

Nov. 11, 1930.

L. G. HAASE ET AL

1,781,280

WATER METER BOX

Filed Jan. 30, 1929

FIG. 1.

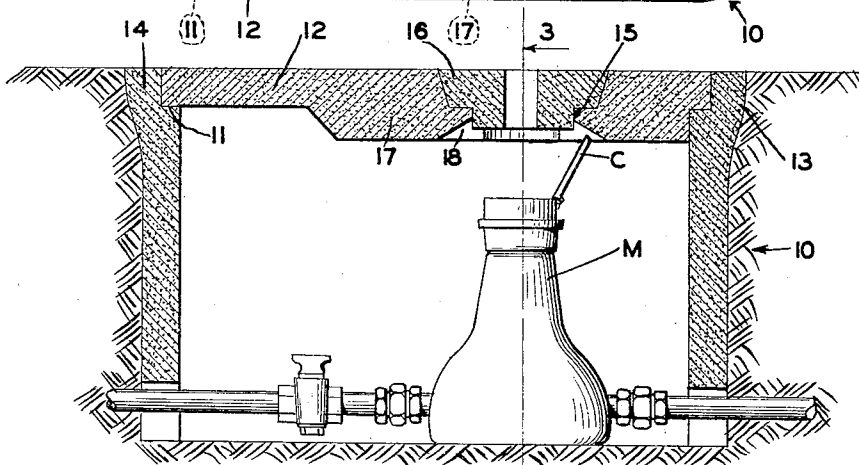
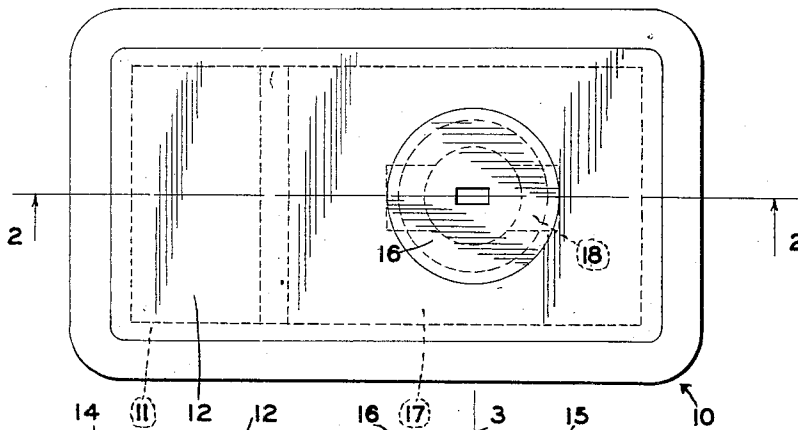


FIG. 2.

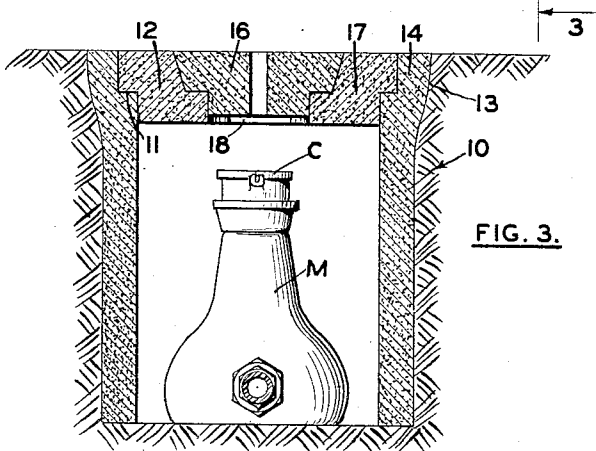


FIG. 3.

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## WATER-METER BOX

Application filed January 30, 1929. Serial No. 336,220.

This invention relates to improvements in water meter boxes.

An object of the invention is to provide an improved water meter box having a removable cover seated adjacent the top of the box, the box being so constructed that its internal dimensions are not reduced near the seat. In many prior constructions the box has a recessed seat to receive the cover but adjacent this seat there is usually formed an internal flange to strengthen the seat. This flange materially reduces the opening in the top of the box when the cover is removed and seriously interferes with the manipulation of wrenches and the like in installing and repairing water meters and valves.

A further object of the invention is to provide a water meter box having at its top a seat for a removable cover and having the interior surfaces of its walls substantially straight and which is so constructed that the seat for the cover is sufficiently strong.

Another object of the invention is to provide an improved cover for water meter boxes which cover has an aperture adapted to receive a small closure or lid, the closure or lid being adapted to be removed for reading of the meter. The improved cover is so constructed that it is sufficiently strong near the aperture so that it is not weakened by the formation of the aperture therein. Also the improved cover requires a minimum amount of material and enables a plurality of covers to be easily stacked, one on top of the other, in storing or shipping.

Another object of the invention is to provide a cover for water meter boxes which has one or more recesses formed on its under side through which the swinging edge of the water meter cover may pass so that the top of the water meter cover can be completely opened for reading.

With the foregoing and other objects in view which will be made manifest in the following detailed description and specifically pointed out in the appended claims, reference is had to the accompanying drawings for an illustrative embodiment of the invention, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a top plan view of the improved water meter box.

Fig. 2 is a vertical section taken substantially upon the line 2—2 upon Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a vertical section through the box taken substantially upon the line 3—3 upon Fig. 2.

Referring to the accompanying drawings wherein similar reference characters designate similar parts throughout, the improved water meter box is preferably constructed of concrete or equivalent material. In its preferred form the box, generally designated at 10 is rectangular in form although it may be given any other suitable shape. At the top of the box the interior upper edge is cut away to form an internal annular shoulder 11 constituting a seat for the cover 12. As clearly shown on Figs. 2 and 3 the interior faces of the walls of the box extend vertically downwardly and are straight from the inner edge of the seat 11. By this construction it will be appreciated that the interior dimensions of the box are not lessened or decreased near the seat 11. In order to properly strengthen the seat and make it adequately strong and still require a minimum amount of material in the construction of the box the walls of the box 10 are slightly thickened at their tops, i. e. the lower portions of the walls have their exterior surfaces straight and parallel to the interior surfaces so that they are relatively thin. The exterior surfaces adjacent the top of the walls, however, bulge outwardly as indicated at 13 and are outwardly and upwardly inclined, thickening the tops of the walls and thus strengthening the seats 11 and also strengthening the portions 14. This formation of the exterior surfaces of the walls serves not only to strengthen the seat 11 and the portions 14 but it tends to prevent the box from sinking to an undue extent in a lawn or sidewalk. When the box is recessed in a sidewalk the box is first placed in position and a layer of building paper or the like is placed about its top. After this the cement forming the sidewalk is laid up against the building paper, the building paper serving to prevent its adhering to the box. By virtue of the fact that the outer

sides of the walls flare upwardly adjacent the seat for the cover a sort of beveled seat is formed in the sidewalk which supports the water meter box preventing its sinking below the level of the sidewalk.

The cover 12 which seats on the seat 11 has an aperture 15 formed therein adapted to receive a removable closure or lid 16 which is adapted to be removed on inspecting or reading the water meter M. In prior constructions of a similar nature it has been found that the formation of this aperture materially weakens the cover 12 so that the cover in many instances breaks transversely at the aperture. To properly strengthen the cover it is thickened about the aperture, the thickening portion of the cover being indicated at 17. This thickening portion extends over approximately two-thirds the under side of the cover, forming a depending portion on the under side of the cover fitting between the side walls of a box 10 and against one of the end walls. It preferably does not extend over the entire bottom surface of the cover so that no unnecessary material is required in its construction. The reason for extending it over more than half of the underside of the cover is to enable a plurality of covers to be stacked, one on top of the other so that they will rest flatly and solidly on top of each other in storing or shipping. By virtue of the fact that the thickened portion 17 fits between the side walls the cover tends to brace the side walls and keep them against any tendency to collapse under lateral pressure.

On the under side of the cover on opposite sides of the aperture 15 there are formed recesses 18. These recesses are designed to allow the cover C on the water meter to swing through them. In some prior constructions difficulty has been experienced in completely swinging back the cover C to read the water meter M because the cover would swing into engagement with the cover on the water meter box. The recesses 18 enable the cover C to swing through either one of them and thus the cover can be completely swung back to read the water meter. The arrangement of the recesses is highly important where the cover is thickened adjacent the aperture 15 which causes the bottom surface of the cover 12 to approach the top of the water meter.

From the above described construction it will be appreciated that a novel water meter box is provided which embodies several improvements. The improved water meter box presents an interior of uniform dimensions enabling the maximum amount of working room to be present in manipulating wrenches within the box. At the same time the seat for the cover 12 is strengthened sufficiently and the formation of the box is such that the strengthening of the seat also prevents the box from sinking to an undue extent in the ground. The improved water meter box also

has a novel cover which is strengthened adjacent the aperture which receives the removable lid. At the same time it is so constructed that its strengthening does not interfere with the entire or complete opening of the cover C on the water meter M.

Various changes may be made in the details of construction without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

We claim:

1. A water meter box having a cover on the under side of which there is a recess through which a water meter cover may swing to expose the meter to view.

2. A water meter box having a cover in which there is an aperture adapted to receive a closure or lid, the under side of the cover adjacent the aperture having at least one recess through which a cover on a water meter may swing to expose the meter to view.

3. A water meter box having a cover in which there is an aperture adapted to receive a closure or lid, the cover adjacent the aperture being materially thickened which is apparent on its under side, the under side of the cover having at least one recess adjacent the aperture through which the top of the cover on a water meter may swing to expose the meter to view.

In testimony whereof we have signed our names to this specification.

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