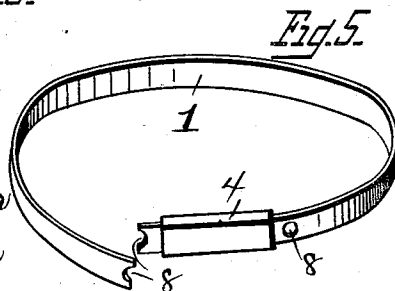
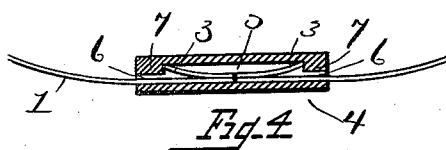
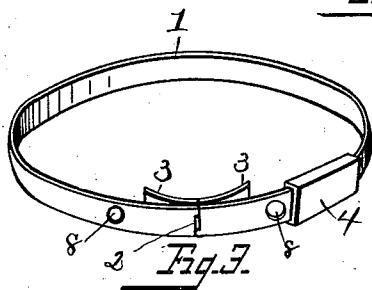
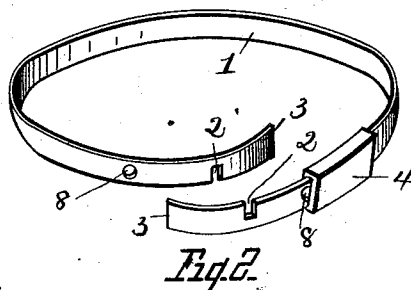
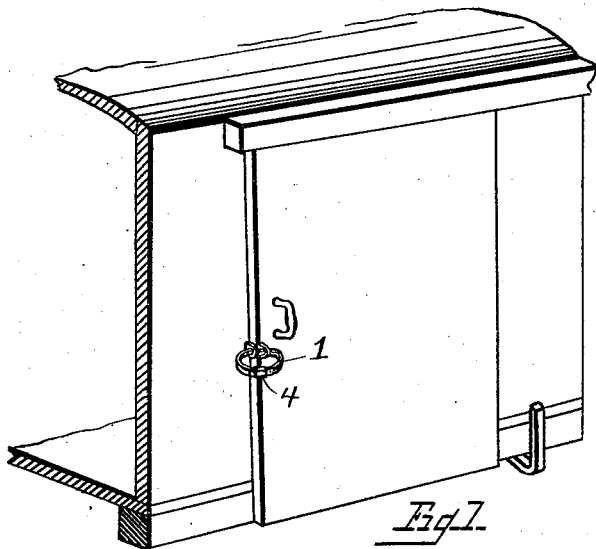


(No Model.)

S. A. FOSTER.
SEAL.

No. 531,174.

Patented Dec. 18, 1894.



WITNESSES

Carroll J. Webster
Floyd R. Webster

INVENTOR
Stephen A. Foster
By William Webster
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

STEPHEN A. FOSTER, OF TOLEDO, OHIO, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO
WILLIAM B. McCLAREN, OF FRANKFORT, INDIANA.

SEAL.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 531,174, dated December 18, 1894.

Application filed September 23, 1893. Serial No. 486,316. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, STEPHEN A. FOSTER, of Toledo, county of Lucas, and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Seal-Locks; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the figures of reference marked thereon, which form part of this specification.

My invention relates to a seal of that character intended for use in securing car doors, trunks, chests, and packages from being opened without detection.

The main object of the invention is to produce a seal of inexpensive construction having a positive lock.

With this object in view, the invention consists in the parts as shown in the drawings, described in the specification, and brought out in the claim.

In the drawings: Figure 1 is an elevation of a portion of car, showing the car door closed and sealed. Fig. 2 is an elevation of the seal opened. Fig. 3 is a like view, showing the ends of the band engaged, and the seal in position to be moved over the ends to engage therewith. Fig. 4 is an edge view of a portion of the band, showing the ends engaged, and the seal in position to lock the same, the front side of the seal being removed. Fig. 5 is a like view showing the band fractured to remove the same from the package.

1 designates a band or strip preferably made of metal, having notches 2 cut upon each inner side near the end, the notches extending to a depth equal to one half the width of the band, whereby when the notches are in co-incidence, the metal of one end will entirely fill the notch of the other, and the two ends engage, and at the same time maintain parallelism of the sides of the band. Notches 2 are of a width to receive the solid portion of the band only when the ends 3 curve inwardly and divergent from that portion of band immediately in rear of the notch. For this purpose

the width of the notch is approximately the thickness of the band.

4 designates the seal comprising a rectangular centrally recessed slide formed with contracted end openings from the central recess 5, of an area to allow the two ends of the bands to pass therein when laying closely one upon the other. The opening 6 of each end is contracted by means of depending end portions or walls 7 preferably formed integral with the seal, and against which the ends 3 of the band abut when confined within the seal caused by the inward spring of the ends of the bands when interlocked, whereby they contact with the walls 7 as shown in Fig. 4, thereby effectually preventing removal from the seal for the purpose of removing the band from the fastening in which it may be placed without mutilating the seal and consequent detection.

The band affords convenient means for stamping the name of the road upon which the seal is used, and also the name or number of the station, thereby dispensing with the usual mode of sealing with a die.

Seal 4 is preferably made of lead or other soft metal of a like inexpensive character, although it may be effectually made of iron or other hard metal.

Band 1 is preferably perforated in rear of the notch at each end of the band to allow of breaking the same for the purpose of removal from the lock or package, as shown at 8, Fig. 5.

What I claim is—

In a seal, a band having notches upon each inner side, whereby the ends may be interlocked the curved end portions extending beyond the interlock, and an enveloping seal having walls against which the ends of the curved portions abut.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I hereby affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

STEPHEN A. FOSTER.

Witnesses:

WILLIAM WEBSTER,
CARROLL J. WEBSTER.