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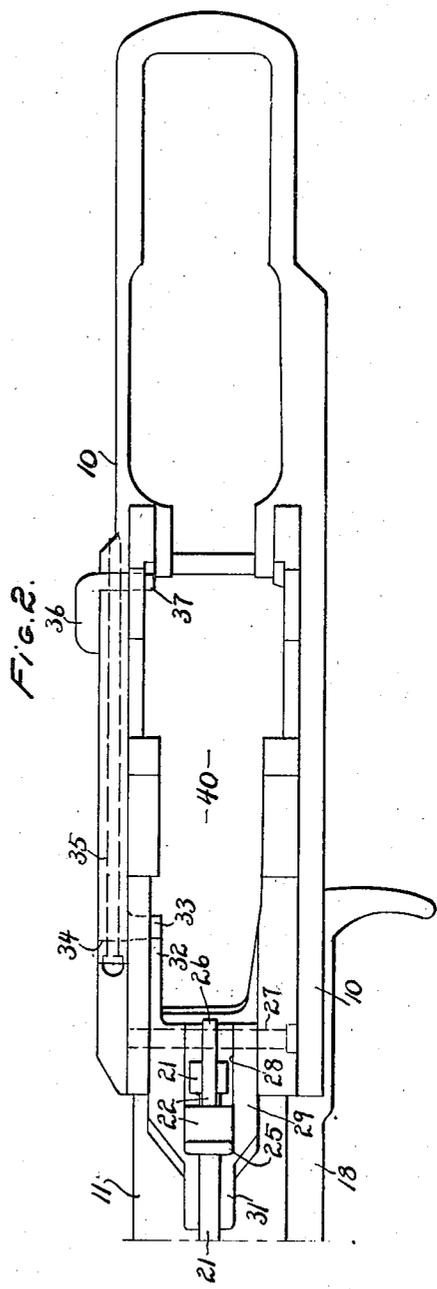
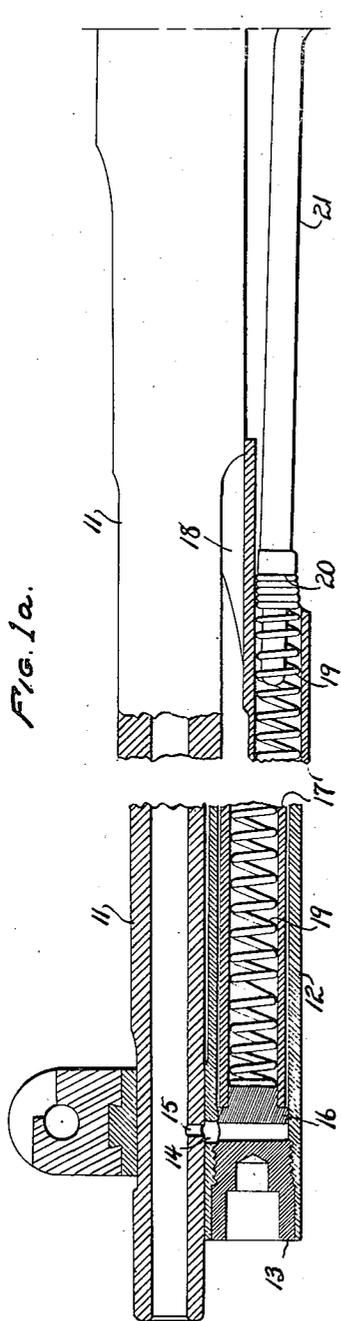
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BOX-MAGAZINE LATCH-MECHANISMS FOR REPEATING FIREARMS

Filed Sept. 29, 1944

3 Sheets-Sheet 2



INVENTOR
HARRY H. SEFRIED, 2ND
By *Seymour, Cole & Nichols*
ATTORNEYS

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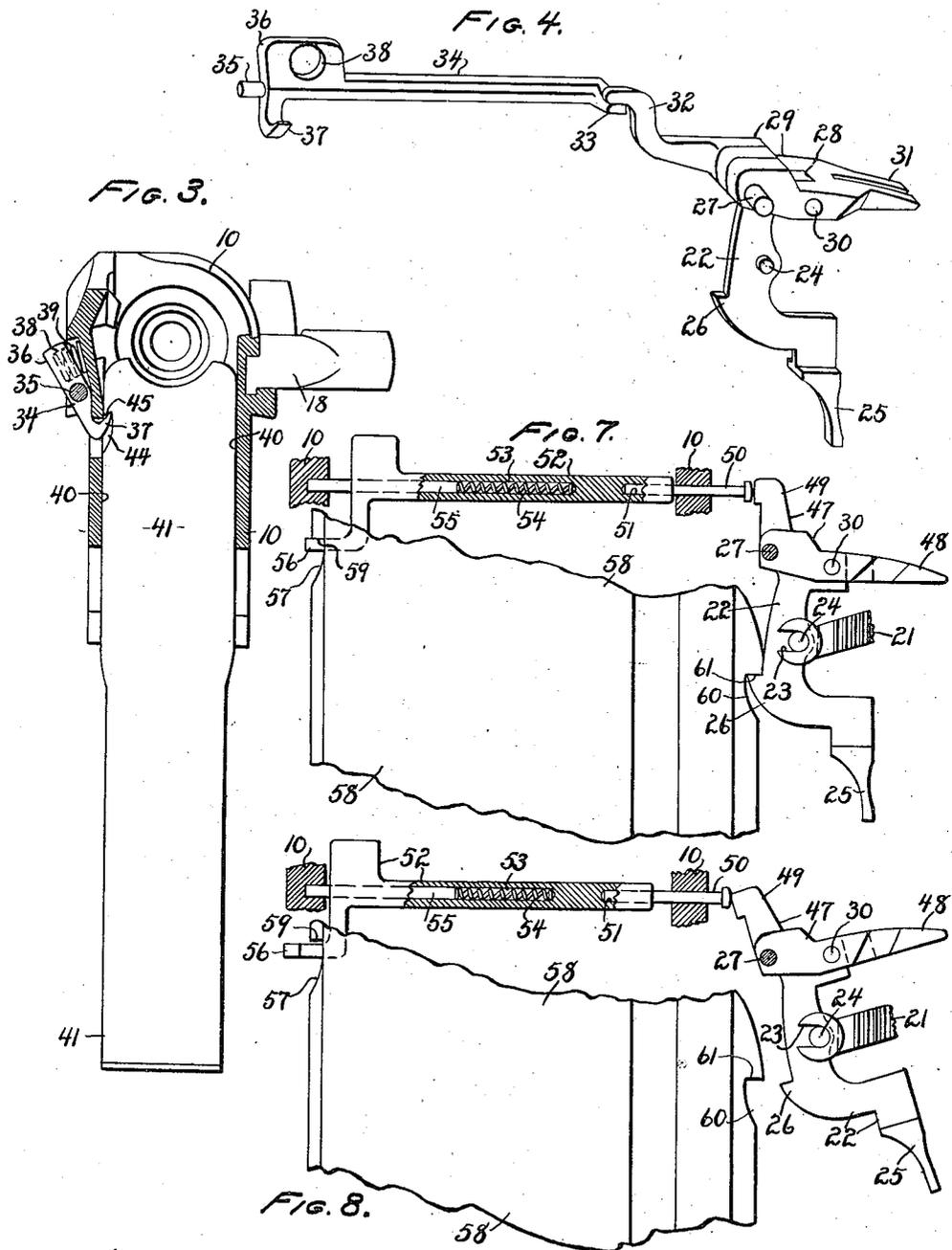
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INVENTOR
HARRY H. SEFRIED, 2ND
By *Seymour, Earle & Nichols*
ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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BOX MAGAZINE LATCH MECHANISM FOR REPEATING FIREARMS

Harry H. Sefried, II, New Haven, Conn., assignor to Olin Industries, Inc., a corporation of Delaware

Application September 29, 1944, Serial No. 556,315

11 Claims. (Cl. 42-18)

The present invention relates to improvements in latch-mechanisms for repeating firearms and relates more particularly to latch-mechanisms for releasably retaining box-magazines in repeating firearms.

One of the objects of the present invention is to provide a repeating-firearm with a superior box-magazine latch-mechanism whereby a box-magazine may be retained in the firearm-structure in such manner as to be free of such degree of canting or jamming as would interfere with the removal of the box-magazine or with the proper feeding of cartridges.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a simple, reliable and effective box-magazine latch-mechanism for repeating firearms, so constructed and arranged as to support or retain the box-magazine at a plurality of points in a firearm-structure and to be releasable by the manipulation of but a single member.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a superior multiple latch-mechanism for box-magazines having a manually-operable releasing-member so constructed and arranged as to be operable as an incident to the manual grasping of the box-magazine, preparatory to its removal from the firearm.

With the above and other objects in view, as will appear to those skilled in the art from the present disclosure, this invention includes all features in the said disclosure which are novel over the prior art and which are not claimed in any separate application.

In the accompanying drawings, in which certain modes of carrying out the present invention are shown for illustrative purposes:

Fig. 1a is a broken view partly in side elevation and partly in vertical central-longitudinal section of the forward portion of a repeating firearm embodying the present invention, with the stock and associated elements omitted;

Fig. 1b is a broken view in side elevation of the rear-portion of the firearm with the stock and associated elements omitted;

Fig. 2 is an underside view of the structure shown in Fig. 1b but with the box-magazine omitted;

Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional view taken on the line 3-3 of Fig. 1b;

Fig. 4 is a detached perspective view of the multiple latch-mechanism and viewing the same as from the right side of the firearm;

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the head-member of the front latch-lever;

Fig. 6 is a similar view of the front latch-lever;

Fig. 7 is a broken view partly in side elevation and partly in central-longitudinal section of a box-magazine shown in conjunction with another form of multiple latch-mechanism embodying the present invention, and with the said latch-mechanism shown as engaged with the box-magazine to retain the same; and

Fig. 8 is a view similar to Fig. 7 but showing the latch-mechanism disengaged from the box-magazine preparatory to the removal of the latter.

The structure of Figs. 1 to 6 inclusive

The self-loading firearm illustrated in the accompanying drawings, is of the well-known Garand type as to its main features, though reconstructed to accommodate the latch-mechanism of the present invention. The said self-loading firearm includes a receiver 10 and a barrel 11 projecting rigidly forwardly from the front-end of the said receiver.

Extending longitudinally beneath the forward-portion of the barrel 11 is a cylinder 12 into the forward-end of which is threaded a cylinder-head 13. Immediately to the rear of the rear-face of the cylinder-head 13 just referred to, the upper-wall of the cylinder 12 is formed with a gas-port 14 which communicates at its upper-end with a gas-port 15 formed in the under-portion of the barrel 11 and leading from the bore of the latter.

Mounted for reciprocation in the cylinder 12 is a piston-head 16 to which is rigidly secured the forward-end of a tubular piston-extension 17, as is shown in Fig. 1a. From the rear-portion of the said piston-extension rigidly projects an operating-rod 18 serving in a manner well known in the art and exemplified in the well-known Garand rifle, to effect the actuation of the breech-bolt and associated mechanism when the piston-head 16 is driven rearwardly by gases developed by the discharge of the firearm.

Fitting within the tubular piston-extension 17 is a helical return-spring 19 thrusting at its forward-end against the rear-face of the piston-head 16 and thrusting at its rear-end against a forwardly-facing spring-seat 20 formed adjacent the forward-end of a thrust-rod 21. The rear-end of the said thrust-rod 21 is displaced downwardly and straddles the intermediate-portion of a front latch-lever generally designated by the reference character 22. The said thrust-rod is formed at its said rear-end with a rearwardly-opening notch 23 receiving a thrust-pin 24

mounted in and extending transversely with respect to the aforesaid front latch-lever 22.

The front latch-lever 22 is formed at its lower-end with a finger-piece 25 and is formed substantially midway of its length with a latch-nose 26, the upper-face of which provides an upwardly-facing latching-abutment for purposes as will hereinafter appear. The upper-end of the front latch-lever 22 is transversely pierced adjacent its rear-edge, to receive and pivot upon a latch-pin 27 extending transversely in the receiver 10 and supported at its respective opposite ends therein.

The upper-end of the front latch-lever 22 extends into a rearwardly-opening notch 28 formed in the intermediate-portion of a latch-lever head-member generally designated by the reference character 29. The latch-pin 27 before referred to also extends through the adjacent portion of the said head-member and serves, in conjunction with a transverse coupling-pin 30 (Fig. 4), to render the said head-member 29 a rigid part of the said front latch-lever 22.

The latch-lever head-member 29 above referred to is also formed with a forwardly-extending bifurcated guide-arm 31 which receives, with freedom for relative movement, a portion of the thrust-rod 21. The said latch-lever head-member 29 is also formed with a rearwardly-and-upwardly-projecting side-latch-actuating arm 32. The under-face of the arm 32 of the head-member 29 normally rests upon the upper-surface of an actuating-arm 33 projecting substantially radially inwardly from the front-end of a side latch-lever generally designated by the reference character 34, and shown particularly clearly in Fig. 4.

The said side latch-lever 34 is accommodated in a suitable longitudinal recess formed in the left side-wall of the receiver 10 and is supported in the said recess for pivotal movement about an axis extending longitudinally of the firearm-structure, upon a side-latch pivot-pin 35. As is shown especially well in Fig. 1b, the pivot-pin 35 is supported at its respective opposite ends in the portions of the receiver 10 respectively adjacent the front and rear walls of the recess in which the side latch-lever 34 is accommodated.

At its rear-end, the side latch-lever 34 is formed with a finger-piece 36 extending generally upwardly therefrom, and with a rear latch-nose 37 extending generally downwardly and inwardly. The upper surface of the said latch-nose constitutes an upwardly-facing latching-abutment, for purposes as will hereinafter appear. The inner-face of the finger-piece 36 of the latch-lever 34 is formed with a spring-pocket 38 receiving the outer end of a helical latch-spring 39, as is shown in Fig. 3. The said latch-spring 39 thrusts against the adjacent portion of the left-wall of the receiver 10 and exerts a constant-but-yielding effort to swing the latch-nose 37 of the latch-lever 34 inwardly.

Immediately to the rear of its forward-end from which the barrel 11 projects and to the rear of the front latch-lever 22, the receiver 10 is formed with a vertical magazine-receiving passage 40 into which upwardly-projects a box-magazine 41 which may be of any approved form common in the art, and normally extended well below the under-edge of the said receiver. The said box-magazine, as is usual in the art, may be demounted from the receiver 10 by drawing the same downwardly and may be installed in the said receiver by the insertion of its upper-end

upwardly into the magazine-receiving passage 40 in the said receiver 10.

In its front-wall, the box-magazine 41 is formed with a clearance-notch 42 having a downwardly-facing upper wall which provides a latching-abutment 43. The clearance-notch 42 just referred to is adapted to accommodate the latch-nose 26 on the front latch-lever 22, while the downwardly-facing latching-abutment 43 is adapted to be engaged by the upwardly-facing surface of the said latch-nose 26 to provide for the releasable retention of the box-magazine 41.

In its left side-wall adjacent its rear-edge, the box-magazine 41 is formed with a clearance-notch 44 (Fig. 3), the upper-wall of which constitutes a downwardly-facing latching-abutment 45. The said clearance-notch is adapted, as is shown especially well in Fig. 3, to accommodate the rear latch-nose 37 of the side latch-lever 34, while the downwardly-facing latching-abutment 45 is adapted to engage with the said latch-nose 37 to releasably retain the box-magazine in place in the receiver 10 in conjunction with the before-described front latch-lever 22.

The rear latch-nose 37 forming a feature of the side latch-lever 34, is normally held in a position beneath the downwardly-facing latching-abutment 45 at the rear of the box-magazine 41, by means of the helical latch-spring 39. The front latch-lever 22 is normally urged to turn in a counterclockwise direction (as viewed in Fig. 1b) to thus interpose its latch-nose 26 in the path of the latching-abutment 43, by the tension of the return-spring 19 acting through the thrust-rod 21.

When it is desired to release the box-magazine 41 and remove the same from the receiver 10, the user may thrust or pull forwardly upon the finger-piece 25 of the front latch-lever 22, to thus cause the latter to rock in a clockwise direction (Fig. 1b) about the latch-pin 27. This turning movement of the front latch-lever 22 will move its latch-nose 26 forwardly out of the path of the latching-abutment 43 of the box-magazine 41. As the said front latch-lever 22 is turned in a clockwise direction, the side-latch-actuating arm 32 of the head-member 29 will be swung downwardly. The downward swinging movement of the arm 32 will force the actuating-arm 33 of the side latch-lever 34 downwardly, with the result that the latch-nose 37 will be swung outwardly out of the path of the latching-abutment 45 adjacent the rear of the box-magazine 41. Thus, both of the latch-noses 26 and 37 will be retired and the box-magazine 41 may be withdrawn downwardly from the magazine-receiving passage 40 in the receiver 10.

The finger-piece 25 of the front latch-lever 22 is so positioned that when the user of the firearm grasps the box-magazine 41 to effect the downward removal thereof, the said user will have his forefinger (indicated by the broken lines 46 in Fig. 1b) so positioned that by thrusting the forefinger forwardly, the said front latch-lever 22 may be swung to retire the respective latch-noses 26 and 37.

When the reloaded box-magazine 41 or a duplicate thereof, is moved upwardly into the empty magazine-receiving passage 40 in the receiver 10, the upper-portion of such box-magazine will cam the respective latch-noses 26 and 37 outwardly until such time as the latching-abutments 43 and 45 are moved slightly above the said latch-noses respectively. Upon this latter occurrence, the return-spring 19 and the latch-spring 39 will assert

themselves and respectively restore the latch-noses 26 and 37 into the positions in which they are shown in Figs. 1b, 3 and 4 of the drawings.

The structure of Figs. 7 and 8

In the structure of Figs. 7 and 8, the same front latch-lever 22 is employed as before described. Instead, however, of having the head-member 29 previously referred to, the latch-lever 22 has secured to it a modified form of head-member, generally designated by the reference character 47. The said head-member has a bifurcated forwardly-projecting guide-arm 48, corresponding to the guide-arm 31, before referred to.

The head-member 47 in the structure of Figs. 7 and 8, instead of having the goose-neck type of side-latch-actuating arm 32, is provided with a relatively-short vertical actuating-arm 49. The rear-face of the said actuating-arm is adapted to engage with the adjacent forward headed-end of a combined pivot-and-thrust pin 50 which is supported for reciprocating movement in an adjacent portion of the receiver 10. The pin 50 just referred to has its rear-end seated in a forwardly-opening axial recess 51 formed in the forward end of a rear latch-member generally designated by the reference character 52.

In its rear-end, the latch-member 52 is formed with a rearwardly-opening axial recess 53, in a forward portion of which is mounted a helical latch-spring 54. This said latch-spring is seated at its forward-end against the front end-wall of the recess 53, and thrusts at its rear-end against the forward-end of a pivot-pin 55. The forward-end of the pivot-pin slidably fits within the axial recess 53 and has its rear-end seated in an adjacent portion of the receiver 10. As thus constructed and arranged, the latch-spring 54 exerts a constant-but-yielding effort to hold the rear latch-member 52 in its forward position.

At its rear-end, the rear latch-member 52 is formed with a downwardly-and-laterally-extending latch-nose 56, which is adapted to move into and out of a clearance-notch 57 formed in the rear wall of a box-magazine generally designated by the reference character 58. The upper-wall of the clearance-notch 57 just referred to, constitutes a downwardly-facing latching-abutment 59 adapted to rest upon the upper-face of the latch-nose 56 when the parts are in the positions in which they are shown in Fig. 7.

The box-magazine 58, above referred to, is also formed in its forward-wall with a clearance-notch 60 corresponding to the clearance-notch 42 of the box-magazine 41 before described, and having a downwardly-facing latching-abutment 61 which is adapted to engage with the upper-face of the latch-nose 26 of the front latch-lever 22.

The front latch-lever 22 is urged to turn in a direction such that its latch-nose 26 will be yieldingly held in the clearance-notch 60 in the box-magazine 58 by the force applied through the thrust-rod 21. As before noted, the latch-spring 54 within the rear latch-member 52, serves to hold the latch-nose 56 in the clearance-notch 57 in the box-magazine 58, all as illustrated in Fig. 7 of the drawings.

When it is desired to release the box-magazine 58 for removal, the front latch-lever 22 may be swung from the position in which it is shown in Fig. 7 into the position in which it is shown in Fig. 8, to thereby withdraw its latch-nose 26 from the path of movement of the latching-abutment 61 in the front-wall of the box-magazine 58.

The above described swinging movement of the

front latch-lever 22 will cause the actuating-arm 49 of its head-member 47 to force the combined pivot-and-thrust pin 50 rearwardly, to thereby similarly move the rear latch-member 52 against the tension of the latch-spring 54. The described rearward movement of the rear latch-member 52 will retire the latch-nose 56 thereof out of the path of movement of the rear latching-abutment 59 of the box-magazine 58, so that the said box-magazine may be drawn downwardly.

The invention may be carried out in other specific ways than those herein set forth without departing from the spirit and essential characteristics of the invention, and the present embodiments are, therefore, to be considered in all respects as illustrative and not restrictive, and all changes coming within the meaning and equivalency range of the appended claims are intended to be embraced therein.

I claim:

1. The combination with a repeating firearm-structure having a magazine-receiving passage therein; of a box-magazine insertable into and removable from the magazine-receiving passage in the firearm-structure and provided with two spaced-apart downwardly-facing latching-abutments; a first latch-member carried by the firearm-structure and having an upwardly-facing latching-abutment movable into and out of position to engage with one of the two latching-abutments of the said box-magazine; a second latch-member also carried by the firearm-structure and having an upwardly-facing latching-abutment movable into and out of position to engage with the other of the two said latching-abutments of the said box-magazine; spring-means urging the respective latching-abutments of each of the said latch-members into position to engage with one of the two latching-abutments of the said box-magazine; and connecting-means between the two said latch-members and constructed and arranged to effect the retirement of one thereof when the other is manually retired against the tension of the said spring-means.

2. The combination with a repeating firearm-structure having a magazine-receiving passage therein; of a box-magazine insertable into and removable from the magazine-receiving passage in the firearm-structure and provided with two spaced-apart downwardly-facing latching-abutments; a first latch-member carried by the firearm-structure and having an upwardly-facing latching-abutment movable into and out of position to engage with one of the two latching-abutments of the said box-magazine; a second latch-member also carried by the firearm-structure and having an upwardly-facing latching-abutment movable into and out of position to engage with the other of the two said latching-abutments of the said box-magazine; first spring-means urging the said first latch-member into position to engage its latching-abutment with the adjacent one of the latching-abutments of the said box-magazine; second spring-means independent of the said first spring-means and independently urging the said second latch-member into position to engage its latching-abutment with the adjacent one of the latching-abutments of the said box-magazine; and connecting-means between the two said latch-members and constructed and arranged to effect the retirement of one thereof against the tension of its independent spring-means when one of the said latch-members is manually retired against the tension of its spring-means.

3. The combination with a repeating firearm-structure having a magazine-receiving passage; of a box-magazine insertable into and removable from the magazine-receiving passage in the firearm-structure and provided adjacent its front with a downwardly-facing front latching-abutment and also provided adjacent its rear with a downwardly-facing rear latching-abutment; a front latch-member carried by the firearm-structure and having an upwardly-facing latching-abutment movable into and out of position to engage with the front latching-abutment of the said box-magazine; a rear latch-member also carried by the firearm-structure and having an upwardly-facing latching-abutment movable into and out of position to engage with the rear latching-abutment of the said box-magazine; spring-means urging the respective latching-abutments of both the front latch-member and the rear latch-member respectively into position to engage with the front latching-abutment and the rear latching-abutment of the said box-magazine; and connecting-means between the said front and rear latch-members and constructed and arranged to effect the retirement of one thereof when the other is manually retired against the tension of the said spring-means.

4. The combination with a repeating firearm-structure having a magazine-receiving passage; of a box-magazine insertable into and removable from the magazine-receiving passage in the firearm-structure and provided adjacent its front with a downwardly-facing front latching-abutment and also provided adjacent its rear with a downwardly-facing rear latching-abutment; a front latch-member carried by the firearm-structure and having an upwardly-facing latching-abutment movable into and out of position to engage with the front latching-abutment of the said box-magazine; a rear latch-member also carried by the firearm-structure and having an upwardly-facing latching-abutment movable into and out of position to engage with the rear latching-abutment of the said box-magazine; first spring-means urging the said front latch-member into position to engage its latching-abutment with the front latching-abutment of the said box-magazine; second spring-means independent of the said first spring-means and independently urging the said rear latch-member into position to engage its latching-abutment with the rear latching-abutment of the said box-magazine; and connecting-means between the said front and rear latch-members and constructed and arranged to effect the retirement of one thereof against the tension of its independent spring-means when the other of the said latch-members is manually retired against the tension of its spring-means.

5. The combination with a repeating firearm-structure having a magazine-receiving passage; of a box-magazine insertable into and removable from the magazine-receiving passage in the firearm-structure and provided adjacent its front with a downwardly-facing front latching-abutment and also provided adjacent its rear with a downwardly-facing rear latching-abutment; a front latch-lever pivoted to the firearm-structure and having an upwardly-facing latching-abutment swingable into and out of position to engage with the front latching-abutment of the said box-magazine; a rear latch-lever also pivoted to the firearm-structure and having an upwardly-facing latching-abutment swingable into and out of position to engage with the rear latch-

ing-abutment of the said box-magazine; spring means urging the respective latching-abutments of both the front latch lever and the rear latch-lever respectively into position to engage with the front latching-abutment and the rear latching-abutment of the said box-magazine; and connecting-means between the said front and rear latch-levers and constructed and arranged to effect the retirement of one thereof when the other is manually retired against the tension of the said spring-means.

6. The combination with a repeating firearm-structure having a magazine-receiving passage; of a box-magazine insertable into and removable from the magazine-receiving passage in the firearm-structure and provided adjacent its front with a downwardly-facing front latching-abutment and also provided adjacent its rear with a downwardly-facing rear latching-abutment; a front latch-lever pivoted to the firearm-structure and having an upwardly-facing latching-abutment swingable into and out of position to engage with the front latching-abutment of the said box-magazine; a rear latch-lever also pivoted to the firearm-structure and having an upwardly-facing latching-abutment swingable into and out of position to engage with the rear latching-abutment of the said box-magazine; first spring-means urging the said front latch-lever into position to engage its latching-abutment with the front latching-abutment of the said box-magazine; second spring-means independent of the said first spring-means and independently urging the said rear latch-lever into position to engage its latching-abutment with the rear latching-abutment of the said box-magazine; and connecting-means between the said front and rear latch-levers and constructed and arranged to effect the retirement of one thereof against the tension of its independent spring-means when the other of the said latch-members is manually retired against the tension of its spring-means.

7. The combination with a repeating firearm-structure having a magazine-receiving passage; of a box-magazine insertable into and removable from the magazine-receiving passage in the firearm-structure and provided adjacent its front with a downwardly-facing front latching-abutment and also provided adjacent its rear with a downwardly-facing rear latching-abutment; a front latch-lever pivoted to the firearm-structure for turning movement about an axis substantially transverse of the firearm-structure, the said front latch-lever having an upwardly-facing latching-abutment swingable into and out of position to engage with the front latching-abutment of the said box-magazine; a rear latch-lever pivoted to the firearm-structure for swinging movement about an axis extending substantially longitudinally of the firearm-structure, the said rear latch-lever having an upwardly-facing latching-abutment swingable into and out of position to engage with the rear latching-abutment of the said box-magazine; spring-means urging the respective latching-abutments of both the front latch-lever and rear latch-lever respectively into position to engage with the front latching-abutment and the rear latching-abutment of the said box-magazine; and connecting-means between the said front and rear latch-levers and constructed and arranged to effect the retirement of one thereof when the other is manually retired against the tension of the said spring-means.

8. The combination with a repeating firearm-structure having a magazine-receiving passage; of a box-magazine insertable into and removable from the magazine-receiving passage in the firearm-structure and provided adjacent its front with a downwardly-facing front latching-abutment and also provided adjacent its rear with a downwardly-facing rear latching-abutment; a front latch-lever pivoted to the firearm-structure for turning movement about an axis substantially transverse of the firearm-structure, the said front latch-lever having an upwardly-facing latching-abutment swingable into and out of position to engage with the front latching-abutment of the said box-magazine; a rear latch-lever pivoted to the firearm-structure for swinging movement about an axis extending substantially longitudinally of the firearm-structure, the said rear latch-lever having an upwardly-facing latching-abutment swingable into and out of position to engage with the rear latching-abutment of the said box-magazine; first spring-means urging the said front latch-lever to turn into position to engage its latching-abutment with the front latching-abutment of the said box-magazine; second spring-means independent of the said first spring-means and independently urging the said rear latch-lever to turn into position to engage its latching-abutment with the rear latching-abutment of the said box-magazine; and connecting-means between the said front and rear latch-levers and constructed and arranged to effect the retirement of one thereof against the tension of its independent spring-means when the other of the said latch-members is manually retired against the tension of its spring-means.

9. The combination with a repeating firearm-structure having a magazine-receiving passage therein, a gas-operated piston propelled rearwardly by gas pressure resulting from the discharge of the firearm-structure, a thrust-rod extending substantially longitudinally of the firearm-structure and having its forward end spaced rearwardly from the rear of the said piston, and a return-spring interposed between the said piston and the said thrust-rod and constructed and arranged to urge the said piston forwardly and to urge the said thrust-rod rearwardly; of a latch-member mounted adjacent the magazine-receiving passage in the firearm-structure and having an upwardly-facing latching-abutment adapted to engage with a box-magazine to retain the same in place; and means connecting the rear-portion of the thrust-rod of the firearm-structure with the said latch-member and constructed and arranged to cause the aforesaid return-spring to urge the latching-abutment of the said latch-member into engagement with a box-magazine.

10. The combination with a repeating firearm-structure having a magazine-receiving passage therein, a gas-operated piston propelled rearwardly by gas pressure resulting from the discharge of the firearm-structure, a thrust-rod extending substantially longitudinally of the firearm-structure and having its forward end spaced rearwardly from the rear of the said piston, and a return-spring interposed between the said piston and the said thrust-rod and constructed and arranged to urge the said piston forwardly and to urge the said thrust-rod rearwardly; of a latch-lever pivoted to the firearm-structure adjacent the magazine-receiving passage therein and mounted for swinging movement about an axis extending substantially transversely of the firearm-structure, the said latch-lever having an upwardly-facing latching-abutment adapted to engage with a box-magazine to retain the same in place; and means connecting the rear-portion of the thrust-rod of the firearm-structure with the said latch-lever and constructed and arranged to cause the aforesaid return-spring to urge the latching-abutment of the said latch-lever to swing into engagement with a box-magazine.

11. The combination with a repeating firearm-structure having a magazine-receiving passage; of a box-magazine insertable into and removable from the magazine-receiving passage in the firearm-structure and provided adjacent its front with a downwardly-facing front latching-abutment and also provided adjacent its rear with a downwardly-facing rear latching-abutment; a front latch-lever pivoted to the firearm-structure for turning movement about an axis substantially transverse of the firearm-structure, the said front latch-lever having an upwardly-facing latching-abutment swingable into and out of position to engage with the front latching-abutment of the said box-magazine; a rear latch-member carried by the firearm-structure and constructed and arranged to move longitudinally thereof, the said rear latch-member having an upwardly-facing latching-abutment movable into and out of position to engage with the rear latching-abutment of the said box-magazine; spring-means urging the respective latching-abutment of both the front latch-lever and the rear latch-member respectively into position to engage with the front latching-abutment and the rear latching-abutment of the said box-magazine; and connecting-means between the said front latch-lever and the said rear latch-member and constructed and arranged to effect the sliding retirement of the latching-abutment of the rear latch-member when the said front latch-lever is manually swung into its retired position.

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HARRY H. SEFRIED, II.