(No Model.)

# E. J. BROOKS.

## SEAL.

No. 588,392. Patented Aug. 17, 1897.

Fig. 1.

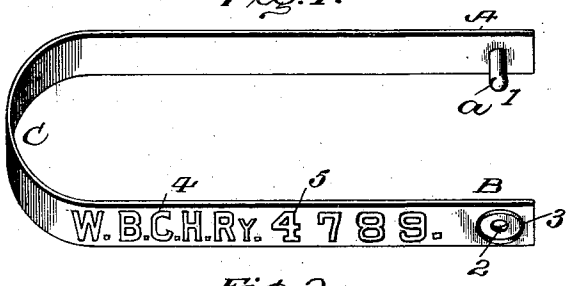



Fig. 2.

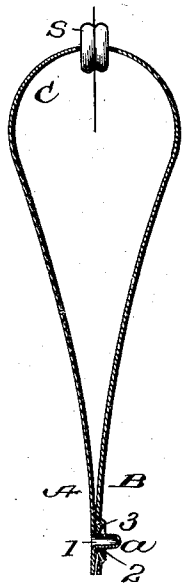



Fig. 3.

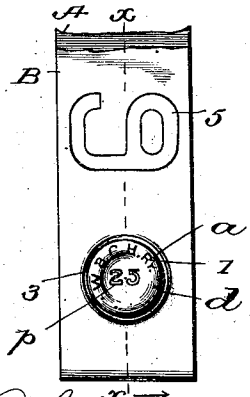
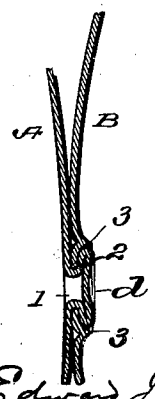



Fig. 4.




Witnesses

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## SEAL.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 588,392, dated August 17, 1897.

Application filed April 16, 1897. Serial No. 632,501. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, EDWARD J. BROOKS, a citizen of the United States of America, and a resident of East Orange, in the State of New Jersey, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Seals, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to press-fastened seals for securing the doors of railway freight and express cars and for other analogous uses and to that form of such seals customarily made of tin (tin-plate) and known as "tin-strip" or "tin-shackle" seals.

The primary object of the present invention is to construct a simple and secure seal of this description in one piece and to adapt it at the same time to be quickly prepared for the seal-press and provided with distinguishing marks at the pressing operation the same as more expensive rivet-seals.

Another object is to prevent successfully tampering with the improved seal.

A sheet of drawings accompanies this specification as part thereof.

Figure 1 of the drawings represents my improved seal bent so as to show its several parts. Fig. 2 is a sectional elevation of the same ready for the seal-press. Fig. 3 is a magnified face view of the lower end of the fastened seal; and Fig. 4 is a longitudinal section on the line *x x*, Fig. 3.

Like letters and numbers refer to like parts in all the figures.

The improved seal leaves the factory in the condition represented by Fig. 1, except flat or straight and in bundles, as is customary, and in this condition it consists of a single strip of sheet metal, preferably tin, provided at or near its respective ends A and B with an integral tubular hollow protuberance or teat 1, having a closed extremity *a*, and with a hole 2, through which the teat 1 passes freely, as in Fig. 2, to interlock the ends, and a raised guard-ring 3, concentric with said hole.

The seal is furthermore preferably provided, at least on that portion which becomes its face, with the customary permanent lettering 4 to indicate the road to which it belongs and with a serial number 5, which can be thus displayed in large characters, so as to be readily distinguished by inspectors.

In applying the seal to car-door staples S, Fig. 2, or the like, in customary manner, the strip is doubled to form a loop C and to bring together its ends A and B, with the teat 1 projecting through the hole 2 at the face of the seal. A suitable seal-press is then applied, and the teat 1 is headed down, as in Figs. 3 and 4, between the dies of the seal-press, so as to form a distinct and ample seal-disk *d* within the guard-ring 3, and is provided at the same time with any desirable press-marks *p*, Fig. 3, including, preferably, the number or name of the sealing station or sealer, which is represented by the number "25." The shackle ends A and B of the pressed seal, Figs. 3 and 4, are securely united with each other by said disk-forming teat 1, and said guard-ring 3 operates to prevent raising the edges of the seal-disk *d* formed by said teat or otherwise successfully tampering with the fastening of the seal and to insure the detection of attempts to violate the seal.

The seal is or may be provided with the permanent marks 4 and 5 in the sheet either by printing or embossing and is severed from the sheet and provided with its teat 1, hole 2, and guard-ring 3 by means of a suitable machine. It may be fastened by any seal-press such as is used for fastening rivet-seals and is manipulated in all respects like such rivet-seals.

Seals of different roads may be indicated by different colors as well as or instead of by lettering. The permanent marks 4 and 5 may be located on the respective ends of the seal or duplicated at both ends, and other like modifications will suggest themselves to those skilled in the art.

Having thus described the said improvement, I claim as my invention and desire to patent under this specification—

1. A press-fastened seal, in the form of a flexible shackle of sheet metal, in one piece, provided at or near one end with a hollow teat integral with said end and having a closed disk-forming extremity, the other end of the seal being provided with a hole through

which said teat projects, substantially as hereinbefore specified.

2. In a press-fastened seal, in the form of a flexible shackle of sheet metal, in one piece, having a disk-forming teat and a hole to interlock with said teat at its respective ends, a guard-ring raised on the shackle end last named concentric with said hole and surrounding the single disk formed by said teat, substantially as hereinbefore specified.

EDWARD J. BROOKS.

Witnesses:
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HERBERT S. BRYANT.