C. W. WESTON.

Improvement in Fruit-Boxes.

No. 130,963. Patented Aug. 27, 1872.

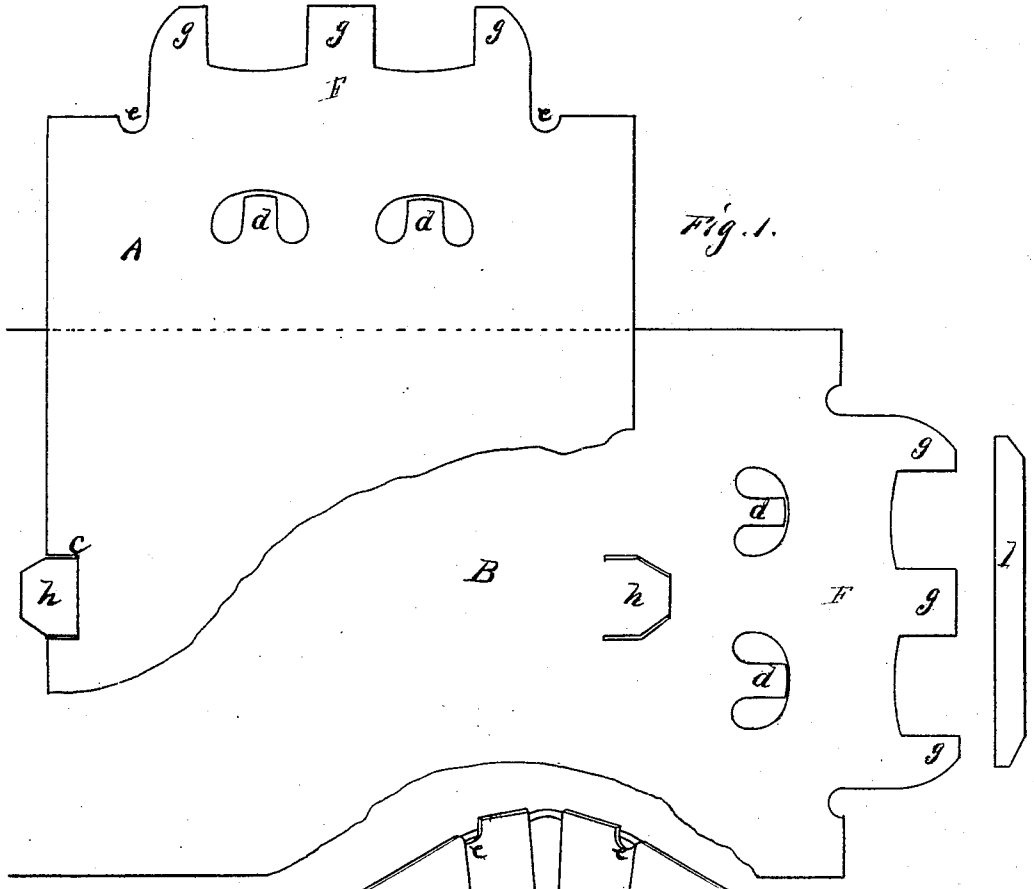

Fig. 1.

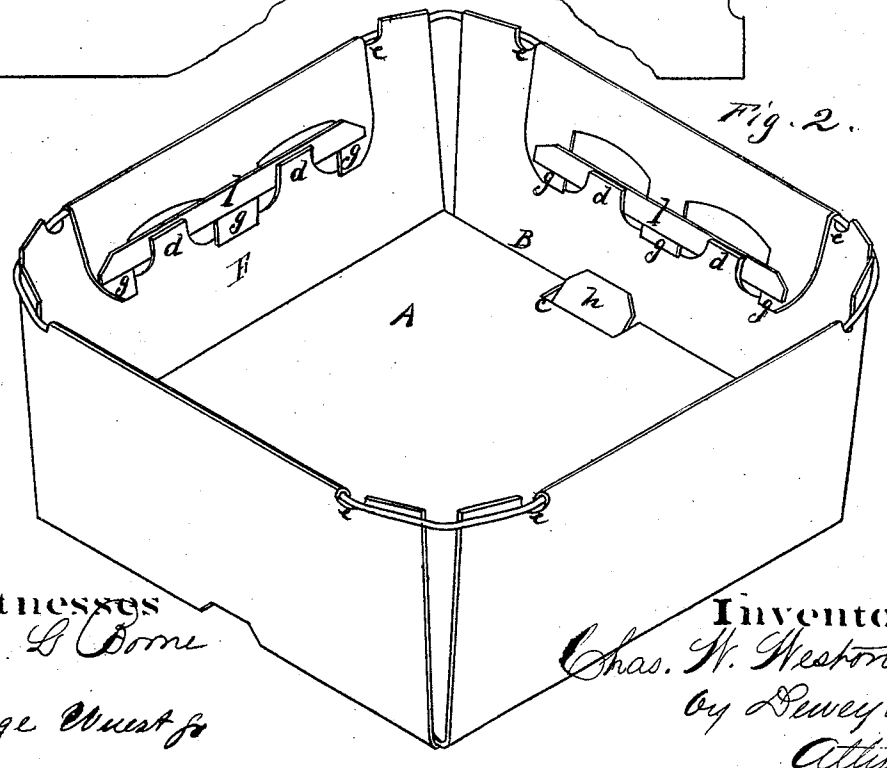

Fig. 2.

Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES W. WESTON, OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN FRUIT-BOXES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **130,963**, dated August 27, 1872.

SPECIFICATION.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES W. WESTON, of San Francisco, San Francisco county, State of California, have invented Improvement in Fruit-Boxes; and I do hereby declare the following description and accompanying drawing are sufficient to enable any person skilled in the art or science to which it most nearly appertains to make and use my said invention and improvement without further invention or experiment.

My invention relates to that class of fruit-boxes which are composed of two thin sheets of veneer or shavings laid across one another to form a bottom for the box, the ends of which are turned up so as to form the sides, and is an improvement upon the fruit-box of this construction for which Letters Patent were granted to me on the 10th day of October, 1871, and No. 119,806.

My present improvement relates to a novel and simple means of putting the box together and securing it in a substantial manner, so that the turned-over ends of the sides can be cheaply and strongly secured without the use of tacks, and the permanence of the veneers secured.

In order to further explain my improvements, reference is had to the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 shows the pieces of which the box is composed. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of my improved box.

A and B represent the two veneers or thin strips of wood which form the box. Before putting these veneers together I propose to run them through between two rollers, which are properly constructed to stamp or cut out portions of the veneer in the following manner. From the opposite edges of the upper veneer A, near its middle, a portion is cut out, as at C, also at about the middle of the upturned sides a portion is stamped out in two or more places in the same line, so as to leave an upward-projecting tongue, *d*, at each place. At the point where the end of the veneer turns over the wire rim a small portion is cut away from each corner, and a recess, *e*, is made at the angle for the purpose hereinafter described. The end of the flap F, which is to be turned over the wire rim inside of the box, is then cut out so as to form tongues *g g g*, which, when the flap is turned down against the side, will come between and upon each side of the tongues *d* in the sides. The lower veneer B is stamped out similar to the upper one, with the exception that a tongue, *h*, equal in width to the opening C in the upper veneer, is formed at the middle of each side, one-half of which is upon each side of the angle formed by the turning up of the sides. This tongue is just between the opening in the edges of the upper veneer when the two are placed together.

To put the box together the two veneers are placed across each other and the sides turned up. The tongue *h* is bent upward before turning up the two sides in which they are formed, so as to cause their upper ends to rest against the sides of the box above the space which it originally occupied, which it will do, owing to its standing in nearer to the center of the box in the opening C. The wire rim is then placed in position and the corners of the veneers, over which a portion was previously cut away, are placed inside of the wire, as shown, the wire resting in the recesses in the angles. The flaps or ends of the veneers are then turned over the wire inside of the box, the tongues *g g* alternating with the tongues *d*. A wooden strip, L, is then inserted over and under the tongues, so as to weave them together and secure the flap in place.

By passing the wire rim outside of the corners of the veneers the box is greatly strengthened and the openings at the corners reduced in size.

The tongue *h* will serve as braces, and, by fitting in the openings in the edge of the upper veneer, prevents the bottom pieces from shifting upon each other.

Various methods of weaving or securing the turned-over ends of the veneers can be applied, such as leaving the extremity entire

and simply inserting it under the tongues *d;* but such devices are all equivalent to that shown.

By this means I provide a cheap and light but strong fruit-box, which can be packed for transportation and be used over and over again.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The piece B, with its tongues *g*, *d*, and *h*, in combination with the key *l* and the piece A, for the purpose described.

2. A fastening for boxes, consisting of the tongues *g* and *d*, in combination with the key *l*, as described.

In witness whereof I set my hand and seal.

C. W. WESTON. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

GEORGE WUEST, Jr.,

J. L. BOONE.