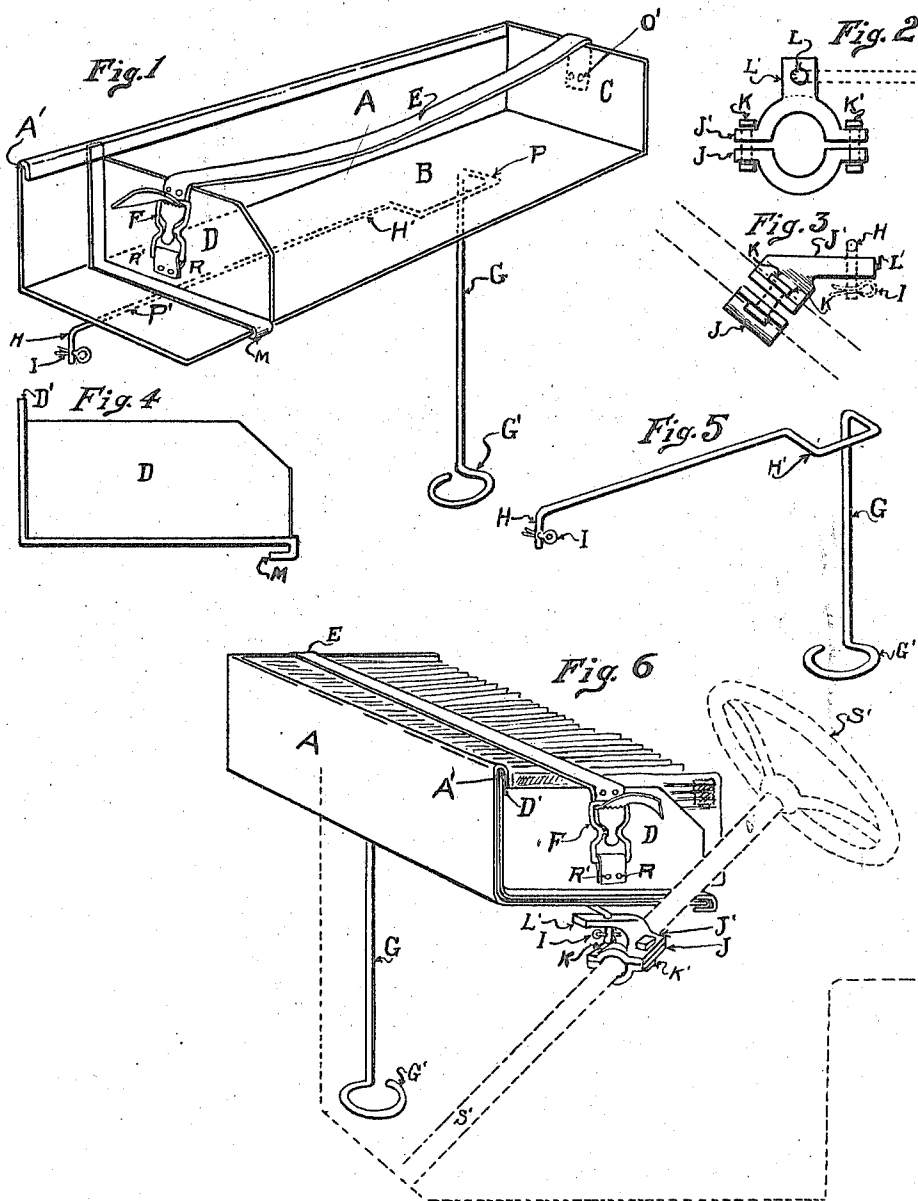


S. M. McDONALD.
 AUTO MAIL TRAY.
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1,286,374.

Patented Dec. 3, 1918.



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AUTO MAIL-TRAY.

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Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SAMUEL MOSES McDONALD, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Sterling, in the county of Rice and State of Kansas, have invented a new and useful Auto Mail-Tray, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in article-holders designed to be attached to the steering post of an automobile. The main object of my invention is to provide a device of the above character which shall be simple, efficient, and inexpensive in construction and which includes suitable clamping means for retaining papers, letters, and other objects.

With the above and other objects in view my invention consists in the combination, arrangement, and details of construction disclosed in the drawings and specification and then more particularly pointed out in the appended claim.

In the drawings wherein similar reference characters designate similar parts,

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my invention,

Fig. 2 is an elevation of a clamp for securing the tray upon the steering post,

Fig. 3 is a side elevation of said clamp,

Fig. 4 is an end elevation of said tray with the strap and handle removed from the tray.

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the tray handle, and

Fig. 6 is a perspective view showing the holder properly applied upon the steering post.

In the drawings a tray is disclosed consisting of the bottom B, back A and end wall C, a handle being provided for this tray in the nature of a rod G having a right angularly formed hook or ring portion G', the portion or bend H' of this rod being formed in a parallel plane relatively to portion G' and is secured under the bottom B of the tray. The rod G is also secured to the bottom B at the point P' and terminates in a downwardly-extending hook H adapted to project into an opening L formed in the base portion L' of one clamp section J' having a segmental portion engaging the steering post S' of an automobile, another clamp section J is also provided having its segmental portion secured to the steering post, both clamp sections being secured together by means of the bolts K and K'. The hook

H carries the cotter pin I by means of which the hook is held against vertical displacement from the base-portion L' and this hook H supports the tray relatively to the steering post. By grasping hold of the rod G by means of the hook or ring G' the tray can be lifted out of engagement with the base-portion L'.

In order to secure papers, letters, etc., upon the tray the same will be placed upon the bottom B in a horizontal row backed up against the end wall C. A flexible strap E has one end secured to the end wall C as at O', and a follower plate D is provided adapted to be pressed into engagement with the papers or letters stacked upon the tray, after which the free end of this strap E is connected to the buckle F which swings on the bearing R secured to this follower-plate D. In this manner the plate D is effectively locked in adjusted position. In order to guide the longitudinal movement of this follower-plate D, the same is provided with an L-shaped lateral flange, one terminal D' of which is on the vertical arm of the flange and projects slidably within a longitudinal bead A' formed upon the back wall A of the tray, while the other terminal on the horizontal arm has a hooked portion slidably mounted under the bottom B, engaging the edge thereof.

Numerous modifications may be resorted to in practice without departing in principle from the details of construction set forth herein.

I claim:—

In combination, a tray consisting of a bottom plate, a back wall and an end wall, the upper edge of the back wall being formed with a flange longitudinally thereof so as to provide a channel, a follower plate formed at right angles upon its rear vertical edge with a flange projecting thereabove to provide a tab slidably projecting into said channel, a right-angularly-disposed flange formed upon said follower-plate as a prolongation of the last-named flange and projecting beyond the front edge of said plate to provide a tab formed into a hook and slidably engaging the front longitudinal edge of said tray, and means for holding said follower-plate against displacement from said tray.

SAMUEL MOSES McDONALD.