

No. 852,608.

PATENTED MAY 7, 1907.

G. MATTHEWS.  
MOLD BOX OR PAN.  
APPLICATION FILED AUG. 20, 1906.

Fig. 1.

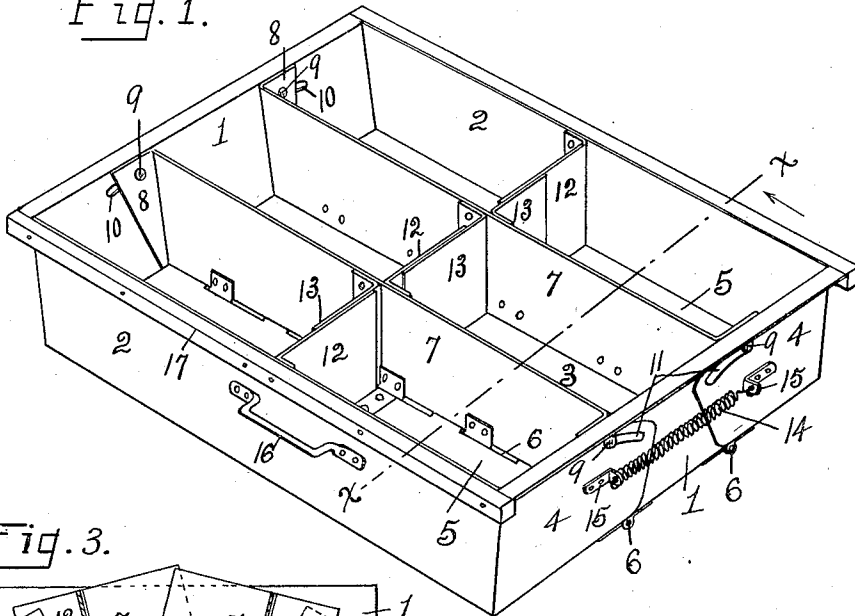


Fig. 3.

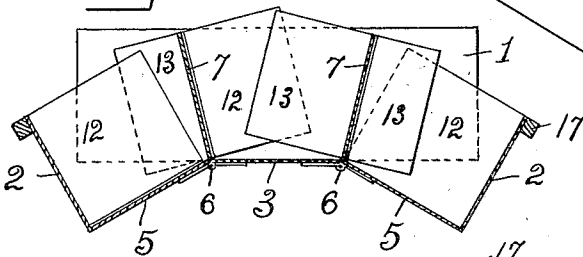
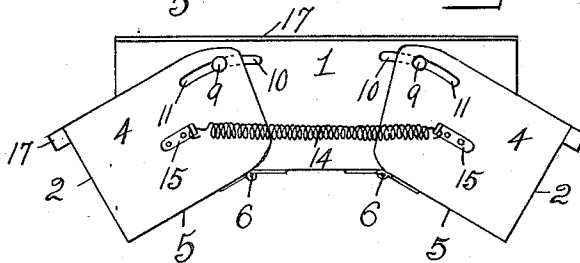


Fig. 2.



WITNESSES:

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE MATTHEWS, OF RIGA, MICHIGAN.

## MOLD BOX OR PAN.

No. 852,608.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented May 7, 1907.

Application filed August 20, 1906. Serial No. 331,228.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, GEORGE MATTHEWS, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Riga, in the county of Lenawee and State of Michigan, have invented a certain new and useful Mold Box or Pan; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to mold-boxes or pans for the reception and formation of semi-fluid or plastic materials into cakes, bricks, or the like, and is particularly designed for use in conjunction with peat machines for receiving the peat pulp while in a semi-fluid state and forming it into bricks preparatory to being dried, although it may be used as a mold for concrete or other plastic blocks or as a baking pan for bread, cake, or the like.

In the manufacture of peat bricks it has been customary to discharge the peat pulp, which is of a consistency sufficient to prevent its running, upon boards or pallets, then cutting the cake thus formed into a plurality of sections to form bricks, of the requisite size, and placing the board or pallet with the bricks thereon away to dry. With this process the bricks dry quickly on the tops and exposed side surfaces, but retain moisture in their bottoms and centers for a considerable length of time, inasmuch as the air does not have access to the under surface thereof.

The object of my invention is to obviate this difficulty by the provision of a mold-box or pan having a plurality of compartments therein for the formation of bricks or blocks of the required size, which mold-box or pan is operative to release the walls thereof from the plastic or semi-fluid material whereby the bricks may be easily and quickly removed therefrom and placed upon the racks to dry.

The operation and construction of one embodiment of my invention is fully described in the following specification and shown in the accompanying drawings, in which,—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the mold-box or pan embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is an end view thereof opened up, and Fig.

3 is a cross-section on the dotted line *x x* in Fig. 1 with the mold-box shown in open position.

Referring to the drawings, 1 1 designate the ends of the mold-box, 2 2 the sides thereof, and 3 the portion of the bottom which firmly connects the two ends 1 1.

The sides 2 2 are each formed at their ends with wings 4, which lap and lie flush with the outer surfaces of the ends 1 1, as shown, and have their bottom edges, as are also the bottom edges of the sides 2 2, securely fixed to the associated bottom portions 5 5, which are hinged at their inner edges to the contiguous edges of the bottom portion 3, as shown at 6. Also hinged to the sides of the bottom portion 3, having a common pivot with the bottom portions 5 5, and connecting the opposite ends 1 1 are the two partitions or inner walls 7 7, which divide the box transversely into three compartments, as shown. These partitions are formed at their ends with lateral wings 8, which lie flush with the inner surfaces of the ends 1 1 and each carries a fixed pin 9 near its upper edge. These pins project outwardly freely through registering segmental slots 10 and 11 provided in the ends 1 and wings 4, respectively, contiguous to the wings 8 of said partitions, as shown. The slots 10 and 11 are so disposed relative to each other that when the box or pan is closed, as in Fig. 1, the pins 9 are positioned at the inner ends of the slots 10 and at the outer ends of the slots 11, or substantially so, said slots being of suitable length to permit a requisite opening movement of the two side compartments.

The compartments formed by the partitions 7 7 may either be left entire or separated longitudinally into a plurality of divisions of suitable size by positioning transverse dividing walls formed of lapping wings 12 and 13 therein, as shown. To each side wall of a compartment is fixed one of these wings and loosely overlap each other sufficiently to prevent a separation thereof during an opening movement of the box or pan, as shown in Figs. 1 and 3.

The compartments are normally maintained in closed position by the action of the coiled contraction-springs 14, or other elastic means, one of which is placed at each end of the box and has its opposite ends fixed to lugs 15 secured to the wings 4 of the sides.

The box or pan is shown as being provided

on its sides with lifting handles 16 and as having its ends and sides formed on their upper edges with strengthening flanges 17.

The operation of my invention in connection with a peat machine is as follows:—The peat pulp, as it is discharged from the machine, is pressed within the several compartments of a mold-box or pan, thereby molding it into bricks, or blocks of convenient size. The box is then taken to the drying house and turned bottom side up upon the drying racks. The peat blocks being of sufficient consistency when released to retain their shape, the operator then takes hold of the handles on the sides of the box and forces the box open to its full extent, or substantially so, thus causing the sides 2 2 and attached wings to open outwardly from the partitions 7 7 and said partitions and their attached wings to open outwardly from each other, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, thus freeing the walls of the partitions from the wet blocks and permitting the mold-box to be lifted therefrom. When the sides 2 2 have reached their limit of outward movements relative to the partitions a continuation of the opening movement will cause the inner ends of the slots 11 to engage the associated pins 9 and move them outwardly in the slots 10, thus effecting an outward movement of each partition 7 7, which disengages them from the sides of the center block.

It is apparent that an opening of the mold-box or pan not only releases the walls of the compartments from the molded bricks or blocks, thus permitting an easy withdrawal of the overturned box or pan therefrom, but also effects a spreading of the bricks or blocks relative to each other so that they lay spaced apart upon the drying racks, thus allowing the air to have free access to all sides thereof.

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

1. A mold-box or pan having a plurality of compartments hinged at their edges to the edges of a central compartment part the side walls of which are movable and form the inner walls of the hinged compartments, the said hinged compartments and their inner side walls being adapted to have an outward opening movement relative to each other and the central compartment part.

2. A mold-box or pan having a body part

and a part hinged to one side of such body part, a partition hinged to the body part and dividing it and the hinged part into a plurality of compartments, said partition being adapted to have an outward movement relative to the body part, and the hinged part being adapted to have an outward movement relative to both the body part and partition.

3. A mold-box or pan having a body, hinged side parts, and partitions separating the body part from the hinged parts and hinged to the former whereby to divide the box or pan into a plurality of compartments, said hinged side parts being adapted to be opened outwardly from the partitions and to effect a relative separating movement of the partitions.

4. A mold-box or pan comprising a body, side parts hinged to the body, partitions hinged to the body and dividing the box or pan transversely in a plurality of compartments, and lapping wings fixed to the walls of the compartment thus formed whereby to divide the box or pan longitudinally into compartments, said hinged side parts being adapted to be opened outwardly from the partitions and to effect a relative spreading movement of the partitions.

5. A mold-box or pan having a portion of its bottom hinged to a relatively fixed portion of the bottom of the box or pan and carrying a side wall of the box or pan, which wall is provided at its ends with wings for lapping the end walls of the box or pan, the said end walls and wings being provided with registering slots, a partition hinged to the fixed portion of the bottom intermediate the side walls of the box or pan, a pin projecting outwardly from each end of the partition and operating in the said registering slots, whereby an outward movement of the hinged part will at a predetermined point in its movement effect an outward movement of the partition relative to the fixed part, and means for normally retaining the parts in closed position.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

GEORGE MATTHEWS.

Witnesses:

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