

J. A. HALLSTED.

SEAL.

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1,025,870.

Patented May 7, 1912.

Fig. 1.

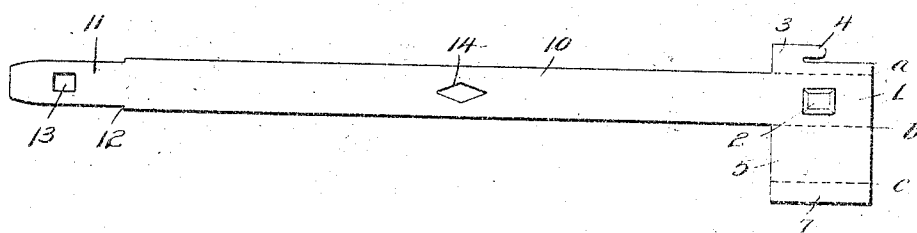


Fig. 2.

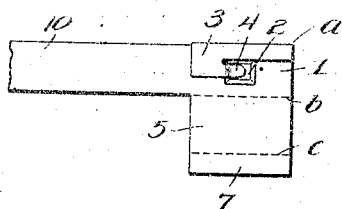


Fig. 3.

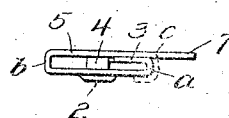


Fig. 4.

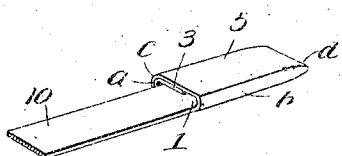
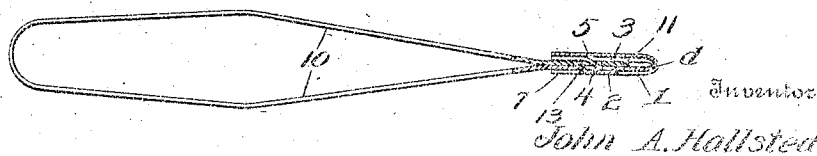


Fig. 5.



Witnesses
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SEAL.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN A. HALLSTED, a citizen of the United States, residing at Cincinnati, in the county of Hamilton and State of Ohio, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Seals, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to seals such as are ordinarily used for the purpose of locking freight car doors, although it is adapted to lock any other kind of a door or a hinged cover; and the object of the same is to construct an extremely simple seal of a single piece of metal such as tin, having a head of such form that the eye end of the tongue may be inserted into said head and automatically engaged by the finger thereof without the use of any tool, and the whole being of such construction that it can not be tampered with without disclosing that fact. This object I accomplish by the construction hereinafter more fully described and claimed, and as shown in the drawings wherein—

Figure 1 is a plan view of the blank from which this seal is made before its parts are bent, the dotted lines indicating where the bends are made. Fig. 2 is a similar plan view of the head end of the blank after the first bend or fold has been made. Fig. 3 is an end elevation of the head end of the blank after the second fold has been made, showing in dotted lines how the third and finishing fold is to be made. Fig. 4 is a perspective view showing the head after the final fold has been made. Fig. 5 is a longitudinal section showing the tongue engaged with the finger.

In the drawings the blank of this seal is shown as made from a single piece of light flexible metal, such as tin, and comprising a head and a stem. The head 1 is approximately rectangular in shape and is divided into three principal panels by the lines *a* and *b* which extend longitudinally of the head and on about the lines which would continue the edges of the stem 10. One panel also may be provided with another line *c* producing another or subsidiary panel, which constitutes the flange as hereinafter referred to. The wing 3 has its edge cut so as to produce a finger 4 which projects away from the stem 10 as seen in Fig. 1. The central panel of the head 1 is formed with an oblong depression 2. The panel or wing 5 which is a little wider than the wing 3 is

bounded in the drawings by the lines *b* and *c*. Finally that portion of the panel 5 which is beyond the line *c* forms a flange 7 as shown.

The stem 10 extends straight from and is integral with the central panel of the head 1, as shown in Fig. 2 and about the center of its length is suitably weakened, such as by the presence of an opening 14. At its free end the stem is reduced into a tongue 11, forming shoulders 12 between said tongue and the body of the stem itself, and through this tongue near its extremity is formed an eye 13 which may be and by preference, is substantially rectangular as shown, and must be of a width greater than that of the finger 4.

The manner of folding up this seal is best illustrated in Figs. 2, 3 and 4. Assuming that the depression 2 is formed in the head 1, the first fold is along the line *a*, whereby, the wing 3 is brought over upon the head and the finger 4 caused to descend a little into the depression as by pressing it therein by the hand of the operator at the time the fold is made. The second fold is along the line *b* whereby, the wing 5 is caused to overlie the upper wing 3 as best seen in full lines in Fig. 3. The next fold is along the line *c*, whereby, the flange 7 is folded onto the back or outer face of the central panel; the outer ends of the folded portions are now squeezed together and thus a box is formed which opens at its inner end. When the seal so folded is to be used, the tongue 11 is passed through the hasp or the padlock or whatever else is to be locked and bent over, the opening 14 weakening the body of the stem 10 so as to permit this bending. Finally the outer end of the tongue 11 is inserted into the open end of the box and is caused to slide in under the depressed finger 4 which rises sufficiently to permit its passage. When the tip of the tongue passes the under depression 2 the tip of the finger 4 springs downward through the eye 13 and the seal is locked. Thereafter it will be impossible to open it unless the panels are unfolded and to do this would invariably cause the head to break along the lines *a*, *b* and *c*.

Thus it will be seen that I have produced a seal which is extremely cheap to make and to fold, and is extremely easy to lock into place.

I am aware that it is not new broadly to

provide a box-shaped head with a finger adapted to engage an eye in a tongue formed at the other end of the stem, but it will be seen from the above description that I have
5 invented certain details of structure which make the box simpler to form and easier to fold, and render it more difficult to tamper with than heretofore.

What is claimed as new is:

10 In a seal, the combination with a stem reduced and shouldered at one end to form a tongue, and an eye through said tongue; of

a box shaped head closed at one end and arranged at the other end of the stem comprising a central panel integral with said stem and having a depression, a wing lying next over this panel and having a finger deflected into said depression, and a wing lying over and forming a cover for said first-named wing.

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Witnesses:

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