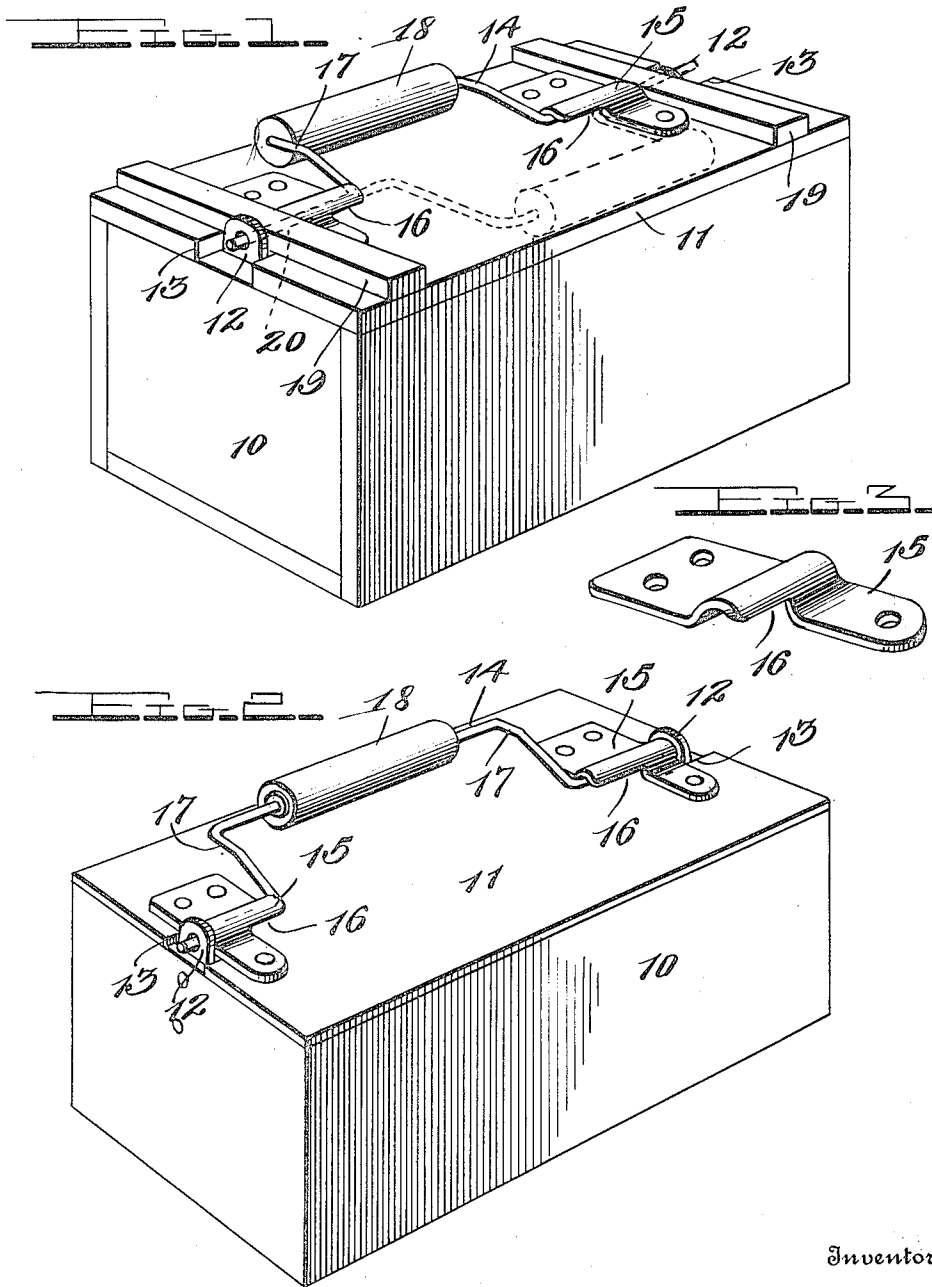


H. S. HOFEN.
 COMBINED BAIL AND BOX COVER FASTENER.
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Patented Dec. 3, 1912.



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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY S. HOFEN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Dacoma, in the county of Woods and State of Oklahoma, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Combined Bails and Box-Cover Fasteners, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to a combination handle and lid lock which is designed more particularly to be used in conjunction with egg crates or similar boxes, and the primary object of the present invention is to provide a bail which can be used for a double use, that is, which may be used for locking the lid upon the box and at the same time provide means by which the box may be carried.

This invention further resides in the novel features of construction which will be inexpensive in the cost of manufacture, strong, durable and efficient when in use.

With the above and other objects in view this invention consists of a bail which is slidably mounted upon the upper face of a box lid, the ends of which are adapted to provide means for locking the lid upon the box.

This invention further consists of the novel details of construction, combination, formation and arrangement of parts as will be hereinafter more fully described, claimed and particularly pointed out in the appended drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the box provided with a lid having my improved bail shown in a locked position and shown in dotted lines when in an unlocking position. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the lid provided with my improved bail to be used in conjunction with metal boxes, and Fig. 3 is a perspective view of one of the bearing clips.

Reference now being had to the drawings wherein I have illustrated like parts by like numerals throughout the several views, the numeral 10 indicates the body portion of a box or crate having mounted upon the upper face thereof the usual closing lid 11.

The body portion of the box 10 is provided with a pair of upwardly extending apertured lugs 12 which are adapted to rest within marginal recesses 13 formed in each end of the lid. This will obviously prevent any lateral or longitudinal movement of the

lid with relation to the body of the box, and to provide means for locking the lid upon the box, which may also be used as means for carrying the box when the same is in a locked position, I provide a bail 14. This bail 14 is preferably constructed of one continuous piece of material slidably mounted upon the upper face of the lid within bearing clips 15. This bail 14 is bent in a substantially rectangular shape within its intermediate portion of a distance equal to the distance between the inner ends of the bearing clips 15, so that when the middle portion of the bail is in a raised position, it will prevent the same from sliding longitudinally for a purpose which will be hereinafter described. The extremities of the bail 14 extend equi-distant on each side of the middle portion through the bearing clips 15 and then through the apertured lugs formed upon the body portion of the box which will obviously lock the lid. Each of the bearing clips 15 are provided on one side and at their inner ends with a cut away portion 16 which forms a longitudinal slot through which the middle portion of the bail may slide longitudinally when unlocking the lid from the box.

It will be seen from the foregoing that when the middle portion of the bail is in a substantially vertical position or swung to one side of the lid opposite to the side of the cut-away portion of the bearing clips, the extremities of the locking bail will be permanently held within the apertured lugs formed in the body portion of the box, but when the bail is swung to the opposite side of the lid and the middle portion thereof lies in the same horizontal plane with the extremities of the bail, the same may slide longitudinally of the top and thereby first releasing one extremity of the bail from one of the apertured lugs which will permit that end of the lid to be raised and then the bail is forced in an opposite direction so that the opposite extremity of the bail may be released from the apertured lug formed in the opposite side of the box, thereby permitting the lid to be readily removed. To provide means to allow the middle portion of the bail to lie in the same horizontal plane with the extremities thereof, the outer extremity of the middle portion is off-set as at 17 and provided with the usual hand grip 18, so that when the hand grip lies upon the lid of

the box, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1 of the drawings, the bail may be moved longitudinally of the lid, as before described.

In constructing a lid for a wooden crate, I provide a pair of transverse brace rods 19 upon the upper face thereof which have formed therein an aperture 20 adapted to lie in alinement with the aperture formed in the bearing clips and that of the apertured lugs so that the extremities of the bail may be easily inserted through the same and at the same time form a bearing block which will add to the strength of the bail. Let it be particularly noted from Fig. 2 of the drawing that when using this bail in conjunction with metal boxes these transverse brace rods 19 may be eliminated, as shown.

What I claim is:—

1. In a locking bail having a box consisting of one continuous piece of material bent at its intermediate portions, a pair of bearing clips mounted upon the lid for retaining the extremities of said bail, each of the said clips having a slot formed therein to permit the extremities of said bail to slide in a longitudinal direction, substantially as described.

2. In a device of the character described, the combination of a box having a lid therefor, a sliding bail mounted upon said lid and adapted to engage the box, clips mounted upon the said lid for retaining the extremities of said bail, the said clips each having cut away portions formed in one side adja-

cent the inner ends thereof, the said bail adapted to swing upon its vertical axis and, when in a parallel relation with the lid of the box, the same may be moved longitudinally within said recesses, substantially as described.

3. In a lid locking bail of the character described, the combination of a box having a lid therefor, clips mounted upon the upper face of said lid being each formed of one continuous piece of sheet metal and raised in their medial portion to form a bearing for the bail, the said bail comprising a continuous piece of wire bent at its intermediate portion at a length substantially as the distance between the clips mounted upon the lid of the box, the extremities of the bail being rotatably mounted within the bearings formed by the clips, the intermediate portion of the bail having an angular bent portion so that the remaining part of the intermediate portion of the bail may lie in a plane substantially as that of the lid of the box, and each of the said clips having a cut away portion formed at the inner ends thereof so that the bail may move longitudinally within said recesses, substantially as and for the purpose described.

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

HENRY S. HOFEN.

Witnesses:

GEO. WEABER,
E. P. READ.