

J. & A. HELM.
Match-Safes.

No. 144,615.

Patented Nov. 18, 1873.

FIG. 1.

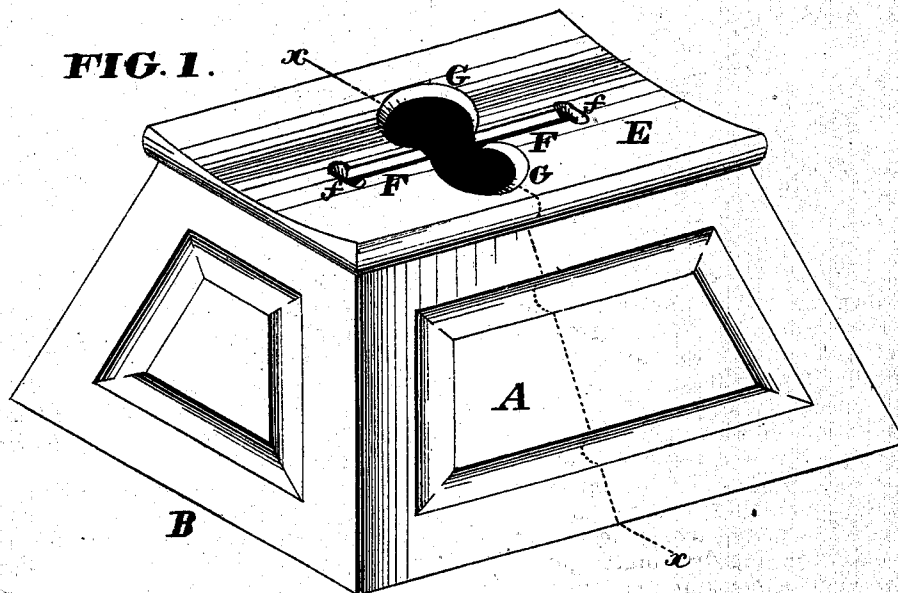


FIG. 2.

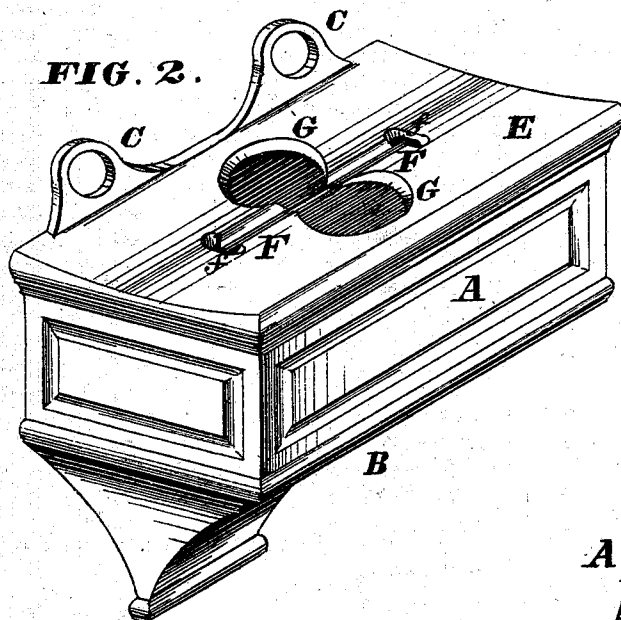
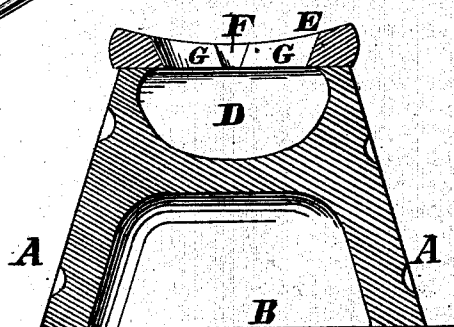


FIG. 3.



WITNESSES:

Walter Allen
H. T. Tanner

INVENTORS

Jules Helm & Alphonse Helm
By Knight Bros Attorneys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JULES HELM AND ALPHONSE HELM, OF WASHINGTON, D. C.

IMPROVEMENT IN MATCH-SAFES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **144,615**, dated November 18, 1873; application filed September 17, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, JULES HELM and ALPHONSE HELM, both of Washington, in the District of Columbia, have invented an Improvement in Match-Safes, of which the following is a specification:

This invention consists in constructing a match-safe with a delivery-aperture at top, of peculiar shape, adapted for the introduction of the thumb and finger, and permitting the withdrawal of the matches only one at a time.

In the accompanying drawing, Figure 1 is a perspective view of our improved match-safe in a form adapted for setting upon a table, counter, or shelf. Fig. 2 is a perspective view thereof in a form adapted for hanging on a wall. Fig. 3 is a transverse section in the plane indicated by the line *x x*, Fig. 1.

The sides A and base or bottom B of the box may be formed as preferred, according to taste or to the manner in which the box is intended to be used. If it is to be hung on a wall, eyes C, one or more, are provided for this purpose. D is the receptacle for the matches. The top E may constitute a hinged cover; but this is not necessary. In the center of the top is a longitudinal slot, F, of suitable length and width to permit the passage of a match. The center of the slot communicates with circular recesses G G, to admit the thumb and one finger. In the ends of the slot are small recesses or enlargements *f f*, to allow the match-heads to pass without such friction as might endanger ignition. It is preferred to make the top of the box concave, as shown, to facilitate the introduction of matches.

A number of matches being placed on top of the box, a slight shaking or jarring of the

box causes them to descend quickly through the aperture. When a match is wanted for use, a single one can be withdrawn instantly, and with perfect ease; but it is impossible to take out more than one at once. The invention thus possesses great utility in preventing waste of matches, and avoiding danger in scattering any that are not used.

We are aware that it has before been proposed to construct a match-box with narrow slots variously arranged to permit the withdrawing of matches one at a time. This, therefore, we do not broadly claim. Our invention differs from others in providing in the central part of the box-top a longitudinal slot with recesses communicating with it on both sides, so that not a finger merely, but both the thumb and finger, may be introduced, one on each side of the slot, and a single match picked up and withdrawn without pressing or rolling it upon the other matches or against the side of the box. Our invention on this account possesses superior safety, especially when used with what are known as parlor-matches, or others tipped with an explosive composition.

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

The central longitudinal slot F F in the box-top, having rigid sides, and combined with the recesses G G for the thumb and finger, and with enlargements *f*, to permit the passage of the match-tips without friction, all as herein shown and described.

JULES HELM.
ALPHONSE HELM.

Witnesses:

OCTAVIUS KNIGHT,
WALTER ALLEN.