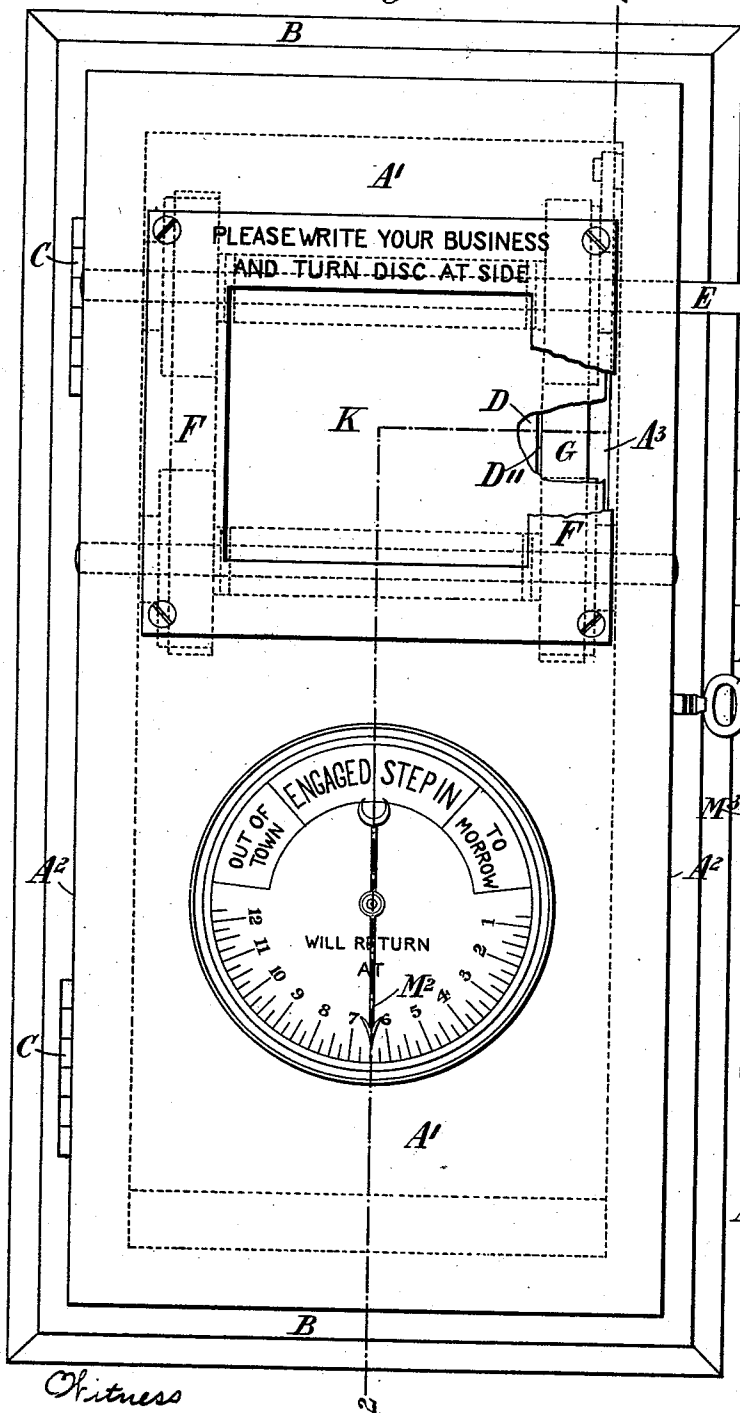
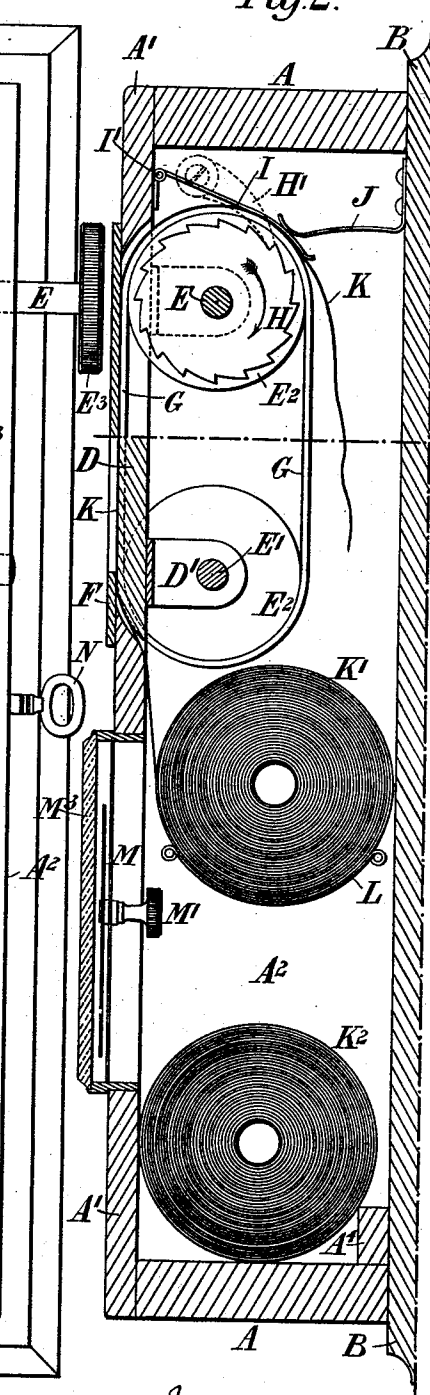


Fig. 2.



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APPARATUS FOR RECEIVING WRITTEN MESSAGES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 509,140, dated November 21, 1893.

Application filed March 20, 1893. Serial No. 466,959. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES ROGERS, a subject of the Queen of England, and a resident of New Plymouth, New Zealand, at present residing at Sydenham, Kent, England, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Apparatus for Receiving Written Messages, Orders, or the Like, of which the following is a specification.

- 10 This invention which relates to apparatus for receiving written messages, orders or the like, consists of a device in which a roll of paper is contained and from which roll the paper may be unwound from the exterior, a
15 portion being exposed at the exterior for receiving a message or the like, and which portion at each operation is wound into the interior so as to be inaccessible to all those who do not possess a key for unlocking the device.
20 The invention further consists in combining with the before described apparatus an indicator for showing the time at which the person setting it intends to return or otherwise stating whether he is out of town, engaged, or the like.
25 The invention will be best understood by reference to the accompanying drawings, in which—

- 30 Figure 1 is a front elevation, and Fig. 2 a vertical section on the crooked line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Like letters indicate like parts throughout the drawings.

- 35 A is the case of the device which may consist of a front A' and end and side walls A². By one of these side walls the case A is hinged to the back B which, as shown in the accompanying drawings, may form a part of the complete device, or which, instead, may
40 be a portion of the door, partition or the like, to which the device is attached.

C are the hinges connecting the case A to the back, door, partition or the like B.

- 45 As shown in the accompanying drawings, the front A' near its upper part is provided with an opening A³ into which fits the writing table or support D which is held in position by the lugs D' secured thereto and in which rotate the shafts E E' which have their
50 bearings in the side walls A² as shown in dot-

ted lines in Fig. 1. On each of these shafts E E' are rigidly mounted two rollers E² which at the front part project into vertical recesses or slots D'' between the side or vertical edges of the table D and the opposite vertical edges 55 of the front A' or opening A³ therein. To the face of A' is secured a preferably metal frame F the vertical sides of which extend over the slots D'' and slightly over the adjacent edges of the table D. On the rollers E² are mounted 60 endless bands G preferably of india rubber or which may be of leather or other suitable material. These bands G press at their front side against the back of the vertical parts of the frame F, or, when the paper is in position 65 for use, press against the paper on the one side and press the paper on the other side against the frame F. On the shaft E is secured a ratchet wheel H with which engages a pawl H' (represented in the accompanying 70 drawings in dotted lines) which may be pivoted to one of the walls A². The shaft E projects at one side of the case A beyond the side wall and at its end has secured upon it a milled head or disk E³ by which it may readily 75 be rotated in the direction indicated by the arrow in Fig. 2.

I is a plate hinged at I' to the case front A' and J is a spring which when the case is closed in the manner shown in Fig. 2 bears 80 upon the plate I and presses it down against the paper K passing over the bands G. The paper K is supplied to the device in the form of a roll as shown at K' and may be supported on a shelf or equivalent L in such a position 85 as will admit of free access being had to the button M' of indicator M. At the bottom of the device a reserve roll K² may be stored as shown in Fig. 2, a bar A⁴ extending across the back of the device so as to prevent the reserve 90 roll falling out when the case is opened.

The indicator M may be of any well-known construction; in the accompanying drawings it is shown to consist of a fixed dial and an adjustable index or pointer M² which may be 95 turned only from the inside of the case by means of the milled head M', the front being closed in by glass M³.

The case A may be locked to the back or equivalent B by means of a lock; the key N 100

of which is shown in the accompanying drawings.

When the before described apparatus is to be used the paper is led off from the roll K' supported on the shelf or equivalent L, passed through the space existing between the front A' and the lower edge of the table D, upward across the table D and through the slot or passage existing between the upper edge of the table D and the upper part of the front A' the milled head E³ being turned in the direction indicated by the arrow in Fig. 2, for the purpose of thus introducing the paper into the apparatus through the medium of the bands G which, as before described, press against the back of the paper and press the paper against the frame F.

The shelf L may be hinged or otherwise arranged so as to facilitate the placing of the paper roll into its proper working position.

The plate I by being pressed against the paper K by the spring J insures the paper being drawn along by the bands G without slipping.

When a person desires to leave a message he writes the message upon the paper exposed within the frame F after which he can move the portion of the paper so written on to the inside of the apparatus by turning the milled head E³ so as to be inaccessible to any but those possessing a key for unlocking the case

A. It will thus be seen that any number of messages may be written and turned to the inside of the device without fear of their being seen by unauthorized people.

The face of the frame F may have engraved or otherwise depicted thereon any directions necessary for operating the apparatus such for example as is shown in Fig. 1.

The before described apparatus may be modified without departing from the essential features of the invention.

I claim—

In a device for receiving written messages or the like, the combination of the case having its front provided with an opening, a frame surrounding the opening, a writing table or support located within said opening, leaving a space or recess all around the same, rollers mounted to the rear of said table and projecting into said recess at the sides of the table, the endless bands, a pawl and ratchet, and a spring, substantially as shown and for the purpose described.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in the presence of the two subscribing witnesses.

CHARLES ROGERS.

Witnesses:

ALFRED J. BOULT,
HARRY B. BRIDGE.