

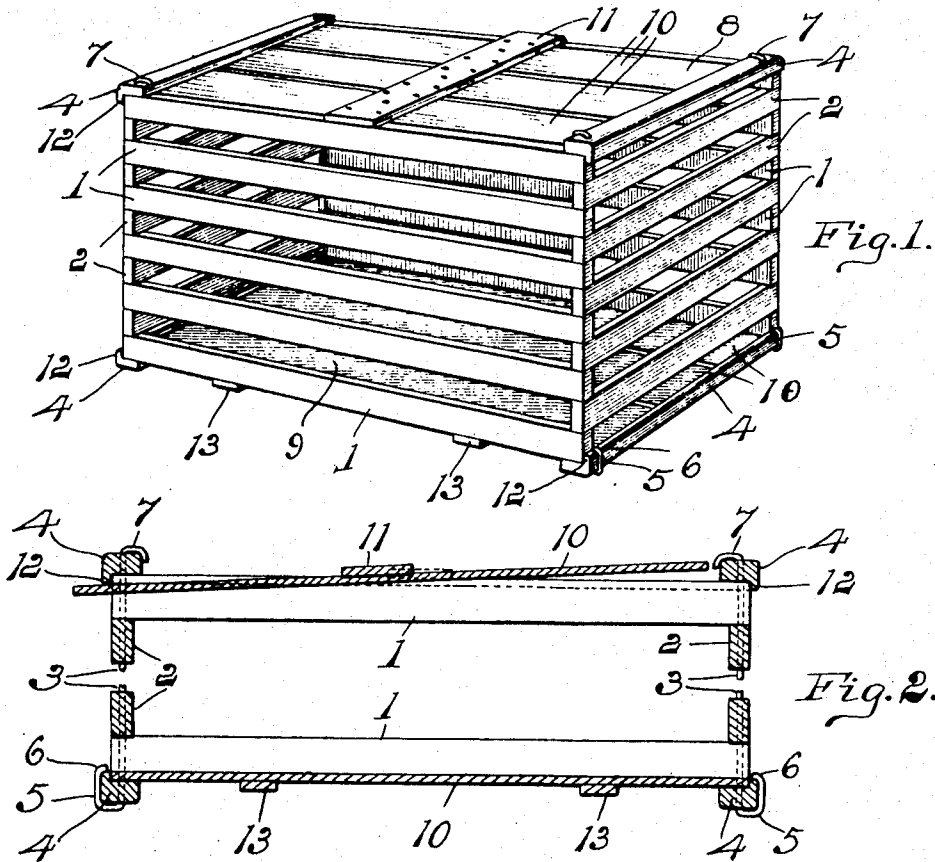
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CRATE.

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1,022,814.

Patented Apr. 9, 1912.



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Witnesses

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CRATE.

1,022,814.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM BEEHLER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Owosso, in the county of Shiawassee and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Crates, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improved folding crate and its object is to provide certain new and useful features in the construction and arrangement of parts, all as hereinafter more fully described and particularly pointed out in the claims reference being had to the accompanying drawing in which,

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a crate embodying the invention; and Fig. 2 is an enlarged sectional detail of the same.

As shown in the drawing the body of the crate is made up of a series of side slats 1 and end slats 2 with the ends of the slats overlapped and pivotally connected at each corner of the crate by a pivot wire 3 extending through vertical holes in the overlapping ends of the slats. At the upper and lower corners at each end of the crate is a cross bar 4 spaced from the adjacent end slat 2 by the top and bottom side slats 1 upon which the cross bars are secured by the wires 3 passing through holes therein. Each wire at its lower end is bent around the lower cross bar 4. When these wires have been inserted through the bottom cross bars 4, the side and end slats are then alternately strung upon the wires which are held in upright position, and after the top bars 4 are strung on, the upper ends 7 of the wires are bent laterally over the inner edges of these bars and formed down, thus pivotally and securely holding the slats together.

The crate is provided with a top closure 8 and a bottom closure 9, which closures are preferably made alike, but for the purpose of illustrating a modified construction of closure, in the drawings, the bottom closure is shown as slightly different in construction from the top closure.

The top closure is formed of a series of longitudinally extending strips 10 which are connected and held together to form the closure, by a transverse fulcrum strip or board 11 nailed across the upper side of the longitudinal strips intermediate their ends. The closure formed by the longitudinal strips is of a width to fit between the upper

side slats of the crate and the fulcrum strip 11 is slightly longer than the width of the closure so that its projecting ends will engage the upper edges of said slats and hold the closure from being forced into the crate. The cross bars 4 which form the upper and lower sides of the ends of the crate are each rabbeted, forming a rabbet and a rib or flange 12 along one side of the bar and said bars are secured by the pivot wires upon the ends of the top and bottom side slats with said ends within the rabbets and abutting the ribs. Said ribs thus lie outside the vertical plane of each end of the crate and the longitudinal strips 10 of the closures are of substantially the same length as the length of said side slats and are adapted, when the closure is in place, to fit between said ribs or flanges 12 on the two adjacent cross bars.

The closure is inserted by placing one end of the strips 10 beneath the flange 12 of one of the cross bars with its fulcrum strip resting upon the upper edge of the side slats of the body, as illustrated in Fig. 2. Then by springing the opposite ends of said strips 10 inward and moving the closure longitudinally, said opposite ends are brought beneath the cross bars at that end of the crate, and further endwise movement will move the ends of the strips engaging the flange 12 past said flange and said ends will spring upward into the rabbet at the inner side of said flange. The said strips 10 will then be held by the fulcrum strip with their upper surface in the plane of the upper edges of the side slats and between the flanges 12 of the two cross bars. The flanges 12 thus prevent the longitudinal movement of the closure and the fulcrum strip 11 supports and holds the closure in place until said strips 10 are again depressed at one end below the flange 12 of one bar, and the closure moved longitudinally to disengage the opposite ends of said strips from beneath the other cross bar. The lower closure 9 is made and inserted in the same manner except that instead of one fulcrum strip being used, two fulcrum strips 13 are secured to the longitudinal strips 10 at a distance from the ends of said strips.

Having thus fully described my invention what I claim is:—

1. A crate comprising side and end members, a closure having a transverse fulcrum

strip engaging the side members and supporting the closure between said members with its ends beneath the end members and means on one end member projecting inwardly therefrom to limit the longitudinal movement of the closure, said closure being adapted to be pressed inward at one end and moved endwise past said means to disengage its opposite end from the other end member.

2. A crate comprising side members, end members rabbeted along their inner sides, a closure having a transverse fulcrum strip engaging the side members and supporting said closure between said members with its ends within the rabbets of the end members and limited in its longitudinal movement thereby, said closure being adapted to be pressed inward at one end out of engagement with the rabbet of one end member and moved endwise to disengage its opposite end from the other end member.

3. A crate comprising side and end slats

having overlapping and pivotally connected ends, end cross bars each rabbeted to form a rib along one edge, said bars being secured upon the ends of the outer side slats with the ends of said slats within said rabbets and the ribs on the bars projecting outside of the vertical plane of the crate end, and a closure between the side slats with its ends within the rabbets of the cross bars, said closure being provided with a transverse fulcrum strip intermediate its ends engaging the side slats to support the closure and to permit one end thereof to be depressed out of the horizontal plane of the rib on the adjacent cross bar, whereby the closure may be moved endwise to disengage its opposite end from the other cross bar.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM BEEHLER.

Witnesses:

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