July 17, 1928. 1,677,607

F. H. WOOD

LOCK AND SEAL FOR SCREWS

Filed Sept. 24, 1926

Fig. 1.

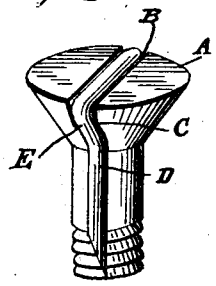


Fig. 2.

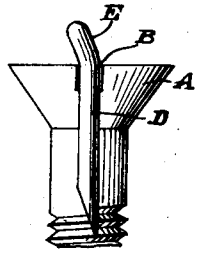
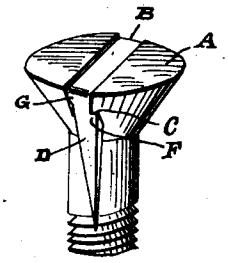


Fig. 3.



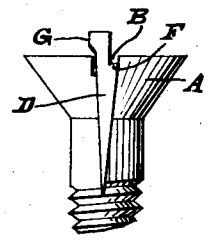


Fig. 4.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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LOCK AND SEAL FOR SCREWS.

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The lock and seal consists of a staple of metal with a head or cross section and two prongs extending therefrom at an angle, each of the prongs having a hump at a point near the head, the head forming a projection on the side opposite the hump, preferably, the hump being on similar sides of the prongs.

The staple is designed so that its head fits snugly into the slot of a screw completely filling the slot, while its prongs extend into the material into which the screw is driven. The screw being first driven, when the staple is driven home the projection formed by the head of the staple will engage the slot of the screw forcing the humps on the prongs to engage the undercut wall of the screw. The head of the staple binding in the slot of the screw, and the humps engaging the under cut wall of the screw, makes it impossible to remove the staple without mutilating the material into which the screw and staple have been driven; and as the head of the staple fills the slot of the screw, a screw driver cannot be used until the staple has been removed. The staple therefore forms a lock for the screw, to prevent its removal or its working loose. It also forms a seal in that it cannot be removed without an indication that it has been tampered with.

The purpose of this invention is to prevent pilfering from packages in transit and to prevent the removal of screws generally wherever it is desirable to protect them, and to prevent screws working loose. It is intended particularly with screws designed to be driven like nails and then turned with a screw driver to make them hold firmly.

Having described the purpose of my invention the nature of the same will be fully understood from the description I give below, when considered in connection with the drawing in which the same letter denotes similar parts in each figure.

In the drawing Figure 1 represents the staple with a slight bend which forms the hump, placed in the slot of a screw in the position it would occupy after the screw and then the staple have been driven. Figure 2 represents the same staple with reference to the screw, before the staple has been driven beyond the bend. Figure 3 represents a modified form of staple intended for the larger screws, in the position it would occupy after the screw and the staple have been driven. Figure 4 shows the same staple as of Figure 3 before it is entirely driven.

In Figure 1 A is a standard screw with the usual cross slot B and undercut wall of the periphery of the screw head C. D is one of two prongs of the staple extending at an angle from its head, the prongs having a bend or hump at E and the head forming a projection on the side opposite from the hump.

Figure 2 is intended to show that when the staple is fully driven, being formed of spring metal it will either force the wood, permitting the staple to occupy its position as of Figure 1, or its resilience will cause it to bind in the slot of the screw.

In Figures 3 and 4, the modified form of staple, D has a hump F which on entering the slot because of the undercut periphery of the screw head, reaches a point where it is clear of the screw, and as the staple is driven until the projection G enters the slot, the staple is forced over until the hump engages the under cut periphery of the screw head at C.

Staples such as these indicated may be used where metal is screwed onto wood or where the screw is driven into metal, holes being drilled for the staple, and the hump made at such position on the prong of the staple as to meet the requirement, the spring metal of the staple binding the staple in the slot of the screw.

I claim—

A staple for use in connection with a standard screw head with the usual cross slot and under cut periphery, comprising a head adapted to fit snugly into the cross slot, and prongs extending at an angle therefrom through the ends of said slot, each of said prongs having a hump on one side, and said head forming a projection on the opposite side, the projection forcing the hump into engagement with the undercut wall of the screw head.

FREDERICK H. WOOD.