(No Model.)

C. F. D. SPRINGFELS.

JEWELER'S CASE.

No. 427,631. Patented May 13, 1890.

FIG. 1.

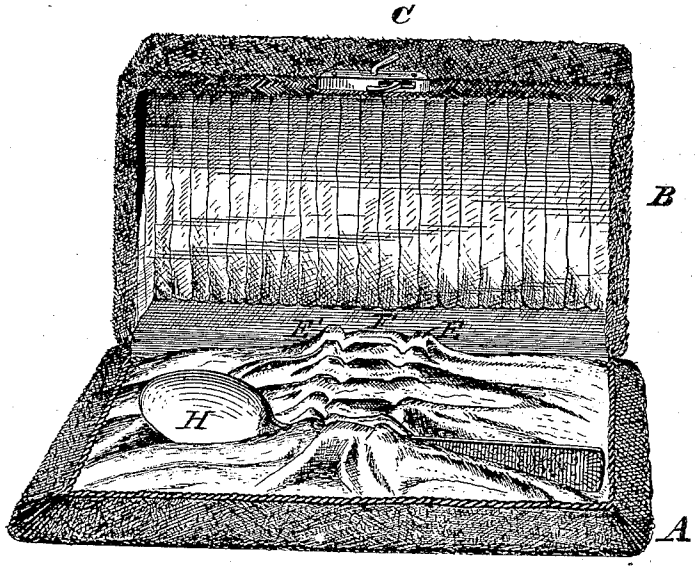


FIG. 2.

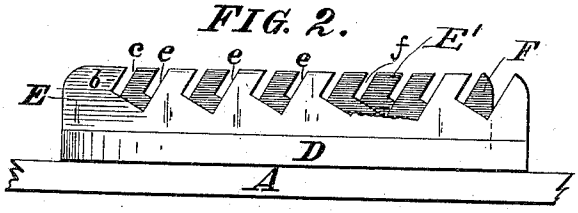
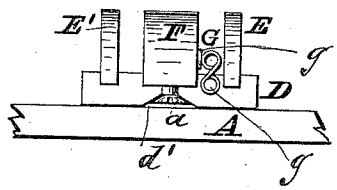


FIG. 3.



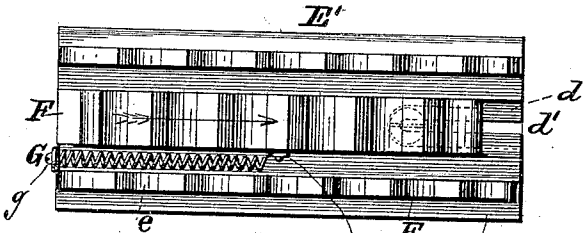


FIG. 4.

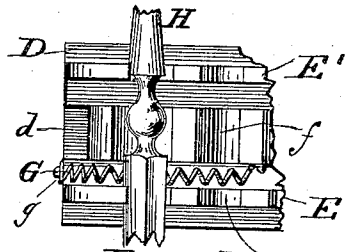


FIG. 5.

WITNESSES:

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CHARLES F. D. SPRINGFELS, OF BUFFALO, NEW YORK.

JEWELER'S CASE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 427,631, dated May 13, 1890.

Application filed January 20, 1890. Serial No. 337,465. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES F. D. SPRINGFELS, of Buffalo, in the county of Erie and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Jewelers' Silver-Ware Cases; and I do hereby declare that the following description of my said invention, taken in connection with the accompanying sheet of drawings, forms a full, clear, and exact specification, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention has general reference to improvements in jewelers' silver-ware cases; and it consists, essentially, in the novel and peculiar combination of parts and details of construction, as hereinafter first fully set forth and described, and then pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings already referred to, which serve to illustrate my said invention more fully, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved jeweler's case. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the retaining and clamping mechanism detached. Fig. 3 is an end view of the same. Fig. 4 is a plan, and Fig. 5 a similar view, of a portion of the said clamping mechanism.

Like parts are designated by corresponding letters of reference in all the figures.

The object of this invention is the production of an efficient jeweler's silver-ware case, capable of holding the ware in proper position. Heretofore these cases have been provided with two or more rows of slotted retainers covered with silk, satin, or similar material, the silver-ware being placed into these slots. This construction requires that said slots shall be of a width corresponding to the thickness of the articles to be held therein, and necessitates the manufacture and keeping on hand of a large number of cases having various sizes of slots to fit the many different kinds and styles of silver-ware now sold in cases containing one dozen, more or less, of these articles, or an assortment of various articles, as forks, spoons, and knives, or tea and coffee spoons, and the like. To avoid these objections and to produce a case capable of properly retaining these articles though their shape may differ, as well as the sizes of the shanks, handles, or other part by which they are to held in the case I construct my jeweler's case with a self-acting retaining-clamp to hold these articles, and to clamp them in position, so as to show them to their best advantage.

A is the base of a jeweler's case constructed of wood of proper width and length to fit the articles to be retained therein, it being covered with plush or other suitable material, or finished in any other approved style, said base having a cover B, suitably hinged and provided with a lock, catch, or similar fastening C.

Upon the base A, I fasten a retaining device consisting of a base D, having three longitudinal grooves, in the outer ones of which are secured side pieces E E′, while in the central one *d*, Figs. 4 and 5, there is movably inserted a clamping-piece F, said pieces E E′ F being provided each with a suitable number of obliquely-arranged notches *e f*, respectively, so arranged that normally, as shown in Figs. 2 and 4, the notches of the outer pieces intersect those of the inner piece F. In the base D there is, near one end, a groove *d′*, Figs. 3 and 4, within which moves the head of a screw *a*, Fig. 3, which screw retains the central piece F in proper position. To this base D there is attached at *g* one end of a coil-spring G, the opposite end of which engages the central piece F at *g′*, said spring being tensioned, so as to pull the central piece to a stop formed by the screw *a*, striking the end of the slotted and dovetailed aperture *d′*, as clearly indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 2. This retaining device is placed upon the base A, as may be observed by an inspection of Fig. 1, and then covered with silk, satin, or other suitable material arranged in artistic and pleasing folds, it being understood that in cases where several dozens or half-dozens of ware of different kinds are to be placed into the case, several of these retainers will be used without departing from the nature of my invention.

In operation, the central piece F is pushed forwardly in the direction of the arrow placed in Fig. 4 until the notches *e* and *f* coincide, when the articles to be retained are placed into the said notches, as shown in Figs. 1 and 5, where H represents such an article as a spoon, a fork, a knife, a nut-pick, a fruit-

knife, or other similar article of silver or plated ware or cutlery. Now the central piece F is released, when the spiral spring G, retracting the said central piece F, causes these articles to be clamped between the inclined edges of the said notches, as at *b c* in said Fig. 2, and thereby to securely retain them in proper place.

It will be readily observed that instead of making the middle piece F movable, I can attain the desired result by fixing this piece and making one or both side pieces movable, such construction being but a reversal of the order of arrangement of parts and an equivalent of the same.

The retaining device heretofore described is preferably made of wood, although other materials or metals may be employed in their construction without departing from my invention.

Having thus fully described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure to me by Letters Patent of the United States—

1. In a jeweler's case, a self-adjusting clamping retainer consisting, essentially, of a base, notched side walls, and notched central piece, one of said notched pieces being movable and the other fixed, as described, and a device for retracting the movable piece, as stated.

2. In jewelers' silver-ware cases, an adjustable retainer consisting of a base, two notched side walls, and a central notched and movable clamping-piece, the latter having suitable means for retracting said middle piece, as and for the object set forth.

3. In jewelers' silver-cases, an adjustable retainer consisting of a base, two notched stationary side pieces, and a central movable notched clamping-piece, and a spiral spring for retracting said middle piece, as and for the object set forth.

4. In a jeweler's silver-case, a self-acting clamping retainer for said ware, consisting, essentially, of a base, two parallel fixed and obliquely-notched side walls, a central movable obliquely-notched clamping-piece, and a spiral spring for retracting said clamping-piece, said clamping-piece having a stop, as described, for limiting its back movement, as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention, I have hereto set my hand in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CHAS. F. D. SPRINGFELS.

Attest:
MICHAEL J. STARK,
WM. O. STARK.