E. E. Gilbert.

Alphabetical Puzzle.

No. 91,737. Patented Jun. 22, 1869.

Fig. 1

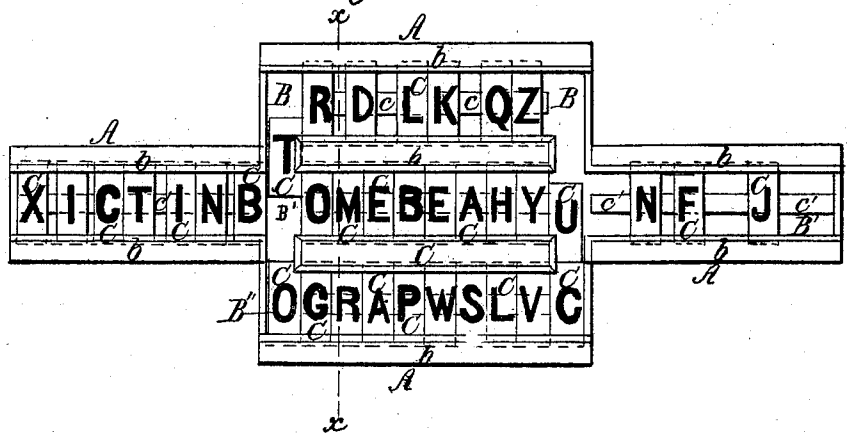
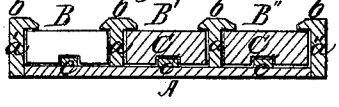


Fig. 2



Witnesses
Jesse Bishop
Charles Bishop.

Inventor
Edward F. Gilbert
by Prindle & Co. Attys

N. PETERS, PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHER, WASHINGTON, D. C.

United States Patent Office.

EDWARD F. GILBERT, OF LYONS, NEW YORK.

Letters Patent No. 91,737, *dated June* 22, 1869.

ALPHABETICAL INSTRUCTION-PUZZLE.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD F. GILBERT, of Lyons, in the county of Wayne, and in the State of New York, have invented an Improved Alphabetical Instruction-Puzzle; and do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan or top view.

Figure 2 is a central cross-section of the same, on the line *x x* of fig. 1.

Letters of like name and kind refer to like parts in each of the figures.

The object of my invention is to furnish an amusing and instructive alphabetical puzzle, for children and others; and, to this end,

It consists in the employment of a case, or frame, in which is a series of grooves, so constructed as to contain a number of lettered blocks, while allowed to slide freely within said grooves, and also to be transferred from one groove to either of the others, are at all times retained within the case.

In the accompanying drawing—

A represents a frame, or case, containing three grooves, B B′ B″, arranged in parallel lines, the two outer grooves, B and B″, being one-half the length of the one in the centre, B′, and containing a number of blocks, C C, &c., in length corresponding to the width, and in thickness to the depth of said grooves. The blocks are each of sufficient width to receive a letter upon its upper face, as shown in fig. 1.

Secured upon the upper side of the partitions, between the grooves *a a*, and also upon the sides of the case, *a′ a′*, are thin strips, or caps, *b b*, &c., which extend over said grooves sufficiently to retain the blocks therein, while other strips, *c c′ c″*, extend lengthwise through the centre of each groove, at its bottom, and fit into corresponding channels in the under side of said blocks, to prevent the latter from turning, and enable them to retain at all times a position at right angles to the line of said grooves.

The partitions *a a* and strips *c* and *c″* do not extend the entire length of the grooves B and B″, but a sufficient space is left at either end, and through the strip *c′*, to permit the blocks C C, &c., to slide laterally across the case, so as to allow of their transfer from one groove to either of the others.

The length of the case should be such as that it may contain a sufficient number and assortment of letter-blocks to permit the composition of ordinary words, for which purpose the central portion of the middle groove B′ should be used, while the upper and lower grooves, and the ends of the middle groove, will serve for a case for holding such lettered blocks as are not in use.

It will be readily seen, that by transferring the lettered blocks not required from one groove to another, those desired may be liberated and placed in the composing-groove, and any word produced of which the assortment of letters will permit. Should it be desired, Arabic or Roman numerals may be substituted for the letters, and amounts represented, in which the number of characters will only be limited by the capacity of the long groove.

It is believed that this device will prove of great service to parents and others engaged in the education of children, as it furnishes instruction so combined with amusement, as to render its use a pleasure rather than a task.

Having thus fully set forth the nature and merits of my invention,

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The case A, divided into parallel grooves, by the partitions *a a*, the latter being provided with caps, *b b*, on their upper edges, and in connection with the caps *b b* on the sides of the case, and the strips *c c′ c″*, secured to its bottom, and fitting into corresponding grooves in the bases of the lettered blocks, prevent said blocks from falling out of the case, or becoming inverted therein, substantially as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing, I have hereunto set my hand, this 22d day of December, 1868.

EDWARD F. GILBERT.

Witnesses:

WM. VAN MARTER,

T. W. COLLINS.