No. 790,483. PATENTED MAY 23, 1905.

F. L. DEMARTINI.

STAY FOR SUIT CASES, &c.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 5, 1904.

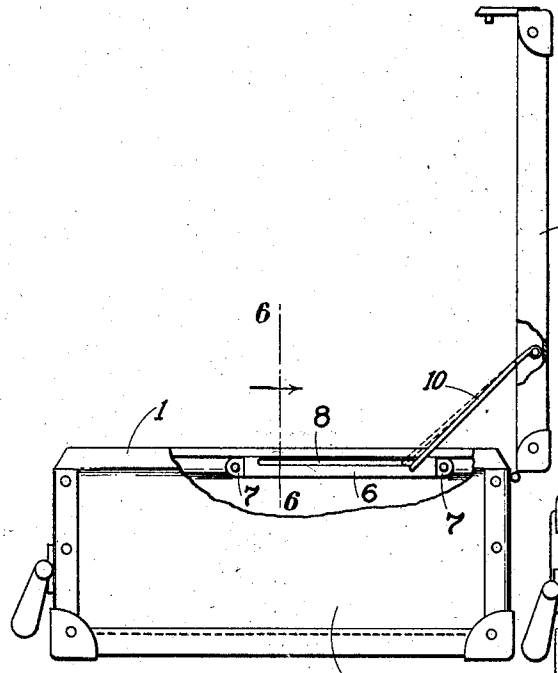


FIG. 1.

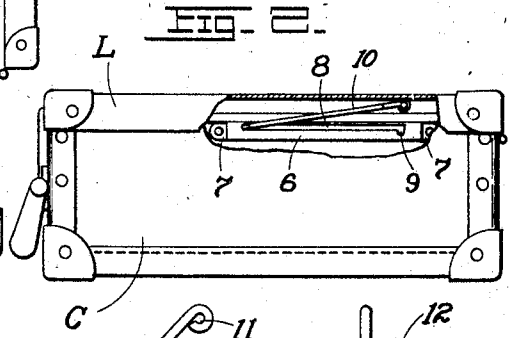


FIG. 2.

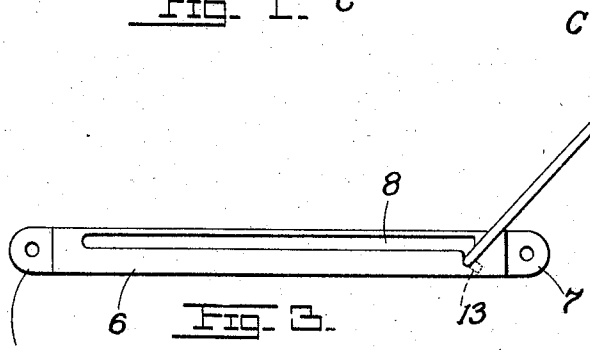


FIG. 3.

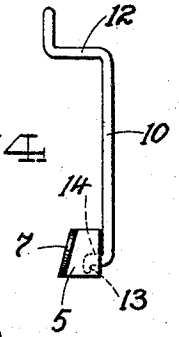


FIG. 4.

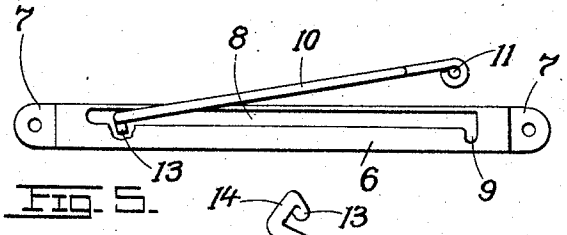


FIG. 5.

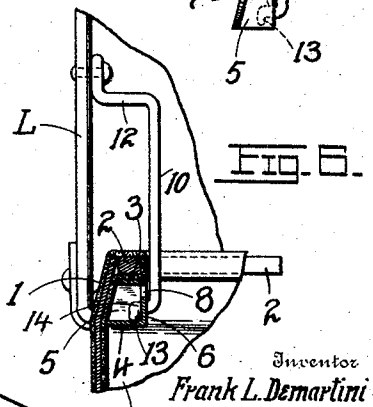


FIG. 6.

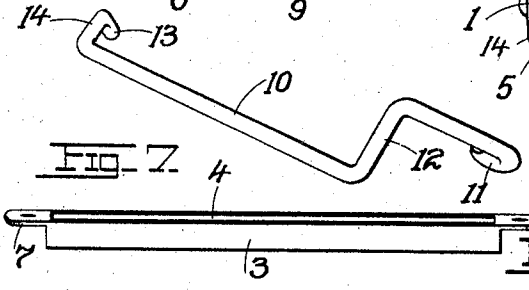


FIG. 7.

FIG. 8.

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No. 790,483. Patented May 23, 1905.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK L. DEMARTINI, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, ASSIGNOR TO BENJAMIN P. STROMBERG AND LEO M. KRAUS, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

STAY FOR SUIT-CASES, &c.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 790,483, dated May 23, 1905.

Application filed December 5, 1904. Serial No. 235,522.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK L. DEMARTINI, a citizen of the United States, residing at St. Louis, State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Stays for Suit-Cases and Like Receptacles, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part hereof.

My invention has relation to improvements in stays for suit-cases, sample-cases, trunks, and the like; and it consists in the novel construction and arrangement of parts more fully set forth in the specification, and pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation of a suit-case open, showing my invention applied thereto. Fig. 2 is a view of the same closed, a part of the suit-case wall being broken away. Fig. 3 is a side elevation of the stay detached and swung to correspond to the open position of the lid of the case. Fig. 4 is an end view of Fig. 3. Fig. 5 is a side view showing the parts corresponding to the closed position of the lid. Fig. 6 is a cross-section on line 6 6 of Fig. 1. Fig. 7 is a perspective view of the link or movable member of the stay, and Fig. 8 is a top plan of the stationary member of the stay.

The object of my invention is to construct a stay specially applicable to suit-cases and sample-cases, which will be simple, cheap, and durable, one which will lock the lid of the case when once swung in an open position, one which insures the locking of the lid without the necessity of swinging the latter past a plane which is perpendicular to the plane of the body of the case, and one which presents further and other advantages better apparent from a detailed description of the invention, which is as follows:

Referring to the drawings, C represents the body of the case, and L the lid thereof. The upper edge of the body C is inwardly and upwardly inclined toward the lid, the inclined ledge 1 being reinforced along the edges by a metal frame 2, over which the outer covering of the case is passed. Located beneath the metal frame 2 and secured to the inner wall of the inclined ledge 1 is a casing or frame having upper and lower longitudinal walls 3 4, respectively, end walls 5, and a longitudinal side wall 6, disposed at right angles to the walls 3 4. The bottom wall 4 is wider than the top wall 3, their edges being thus disposed in a plane which is inclined to the plane of the wall 6, the object of this arrangement being to permit the mounting of the casing on the inclined ledge 1 in such a way as to leave the wall 6 disposed in a plane parallel to the adjacent wall of the body of the case or in a plane parallel to the plane of oscillation of the lid L. The casing is secured in position by means of terminal lips or ears 7 7, which are fastened to the ledge 1. The longitudinal side wall 6 is provided with an elongated slot 8, which terminates at the rear in a depression 9 for a purpose presently to appear. Pivotally secured to the side of the lid L is a link 10, the terminal loop 11 thereof being bent rearwardly (that is, toward the top of the lid) to permit the loop to be brought close to the lid-top. At a convenient point of the link 10 is formed an offset 12 of sufficient depth to span the distance between the wall 6 and the side of the lid, to which the loop 11 is pivotally secured, the opposite end of the link being provided with a finger 13, deflected in the same direction with the loop 11 and bent from an intermediate offset 14 at right angles to said offset, the latter being parallel with the offset 12 and both offsets being at right angles to the body of the link 10. The finger 13 takes the place of the expanded heads so common in stay-links. It has the advantage of simplicity over the old construction and has the further advantage of being readily inserted into the slot 8, the parts being so disposed when the connection between the link 10 and slot 8 is made as to bring the finger below the slot and opposite the wall 6 for all positions of the lid be the same closed or open.

When the lid is fully open, the offset 14 rests at the bottom of the recess or depression 9, the finger 13 extending below the same and behind the wall 6, so that the link 10 cannot be dislodged. To close the lid after being once fully open, the operator trips the free

lower end of the link, so as to raise the portion 14 out of the depression 9 (see dotted position in Fig. 1) opposite the slot 8, when the lid will be free to close, the link traveling forwardly along the slot, assuming for the closed position of the lid the relative position shown in Figs. 2 and 5.

The device may be used as a stay for all classes of receptacles or vessels provided with a hinged lid or cover.

Having described my invention, what I claim is—

1. In combination with the body of a case having an upper inclined ledge, and a hinged lid, a casing or stationary stay member having upper and lower walls, end walls, and a longitudinal slotted side wall, the lower wall being of greater width than the upper wall, terminal ears secured to the inner wall of the ledge and disposed in a plane conforming to the inclination of said ledge, a depression at the rear end of the longitudinal slot formed in the side wall, a link having one end pivotally secured to the lid, and having an offset spanning the distance between the slotted wall of the casing and the adjacent side of the lid, a terminal finger engaging the slot of the stationary stay member, and an offset interposed between the finger and body of the link for engaging the depression at the end of the slot of the stationary member, said connecting-offset being substantially parallel to the first-mentioned offset, substantially as set forth.

2. In combination with the body of a case having an upper inclined ledge, and a hinged lid, a casing having an inclined side engaging said inclined ledge and secured thereto, and having an inner longitudinally-slotted side wall, and a link coupled pivotally at one end to the lid, and having its opposite or free end in engagement with the longitudinal slot of the side wall, substantially as set forth.

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

FRANK L. DEMARTINI.

Witnesses:

EMIL STAREK,

MARY D. WHITCOMB.