(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

A. McNEILL.

SHOW CASE.

No. 386,550. Patented July 24, 1888.

Fig. 1.

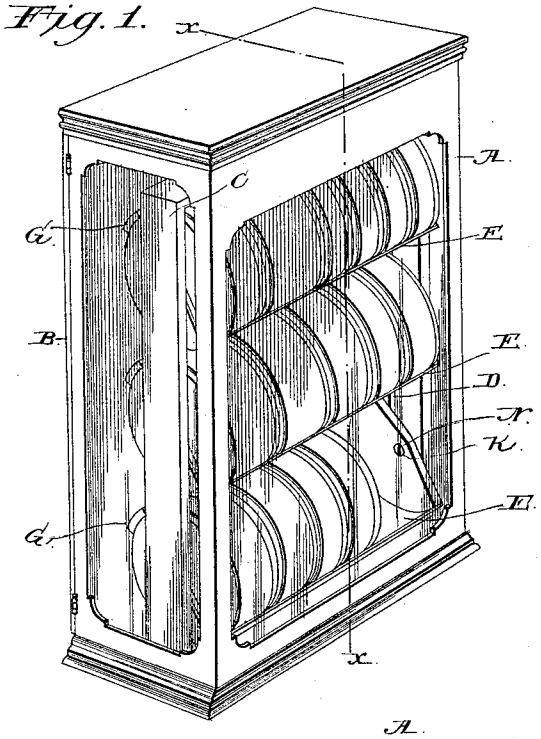
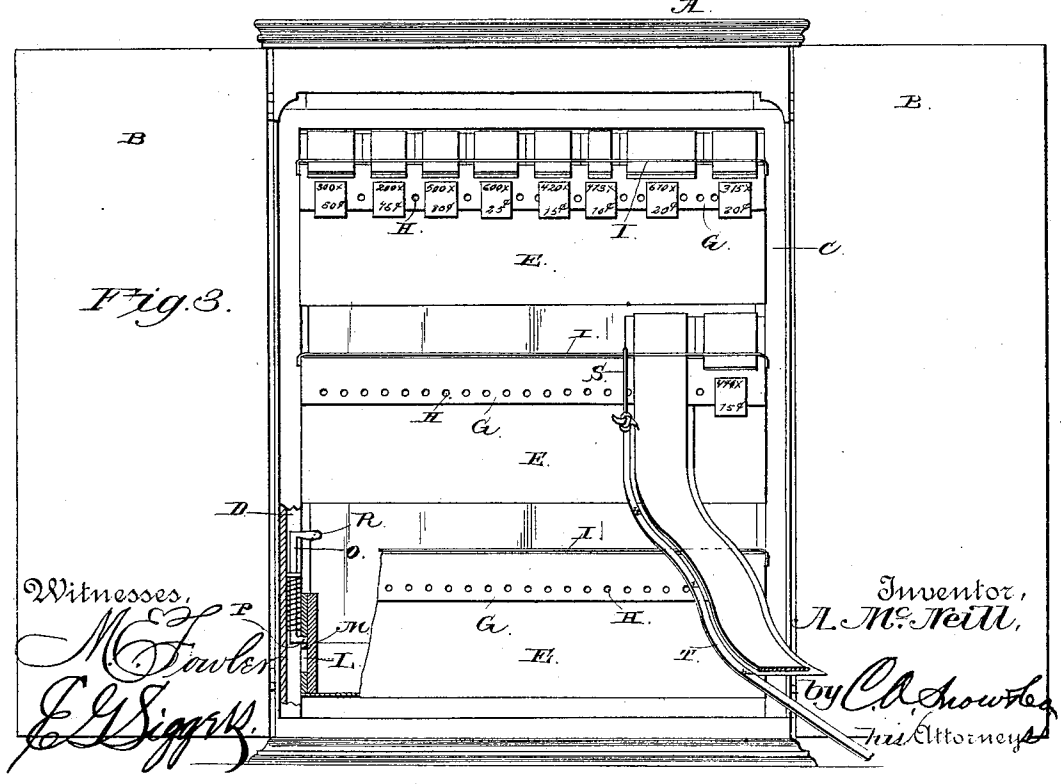


Fig. 3.



N. PETERS, Photo-Lithographer, Washington, D. C.

(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

A. McNEILL.

SHOW CASE.

No. 386,550. Patented July 24, 1888.

Fig. 2.

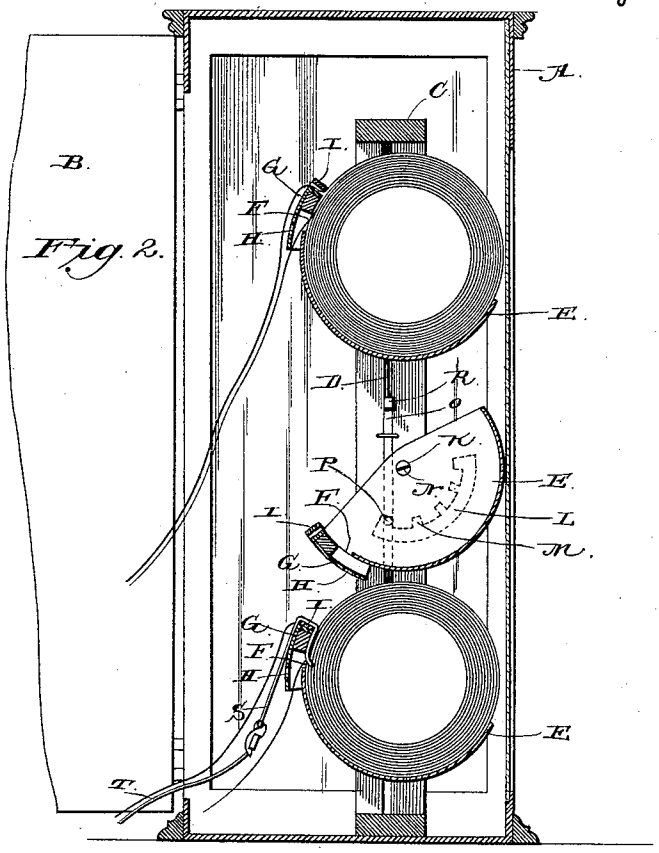


Fig. 5.

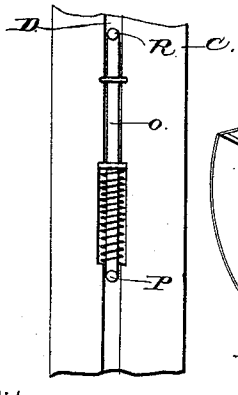
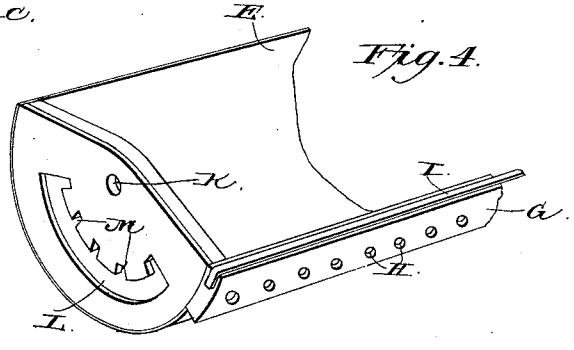


Fig. 4.



Witnesses,
M. Fowler.
F. G. Siggers.

Inventor,
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by C. A. Snow & Co
his Attorneys

N. PETERS, Photo-Lithographer, Washington, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALEXANDER McNEILL, OF VALLEY MILLS, TEXAS.

SHOW-CASE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 386,550, dated July 24, 1888.

Application filed October 19, 1887. Serial No. 252,837. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALEXANDER McNEILL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Valley Mills, in the county of Bosque and State of Texas, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Combined Show-Cases and Measuring Devices, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in show-cases for displaying ribbons and in devices for measuring the same; and it consists in the peculiar construction and combination of devices, that will be more fully set forth hereinafter, and particularly described in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the show-case embodying my improvement. Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view of the same, taken on the line *x x* of Fig. 1, with the doors open. Fig. 3 is an elevation of the inner side of the show-case, partly in section, with the doors open. Fig. 4 is a detached perspective view of a portion of one of the trays, and Fig. 5 is a detail view.

A represents a show-case, which is rectangular in form, has its front and sides preferably made of glass, and is provided on its rear side with a pair of folding doors, B.

C represents a rectangular frame, which is secured in a vertical position in the case A at a suitable distance from the front side thereof. On the inner side of one of the vertical end bars of the said frame is a vertical slot, D.

E represents a series of trays, each of which is semi-cylindrical in shape, as shown, is provided on its inner side near its upper edge with a horizontal longitudinal opening, F, and has a depending flange-plate, G, arranged on the outer side of the said opening and covering the same. Near the lower edge of the said flange-plate are a series of openings, H, which are adapted for the attachment of tags giving the cost-mark and selling price of the ribbons, as shown. On the upper side of the flange-plate is an elastic strap, I, the ends of which are attached to the ends of the tray. In the centers of the ends of the trays, near the upper edges thereof, are made aligned openings K, and one end of each tray is provided on its outer side with a curved groove, L, which is concentric with the openings K, and has notches M on its upper side. A suitable number of these trays are provided for the show-case, and the trays are arranged between the vertical sides of the frame C, and are pivoted therein by means of screws N, which pass through the opening K and enter the opposing sides of the end bars of the frame C, the said trays being arranged one above the other, as shown, and having their sides provided with the openings F and the depending flange-plates presented to the rear side of the case.

O represents a series of spring-actuated detents, which are arranged in the slot D, and have their lower ends provided with studs P, which are adapted to extend into the curved slots L on the ends of the trays and to enter either of the notches M, which communicate with the said slots, and thereby secure the trays at any desired inclination. The upper ends of the said detents are provided with handles or arms R, by means of which the detents may be depressed, so as to cause the studs P to disengage the notches M.

S represents a hook which is adapted to engage the inner edges of the trays between two of the spools and fit over the elastic strap, as shown. Attached to this hook is a measuring tape or ribbon, T.

The operation of my invention is as follows: When the trays are empty, they are turned to the position indicated by the middle tray in Fig. 2, so as to expose the interiors to the rear side of the case. The spools containing the ribbons are then placed in the said trays and arranged side by side, and the free end of the ribbon on each spool is passed under the elastic strap I on the inner upper edge of the tray in which it is located. The free end of the paper strip, which is coiled on the spool with the ribbon, is passed downward through the opening F, as shown. Having arranged the spools of ribbon in the trays, the latter are turned to their normal position (indicated by the upper and lower trays in Fig. 2) by inclining them forward toward the glass front of the show-case, and thereby exposing the ribbons to view and permitting them to be readily inspected by customers. When a sale is effected and it is necessary to measure off a portion of the ribbon from one of the spools, the salesman engages the hook in one of the openings H under the free end of the ribbon to be measured. He grasps the measuring ribbon or tape with the fingers of one hand at the point indi-

cating the desired quantity of the ribbon, and with the fingers of the other hand he grasps the free end of the ribbon and draws it out to the desired point on the measuring tape or ribbon, and then cuts off the ribbon and the paper strip at the outer end of the hook, which leaves the remainder of the ribbon intact upon its spool, and does not render it necessary to remove the spool from the tray when measuring the ribbon.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

1. In a show-case for displaying ribbons, the pivoted trays to contain the spools of ribbon, and provided near their rear edges with the longitudinal openings F, and the depending flange-plates G, covering said openings and dividing the ribbons from the paper strips, the paper strips of the spools passing through said openings and the ribbons passing over in the upper edges of the plates G, as set forth.

2. In a show-case for displaying ribbons, the pivoted trays adapted to be inclined in either direction, having the openings F on one side, the depending flanges G, arranged over the said openings, and the elastic straps I on the upper sides of the said flanges, substantially as described.

3. The combination of the pivoted trays having the openings F, the depending flange-plates G, covering said openings and having the longitudinal series of openings H, and the measure provided with a hook to engage the trays, as specified.

4. The combination, with a case having a glass front, of the series of semicircular pivoted trays within the case, and adapted when swung backward to receive the spools of ribbons and when swung forward to display the same through the glass front of the case, and the measuring-tape having a hook or catch to engage the rear side of the tray when the latter is swung backward, as set forth.

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

ALEXANDER McNEILL.

Witnesses:
R. McFADDEN,
J. A. SEARS.