No. 687,731. Patented Dec. 3, 1901.

J. A. CUNNINGHAM.

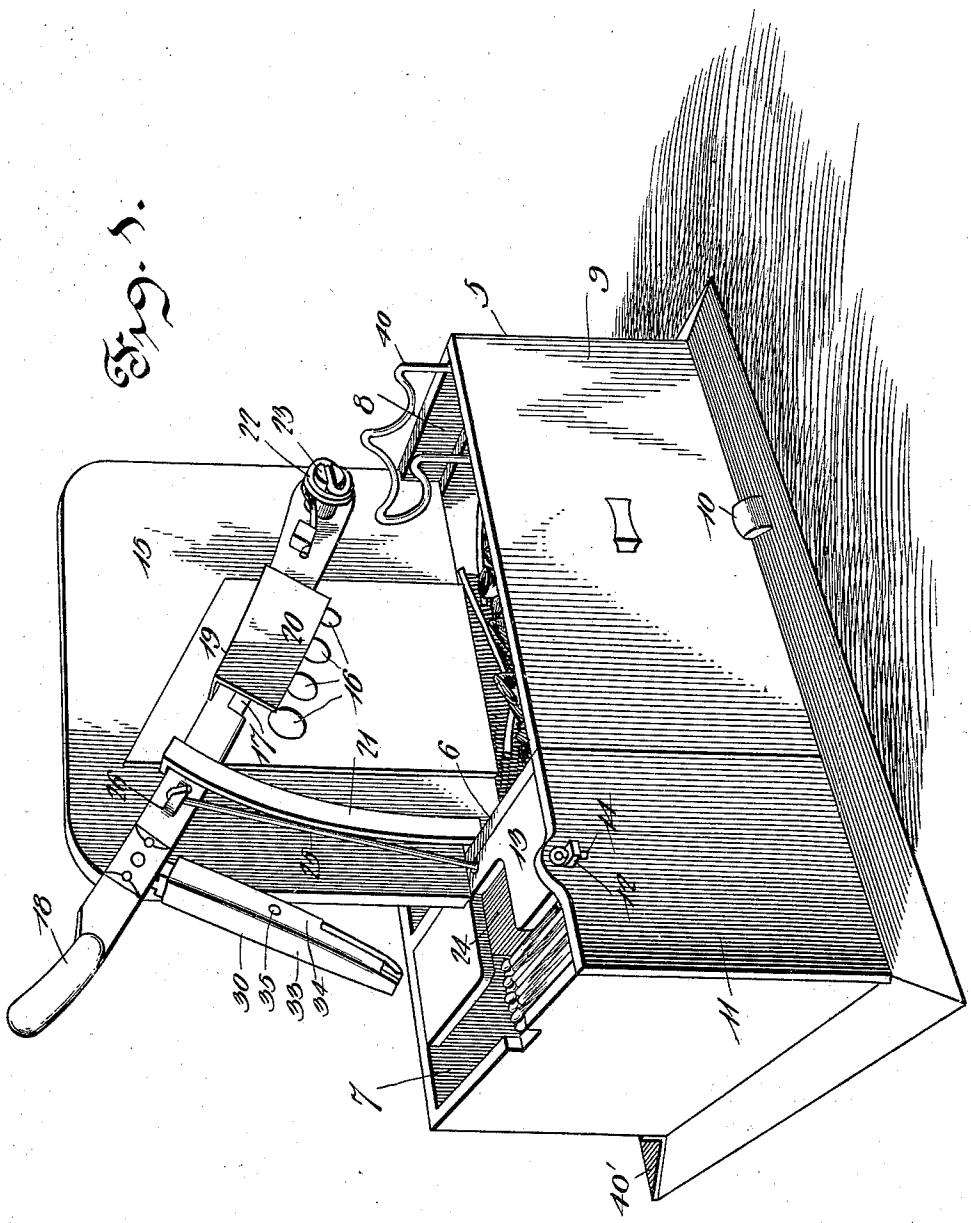
MATCH BOX AND CIGAR CUTTER.

(Application filed Jan. 22, 1901.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

Fig. 1.



Witnesses
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2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

Fig. 3.

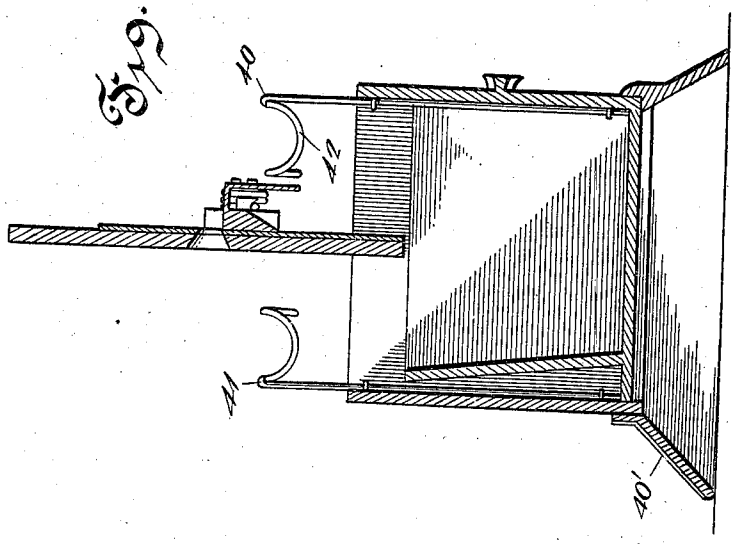


Fig. 4.

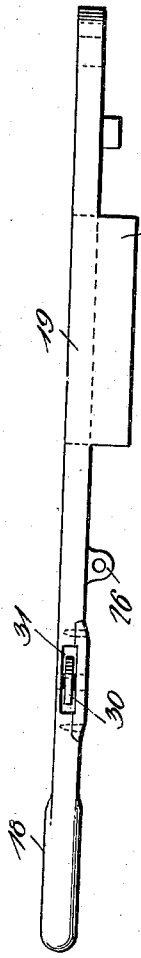
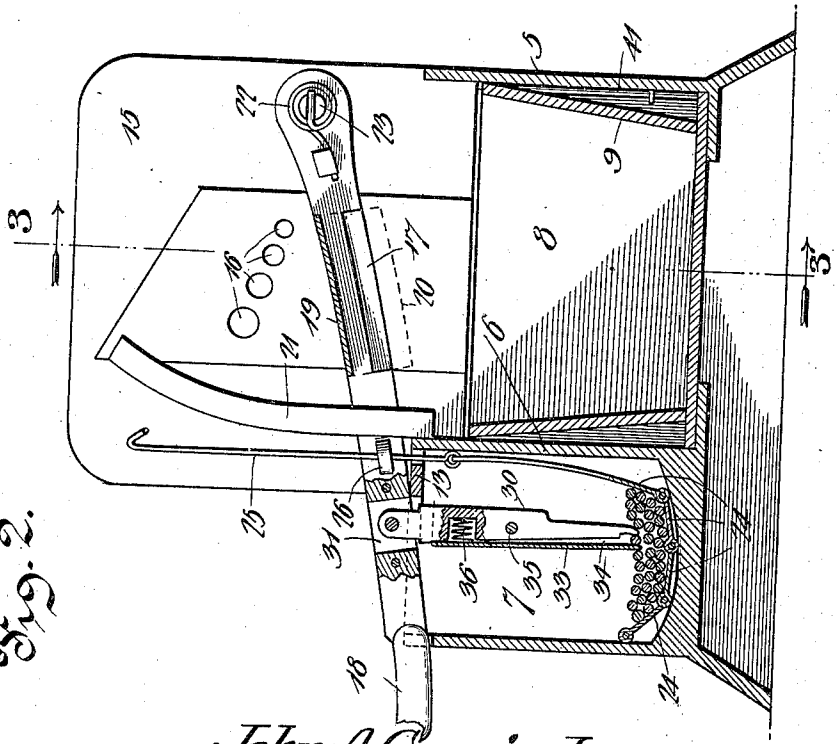


Fig. 2.



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JOHN A. CUNNINGHAM, OF SOUTH BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA.

MATCH-BOX AND CIGAR-CUTTER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 687,731, dated December 3, 1901.

Application filed January 22, 1901. Serial No. 44,288. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN A. CUNNINGHAM, a citizen of the United States, residing at South Bethlehem, in the county of Northampton and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Match-Box and Cigar-Cutter, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to match-safes and cigar-cutters; and it has for its object to provide a mechanism including both a match-safe and cigar-cutter wherein a single operation will cut a cigar and present a match, although, as will be understood, the actual cutting of a cigar is not essential to the operation of the device.

A further object of the invention is to provide a compact arrangement of the parts and such specific construction of the elements as will give a most efficient operation.

In the drawings forming a portion of this specification, and in which like numerals of reference indicate similar parts in the several views, Figure 1 is a perspective view showing the complete mechanism. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal vertical section of the device. Fig. 3 is a transverse vertical section on line 3 3 of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a top plan view of the operating-lever.

Referring now to the drawings, the present device includes a casing 5, which is divided by a transverse partition 6 into two compartments 7 and 8, of which the former is the receptacle for the unused matches, while the latter is provided with a drawer 9 to receive burned matches and cigar ends, said drawer being held in its closed position by means of a lug 10 upon the outwardly-projecting base of the casing and behind which the drawer is adapted to lie. The compartment 7 has a removable closure at one end in the form of a door 11, the lower edge of which engages a recess in the base of the casing, and which door has an opening in its upper portion through which is received a tongue 12 upon a plate 13, which projects from the partition 6 part way over the compartment 7. The tongue has an opening in its end portion to receive a latch-pin 14. A vertical supporting-plate 15 extends longitudinally of the casing from one end of the compartment 8 to the other and above the drawer 9, which latter passes beneath the plate, and this supporting-plate carries a cutting-plate or may be formed integral therewith, and having a number of graduated perforations 16 therethrough to receive the ends of cigars in the usual manner. A knife 17 moves over the cutting-plate and is carried by a hand-operated lever 18, which is pivoted to the supporting-plate, adjacent to the rear edge thereof, and projects forwardly beyond the supporting-plate and beyond the front end of the casing 5. The lever 18 also carries a guard-plate 19, having a depending flange 20, which is spaced from the outer side of the lever, and when said lever is operated to pass the knife across the perforations in the cutting-plate to cut the end from a cigar this flange is in position to deflect the cut-off end downwardly and into the drawer. To prevent lateral displacement of the lever, a guide-plate 21 is provided and has its ends attached to the supporting-plate to hold the lever between it and the supporting-plate, while permitting oscillation of the lever. The lever is held yieldably in raised position by means of a helical spring mounted upon and having one end attached to the pivot-pin 23 upon the supporting-plate and on which the lever is pivoted, this spring 22 having its opposite end attached to the lever.

The matches in the match-compartment lie upon a movable support consisting of a series of hinged sections 24, of which one end section is pivoted to the front of the match-compartment, while the opposite end section has a shift rod 25 attached thereto and extending upwardly through an opening in plate 13. This rod extends also through a perforation in a lug 26 on the operating-lever and has a turned-over upper end, so that when the lever is raised it will strike this turned-over portion and will raise the match-support. The lever is raised suddenly by the spring 22 when released, so that it strikes the turned-over portion with a velocity sufficient to move it suddenly and shake the matches to cause them to lie snugly side by side and properly arranged. To lift the matches one at a time from the match-compartment, a finger 30 is pivoted to the lever 18, in a longitudinal slot 31 therein, and depends from the lever, said finger being of such length that when the lever is at its lowermost point the finger will reach to the bottom of the match-compart-

ment. The lever 30 and finger 18 thus form a match-removing device. The lower end or tip of the finger is curved slightly forward, as shown, and coöperating therewith is a plate 33, having side flanges 34 at its upper portion and between which the finger is received. A pivot-pin 35 is passed through these side flanges and the finger on which the plate moves, and the lower end of the plate is held yieldably in close relation to the tip of the finger by means of a helical spring 36, seated in a recess in the finger and bearing against the plate 33, above the pivot thereof. When the lever is moved downwardly, this finger is carried into the match-compartment and into engagement with a match, which latter is forced between the finger-tip and the plate 33, the tip passing under the match, so that when the lever moves upwardly and raises the finger the match will be withdrawn from the match-compartment and may be then removed from the finger.

Two cigar-rests 40 and 41 are provided, one carried by the drawer, in the outer rear corner thereof, and the other standing in the corresponding opposite corner of the casing. Each of these rests consists of a wire, which is first bent into U shape, after which the upper portion is bent laterally, as shown at 42, and curved to receive the cigar, the curved portions lying with their chords horizontal and parallel.

To provide for striking matches, a corrugated or otherwise-roughened plate 40′ is attached to the beveled face of the base of the apparatus and may be held in place in any desired manner.

It will be understood that in practice various modifications of the specific construction shown may be made and that any suitable materials and proportions may be used for the various parts without departing from the spirit of the invention.

What is claimed is—

1. A device of the class described comprising a match-receptacle having a movable bottom comprising hinged plates, the plate at one end of the series being hinged to the side of the receptacle and the plate at the other end of the series having a shifting rod attached thereto, a pivoted lever with which the rod is slidably engaged, said rod having a stop for engagement by the lever to move the rod and shake the movable bottom when the lever is raised, and a match-engaging device carried by the lever for movement into and out of the match-receptacle as the lever is lowered and raised.

2. A device of the class described comprising a fixed match-compartment having a movable bottom to support the matches, a match-removing device for engaging and removing the matches from the support, and connections between the removing device and the movable bottom for operating the latter to shake and arrange the matches when the former is operated.

3. A device of the class described comprising a match-compartment having a movable bottom including hinged sections adapted to receive and support the matches, a match-removing device adapted for movement into and out of the compartment to engage and remove the matches, and means operably connected with the removing device for movement therewith to move the hinged sections to arrange the matches thereon.

4. A device of the class described, having a sectional movable match-support, a pivotal lever, a match-engaging finger carried by the lever and constructed to pick up a match from the support, and means for agitating or shaking the support to rearrange or bunch the matches thereon by the return movement of the lever.

5. A device of the class described comprising a receptacle, a cutting-plate disposed above the receptacle and having openings therein having cutting edges, a lever pivoted to the plate and having a knife for coöperation with the cutting edges of the openings, and a deflecting-plate upon the lever at the opposite side thereof from the knife to deflect cigar ends into the receptacle.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

JOHN A. CUNNINGHAM.

Witnesses:
JAMES QUIGNEY,
WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM.