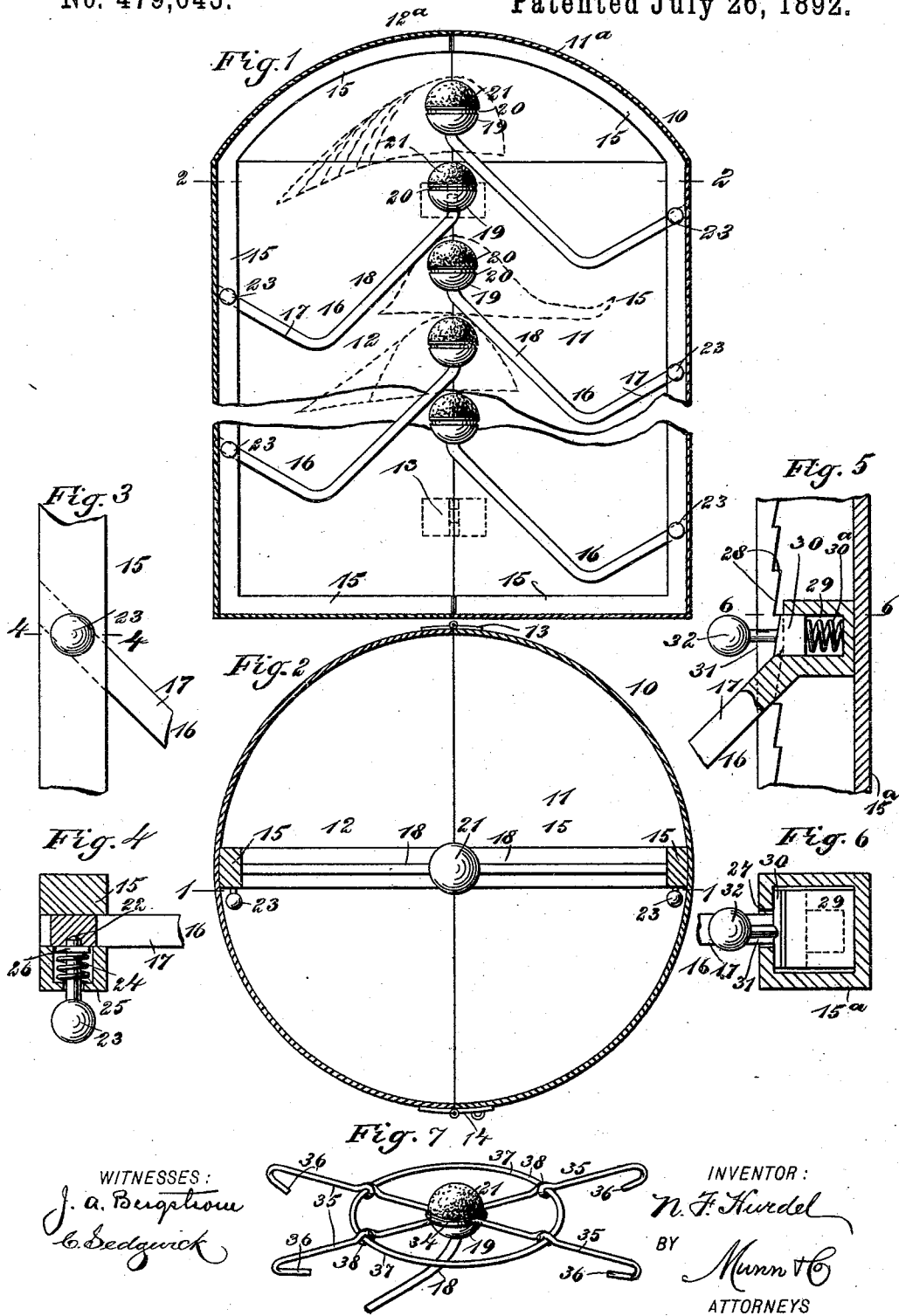


(No Model.)

N. F. HURDEL.
HAT CASE.

No. 479,643.

Patented July 26, 1892.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

NELLIE F. HURDEL, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

HAT-CASE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 479,643, dated July 26, 1892.

Application filed December 14, 1891. Serial No. 414,940. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, NELLIE F. HURDEL, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Hat-Case, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to improvements in hat-cases, and especially to hat-cases which form convenient receptacles in which a quantity of hats may be shipped; and the object of my invention is to produce a simple, strong, and convenient hat-case in which a quantity of hats may be packed, which will carry the hats in such a way that they cannot be injured, and which may be quickly and easily adjusted so as to receive hats of different sizes or so that it may be adapted for either men's or women's hats.

To this end my invention consists in a hat-case the construction of which will be hereinafter described and claimed.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar figures of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the views.

Figure 1 is a broken vertical section of the hat-case on line 1 1 in Fig. 2. Fig. 2 is a sectional plan on the line 2 2 in Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is an enlarged detail side elevation showing the connection between the inside frame and one of the hat-supporting arms. Fig. 4 is a sectional plan on the line 4 4 in Fig. 3. Fig. 5 is a broken vertical section of a modified means of securing one of the arms in the inside frame. Fig. 6 is a sectional plan on the line 6 6 in Fig. 5, and Fig. 7 is a broken perspective view of an attachment adapted to be secured to the hat-supporting arms and enable them to carry a man's stiff hat.

The case may be made of any suitable material, and it is composed of two similar parts 11 and 12, having flat bottoms, upon which they may firmly rest, and oval tops 11^a 12^a, so that when closed together the case will have a nearly half-round top upon which it cannot be conveniently stood, and this will insure its being always placed right side up. The members of the case are hinged together, as shown at 13, and they may be also locked, as shown at 14, any suitable lock or catch being employed for the purpose.

Within the case is a two-part frame 15,

which extends vertically through the central portion of the case and fits snugly against the side, bottom, and top walls, the frame serving as a brace for the case and also as a support for the hat-arms 16, which arms are preferably bent, as shown in Fig. 1, so as to extend downward from the sides of the frame 15, as shown at 17, and thence upward, as shown at 18, to the center of the case, where they terminate in knobs 19, having annular grooves extending horizontally around them and having cushions 21 at the top.

When women's hats are packed in the case, they are placed upon the knobs and are fastened to the cushions by thrusting pins through both the hats and cushions. The hat-supporting arms are arranged so that an arm which projects from one side of the case will overlap an arm which projects from the other side of the case, and a greater or less number of the arms may be used according as the hats are smaller or larger. The outer ends of the arms 16 project into holes in the frame 15, adapted to receive them, and the arms are provided near their outer ends and on the sides with notches adapted to receive fastening-bolts 22, which bolts are mounted transversely in the sides of the frame 15 and have their outer ends provided with knobs 23, by means of which the bolts may be withdrawn from the arms 16 when the latter are to be removed. The bolts are held to move in recesses 24, and in each recess is a spiral spring 25, which encircles the bolt and presses upon a collar 26 thereon, thus normally holding the bolt in engagement with the arm 16 and preventing the accidental removal of the latter.

In Figs. 5 and 6 I have shown a modified means of supporting and adjusting the arms 16. In this case a hollow frame 15^a is used, which is slotted vertically on the inner side, as shown at 27, and which is provided adjacent to the slot with ratchet-teeth 28, the teeth being produced on the inside of the frame. When used with this sort of frame, the arms 16 have their inner ends formed into hollow heads 29, which are adapted to slide within the frame 15^a, and mounted within each head is a ratchet-block 30, which is adapted to engage the teeth 28 and which is normally pressed into engagement therewith by a spring 30^a, arranged within the head and behind the

ratchet-block. A pin 31 extends outward from the ratchet-block through the slot 27 in the frame, and the outer end of the pin terminates in a knob 32, which serves as a handle, and
 5 by pressing inward upon the knob the ratchet-block may be thrown out of engagement with the teeth, so that the arm may be lowered; but the arm may be raised without troubling the knob, and the pressure of the
 10 spring 30^a will hold the ratchet-block in engagement with the teeth and consequently hold the arm at any desired height.

In Fig. 7 I have shown an attachment adapted to be applied to the knobs 19 when men's
 15 hats—such as derbies or silk hats—are to be carried in the case. This attachment has a band 34, which fits within the groove 20 and may be fastened there by any suitable means, and projecting from opposite sides of this
 20 band are arms 35, the outer ends of which are doubled under to form hooks 36, which hooks are adapted to receive the rim of a hat and permit the crown to hang down. These arms 35 are braced by a circular brace 37, to which
 25 the arms are fastened by doubling them around it, as shown at 38, although they may be secured in any other convenient manner.

When hats are to be packed within the case, the arms 16 are adjusted in the manner described, so as to be the right distance apart,
 30 and the hats are suspended upon them either by pinning them to the cushions, as described, or by hanging them upon the hooks, if they are men's hats, and the case may then be
 35 closed and locked and will afford a safe and

convenient receptacle for carrying the hats about.

Having thus fully described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. A hat-case comprising two similar parts hinged together, a vertical frame arranged within the case and extending around the walls thereof, and a series of vertically-adjustable hat-supporting arms arranged one
 45 above the other and terminating at their inner ends in hat-hangers, substantially as described.

2. In a hat-case, the combination, with the grooved knobs supported on arms, as described, of horizontally-extending hat-hooks having their inner ends terminating in a band adapted to be secured in the grooves of the knobs, substantially as described.

3. A hat-case provided with an internal
 55 frame and a series of vertically-sliding arms mounted adjustably on said frame and provided at their free ends with cushions to which the hats may be pinned, substantially as set forth.

4. A vertically-divided hat-case provided on its inner side with a grooved supporting-frame and a series of vertically-adjustable arms having a pawl-and-ratchet connection at one end with said grooved frame, substan-
 65 tially as set forth.

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Witnesses:

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