Nov. 25, 1924.

C. KNOTH, JR

1,516,609

SEAL

Filed Sept. 18, 1923

Fig. 1.

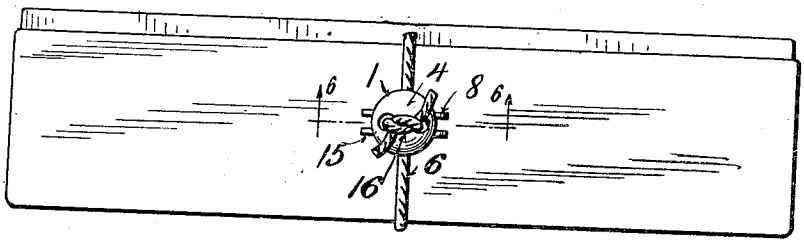



Fig. 2.

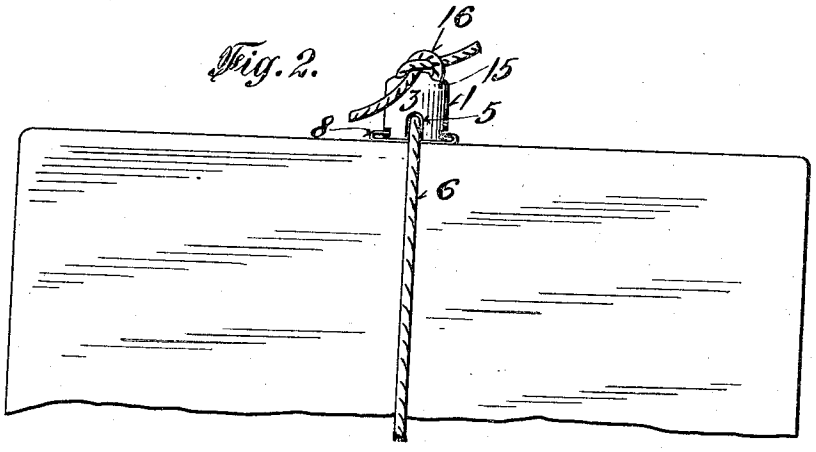



Fig. 3.

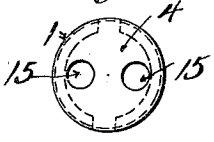



Fig. 4.

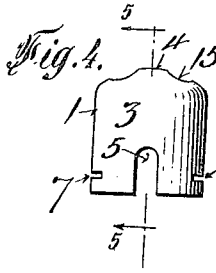



Fig. 5.

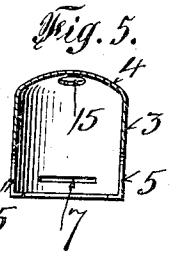
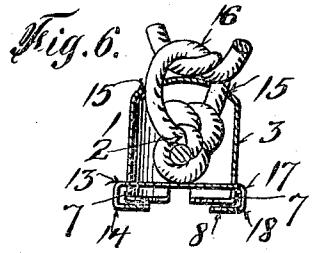



Fig. 6.



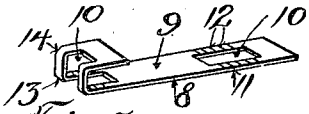




Fig. 7.

INVENTOR

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BY Charles G. Hensley

ATTORNEY

Patented Nov. 25, 1924. 1,516,609

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CONRAD KNOTH, JR., OF RIDGEWOOD, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO JOHN T. BLADEN, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

## SEAL.

Application filed September 18, 1923. Serial No. 663,379.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CONRAD KNOTH, Jr., a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Ridgewood, Long Island, county of Queens, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Seals, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to seals for sealing packages, boxes, and all other articles around which or partly through which a string, cord, rope or wire may be tied. My object is to provide a seal adapted, among other things, to be attached to the cord or rope with which a box or package is tied in such manner that the shell of the seal encloses the knot in the cord or rope and a fragile metal strip is adapted to be bent into shape to close the shell and which will easily break if any attempt is made to rebend it. One object of my invention is to provide a seal which will give absolute and complete protection to the contents of the package to which it is attached and which will immediately reveal any attempt to open the package. Another object is to provide a seal which is inexpensive and one which may be very quickly attached to the package, and closed after the package has been tied. The present seal is adapted for use on any and all forms of boxes, packages, crates, and other containers and it is especially useful as applied to suit and cloak boxes and the like which are to be forwarded by express or mail, as a means of protecting the shipper and consignee from disputes regarding losses in shipment, to discourage losses in shipment by rendering it impossible to extract contents of the container without detection and also to protect express companies against fair and unfair claims for losses in transit.

In the drawing forming part of this application,

Figure 1 is an elevation of a box or package tied with a cord and having my improved seal applied to protect the knot in the cord,

Figure 2 is a plan view of the box showing the seal in side elevation,

Figure 3 is a plan view of the shell of the seal,

Figure 4 is an elevation thereof,

Figure 5 is a sectional view taken on the line 5—5 of Figure 4,

Figure 6 is a sectional view taken on the line 6—6 of Figure 1, and

Figure 7 is a perspective view of the closing strip.

The seal comprises two principal parts, one of which is a shell 1 of sufficient size to enclose the knot 2 of the cord or rope with which the package or container is tied. I have indicated this shell as having a cylindrical wall 3 with a dome-shaped top 4 at one end and having its opposite end open to permit it to be passed over the knot. The shell is provided with oppositely arranged vertical slots 5 to receive the straight run 6 of the cord or rope and to permit this to enter the slots when the shell is placed over the knot. Near the bottom of the shell there are arranged slots or openings 7 at opposite positions in the shell and preferably about 90 degrees displaced from the vertical slots 5. The slots 7 are shown arranged nearer the open end of the shell than the upper ends of the vertical slots 5.

The closing member consists of a strip 8 of a very fragile form of metal which will permit it to be bent at any particular place but once and which will break off if any attempt is made to rebend it. This strip of metal may be such as is commonly used in the Edgar seal which is well known and is disclosed in prior Letters Patent. I have shown this strip provided with a solid, intermediate portion 9 together with end portions which are weakened by removing or blanking out openings 10. Along the side bars 11 of these openings there are provided indentations or partial cuts 12 to facilitate the bending of these bars at any one of several points. These strips may be provided in the form shown in Figure 7 wherein two of the bars 11 are bent at right angles at the point 13 and again at the point 14 so that one end of the strip is turned back upon itself in U shape.

The top or dome 4 of the shell is pref-

erably provided with apertures 15 slightly larger than the cord or rope with which the package or receptacle is tied.

*Operation.*

After the package or receptacle has been closed, the cord or rope 6 is passed around it in any approved manner, preferably in the way shown in my co-pending application, Serial No. 594,681, and the ends of the cord are brought together and tied in a double knot 2 as shown in Figure 6. Preferably, the free ends of the cord or rope are left extending from the knot 2 for the purpose hereinafter described. The shell 1 is placed over the knot 2 so that the latter is inclosed within the shell and the latter is moved down so that the run 6 of the rope rises up in the vertical slots 5 of the shell, or rather the shell moves down over the rope until the latter engages through the upper ends of the slots 5. During this operation the free ends of the rope extending beyond the knot 2 may be individually passed through the top openings 15 and the exterior knot 16 may be tied in these free ends for the purpose of holding the shell in place while the closing strip is being applied. The closing strip is then inserted through the slots 7 in the shell and the straight end is bent downwardly at 17 and then again at 18 so that the strip takes the form of the letter **C** as shown in Figure 6. The function of the knot 16 formed in the free ends of the rope outside of the shell is merely to hold the shell in place temporarily and while it facilitates the rapid application of the seal it performs no function in the actual protection of the package.

It will be understood that the seals, or at least the closing strips 8 will be marked with individual identifying marks such as numbers or letters so that the consignee may be apprised through a corresponding mark on the invoice of the number or letter or other identifying mark on the closing strip applied to a particular package represented in the invoice. This makes it difficult or impossible for one to surreptitiously remove the closing strip and after removing part or all of the contents of the package to reattach the shell and apply a new or different closing strip. The consignee, by comparing the number or other identifying mark on the closing strip before opening the package, and comparing that mark with the corresponding mark on the invoice, may be reasonably sure that the closing strip is the one which was applied by the shipper. If any attempt is made to remove the rope from the package the only access which can be had to the knot 2 is by removing the closing strip 8 but if any attempt is made to bend this strip to permit it to be withdrawn from the slots 7 the strip will be immediately broken because of its fragile nature and it will be impossible for the thief to replace the same strip and it will also be difficult to replace the strip with a new one on account of the individual identification marks above referred to. The identifying marks may be placed on the surface of the strip 8 which faces the inside shell, if desired, in order that this mark will not be visible until the strip has been actually removed. It will be understood that when the consignee removes the closing strip the latter is broken and can not be reused although the shell may be used again providing a new closing strip is supplied.

It will be apparent that the present device is inexpensive and that it may be very quickly applied and that it protects the package during transit.

Having described my invention, what I claim is:

1. A seal of the class described comprising a shell adapted to enclose a knot in a cord, rope or the like and having on opening therein to receive the knot, said shell having slots therein, and a closing strip composed of easily breakable material and adapted to be inserted through said slots and then bent, for the purpose of sealing the knot in said shell.

2. A seal of the class described comprising a shell having an open end and a closed end, said shell forming an enclosure to receive a knot in a cord, rope or the like, said shell having slots adjacent its open end, and a closing strip of easily breakable material adapted to be passed through said slots and to be bent, for the purpose of sealing the knot in said shell.

3. A seal of the class described comprising a shell having an open end and a closed end, said shell having slots extending upwardly from said open end to receive a run of cord, rope, or the like therein, the shell being adapted to enclose a knot in the cord or rope, and a closing strip of easily breakable material adapted to be inserted through said shell and to close the opening through which the knot enters the shell for the purpose of sealing the same therein.

4. A seal of the class described comprising a shell open at one end to receive a knot tied in a cord or rope therein, an easily breakable strip adapted to be passed through said shell and to be bent to close said open end for the purpose of sealing the knot therein, said shell having apertures in its opposite end permitting the ends of the cord or rope to be carried outside the shell for the purpose set forth.

5. A seal of the class described comprising a cylindrical shell having a cap at one end having apertures for the purpose set

forth, the opposite end of said shell being open to receive a knot of a cord or rope therein, said shell having slots extending upwardly from its open end to receive a run of cord or rope therein, said shell having slots therein adjacent its open end and a closing strip of easily breakable material passing through said latter slots and across the open end of the shell, said closing strip being bent at an angle at each side of the shell for the purpose set forth.

Signed at the city, county and State of New York, this 1st day of September, 1923.

CONRAD KNOTH, JR.