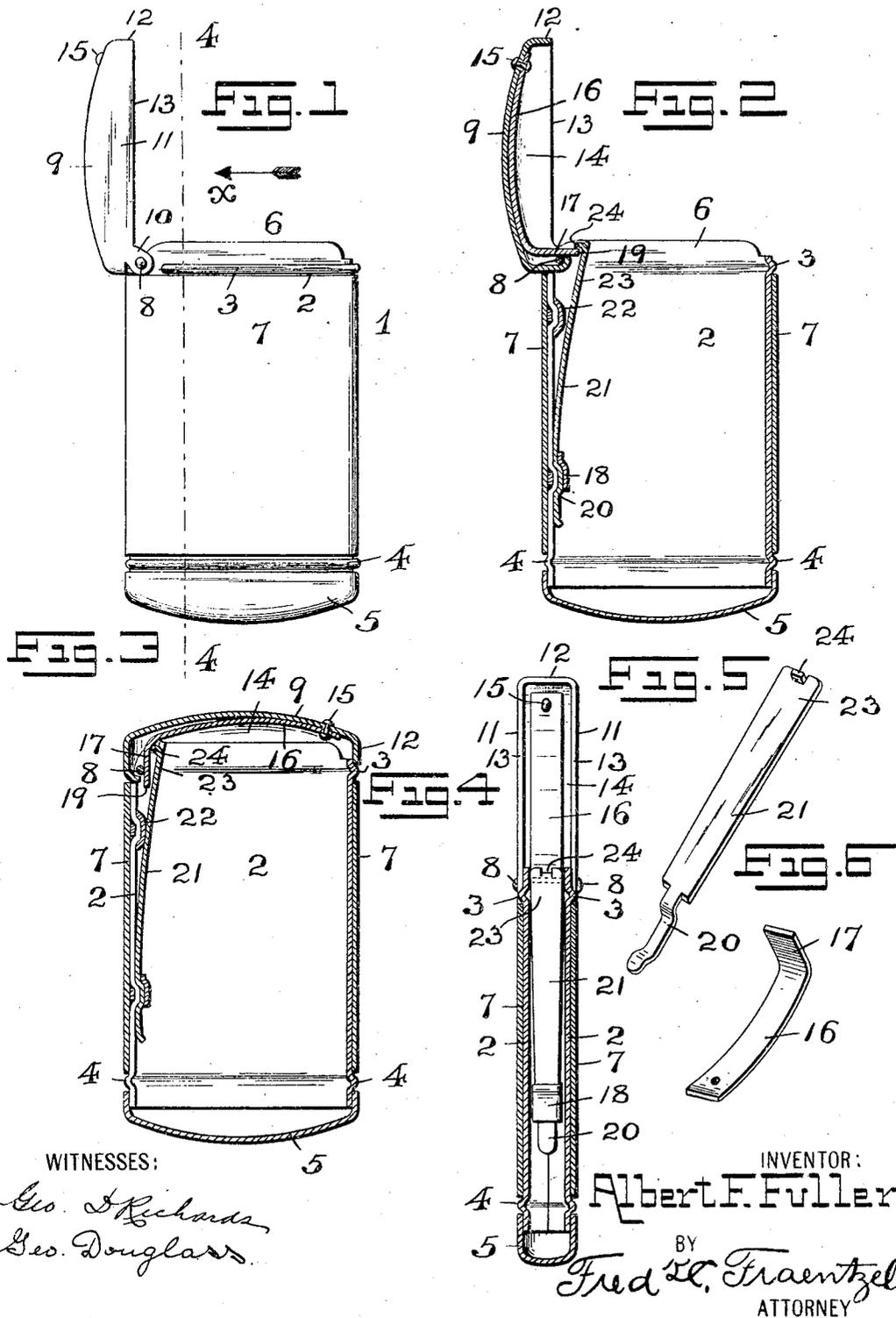


No. 799,844.

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A. F. FULLER.
MATCH BOX OR OTHER RECEPTACLE.

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WITNESSES:

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ALBERT F. FULLER, OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, ASSIGNOR TO THE J. E. MERGOTT COMPANY, A CORPORATION OF NEW JERSEY.

MATCH-BOX OR OTHER RECEPTACLE.

No. 799,844.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALBERT F. FULLER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Newark, in the county of Essex and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Match-Boxes or other Receptacles; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as 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 characters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to improvements in boxes or receptacles for matches or other articles; and the invention has for its principal objects to provide a neat and simply-constructed box the parts of which can be easily assembled and in which the matches contained in the box cannot accidentally become ignited when the lid of the box is opened.

My present invention therefore consists in the novel match or other box hereinafter fully set forth; and, furthermore, this invention consists in the various novel arrangements and combinations of parts, all of which will be described in detail in the accompanying specification and then finally embodied in the clauses of the claim, which form part of and are appended to said specification.

The invention is clearly illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a side view of a match-box embodying the principles of this invention; and Figs. 2 and 3 are two longitudinal vertical sections of the box, respectively representing the spring-actuated lid or cover of the box in its raised and closed positions. Fig. 4 is a transverse vertical section taken on line 4-4 in Fig. 1 looking in the direction of arrow *a*. Figs. 5 and 6 are perspective views of a spring-plate and a fixed plate, respectively, employed with the present form of match-box.

Similar characters of reference are employed in all of the said hereinabove described views to indicate corresponding parts.

In the said drawings the reference character 1 indicates the complete box, the same comprising a main body 2, preferably formed with an upper bead or projection 3 and a lower bead or projection 4, substantially as illustrated. The lower end of said body 2 is closed by means of a cap or shell 5, and its upper end forms an opening or mouth 6. The said

body 2 may be provided upon its outer surface with a suitable covering 7, which may be leather, celluloid, or any other suitable material, or, if desired, such covering may be entirely dispensed with. Suitably secured in the sides of said body 2 and extending across the rear of the mouth of said body is a pintle 8, upon which is pivoted, by means of suitably-disposed perforated ears or lugs 10, a lid or cover 9. This cover is made in such a manner that when in its closed position its sides 11 and front edge 12 will surround the outer surfaces of the sides of said body 2 at its mouth and the marginal edges 13 of said sides 11 and front 12 will rest upon the upper bead or projection 3, as will be clearly understood from an inspection of the drawings. Within the chambered portion 14 of said lid or cover 10 is secured, near the catch portion of the lid, by means of a rivet 15 or in any other suitable manner, a leaf-spring 16, bent to approximately conform to the inner curved surface of the top of said lid or cover, but capable of a slight movement in said chamber 14, said spring having a tongue or stud 17 extending at right angles, or approximately so, from the main body of said spring 16 and located directly in front of the pintle 8, as clearly illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3 of the drawings. From an inspection of Figs. 2, 3, and 4 it will be seen that the said body 2 is provided upon its rear edge with a loop 18 or other suitably-constructed and suitably-secured holding means, in which is arranged and held a suitably-bent tongue of a fixed and rigid plate or member 21, said plate 21 resting directly against a projection 22, also upon the rear edge of said body 2; but of course it will be understood that said plate 21 may otherwise be secured in said body 2. When the lid or cover 9 is in its closed position, then the upper end portion 23 of said plate or member 21 has in frictional holding engagement therewith the tongue or stud 17 of the leaf-spring 16, a projection, as 24, on said plate 21 being in forcible contact with said stud or tongue 17, and thereby retaining the lid or cover 9 in its closed relation over the mouth 6 of the box or receptacle, as illustrated. When the lid or cover 9 is being raised, the edge 19 of said stud or tongue 17 will be caused to ride against the said plate 21 until said edge 19 is brought against the said projection 24, which acts as a stop to limit the pivotal movement of said lid or

cover 9, the said stud or projection 17 owing to its action upon the fixed plate or member 21 at the same time forcing the leaf-spring still farther into the body of the lid or cover of the box or receptacle, whereby the contact between the portions 23 of said plate 21 and the stud or tongue 17 of the spring 16 will positively retain the cover or lid 9 in its raised or open position, as will be clearly understood from an inspection of Fig. 2 of the drawings.

From the above description it will be seen that I have devised a simple and operative device to be used for the reception of matches or other articles and especially for matches, the arrangement of the spring 16 within the lid allowing for a greater movement and resiliency of the spring to positively hold the lid open and with its arrangement and that of the fixed plate or member 21 preventing any contact of the movable parts within the box with the heads of the matches and positively overcoming all danger of igniting the matches by accident.

It will be evident that by securing the spring 16 within the lid or cover 10, as stated in the foregoing description, a long spring may be employed, which, although it has but a slight movement within the chambered portion of the lid or cover, will have an increased movement at its tongue or stud 17. The said tongue or stud thus exerts a positive and increased pressure upon the rigid member or plate 21, whereby the lid or cover flies back with force and is rigidly held in its opened position. Furthermore, the spring may be made from thin metal, giving increased resiliency and great leverage at the tongue or stud 17. The said member or plate 21 being rigid within the body of the match-box, there is no danger of igniting the heads of the matches while opening or closing the said lid or cover.

I am aware that some changes may be made in the several arrangements and combinations of parts, as well as in the details of the construction thereof, without departing from the scope of my present invention. Hence I do not limit my invention to the exact arrangements and combinations of the parts as described in the previous specification and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings, nor do I confine myself to the exact details of the construction of the said parts.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

1. A box or receptacle for matches or other articles, comprising, a main body having a mouth, a chambered lid pivotally connected with said mouth, and a spring having its main portion movably arranged in the chamber of said lid for retaining said lid in its opened and closed positions, said spring having a downwardly-extending tongue, means for attaching one end of said spring in the forward por-

tion of said lid near the catch portion thereof, a fixed plate in said body with which said tongue is in sliding engagement, and a stop on said plate, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

2. A box or receptacle for matches or other articles, comprising, a main body having a mouth, a pintle extending across the rear end of said mouth, a chambered lid arranged above said mouth, perforated ears connected with said lid by means of which said lid is pivoted on said pintle, a spring having its main portion movably arranged in the chamber of said lid having a downwardly-extending tongue for retaining said lid in its opened and closed positions, said tongue lying closely against said pintle, means for attaching one end of said spring in the forward portion of said lid near the catch portion thereof, a fixed plate in said body with which said tongue is in sliding engagement, and a stop on said plate, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

3. A box or receptacle for matches or other articles, comprising, a main body having a mouth, a chambered lid pivotally connected with said mouth, a spring having its main portion movably arranged in said chamber of said lid for retaining said lid in its opened and closed positions, said spring having a tongue extending into the mouth of said body, a holding-loop in said body, means for attaching one end of said spring in the forward portion of said lid near the catch portion thereof, and a plate having its lower end held and secured in said loop and having its upper end in engagement with said tongue, and a stop on said plate, said plate being rigid within the body of said box, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

4. A box or receptacle for matches or other articles, comprising, a main body having a mouth, a pintle extending across the back end of said mouth, a chambered lid arranged above said mouth, perforated ears connected with said lid by means of which said lid is pivoted on said pintle, a spring having its main portion movably arranged in the chambered portion of said lid, said spring having a tongue extending into the mouth of said body, means for attaching one end of said spring in the forward portion of said lid near the catch portion thereof, a holding-loop in said body, and a plate having its lower end held and secured in said loop and having its upper end in engagement with said tongue, and a stop on said plate, said plate being rigid within the body of said box, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony that I claim the invention set forth above I have hereunto set my hand this 13th day of February, 1903.

ALBERT F. FULLER.

Witnesses:

FREDK. C. FRAENTZEL,
GEO. D. RICHARDS.