To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES SMITHWICK, citizen of the United States, residing at Manson, in the county of Warren and State of North Carolina, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Collapsible Sling-Shots, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to the subject of catapults and has particular reference to an improvement in devices popularly known as sling shots.

A primary object of the invention is to provide a strong and durable construction which may be readily folded in a neat and compact form when not in use to facilitate carrying in the pocket, while at the same time capable of being readily set up in operating position for use. In this connection it is proposed to provide a box or casing in which the entire device may be housed when collapsed, but which in service will constitute a convenient handle or hand grip for manipulating the device.

Accordingly, it will be apparent that the present invention aims to provide a thoroughly practical and reliable device which presents a neat and attractive appearance and possesses all of the necessary structural requirements to provide length and rigidity when in use, and also provides the further advantage of being quickly collapsed for concealment in such a manner that its detection as an offensive weapon is difficult to observe.

A further object of the invention is to provide a device of this character constructed of metallic parts as far as possible, thus adding to the durability and stability thereof.

With the above and other objects in view which will more readily appear as the nature of the invention is better understood, the same consists in the novel construction, combination and arrangement of parts herein-after more fully described, illustrated and claimed.

A preferred and practical embodiment of the invention is shown in the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the combined handle member and casing with the lid or cover raised to show the manner of housing the operative parts thereof.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the device in condition for use.

Fig. 3 is a transverse section on the line 3–3 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a detail sectional view on the line 4–4 of Fig. 2.

Similar reference numerals designate corresponding parts throughout the several figures of the drawings.

In carrying the present invention into effect it is proposed to utilize a combined handle and casing member 1 which is preferably in the form of a box having the cover 2 hinged at one side thereof in such a manner that the flange or skirt 3 telescopes or overlaps the upper edge portion 4 of the body of the box, one end wall 5 of which is preferably provided with a pair of spaced parallel slots 6 opening at the top edge thereof.

The said box 1, above referred to is preferably made of metal and constitutes one of the distinctive and practical features of the present invention since it performs the function of a casing or housing for concealing the operative parts of the device when not in use, and on the other hand constitutes a handgrip or a handle when the sling shot is prepared for service. As shown in Figs. 1 and 3 the side walls 7–7 of the box support therebetween a shaft or axle 8 upon which the form arms 9–9 are journaled. That is to say, the opposite side walls of the box have fitted thereto a transverse shaft 8 for pivotally mounting the shank 10 of the relatively bowed fork arms 9, and for the purpose of maintaining the shanks of the arms in proper spaced relation, suitable fillers 11 may be utilized. The outer ends of the fork arms 9 are fitted with the flexible tie connections 12 for securing the elastic bands or webs 13 of the sling thereto and as usual the said elastic elements 13 have at their outer ends the flexible elements 14 for connecting the projectile carrying portion 15 of the sling with the said elastic members.

With the construction described it will be apparent that the device essentially consists of the box like handle member and the pivotally mounted forks which carry the sling. When the device is carried in the pocket, that is in its collapsed condition, the parts assume the positions shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings, the sling portion of the device nesting between the fork arms which may be folded into the body of the box at one side of the shaft 8. When set up for use the fork arms are swung on the pivot
shaft so that the shanks 10 thereof lie in the spaced slots 6 as shown in Fig. 2, and when the lid or cover 2 is closed, as also shown in this figure, the flange 3 of the cover constitutes a lock to prevent the fork arms from escaping from the slots 6. Obviously, when the box or casing 1 is gripped by the hand of the operator the cover 2 will be tightly closed and thereby hold the fork arms 9—9 rigidly in place so that the sling may be operated from either one side or the other of the box without danger of the fork arms being accidentally folded into a collapsed position.

From the foregoing it will be apparent that the present device provides a simple and practical construction which may be readily set up for use when desired, and on the other hand quickly collapsed to be conveniently carried or transported. Furthermore, it is to be observed that the distinctive feature of the invention is the provision of a box-like handle member having a hinged cover which serves to conceal the collapsible operative parts of the device when not in use, and on the other hand serves to hold the forks firmly locked in operative position when the device is prepared for action.

Without further description it is thought that the features and advantages of the invention to be readily apparent, and of course it will be understood that changes in the form, proportion and minor details of construction may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention or scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A sling shot device including a combined casing and handle member, and a fork unit pivoted mounted within the casing, whereby it may be folded into concealed position within the casing or swung to an external operative position.

2. A sling shot device including a combined casing and handle member consisting of a box having a hinged lid, and a fork unit pivoted mounted within the box and adapted to be folded within the same or swung to an operative position externally thereof.

3. A sling shot device including a combined casing and handle member consisting of a box having a hinged lid and openings in one wall thereof, a fork unit including a pair of fork arms pivotally mounted within the casing whereby the said unit may be folded into concealed position within the box and when shifted to a diametrically opposite position will engage with the openings in the box, and the said cover of the box constituting a lock for preventing the fork arms from leaving the openings when the device is in operative position.

4. A sling shot device including a combined handle and casing member consisting of a box having a hinged cover and slots in one end wall opening toward the cover, a fork unit including fork arms pivotally mounted within the casing and adapted to be swung into the said slots when the device is in operative position, whereby the cover of the box will constitute a lock for holding the arms of the fork unit in rigidly operative position.

5. A sling shot device including a combined handle and casing member consisting of a box having a hinged cover, an opening in one wall thereof adapted to be closed by the cover when the same is fitted onto the body of the box, and a fork unit pivotally mounted within the box and adapted to be swung into said opening and held therein by the said closed cover of the box.

6. A sling shot device including a combined handle and casing member consisting of a box, spaced slots formed in one end wall of the box and opening toward the top thereof, a transverse shaft arranged within the box, a pair of fork arms pivoted on the said transverse shaft and adapted to be swung into the said slots when the device is in operative position, and a cover hinged at one side of the box and adapted to close the open ends of the slots when the said cover is fitted over the body of the box.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

JAMES SMITHWICK.

Witnesses:
L. A. CORNELISON,
M. W. MANNING.