

(Model.)

J. J. COWELL.
TRUNK CATCH.

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

No. 317,736.

Patented May 12, 1885.

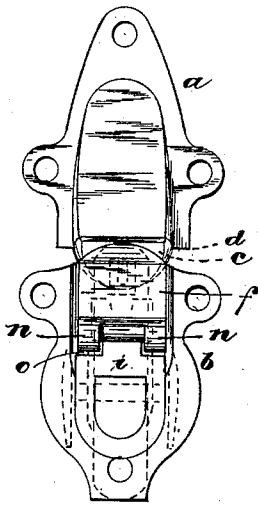


Fig. 1.

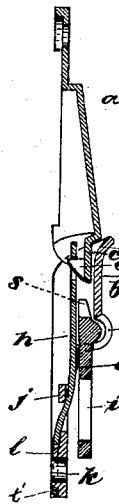


Fig. 2.

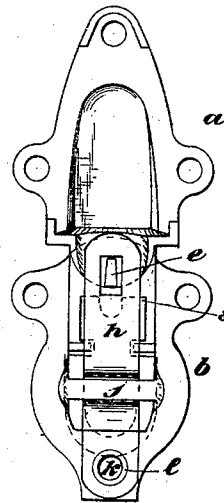


Fig. 3.

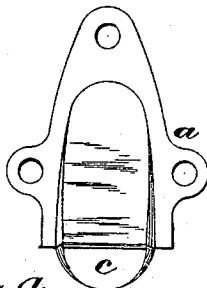


Fig. 4.

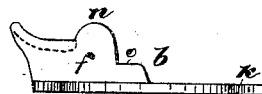


Fig. 5.

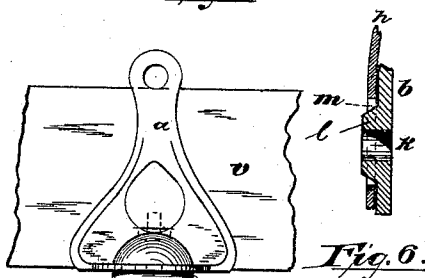


Fig. 6.

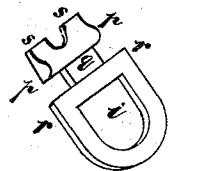


Fig. 7.

Fig. 8.

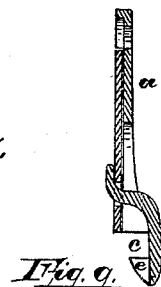


Fig. 9.

Attest

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(Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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TRUNK CATCH.

No. 317,736.

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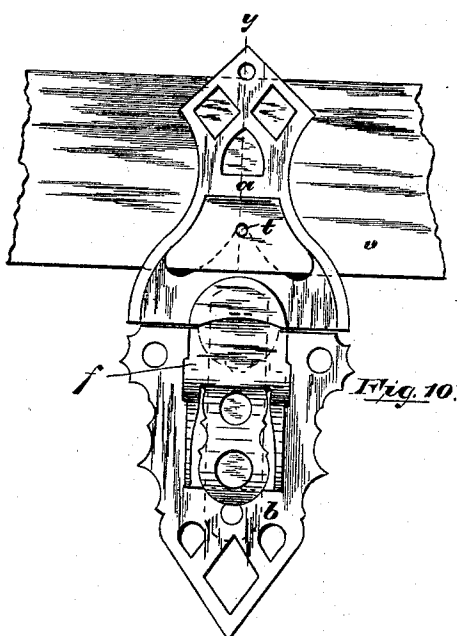


Fig. 10.

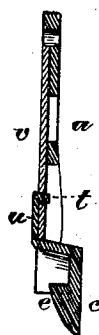


Fig. 11.

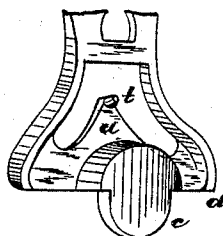


Fig. 12.

Attest:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN JAY COWELL, OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY.

TRUNK-CATCH.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 317,736, dated May 12, 1885.

Application filed January 9, 1885. (Model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN JAY COWELL, 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 Trunk-Catches; 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 letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

The object of this invention is to reduce the cost of construction, to lessen the number of parts, to so arrange said parts that they will be less liable to be disarranged or broken when subjected to the usual rough treatment, and to better the quality of the catch without increasing the cost thereof—that is to say, to produce at a given cost a catch that will give a louder ring when the parts are snapped together, which ring or peculiar sound is indicative of the firmness and strength or quality of said catch.

The invention consists in the arrangements and combinations of parts substantially as will be hereinafter set forth, and finally embodied in the clauses of the claim.

Referring to the accompanying two sheets of drawings, in which like letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in each of the several figures, Figure 1 is a front elevation of the improved catch; Fig. 2, a sectional view of the same, taken through the vertical center thereof. Fig. 3 is a back elevation of the catch; Fig. 4, a front elevation of the trunk-cover plate in detail. Fig. 5 is a detail side view of the trunk-body plate. Fig. 6 is an enlarged sectional view, showing more clearly the mode of arranging a certain spring-hasp or catching-spring upon the trunk-body plate to prevent longitudinal motion thereof. Fig. 7 is a detail perspective view of a peculiar finger-piece or lever for throwing the said spring-hasp from holding engagement with the trunk-cover plate. Fig. 8 is a front elevation of the trunk-cover plate attached to the valance of a trunk; and Fig. 9 is a section of the same, taken through line *x*. Fig. 10, Sheet 2, is a front elevation of the catch, showing a preferred manner of securing the cover-

plate to the valance. Fig. 11 is a sectional view through line *y* of said cover-plate; and Fig. 12 is a perspective view of a portion of said plate, showing more clearly the especial features thereof.

In said drawings, *a* indicates the trunk-cover plate, and *b* the trunk-body plate, the former being provided with a rigid tongue or dowel, *c*, which extends down below the edge *d* of said cover-plate, so as to enter into a box on the body-plate, and thus prevent any considerable lateral motion to the other. Said tongue *c* is provided with a hook or holding-lug, *e*, which projects from the dowel to receive a hasp in the box of said body. The trunk-body plate *b* is formed with a projecting case or box, *f*, at its top, the upper edge of which is rounded, as at *g*, to guide the hasp to a proper position in the said box. The under side of the box, and the plate below the same, are open to allow a passage therein to a spring-hasp, *h*, and a finger-piece, *i*, the lower portion of the opening being crossed by a bar, *j*. The lower portion of the plate acts as a bearing, *l*, for the hasp, the eye *k* in said bearing to receive the fastening-nail being provided with an inwardly-projecting rim, *l*, which serves to enter a perforation, *m*, in the hasp, as shown in Figs. 2 and 6, said hasp being held, when placed thereon, from moving longitudinally. From the lower bearing thus described the hasp extends upward and slightly forward, so as to pass in front of the cross-bar, and bears against the back of the lever, holding the same in the side bearings, *n*. The said lever in turn bears against the spring to hold it in place against the cross-bar and lower bearing, and to hold the working end of the spring-hasp back from the portion *g*, to form a mouth to receive the tongue *c*, the spring-hasp and lever each co-operating to hold the other in position.

Below the side bearings, *n*, are formed stops *o*, which serve to prevent the lever from falling against the face of the plate *b*, holding it out therefrom to allow the finger to readily be inserted under the lever, that the latter may be raised without any inconvenience.

The upper end of the spring-hasp is perforated to engage the hook or holding-lug *e*, and said hasp terminates at a point flush with or below the edge of the plate, to protect the hasp,

which, being composed of comparatively light spring metal, would otherwise be easily damaged should it come in contact with extraneous substances. The lever, working in the fulcrumal bearing *n*, engages with the hasp at a point between the bearing *j* and catching perforation. The lever is provided with lateral fulcrumal projection *p p*, to engage the bearings *n n*, a contracted neck, *g*, to work in the opening in the plate expanded bearings *r r* on the finger portion of the lever to engage the stops *o o* above mentioned and a cam projection or projections, *s s*, lying eccentric to the fulcrumal bearings.

15 To facilitate the process of fastening the cover-plate to the valance of the trunk, I provide the said plate with an arm, *u*, which passes backward from the plate *a* and bears against the back of the valance, as indicated in Figs. 10 and 11, clamping the plate to the valance. Said arm is provided with a lug or teat, *t*, which projects forward from the arm to enter a perforation in the valance and hold said plate up in position on said valance without riveting, the arm being simply bent or "sprung" to bring the said teat into the perforation. The parts thus constructed and arranged are held together for transportation without the trouble and expense of riveting, parts heretofore exposed are protected, and the device can be secured to the trunk easily and without riveting to the valance.

It is understood that the relation of the body and cover-plates may be reversed without departing from the spirit of the invention.

Having thus described the invention, what I claim as new is—

1. In combination, the plate *a*, having a projecting dowel, *c*, with a backwardly-extending lug or teat at the rear thereof, and a plate, *b*, having a spring-hasps lying within said plate, a rigid bearing, *j*, to throw said spring-hasps against said lug, and a lever fulcrumed on said plate to engage said spring-hasps and throw it from the lug, substantially as shown and described.

2. In combination, in a trunk-catch, the plate *a*, provided with dowel *c* and holding-lug *c*, and a plate, *b*, having the upper portion, *g*, and bearings *j t*, a spring-hasps arranged on said bearings, and a lever held in its bearings by said hasp, and in turn holding said hasp back from the portion *g* to allow the insertion of the dowel and holding-lug between, substantially as shown and described.

3. In combination, the plate *b*, having bearings, as at *t* and *j* for the spring-hasps, said spring-hasps being perforated to catch a lug on the upper plate and bearing against the lever *i*, and said lever *i* fulcrumed between bearings *n n*, and adapted to throw said spring from said catch, and the plate *a*, having the catching-lug to receive the spring, said parts being arranged and operating substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

4. In a trunk-catch, the combination of the plate *b*, having bearings *n n*, with a lever arranged between said bearings, and stops *o*, adapted to hold the lever away from the face of the plate, said lever *i* having bearings *r r*, projecting laterally to engage said stops, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

5. In a trunk-catch, a plate perforated to be secured to the trunk, one of the perforations being provided with a rim, *l*, to receive a spring, *h*, in combination with said spring and a lever to throw the same substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

6. In a trunk-catch, the cover-plate provided with an arm, *u*, adapted to extend behind the trunk-valance, and a lug, *t*, extending forward from said lug to enter a perforation in said valance to operate in holding said plate to said valance, substantially as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 8th day of January, 1885.

JOHN JAY COWELL.

Witnesses:

CHARLES H. PELL,
OLIVER DRAKE.