

(No Model.)

A. A. BOUTELL.  
TOBACCO MOISTENING DEVICE.

No. 428,065.

Patented May 20, 1890.

FIG. 1.

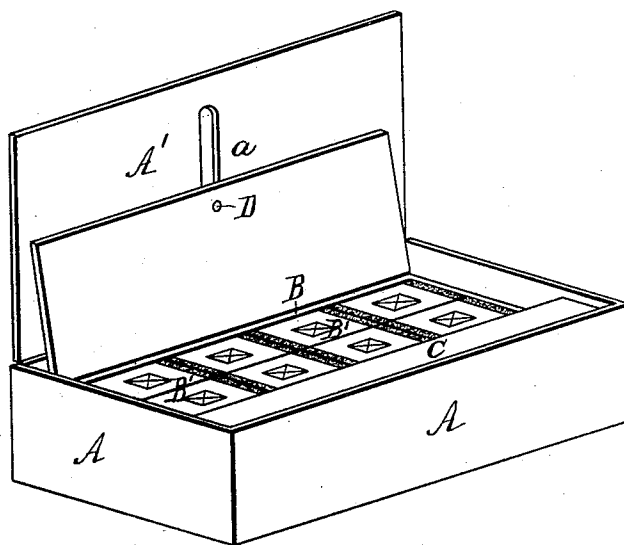


FIG. 2.

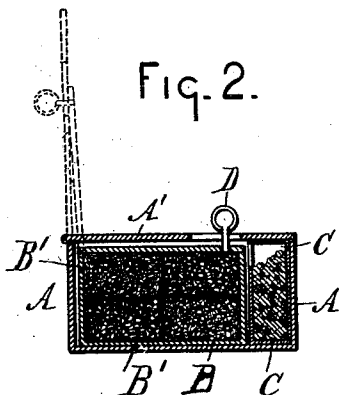
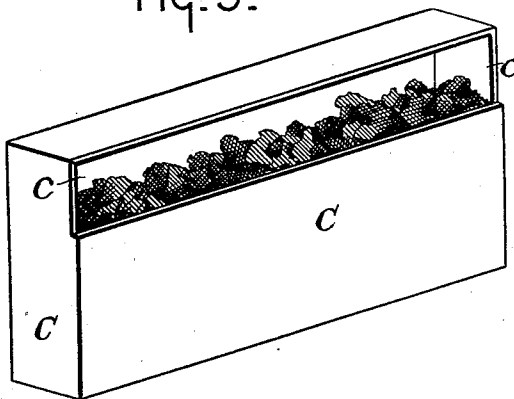


FIG. 3.



WITNESSES

Marion A. Reen  
C. J. Shipley

INVENTOR

Alexander A. Boutell  
By Wells H. Leggett & Co.  
Attorneys.

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALEXANDER A. BOUTELL, OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN.

## TOBACCO-MOISTENING DEVICE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 428,065, dated May 20, 1890.

Application filed February 10, 1890. Serial No. 339,896. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ALEXANDER A. BOUTELL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Detroit, county of Wayne, State of Michigan, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Tobacco-Moistening Devices; and I 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 pertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the case with the lid open. Fig. 2 is a sectional view. Fig. 3 is a detail of the case holding the liquid.

It has become customary of late to sell cut tobacco and other kinds of tobacco in open form in boxes, and in this condition it becomes rapidly dried. The tobacco thereby loses its original moist, soft, and desirable consistency and becomes hard, brittle, and unattractive to the tobacco-user, and is liable by a little carrying to become broken into dust or shorts. This is especially true of fine-cut chewing or smoking tobacco. So, also, the same is true of cigars, cigarettes, &c. To correct this evil appliances have been devised to supply moisture by means of contrivances placed in the show-case or in the package itself and containing water, with means for affording a rapid evaporation from the tobacco, but permitting the tobacco to take up again its normal charge of moisture.

My invention has for its object the production of an independent case having an evaporating device or pad adapted for the reception of a single box of such tobacco, so arranged that the lid of the tobacco-box is opened by the operation of opening the lid of the moisture-case.

To this end A represents a suitable case, slightly larger in dimensions than the ordinary cigar-box, and A' its cover. This case may be made of any suitable material; but I prefer to make it of tin or sheet-iron.

B is the box holding the tobacco. B'B' represent the packages of tobacco packed in the box.

C is what may be termed the "moistening" case or receptacle for holding the moisten-

ing material. This case is placed within the case A between the front edge of the tobacco-box and the front edge of the case A, as shown more particularly in Fig. 2. One side of this moistening-case has along its upper edge an opening or slot *c*, through which the moisture may pass from the case.

Within the case C is placed moistening material. This may be arranged in any desired manner—as, for instance, the case may be filled with water, or a sponge or some other absorbent material may be saturated and placed in the case C, or the bottom of the case may be filled with water and the surface covered with a sponge or other absorbent material.

In the cover of the case A is a slot *a*, and passing through this slot and into the cover of the box B is a suitable screw-eye D. It will be observed that both the covers of the case A and the box B are lifted simultaneously, and it will also be observed that when the covers are down the moisture which is evaporated from the contents of the case C, instead of passing freely off into the open air, will be held within the case and will be absorbed by the tobacco in the box B. When the tobacco has already been sold from the box, the operator has simply to unscrew the eye D from the lid, thus separating the two covers and allowing the box B to be removed from the case. A new box can then be inserted, the two lids be secured together by the eye, and the tobacco remaining in the box during the sales remain thoroughly moistened until all sold.

When the water is all evaporated from the case C, the operator by raising the lids can remove this case, fill it again, and replace it. It will thus be seen that by this arrangement the dealer need not keep his tobacco always in a show-case or in a closed receptacle of any kind to prevent its drying out, but can leave it on a counter or in a show-window or any desired place without fear of its becoming dried and unsalable.

It is of course obvious that I do not limit myself to the use of this case in connection with packages of cut tobacco, as shown in the drawings, but that it may be used in connection with cigars, smoking-tobacco, or any of the various forms in which tobacco is put up.

It will be seen that by the employment of

the screw-eye D the lid of the box B may be adjusted with respect to the lid A' of the case—that is, by means of the eye the box-lid may, when the lid A' is down, be prevented from closing, and the extent of the opening may be regulated by the screw.

What I claim is—

1. The combination, with a box for holding tobacco, of a suitable case inclosing the same, said inclosing-case provided upon its interior with a case containing the moistening-liquid, the lids or covers of said box and surrounding case being engaged together, whereby they may be opened and closed simultaneously, substantially as described.

2. The combination, with a box for holding tobacco and a case inclosing the same, said case provided upon its interior with a case containing the moistening-liquid, of means for engaging the lids of said box and case together, whereby they may be opened and closed simultaneously, consisting of the eye D, engaged in the cover of the box B and working in the slot *a* of the cover A'.

In testimony whereof I sign this specification in the presence of two witnesses.

ALEXANDER A. BOUTELL.

Witnesses:

M. A. REEVE,

W. H. CHAMBERLIN.