E. W. HAWLEY.

DRAWER LOCKING DEVICE.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 2, 1921.

1,413,658. Patented Apr. 25, 1922.

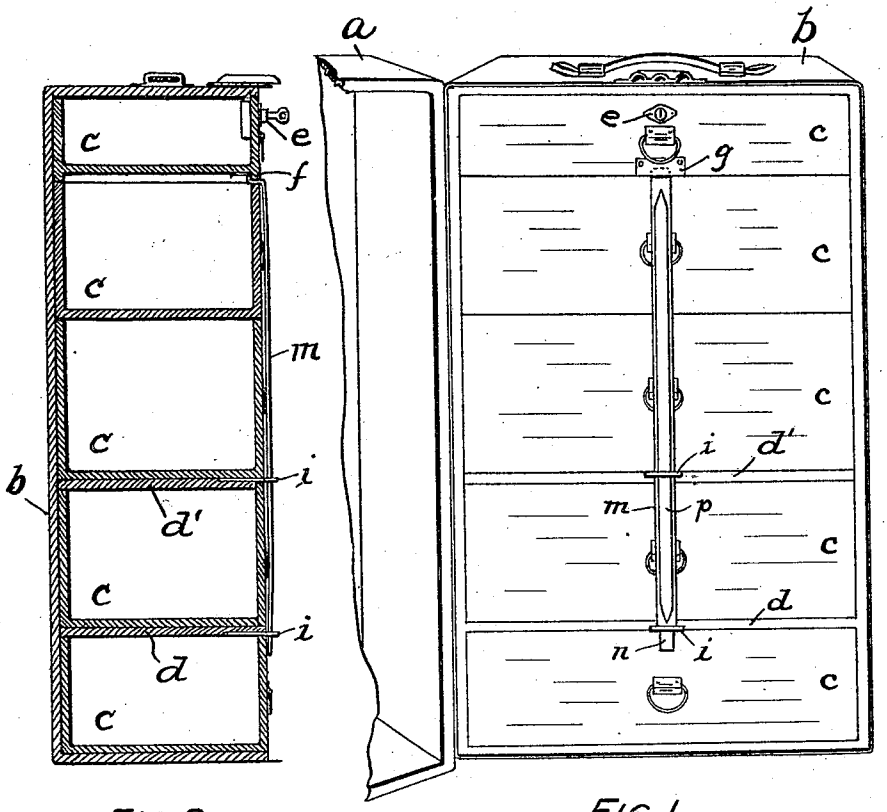


FIG. 2.

FIG. 1.

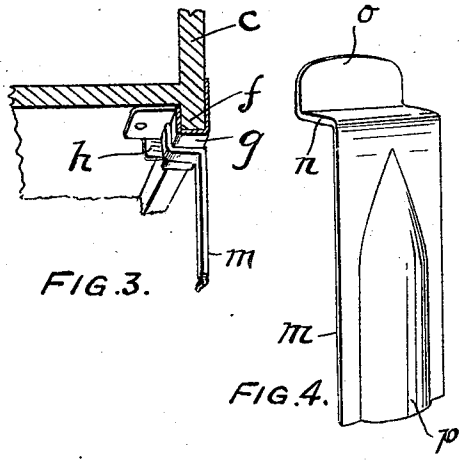


FIG. 3.

FIG. 4.

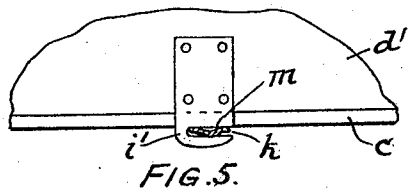


FIG. 5.

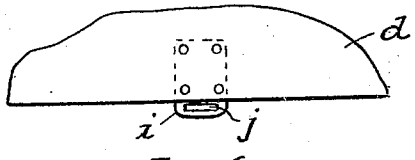


FIG. 6.

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DRAWER-LOCKING DEVICE.

1,413,658. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Apr. 25, 1922.

Application filed June 2, 1921. Serial No. 474,363.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EUGENE W. HAWLEY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Philadelphia, county of Philadelphia, and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Drawer-Locking Devices, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in drawer locking devices for trunks, and especially wardrobe trunks, having two hinged together sections, one of which contains a plurality of superimposed drawers.

My invention has for its object the provision of an improved locking device which will be efficient and at the same time cheap to manufacture.

A further object of my invention is to provide a locking device which is so arranged that when one of the drawers is locked the simultaneous locking of such of the other drawers as it is desired to lock will be effected.

A device of a similar character is set forth in a patent granted to George F. Grube, dated April 19, 1921, No. 1,375,249, and said device is entirely feasible and practical. The present application, however, discloses an improved device which for certain purposes and under certain circumstances possesses advantages over that disclosed in the above patent.

Having now generally outlined the nature of my invention, I will proceed to describe a preferred embodiment thereof with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of the drawer compartment of a wardrobe trunk embodying my invention.

Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional view on line 2—2 Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary view of a detail of the device embodying my invention.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a detail of a locking bar.

Figs. 5 and 6 are fragmentary plan views showing, in detail, the fixed holding plates for the locking bar.

The trunk comprises two compartments hinged together, one a hanger compartment *a* and the other a drawer compartment *b* in which are slidably mounted drawers *c*. The drawer compartment is reinforced by means of reinforcing members *d*—*d'* which are positioned between the lower drawer and the one above it and between the second from the bottom and the one above it. In the embodiment of my invention illustrated, the top drawer is provided with a locking device *e* adapted to secure the drawer to the body of the trunk and its front wall is extended downwardly below its bottom to form a flange *f*, to which is fitted a reinforcing plate *g* provided adjacent one of its edges with a downwardly extending lug *h*.

To the underside of the reinforcement *d* is secured a plate *i* one end of which extends outwardly beyond the face of the drawers, and is provided with a slot *j*. A plate *i'* is secured on the upper side of reinforcing member *d'* and is similar to plate *i* except that its outwardly extending end is provided with an open slot *k* and forms a hook.

A locking bar, the body *m* of which is adapted to extend in front of the drawers, is reduced in width at its lower end to form a tongue *m'* and at its upper end is bent at right angles to the direction of extension of its body to form a lip *n* and again at right angles into a direction parallel to its body to form a lip *o*.

The body *m* of the bar is stiffened against outward bending by the raised rib *p*.

The tongue *m'* on the locking bar is adapted to be inserted in slot *j* in plate *i*, with the lower end of the body of the bar resting on the plate. The body of the bar is then slipped into slot *k* in plate *i* and with the top drawer slightly open the lips *n* and *o* on the other end extend beneath and up behind, respectively, the lower edge of plate *g* on flange *f*.

It will now be observed that when the top drawer is closed the flange *f* effectively holds the upper end of the bar and the lower end is effectively anchored in plate *i*. Lateral movement of the bar in one direction is prevented by the closed end of slot *k* and in the other direction by the lug *h* on reinforcement plate *g*, which will engage with lip *o* on slight lateral movement of the bar.

It will not be obvious that with the top drawer in closed position, all the other drawers are secured by the locking bar, and to effect a locking of all the drawers it is only necessary to manipulate the locking device *e* and lock the top drawer.

The drawers may be readily unlocked by

merely unlocking and slightly opening the top drawer. With the top drawer open, the lug *h* is clear of lip *o* and the bar may be moved laterally to clear it from plate *i'* and then merely lifted away from plate *i*.

It will be obvious that, although I have illustrated an embodiment of my invention in which all the drawers are locked, the construction may be readily modified to effect the locking of any two drawers with the drawers between them.

The device embodying my invention possesses the advantages of simplicity, durability and ease of manipulation; at the same time it may be readily and cheaply manufactured.

Having now fully described my invention, what I claim and desire to protect by Letters Patent is:

1. A trunk having a drawer compartment, a series of drawers therein, means to lock one of said drawers to the trunk body, and a locking fixture adapted to lock other drawers and be itself locked independently of said locking means, said locking fixture being removably anchored to the trunk body and having one of its ends so formed as to be engaged behind the front wall of said drawer adapted to be locked to the trunk body, when said drawer is closed, said fixture being movable into and out of engaging position laterally in a plane substantially parallel to the plane of the front wall of said drawer.

2. A trunk having a drawer compartment, a series of drawers therein, the upper drawer being provided with a flange extending downwardly beneath its bottom, means to lock the upper drawer to the trunk body, and a locking fixture adapted to lock other drawers and be itself locked, independently of said locking means, by the upper drawer when said drawer is closed and to be unlocked when said drawer is opened, said locking fixture being removably anchored to the trunk body and having one of its ends offset to extend beneath and engage behind said flange.

3. A trunk having a drawer compartment, a series of drawers therein, the front wall of the upper drawer of the series extending downwardly a distance below the bottom thereof, a locking bar extending in front of intermediate drawers, one end of said bar being adapted to be removably anchored to the trunk body and the other end extended laterally to extend beneath the lower edge of the front wall of said upper drawer, the free end of said lateral extension being extended vertically to engage behind the front wall of said upper drawer beneath the bottom thereof, and means independent of the locking bar to lock said upper drawer to the trunk body.

4. A trunk having a drawer compartment, a series of drawers therein, the front wall of the upper drawer of the series extending downwardly a distance below the bottom thereof, a locking bar extending in front of intermediate drawers, one end of said bar being adapted to be removably anchored to the trunk body and the other end extended laterally to extend beneath the lower edge of the front wall of said end drawer, the free end of said lateral extension being extended vertically to engage behind the front wall of said upper drawer beneath the bottom thereof, means secured to the trunk body adapted to engage the locking bar intermediate its ends and prevent it from moving laterally in one direction, a stop on the back of the front wall of said upper drawer adapted to engage with the offset portion of said locking bar and prevent lateral movement of said bar in the opposite direction, and means independent of the locking bar to lock said end drawer to the trunk body.

In testimony of which invention, I have hereunto set my hand, at Philadelphia, Pa., on this 28th day of May, 1921.

EUGENE W. HAWLEY.