

No. 666,650.

Patented Jan. 29, 1901.

G. J. DAVISON.

TRUNK CASTER.

(Application filed Aug. 25, 1900.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

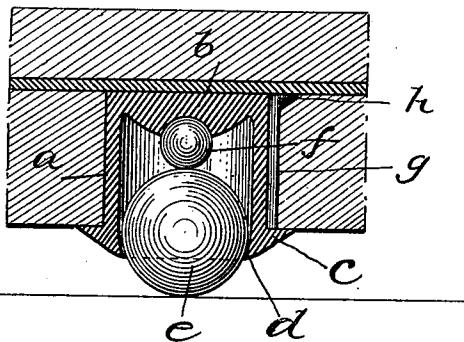


Fig. 2.

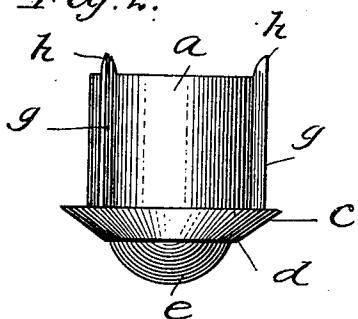


Fig. 3.

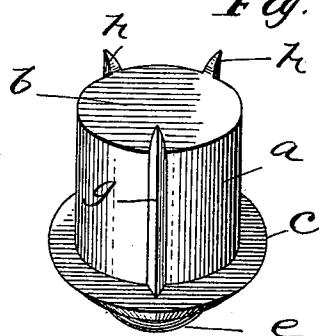
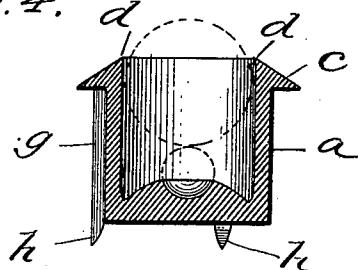


Fig. 4.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE JAMES DAVISON, OF RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, ASSIGNOR, BY MESNE ASSIGNMENTS, OF ONE-HALF TO JOHN T. BUTLER AND JOHN M. WARREN, OF SAME PLACE.

TRUNK-CASTER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 666,650, dated January 29, 1901.

Application filed August 25, 1900. Serial No. 28,064. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE JAMES DAVISON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Richmond, county of Henrico, State of Virginia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Trunk-Casters, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings, in which—

10 Figure 1 is a vertical sectional view of my improved device applied to a bottom strip of a trunk; Fig. 2, a side elevation of the caster; Fig. 3, a perspective view thereof, and Fig. 4 a detail sectional view of the cup-shaped body inverted.

The object of the invention is to provide an antifriction-ball caster especially adapted for trunks which shall be extremely simple, durable, and inexpensive and be capable of 20 easy application to the bottom strip of a trunk, as more fully set forth.

The invention consists of an inverted cylindrical cup-shaped body *a*, forged or cast of a single piece of metal and having its closed 25 top *b* made convex on its inner face and having an external stop-flange *c* formed around its lower open end, the extreme lower edge or rim of the cup being tapered off to form a thin edge *d*, which is capable of being bent 30 inward toward a large floor bearing-ball *e* to confine the same in the cup. This floor-ball bears upon a smaller ball *f*, confined between it and the top part of the cup and resting in a central recess in said top part. On the exterior of the cup and extending the full length 35 thereof and connecting with flange *c* is a series of longitudinal sharpened ribs *g*.

In assembling the parts the cup is inverted and the smaller ball is first dropped into its 40 recess. Then the large floor-ball is dropped in on the small ball, and then the tapered flange *d* is bent inward close to or lightly in contact with the ball all around. The device is then ready for application to a trunk. In 45 the bottom strip of the trunk a round hole is bored approximately equal in diameter to the diameter of the cup, and into this hole the cup is driven, closed end first, until its flange *c* comes against the under side of the strip. 50 In driving the cup home the knife-like ribs *g* cut into the wood at several points around

the hole, and thereby securely bind the cup in the hole and prevent its turning therein or its ready withdrawal therefrom. In inserting the cup into the cavity the blows necessary to force it to place may be delivered directly on the floor-ball, (or on an intermediate cushioning-block held in the hand of the workman,) since this ball and the smaller ball are to be made of steel, and the top part of 60 the cup is made integral with the cylindrical casing and is thereby capable of withstanding the strain incident to driving the device to place. The making of the inner side of the top part convex and providing it with a central ball-recess not only strengthens that part, and thereby renders it sufficiently strong to take the strain (which will sometimes be quite severe) incident to driving the cup into place and to the rough handling trunks are frequently subjected to, but also facilitates the 65 assembling of the parts, in that it insures the proper positioning of the smaller ball, whereby delay in putting the parts together will be avoided. Thus employing a single central 70 ball in the convex top part insures the impact and strain brought on the balls being transmitted directly through the centers of the balls to the arched top part, whereby injury to the shell, which is desirably made 75 80 lighter in weight, is avoided.

To further secure the device from accidental removal, I form on the upper end of each of the cutting-ribs an extension *h*, which is pointed and slightly beveled or flared outward 85 away from the cup, so that when the cup is driven into its cavity these fingers or points will come in contact with the usual metal plate or strip on the bottom of the trunk and be clenched, as shown in Fig. 1. 90

It will be observed that my device is extremely simple in construction, is capable of withstanding the roughest handling without derangement or detachment, and may be applied with ease and without the use of screws 95 or other attaching devices. The special feature of utility lies in the fact that it is so constructed as to not only withstand the comparatively great strains and blows trunk-casters are subjected to in practice, but also the 100 severe blows necessary to drive it tightly to place in the bottom strip.

It is evident that this caster may also be employed for articles of furniture and other apparatus without departing from the invention in the least.

5 Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

A caster consisting of a cup-shaped body part, closed at its upper end and open at its lower end and inclosing a floor-ball in its open 10 end, said body part being provided with one

or more cutting-ribs on its exterior having clenching extensions on their upper extremities.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature, in the presence of two witnesses, 15 this 24th day of August, 1900.

GEORGE JANES DAVISON.

Witnesses:

W. P. TALIAFERRA,

A. L. HAYNES.