

M. MARTIN & J. A. STUDER.

Jewelers' Show-Cases.

No. 142,575.

Patented September 9, 1873.

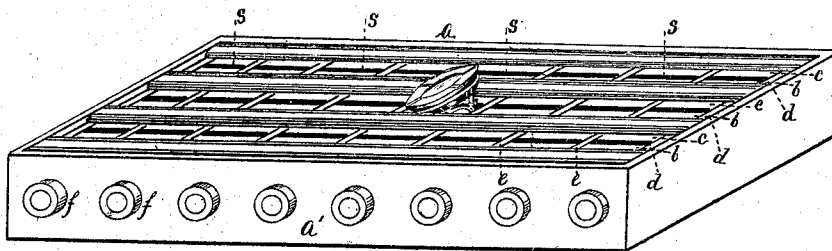


Fig. 1

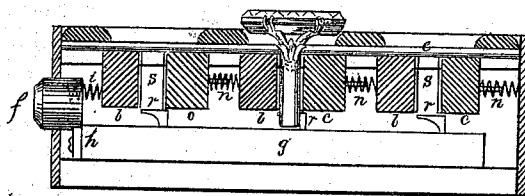


Fig. 2

WITNESSES

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MORRIS MARTIN AND JOHN A. STUDER, OF PITTSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN JEWELERS' SHOW-CASES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **142,575**, dated September 9, 1873; application filed July 3, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, MORRIS MARTIN and JOHN A. STUDER, of Pittsburg, in the county of Allegheny and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Jeweler's Case; and we do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of our improved jeweler's case, and Fig. 2 is a vertical cross-section of the same.

Like letters of reference indicate like parts in each.

Our invention consists in the construction of a case for holding and exhibiting rings, in which one of the slats which forms the slots in which the rings are inserted is made elastic, for the purpose of accommodating rings of different widths, and in which the rings are secured in their places by a spring-catch, so that they cannot be withdrawn without being released from the catch.

The purloining of rings from jewelers' cases, in which heretofore they have been placed for exhibition without being secured, has always been the cause of serious loss to jewelers. The ease with which these articles can be stolen, and the difficulty of detecting the offender has made it very desirable to have a convenient and easy means of securing them in the case in which they are exhibited. This is the object of our invention.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use our invention, we will describe it more fully.

We make a case, *a*, of the form of those heretofore in use, which is provided with the slats or bars *b* and *c*, by which the ring-slots *d* are formed. These slots we make alternately rigid and elastic. The slats *b* are firmly fastened in place, while the slats *c* are secured in slides at the ends of the box *a*, and are made elastic by means of a spring, *n*, extending between them and the next adjacent rigid slat *b*. The springs *n* are held in place by a pin extending out from the elastic slot. The slots *d*, which are formed by means of the slats *b* and *c*, are divided by means of cross-bars *e* in several series or rows of pockets, *s*, to accommodate the rings. In the bottom of the case *a*, directly under the pockets

s, are a series of slides, *g*, which extend across the case, and directly under each pocket *s* are provided with a hook, *r*. At one end of each slide *g* I secure a button, *f*, which projects through the side of the case *a*. This button is fastened at *h*, and is attached to a spiral spring, *i*, which extends back and presses against the first rigid slat *b*. This spring holds the slide against the side *a'* of the case *a*, causing the button to project, as shown at *f*, and the hooks *r* on the slide *g* to extend directly across the lower end of the ring-pockets *s*. Then, if the button *f* is pressed back, the hook *r* will be caused to recede beyond the ring-pocket *s*.

If it is desired to insert a ring in one of the pockets *s* the button *f* is pressed back until the ring is inserted, and then the button is released, allowing the hook to spring forward and engage the ring, as shown in Fig. 2. The ring is then secure, and cannot be withdrawn unless the slide *g* is pressed back in the manner described. The point of the hook *r* extends forward to the rigid slat *b*, so that the ring cannot be withdrawn by pressing the slat *b* back from its position, so as to draw the ring around the point of the hook *r*, as would be the case if the elastic slat *c* was in front of the hook.

Rings of varying sizes may be placed in the same slot, since the elasticity of the slat *c* causes it to press forward and hold the ring tightly, whether it be wide or narrow in the bend.

What we claim as our invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A ring-case, *a*, the ring-slots of which are formed by a rigid and an elastic slat, substantially as and for the purposes described.

2. The arrangement, under each cross-series of ring-pockets, of a slide, *g*, provided with hooks *r*, and a spring, *i*, which causes it to spring forward so that the hooks shall engage and secure the rings in their pockets, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof we, the said MORRIS MARTIN and JOHN A. STUDER, have hereunto set our hands.

MORRIS MARTIN.
JOHN A. STUDER.

Witnesses:

T. B. KERR,
JAMES I. KAY.