R. O. HAMMOND.

SELF LOCKING BOX.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 26, 1914.

1,130,271. Patented Mar. 2, 1915.

FIG. 1.

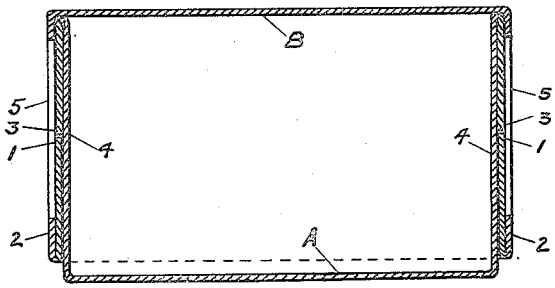


FIG. 3.

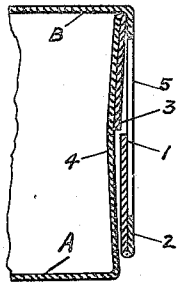


FIG. 2.

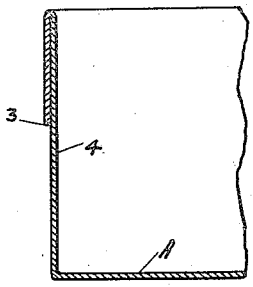


FIG. 4.

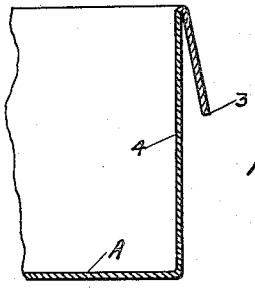


FIG. 6.

FIG. 5.

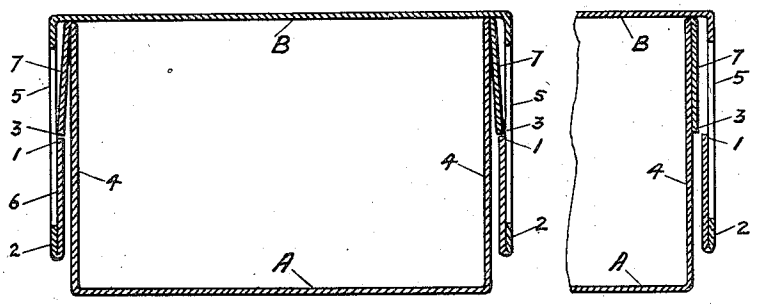
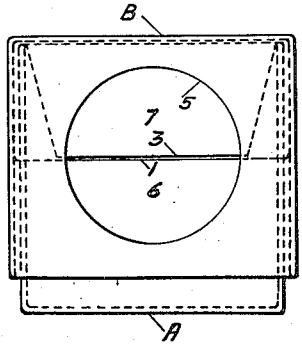


FIG. 7.



Witnesses:
Martha L. Thomas.
Gilbert W. Minor

Inventor
Robert O. Hammond

By Attorney
E. P. Knowles.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT O. HAMMOND, OF FARMINGDALE, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR TO JAMES B. STODDARD, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

SELF-LOCKING BOX.

1,130,271. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Mar. 2, 1915.

Application filed March 26, 1914. Serial No. 827,373.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT O. HAMMOND a citizen of the United States, and resident of Farmingdale, in the county of Nassau and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Self-Locking Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a box or container for the usual purpose for holding or packing articles for the trade or for transmission by mail, express, or otherwise, the box being especially designed for parcel post service because of its peculiar construction whereby danger to the hands of the postman and others who handle the boxes, as well as danger to other mail matter, is wholly eliminated.

The general objects of the present invention are to improve and simplify receptacles of the character described, so as to render them thoroughly reliable and efficient in use, comparatively inexpensive to manufacture, and easily manipulated.

More specifically the objects of the invention are to provide a tieless or stringless box of that type in which the cover and body sections fit one within the other and which are provided with devices at one or both end walls or at other points whereby the cover section is automatically locked on the body section by the mere act of placing the cover section in closed position and when so locked, the sections can be unlocked only by the application of pressure exerted in a special manner for releasing the devices on one section from those on the other, the arrangement of the devices being such that the sections cannot be accidentally unlocked.

In carrying out the invention, the body and cover sections are provided on corresponding walls at one or both ends or sides, with shoulders which extend horizontally and are disposed in such relation that when the cover section is placed in position the shoulders thereon will pass and engage under the shoulders on the body section to thereby lock the sections together. To enable the shoulders to be released, the shoulder bearing walls of the cover section have openings or finger holes through which the fingers can be inserted to press the shoulder bearing walls of the body section inwardly to disengage the shoulders thereof from the shoulders of the cover section, so that while they are thus held released the cover section can be removed.

For a more complete understanding of the invention, reference is to be had to the following description and claims, taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, wherein similar reference characters are employed to designate corresponding parts and wherein:—

Figures 1 and 5 are longitudinal sections of the cover and box body when the cover is in closed position. Figs. 3 and 6 are sections of the cover and box body showing the position of the parts when pressure is applied to open the box. Figs. 2 and 4 are sections of the box body showing the arrangement of the shoulders or flaps. Fig. 7 is an end view of the box body and cover in closed position.

Referring to the drawing A designates the body section of the box and B the cover section which is shown as telescoping over the body section. The two sections of the receptacle may be made of any material suitable for its intended use.

In the present instance locking means are provided at both ends of the box, but it is to be understood that the locking means may be provided at only one end or at one or all sides. The locking means comprises an internal shoulder 1 on the end wall 2 of the cover and an external shoulder 3 on the end wall 4 of the body. When the shoulders interlock they lie substantially in the same plane and hence prevent separation of the sections of the box, since the shoulders are transverse to the line of the separating movement. The shoulder bearing walls 4 of the body section are yieldable inwardly to permit the shoulders 3 to be disengaged from the shoulders 1, when the cover section can be taken off. To facilitate this releasing of the shoulders, the end walls 2 of the cover section have openings 5 to enable the fingers to be inserted to engage the shoulders 3 and press the latter and the wall 4 inwardly from the position shown in Fig. 1 to that shown in Fig. 3. While the shoulders are thus released the cover section can be lifted off.

One convenient manner of making the shoulders 1 and 3 is as shown in Fig. 5, to provide flaps 6 and 7 on the cover and body sections respectively. The flaps 6 extend upwardly from and are connected with the

bottom edge of the walls 2 and their upper edges form the shoulders 1 which extend approximately the width of the ends of the cover section. The flaps 7 extend downwardly from and are connected with the upper edges of the walls 4 of the body section and their lower edges form the shoulders 3. By means of these flaps the closing of the cover section on the body section is easily accomplished, for the flaps 6 slide downwardly on the flaps 7, which latter yield inwardly during this movement, and as soon as the cover is fully closed the shoulders 3 spring out and snap over the shoulders 1 and remain locked in this position until released as explained.

It will be observed that the flaps or abutments on the wall of the two telescoping members and the opening in the wall of one member are so disposed in relation to one another that when the two members are partially separated from each other the opening in the wall affords communication between the interior and exterior of the box so that under some conditions the contents of the box may be discharged through the said opening, or the contents may be inspected through the opening.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:

1. A box or receptacle comprising telescoping members, each member being formed with an abutment arranged to interlock one with the other, and one member formed with an opening in its wall registering with one of the abutments to permit disengagement of the abutments in separating the telescoping members, said opening affording communication between the interior and exterior of the box on partial separation of the two members of the box and the registering abutment extending across the opening in a plane parallel with adjacent walls of the members and bearing against the other abutment in the plane of the two abutments when the two members are telescoped one with the other.

2. A box or receptacle comprising telescoping members, one member being provided with a free flap on its outer face and the other provided with an abutment on the inside of one of its walls to interlock with the edge of said flap and formed with an opening in its wall opposite the flap to enable the flap and abutment to be disengaged in separating the two members, said flap constituting a closure to said opening and a cut-off to communication between the interior and exterior of the box when the two members are in locked engagement.

Signed at New York in the county of New York and State of New York this 25th day of March, A. D. 1914.

ROBERT O. HAMMOND.

Witnesses:
ANTOINETTE VOLK,
L. R. SMITH.