No. 670,446. Patented Mar. 26, 1901.

E. J. FLETCHER & C. E. BULKLEY.

HOLDING BLOCK FOR CASES OR BOXES.

(Application filed Feb. 8, 1900.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

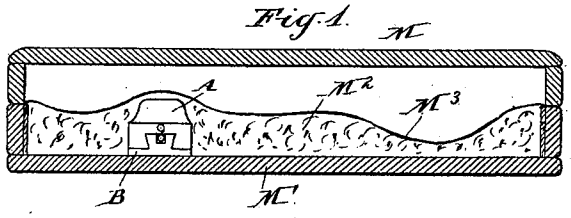


Fig. 2.

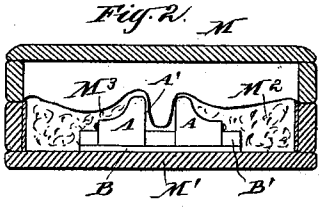


Fig. 3.

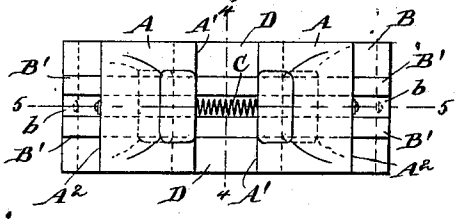


Fig. 4.

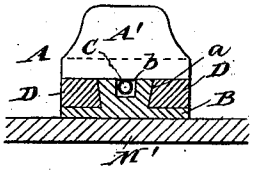


Fig. 9.

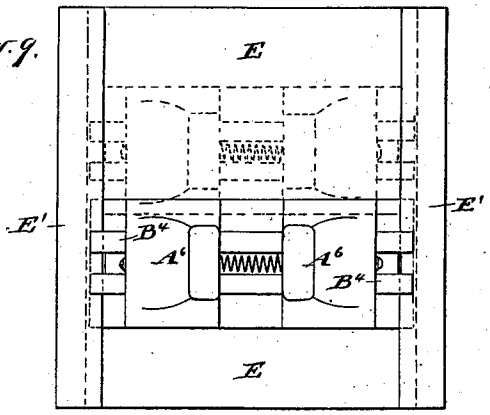


Fig. 5.

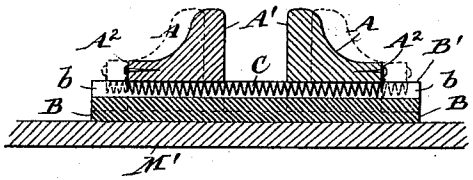


Fig. 6.

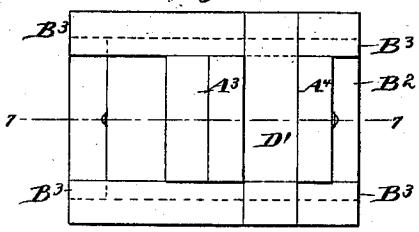


Fig. 10.

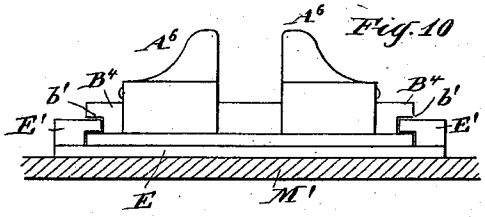


Fig. 7.

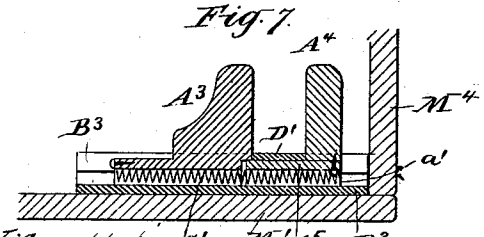
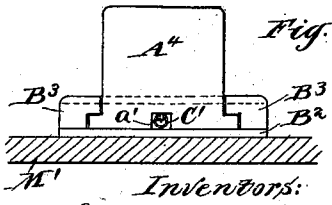


Fig. 8.



Witnesses: C' M' A5 B2
M. E. Grace
N. H. Furness.

Inventors:
Edwin J. Fletcher, and
Charles E. Bulkley,
by their attorney
Charles R. Searle.

THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWIN J. FLETCHER, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., AND CHARLES E. BULKLEY, OF SUMMIT, NEW JERSEY, ASSIGNORS TO THE PATENT CASE COMPANY, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

HOLDING-BLOCK FOR CASES OR BOXES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 670,446, dated March 26, 1901.

Application filed February 8, 1900. Serial No. 4,465. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, EDWIN J. FLETCHER, residing in the city of New York, borough of Manhattan, in the county and State of New York, and CHARLES E. BULKLEY, residing at Summit, in the county of Union and State of New Jersey, citizens of the United States, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Holding-Blocks for Cases or Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to means for supporting and holding articles of silverware, cutlery, jewelry, and the like in the cases or boxes in which such goods are displayed.

The object of the invention is to provide a block adapted to hold a variety of differently-shaped articles of varying sizes, so mounted as to allow its position to be changed in conditioning the case to receive the various articles and permit the latter to be symmetrically and attractively arranged.

The ordinary block now generally used consists of a pair of jaws, one fixed and the other hinged and actuated by a spring, and is objectionable for the reason that the angle formed by the jaw-opening increases as the opening widens, so that if proportioned to hold thin or narrow articles successfully wider articles are insecurely held. Another objectionable feature of this construction is the shifting of the center line of the jaw-opening, due to the movement of one jaw alone. The center line travels away from the fixed jaw as the opening widens, and therefore while a small or narrow article may lie in the desired position in the case a wider article thus held will be carried farther from the fixed jaw and thus out of symmetrical relation to the case and to adjacent articles therein.

In our improved block the parallelism or relative angular relation of the grasping-faces of the jaws is maintained regardless of the distance of separation. The construction also provides a base of large area, by which the block may be firmly secured in the case and the shifting of the center line of the jaw-opening is avoided.

The invention consists of a pair of jaws mounted and guided in ways with liberty to move toward and from each other, urged together by the force of a spring exerting an equal tension on both jaws. A center piece placed between the jaws holds them normally apart sufficiently to allow their easy separation, while allowing them to approach closely enough to grasp the smallest article for which they are adapted. The center piece also serves the important function of indicating the central line of the jaw-opening.

Additional ways receiving the ends of those in which the jaws move and arranged transversely thereto allow the block and its jaws to be shifted as required in establishing the article in the exact position desired.

The accompanying drawings form a part of this specification and show the invention as we have carried it out.

Figure 1 is a longitudinal section through a case, showing one of the blocks in end elevation. Fig. 2 is a corresponding cross-section showing the block in side view. The remaining figures are on a larger scale. Fig. 3 is a plan view of the block alone. Fig. 4 is a transverse section taken on the line 4 4 in Fig. 3, and Fig. 5 is a longitudinal section taken on the line 5 5 in Fig. 3. Figs. 6, 7, and 8 show a modified form of the block. Fig. 6 is a plan view. Fig. 7 is a section taken on the line 7 7 in Fig. 6. Fig. 8 is a corresponding end view. Fig. 9 is a plan view showing a further adaptation of the block, and Fig. 10 is a corresponding side elevation.

Similar letters of reference indicate like parts in all the figures.

Referring to Figs. 1 to 5, inclusive, A A are vertical jaws of light strong wood or other suitable material, each tapered toward the top and having a dovetail groove *a* extending longitudinally of the otherwise plane lower face. The adjacent or grasping faces A' A' are preferably plane and at right angles to the lower face, but may be grooved transversely or otherwise shaped to increase the grasp upon the article to be held. The base B is of sufficient width to offer easy and strong attach-

ment to the bottom M′ of a case M and is provided with central longitudinally-extending ways B′ B′ of dovetail section, matching to the grooves *a a* in the jaws and receiving the latter with liberty to shift thereon in the direction of the ways. A helical spring C, fastened to each jaw on the outer end or face A^2, extends beneath each and lies in the grooves *a* and the groove *b*, formed in the upper face of the ways, as shown, and serves to draw the jaws together with sufficient force to hold the article inserted between them. D D are center pieces or blocks secured to the base between the jaws and serve to hold the latter normally separated to a distance equal to their width. The block thus constructed will serve in a variety of situations, as will be understood. We have shown it in a case for holding an article of silverware. It is secured to the bottom M′ of the case M by cement applied to the extended face of the base B or by nailing, or both. The material for the bed M^2 is then filled in and around the block and the covering M^3 applied, concealing the block, but having sufficient fullness to allow the jaws to be manipulated beneath it in placing and releasing the article to be held. The center pieces D may be of any desired width or may be omitted, if preferred, especially if the article to be held be quite thin or narrow. One of the jaws may be stationary, if desired, in any case.

The form shown in Figs. 6, 7, and 8 is designed more especially for service close to the wall of the case. In this form the ways B^3 B^3 are rabbeted strips secured to the upper face of the base B^2 near the edges, as shown, and receive corresponding flanges on the jaws A^3 A^4, which in this form are not counterparts each of the other. The jaw A^4, lying next the wall M^4, is thinner, and its base A^5 extends beneath a center piece D′, reaching across from one strip B^3 to the other and toward and partly beneath the jaw A^3. The jaws are urged together by a spring C′, similar to that above described and lying in a groove *a*′, formed on the under faces of the jaws. Thus constructed the jaw A^4 has sufficient base to insure easy travel in the ways, while free to move to a limited extent and occupying but little space.

Figs. 9 and 10 show a universally-adjustable form, in which the jaws A^6 A^6 and their ways B^4 B^4 may be in all respects similar to the form first described, excepting that the ends of the base are grooved transversely, as at *b*′ *b*′, to match the rabbeted strips E′ E′ on a subbase E, and thus allow the whole block to be shifted bodily thereon to any desired position, while the jaws A^6 may be separated, as before described, within the limits set by the strips E′ at each end of the block.

In all the forms it will be observed that the block occupies but little vertical height and has a relatively deep jaw-opening and that the line of the pull exerted by the spring is at a low level within the ways, thus allowing the jaws to travel easily and smoothly and avoiding the tendency to bind or jam in the ways.

Other modifications may be made in the forms and proportions within wide limits without departing from the principle of the invention or sacrificing its advantages.

The rabbeted ways shown in Figs. 6, 7, and 8 may be substituted for the dovetail ways shown in the earlier figures or other means for producing sliding engagement employed.

We claim—

1. In a block of the character set forth, a base, parallel ways thereon, a pair of jaws received and guided in said ways with liberty to move toward and from each other while maintaining the parallelism of their adjacent faces, a spring attached to both jaws and serving to urge them together with an equal tension on each, and a center piece secured between said jaws and serving to limit their approach and determine the central line between them, all combined and arranged to serve with a case or box substantially as herein specified.

2. The holding-block described consisting of a base, parallel ways thereon, a pair of jaws received and guided in said ways with liberty to move toward and from each other, and a spring attached to both jaws and serving to urge them together, in combination with each other and with a subbase and the parallel guiding-strips thereon in which said base is mounted with liberty to move in a direction transverse to said ways, all substantially as herein specified.

3. In a block of the character described a base with ways and grooves slidable jaws with grooves, a helical spring connecting said jaws, and disposed in said grooves, and a device between the jaws to limit their approach, and a flexible covering over said jaws with sufficient fullness to allow of the sliding of the jaws, as set forth.

In testimony that we claim the invention above set forth we affix our signatures in presence of two witnesses.

EDWIN J. FLETCHER.
C. E. BULKLEY.

Witnesses:
EDWARD MCCARTHY,
CHARLES R. SEARLE.