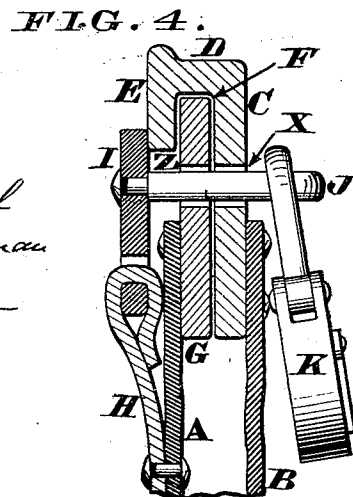
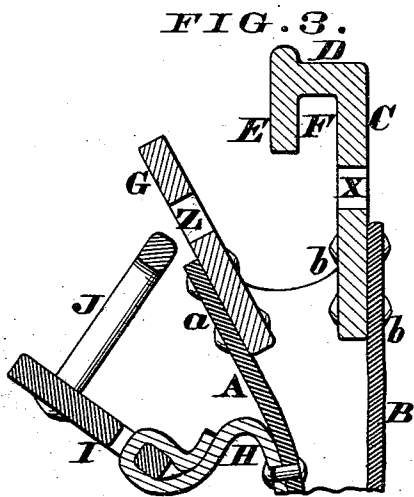
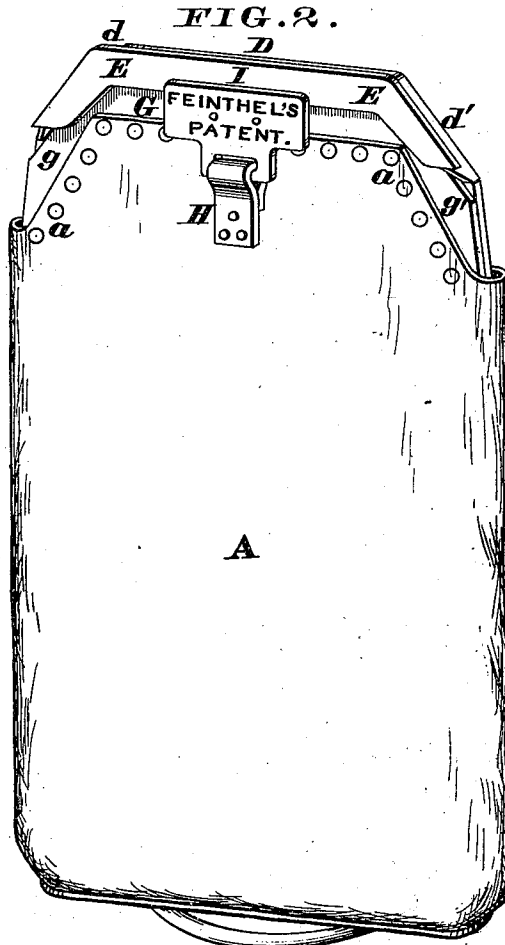
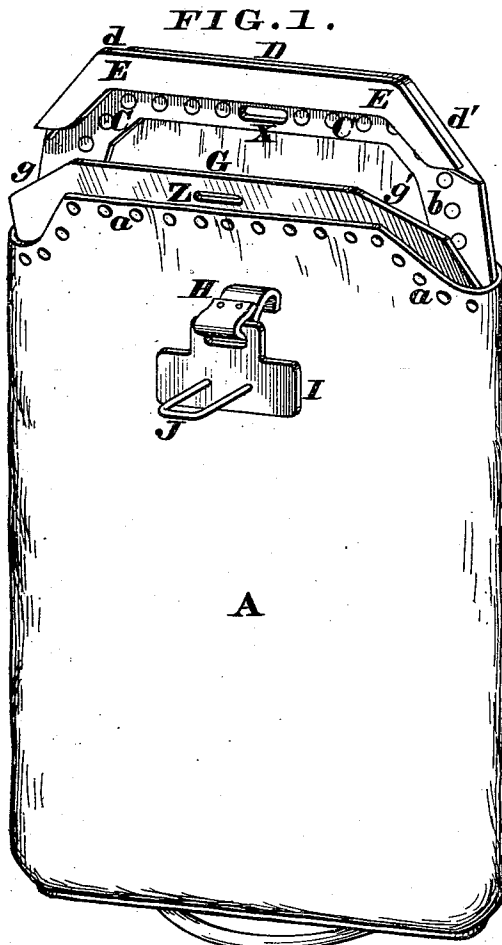


F. J. FEINTHEL.
MAIL-BAG.

No. 179,288.

Patented June 27, 1876.



F. J. Feintheil
by Jas. N. Layman
his Attorney.

Attest.
A. Hayward,
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FREDERIC J. FEINTHEL, OF CINCINNATI, OHIO.

IMPROVEMENT IN MAIL-BAGS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 179,288, dated June 27, 1876; application filed May 22, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FREDERIC J. FEINTHEL, of Cincinnati, Hamilton county, Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-Bags, of which the following is a specification:

My invention consists in applying to the open end or mouth of a mail-bag a metallic frame, whose peculiar construction enables the bag to be opened with the greatest facility after the padlock has been detached; but when the latter is engaged with an appropriate staple, the aforesaid frame effectually prevents the mouth of the bag being sprung or opened, and, consequently, the mail-matter cannot be either lost or stolen. This frame consists essentially of two distinct and unconnected parts or members, of which the principal or flanged member is secured to the back of the bag, and extends the full width of the same. The flanged member is provided with a down-turned lip, rib, or valance, so as to afford a socket or pocket to receive the upper edge of the other member of the frame. This other member is simply a flat plate or extended tongue, secured to the front of the bag, and of such width as to readily enter the aforesaid pocket when the pouch is closed.

After being thus closed, a staple or link is passed through a slot in the flanged part of the frame and also through a slot in the tongue, which slots are in the same plane when said tongue is inserted in the pocket. A padlock being now engaged with the rear or projecting end of said staple, the act of closure is completed. The aforesaid staple, link, or loop projects from a scutcheon or shield, that is flexibly connected to the front of the bag, with a strap or otherwise, and, if preferred, this shield may be so arranged as to have applied to it a tag or label, suitably inscribed, for designating the destination of the mail-bag.

In the accompanying drawing, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved mail-bag in its opened condition. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the closed bag. Figs. 3 and 4 are vertical sections of the locking devices in their open and closed conditions, respectively, said illustrations being drawn on an enlarged scale.

A represents the front and B the rear side of a mail-bag, which bag may be composed of leather, canvas, or any other suitable material, as the construction of said pouch or receptacle constitutes no part of my invention. Riveted at *b* or otherwise securely attached to the upper end of back B is a light but rigid metallic frame, C, of any suitable shape, and provided at its midlength with a horizontal slot X. This frame is furnished at top with a plate, D, whose ends *d d'* incline downwardly and away from said plate. Depending from the front of this plate is a flange, lip, or valance, E, of any appropriate depth, which flange is not carried down as far as the slot X, previously alluded to.

By thus constructing the metallic frame, a pocket, F, is afforded between flange E and plate C, which pocket is comparatively narrow when measured from front to back, while its length nearly equals the width of the bag.

Riveted to the front A, as at *a*, is an extended tongue, G, of such shape as to allow its upper or exposed edge to readily enter the groove or socket F. This tongue is pierced with a longitudinal slot, Z. The upper corners of the tongue are cut off obliquely, as at *g g'*, which construction enables said tongue to fit snugly under the plate D *d d'*, as shown in Fig. 2. This tongue is not pivoted, or hinged, or otherwise coupled to the frame C D E, but it is simply secured by rivets to the pouch, in the manner shown, said pouch or bag thereby acting as a flexible joint to allow the tongue being shifted far enough to slip into or to be disengaged from the pocket F. Attached to the front of the bag, with a strap, H, or other flexible connection, is a shield or scutcheon, I, having a rearwardly-projecting staple, J, adapted to traverse the slots X and Z, and receive the bow of a padlock, K, as seen in Fig. 4. When the bag is opened, as represented in Figs. 1 and 3, an ample and unobstructed mouth is afforded for conveniently filling the bag, which act having been accomplished, the tongue G is tucked into the pocket F, thereby closing the open end of the receptacle.

The shield I is then lifted up and its staple J passed through the slots X and Z, which latter are now in the same horizontal plane,

and, in this condition of the bag, said staple prevents the tongue G being shifted or allowed to drop down from pocket F, so as to expose an opening or crevice of any kind at the top of said tongue. Finally, the padlock K is engaged with said staple and the bag is then securely closed.

As the tongue G extends from side to side of the bag, and as its free edges are completely housed within the frame C D E, it is evident the latter completely closes the upper end of the bag, so as to prevent any access thereto.

It is also evident that the flange E prevents the introduction of any implement at the top of the tongue G, for the purpose of springing the latter aside, so as to allow the mail-matter to be stolen.

In this specification, the words "front A" and "back B" are mere relative terms, and have been employed simply for convenience of description; but it is evident that the frame C D E may be applied to the front of the bag, and the tongue G to the back of the same.

A modification of my invention may be made by substituting a series of downwardly-projecting pins or lugs for the rib E. Fur-

thermore, the shield or scutcheon I may be coupled either to the frame C D E or else to the tongue G.

I am aware that it is not new to apply metallic frames to the mouths of mail-bags, carpet-bags, satchels, and similar receptacles, but such frames have heretofore been made of two parts hinged together, which construction prevents the upper edge of the shiftable member of the frame being housed within the cavity or groove or pocket of the other member.

I claim as my invention—

A mail-bag fastening, consisting of the metallic frame C D E, provided with a pocket, F, into which latter the upper edge of tongue G is inserted and securely retained therein by the locking device I J, whose staple J traverses the slots X and Z of said frame and tongue, substantially as herein described, and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony of which invention I hereunto set my hand.

FREDERIC JACQUE FEINTHEL.

Witnesses:

JAMES H. LAYMAN,
AMZI MCGILL.