No. 632,220. Patented Aug. 29, 1899.

W. H. LEWIS.

PHOTOGRAPHER'S TRAY.

(Application filed Apr. 6, 1899.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

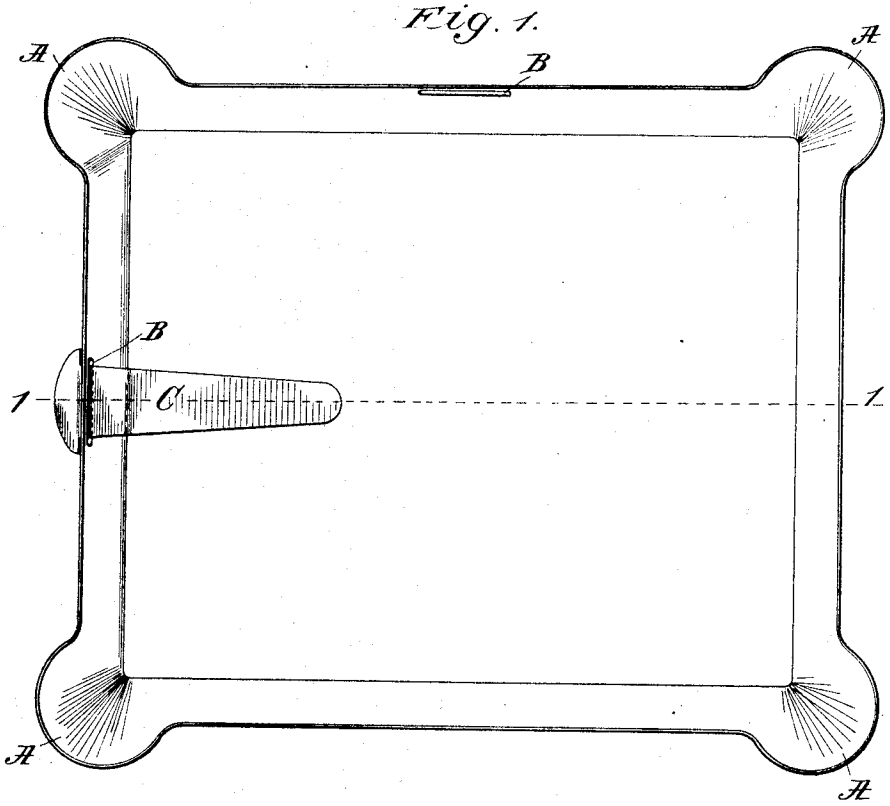


Fig. 2.

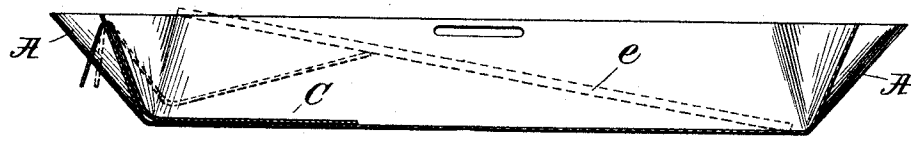
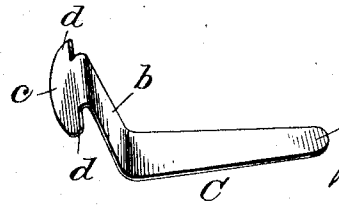


Fig. 3.



Witnesses
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By his Attorney
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THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM H. LEWIS, OF HUNTINGTON, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO THE E. & H. T. ANTHONY & COMPANY, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

PHOTOGRAPHER'S TRAY.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 632,220, dated August 29, 1899.

Application filed April 6, 1899. Serial No. 711,928. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM H. LEWIS, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Huntington, in the county of Suffolk and State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Photographers' Trays, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an attachment to photographers' trays whereby the negatives may be quickly and easily lifted therefrom after or during development.

The following is a description of my invention, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 illustrates a plan view of the invention. Fig. 2 illustrates a transverse vertical-sectional view on the line 1 1 of Fig. 1, also showing in dotted lines a negative and the lifter in operation. Fig. 3 is a perspective of the negative-lifting device.

In the description hereof I explain at length the form of tray in which I prefer to embody my invention, although it is not essential that it be employed in conjunction with trays having all the beneficial features present in the one here described and claimed by me.

My trays are preferably made of aluminium. The metal is first in the shape of flat plates of suitable size. First recesses are cut out of the four edges of the plate, leaving semicircular parts from which the rounding corner-pieces A A, &c., are made. The metal may be then put between suitable swaging-dies and pressed up into the form of a tray or dish, as shown. In this swaging operation the corners are turned upwardly and rounded, as shown, so that the ear-like projections A are formed.

B B are slots cut in the sides of the tray, as near the top thereof as convenient, within which are placed the plate-lifter C. The latter is made in the general form shown in Fig. 3—that is to say, it has a forwardly-extended end *a*, an upwardly-rising part *b*, approximately at right angles to the part *a*, and a thumb-piece *c*, which is bent at a reverse angle to that of the part *b* and which is preferably enlarged laterally, as at *d d*, so that when pressure is applied upon the part *c* the lifter as a whole will not be pressed through the slot, but will fulcrum on the edges thereof in such manner that the thin projecting end *a* will be lifted from the bottom of the tray, carrying the negative *e* (which may be either a plate or film) upwardly with it, as illustrated in dotted lines in Fig. 2. In this way the annoying "clawing" for the negative is entirely avoided and convenience in developing and washing greatly secured. Of course the part *a* of the lifter engages with the non-sensitized side of the negative.

The lifter C can be removed at will from the slot in one side of the tray and placed in that at the other side. This is a great convenience, because some trays are decidedly oblong in form and it is usually desirable to lift the negative at one of the longer edges rather than at one of its shorter ends. Also in transportation and during use it is frequently desirable to remove the lifter from the tray altogether for convenience and also that it be not injured. Also in some dark rooms the table or sink in which the washing is done is of such shape that the tray necessarily has to lie with its long sides presented in a certain direction and it is usually more convenient to have the lifter at the right or left hand end of the tray rather than at the front or back thereof. Furthermore, by transferring the lifter from one side of the tray to the other the tray may frequently be used for negatives much smaller than its bottom area and still engage with the lifter.

Owing to my trays being made of aluminium they are very light in weight and are not affected by the chemicals used in photographic processes, yet they have decided stiffness and strength, so that there is no necessity for reinforcing their upper edges (as is usually the case with other metal trays) by rolling them over or wiring them. The chemicals are apt to get into the rolled-over portion whether a wire is inclosed or not, and corrosion and the rapid destruction of the tray follow therefrom.

Having described my invention, I claim—

The combination of a photographer's tray,

having a slot in its side, and a negative-lifting device made of a piece of metal bent at reverse angles, as shown, one end adapted to pass through the slot into the tray, and the other end to project beyond the side of the tray and to fulcrum thereon, for the purposes set forth.

Signed at Huntington, in the county of Suffolk and State of New York, this 1st day of April, A. D. 1899.

WILLIAM H. LEWIS.

Witnesses:
DOUGLASS CONKLIN,
R. W. DOWNS.