(No Model.)

W. S. BARNARD, Dec'd.

M. N. BARNARD, Administratrix.

LETTER FILE.

No. 384,601. Patented June 19, 1888.

Fig. 1.

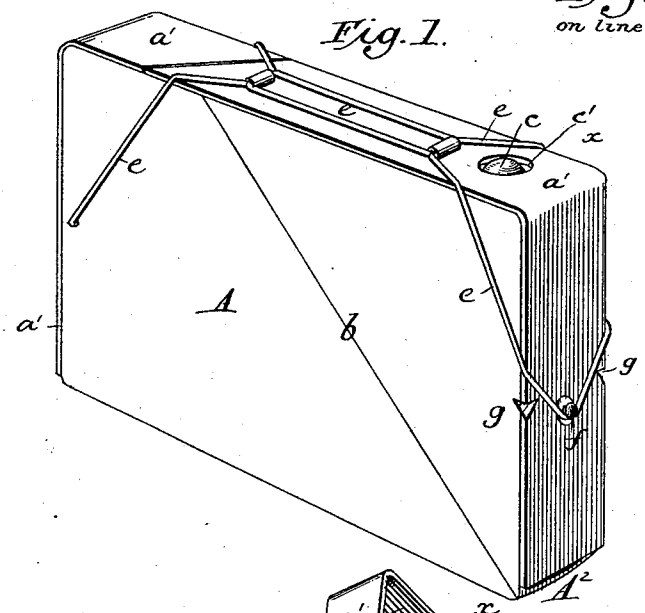


Fig. 3 on line x-x

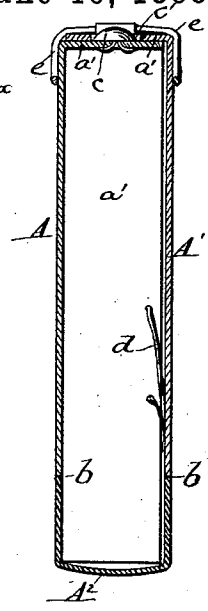


Fig. 2

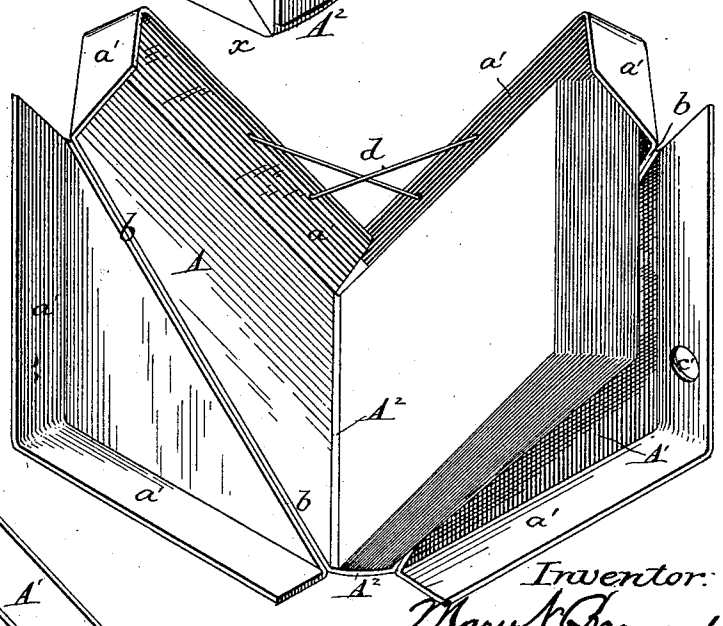
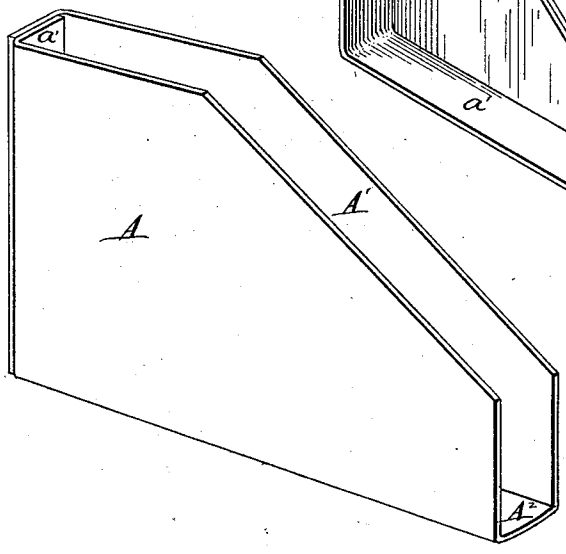


Fig. 4



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MARY N. BARNARD, OF CANTON, ILLINOIS, ADMINISTRATRIX OF WILLIAM S. BARNARD, DECEASED.

LETTER-FILE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 384,601, dated June 19, 1888.

Application filed March 31, 1888. Serial No. 269,177. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that WILLIAM S. BARNARD, formerly residing at Canton, in the county of Fulton and State of Illinois, now deceased, did invent certain new and useful Improvements in Letter-Files, of which the following is a specification.

The object of this invention is to provide a file-box or receptacle for holding loose sheets, papers, and pamphlets, and permitting their convenient examination and ready insertion or removal; and to this end it consists, generally speaking, in a box or receptacle composed of two parts hinged together to open after the manner of a book, and having various features of novelty, hereinafter described.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the file-box in its preferred form as it appears when closed. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the same in its open condition. Fig. 3 is a cross-section of the same on the lines *x x* of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the box in slightly-different form.

Referring to Figs. 1, 2, and 3, the box-file therein shown consists of two complementary sides, A A′, hinged at their rear edges to the edges of an intermediate strip or back, A^2, so that they may open and close after the manner of the lids of a book.

Each of the sides is formed with an inwardly-extending flange or ledge, *a′*, along its edge at the front and ends, in such manner that when the file is closed the flange of one part will overlap that of the other, as in Fig. 3, thus producing a complete and tight box or receptacle.

In order that the contents of the box may be readily inspected without removal, each of the sides A A′ is divided on a diagonal line, *b*, extending from the rear corner to the front edge, and the two parts thus produced are hinged together, so that the front corner portion, *c*, may turn outward or backward, so as to expose one corner of the contained papers, and this whether the box is at the moment open or shut.

When a full inspection of the contents of the file is required, it is placed on its back, *a*, on a table or like support, the sides A A′ opened outward, and at the same time the hinged corners allowed to fall outward and downward, whereupon they assume a vertical position, and, resting upon the table, as in Fig. 2, become supports for the sides, which are thus maintained in an inclined position, so that the contained sheets or papers may be conveniently examined and turned from one side to the other.

To facilitate the proper opening of the file and prevent it from falling wide open before the sustaining-corners are in place, the sides A A′ are commonly connected at one end by a cord, *d*, or the other stop devices are made use of to limit the opening action of the sides.

In order to prevent the accidental opening of the file, it may be provided with any suitable fastening device. A simple and satisfactory fastening is shown in Figs. 1 and 3, in which *c* represents a stud or knob on the flange of one of the sides, and *c′* a hole in the opposite part, so located that when the file is closed the stud will spring into the hole from the inside, as in Fig. 3.

When the file is to be used under circumstances which render it unnecessary to completely inclose the papers, the hinged corners may be omitted. In such case the file will be made as in Fig. 4, with the sides hinged to the back and cut away diagonally at the corners to expose the papers, as in the first-described construction.

In either form the box may be provided with a supplemental fastening-cord, *e*. This cord, made in the form of an endless loop, or secured at the two ends, is attached to one end of the box and adapted to be crossed over its edges and corners in the manner shown in Fig. 1, and secured in place by engagement over a stud, *f*, or in notches *d*, or both. Its effect is to hold the file securely in a closed position, so that it may be handled and transported without danger to the contained papers.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is—

1. In a file-box, the two sides hinged together after the manner of a box, provided with overlapping flanges at the edge, and cut away at the corners to expose the contents.

2. In a file-box, two complementary sides

hinged together book-like and provided with hinged outwardly-turning supports, substantially as described, whereby they may be sustained when opened in inclined positions.

3. A file-box consisting of the two flanged sides hinged together bookwise, and each having one corner hinged to turn outward, substantially as described.

Signed at Washington, District of Columbia, this 23d day of March, 1888.

MARY N. BARNARD,
Administratrix.

Witnesses:
P. T. DODGE,
W. R. KENNEDY.