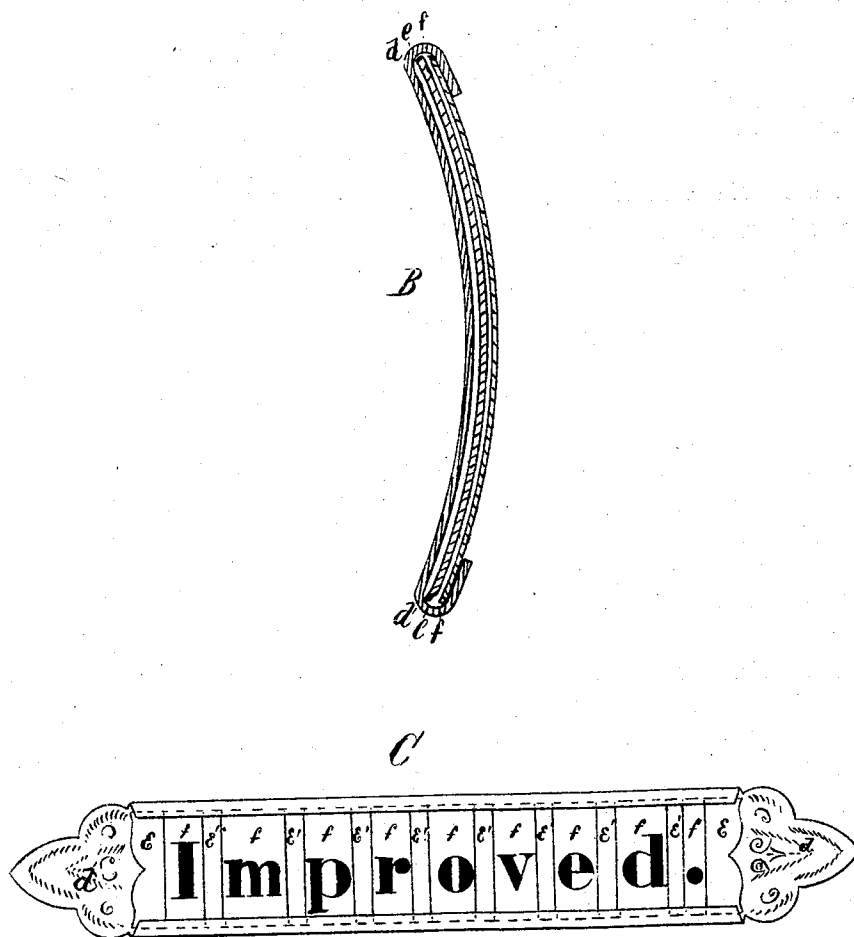


FRANK WALKER.

Improvement in Signs.

No. 124,235.

Patented March 5, 1872.



Witnesses.

Inventor.

A. L. Hensworth
T. Blinn

Frank Walker

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK WALKER, OF WINDSOR, VERMONT.

IMPROVEMENT IN SIGNS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 124,235, dated March 5, 1872.

I, FRANK WALKER, of Windsor, in the county of Windsor and State of Vermont, have invented certain Improvements in "Alterable Labels or Signs," which render them more desirable and valuable than those of previous invention, and of which the following is a specification:

Nature and Object of the Invention.

My invention relates to that class of "alterable labels or signs" in which the letter-plate is struck up from sheet metal and the letters are printed on card-board or thick paper; and consists of a letter-plate having a curved or convex back thereto, against which and between the lips of said letter-plate will slide a plate or slip of card-board. Said plate or slip, operating against said back, is intended to be a continuous spring against the detached letters, when within the lips of the letter-plate, pressing them against the lips of said letter-plate, and holding them in true and proper position. Said plate also constitutes a movable back, which may be changed at will to correspond with the different-colored letter-cards.

Description of the Accompanying Drawing.

B shows a sectional view of my improved "label or sign-plate," illustrating its difference from others. The curved line *d d* indicates the curved or convex plate-back; the line *e e*, the sliding plate or slip of card-board; and the line *f f*, the continuous line of detached letters, pressed upon and bellying out through the operation of the curved back and the movable spring-plate. C represents the face view of the same reduced in size, wherein the colored letter-cards *f f f* are set and extended on the movable spring-back *e e*, showing in the spaces between said letter-cards the inserted back *e' e' e'* of same color.

The sliding sheet of card-board will constantly operate as a spring its entire length, to keep all the letters severally within the letter-plate, and regular, true, and harmonious in appearance.

In case several sign-plates are used in connection—a thing often desirable—it is necessary, for the beauty of the sign, that the several words or lines contained in the several plates be of various lengths; and, to accomplish this, it is necessary to extend the letters or words more or less, as the case may be, by leaving space between said letters or words; and here the spring-plate is found most serviceable, for the difficulty of otherwise holding the letters in place—especially those on narrow cards, such as periods, commas, &c.—is readily seen. Moreover, for contrast and beauty, letter-cards of different colors may be used in the several plates, in which case the movable back may be changed to conform to the color of the letter-card used; thus, the back being like the letter-cards thereon, said letter-cards may be extended as desired and still present the appearance of being printed on one continuous slip of card-board.

I am aware that alterable labels or signs are old, and such I do not wish to claim; but

What I do claim as my invention is—

A plate, adapted to alterable labels or signs, having a curved or convex back, combined with a slip or plate of card-board, to operate as a spring, for the purpose of keeping the detached letters in position within the lips of the letter-plate, substantially as shown and described.

FRANK WALKER.

Witnesses:

A. L. FARNSWORTH,

F. B. WINN, *Justice of the Peace.*