N. H. TUNKS.

SEAL.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 23, 1911.

**1,028,800.** Patented June 4, 1912.

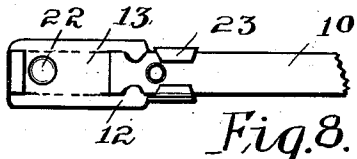



Fig. 8.

Fig. 6.

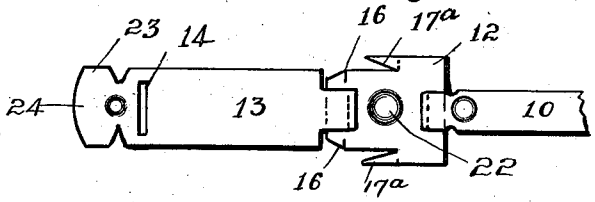



Fig. 7.

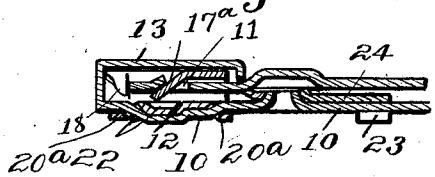



Fig. 5.

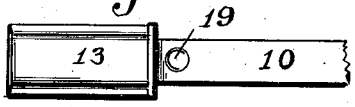
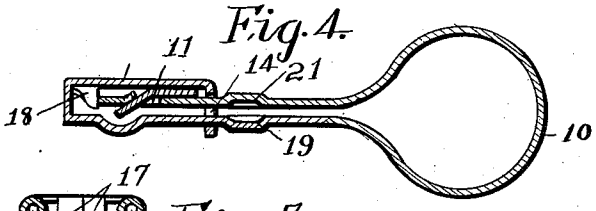



Fig. 4.



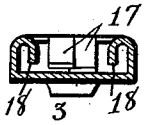




Fig. 3.

Fig. 2.

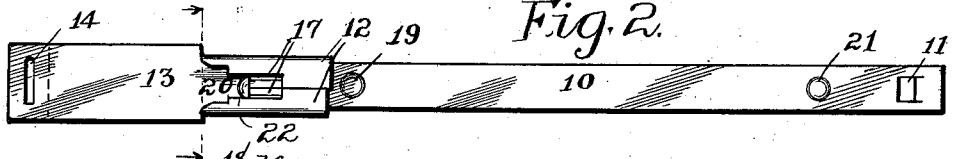
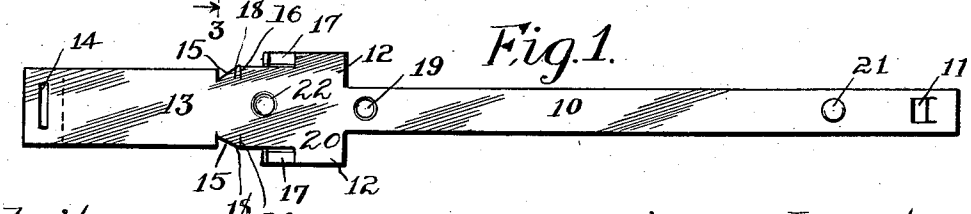



Fig. 1.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

NELSON H. TUNKS, OF LIMA, OHIO.

## SEAL.

1,028,800. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented June 4, 1912.

Application filed January 23, 1911. Serial No. 604,213.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, NELSON H. TUNKS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Lima, in the county of Allen and State of Ohio, have invented a certain new and useful Seal, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my invention is to provide a seal for fastening doors and the like of simple, durable, and inexpensive construction which may be formed complete of a single piece of sheet metal, or may be formed of two pieces, thus using scraps and odd pieces, and which may then be easily and quickly applied to a car door or any other place where a device of this kind is desirable, and fastened without the use of any tools whatever, and which when closed and fastened cannot be removed or opened without breaking or showing signs of being tampered with.

A further object of my invention is to provide in such a seal means whereby the seal is locked, by applying it to the door or other place where such seal is to be used.

My invention consists in certain details in the construction, arrangement, and combination of the various parts of the device whereby the objects contemplated are attained as hereinafter set forth, pointed out in my claims and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 shows a plan view of a sheet metal blank from which a seal embodying my invention may be made, with the prongs 17 inclined upwardly. Fig. 2 shows a like view with the side wings folded over. Fig. 3 shows a sectional view on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2, looking in the direction indicated by the arrow. Fig. 4 shows a vertical central sectional view of my improved seal when the same is closed. Fig. 5 shows an inverted plan view of my seal closed, the loop being omitted. Fig. 6 shows a plan view of a modified form. Fig. 7 shows a central vertical sectional view of the same closed. Fig. 8 shows a vertical plan view of the same.

In the accompanying drawings, Fig. 1 shows a sheet metal blank with all the parts complete from which my seal is formed. I have used the numeral 10 to indicate a narrow flat strip which forms the body of the seal. At one end of said strip which I shall call the inner end is a transverse slot 11. The portion of the blank adjacent to the slot 11 on the side nearest the inner end of the strip 10 is slightly depressed or, preferably, short, longitudinal slits are cut in the blank from the ends of the slot 11 toward the inner end of the strip 10, a short tongue being thus formed between said slits. In either case the portion of the blank adjacent to the slot is slightly bent away from the body of the blank, as shown in Fig. 4. Near the other end which I shall call the outer end of the seal are formed side wings 12 opposite each other, and extending laterally from the strip 10. The side wings are folded over the body of the seal blank with their edges adjacent to each other, as shown in Fig. 2.

That portion of the seal blank, located between the side wings 12, I have indicated by the reference numeral 20. The said wings 12 are located at points on the body of the blank, spaced from its outer end, and that portion of the outer end of said blank which extends beyond the side wings 12, I have indicated by the reference numeral 13. On the outer sides of the wings 12 are longitudinal prongs 17 formed by cutting longitudinal slits in said side wings from their length, said sprongs being inclined downwardly and toward the outer end of the seal blank when the side wings 12 are folded over. Small notches 15 are cut opposite each other in the sides of the extension 13 at points slightly spaced from the portion 20 and the side wings 12. Transverse slits 16 approximately equal in length to the depth of the notches 15, are cut in the sides of the extension 13 opposite each other at points slightly spaced from the notches 15, and when the seal is completed the portions of the blank between each slit 16 and adjacent notch 15 are bent toward the body of the seal blank, so as to form short tongues 18 between the notches 15 and slits 16 on the respective sides of the seal blank. Near the end of the extension 13 is a transverse slot 14 designed to freely receive the inner end of the strip 10.

In the modified form of my seal shown in Figs. 6, 7 and 8, I construct a blank composed of a strip 10 and an extension 13 similar to the strip 10 and the extension 13 hereinbefore described. A separate piece of sheet metal somewhat wider than the extension 13, is used to form the side wings 12. In the separate piece are cut transverse slots $20^a$, and the separate piece is mounted on the strip 10 by extending the strip 10

through the slots 20ª, as shown in Figs. 6 and 7. Prongs 17ª are formed on the sides of said separate metal piece adjacent to the extension 13, and the side wings 12 are folded over the strip 10, with their edges adjacent to each other. The prongs 17 are then bent downwardly and toward the extension 13. Transverse slots 16 are cut opposite each other in said separate metal piece near the extension 13 thereby forming tongues which are bent downwardly toward the strip 10 when the side wings 12 are folded over.

The extension 13 may be constructed with a longitudinal extension 24 at its free end having side wings 23. The extension 13 in the modified form is folded over the folded side wings 12 in the same way, as described above for the preferred form, and when the modified form is made with the extension 24, the side wings 23 are folded over the strip 10, as shown in Fig. 8.

I preferably form a depression 21 near the free end of the strip 10 and a depression 19 in the strip 10 near the portion 20, at such points on the strip 10, that, when the seal is closed the depression 21 is approximately over the depression 19.

The depressions 22 are formed in the portions 20 and in the separate metal piece of the modified form for a purpose hereinafter explained.

In completing my seal for use the side wings 12 are folded over until their outside edges are adjacent to each other, the prongs 17 are pressed downwardly until their ends rest in the depression 22. The tongues or projections 18, formed by the slits 16 are bent downwardly when the wings 12 are in folded position. The ends of said tongues are then slightly spaced apart from the body of the seal blank, but after the seal is closed they prevent pressing the upper and lower parts together. These also serve another purpose as hereinafter set forth. The extension 13 is then folded over the wings in their folded position preferably on the line between the notches 15. The seal may then be completed and closed in either of two ways:

First, the inner end of the seal is bent toward the outer end to form a loop and the inner end of the strip 10 is inserted through the slot 14 from the upper side of the extension 13 after the latter is folded over the folded wings. The end of the strip 10 is then pushed under the folded wings until the slot 11 rests under the ends of the prongs 17. The ends of the prongs 17 normally rest close to the portion 20 in the depression 22, when the wings are folded over, and when the end of the strip 10 is pushed under the wings and under the ends of the prongs 17, it slightly raises the latter. When the inner end of the strip 10 is moved till the prongs 17 rest over the slot 11, the resiliency of the metal causes the ends of said prongs to drop into said slot 11. Then when the end of the strip 10 is drawn back, the slot receives the prongs 17 and the end of the strip 10 slides up the inclined plane formed by said prongs. The slot 11 can not then be disengaged from the prongs 17 because forward movement of the inner end of the strip 10 is prevented by the projections 18 which serve to lock the seal in its closed position, as shown in Figs. 4 and 7.

Second: I preferably complete and close my seal after the side wings are folded over as shown in Fig. 2, by folding the extension 13 back over the folded wings. I then bend the inner end of the strip 10 over toward the extension 13, to form a loop, then insert it through the slot 14 from the under side thereof and draw the strip 10 through said slot as far as possible. The end of the tongue or extension 13 is then bent down as shown in Figs. 4 and 5. The inner end of the strip 10 is again bent to form a loop and again inserted through the slot 14, this time from the upper side, as shown in Fig. 4. The closing of the seal is completed as above set forth.

The method of finishing and closing is the same when the modified form in Fig. 6 is used, except that the side wings 23 are folded over the strip 10. The construction of my seal in two pieces as shown in Figs. 6 and 7, makes possible the use of scraps of metal and avoids a large part of the waste which is necessary when the seal is constructed of one piece.

On account of the depressions 21 and 19 in the strip 10, it is impossible for any one to cut the strip 10 close to the side wings 12, and then make a new slot near the end where the slot 10 has been cut and insert that end under the folded portion of the wings 12, thus making an apparently perfect seal.

Some of the special advantages of my seal are found in the construction of the depression 22 in which is received the prongs 17 and of the tongues 18 which prevent unlocking the seal after the prongs 17 are received in the slot 11.

Having thus described my invention what I claim is:

1. In an improved seal of the class described a metal strip, side wings opposite each other spaced from the outer end of said strip and folded over said strip, an extension formed on the outer end of said strip, folded over the folded portion of said wing members and constructed with a transverse slot near its free end designed to receive the said strip, said strip being inserted through said last named slot, the inner end of said strip and the folded portions of said wing members being provided with coacting

means for locking said inner end when it is again inserted through said slot and under the said folded portions.

2. An improved seal comprising a metal strip, side wings formed thereon opposite each other spaced from the outer end of said strip, said side wings being folded over said strip, an extension formed at the outer end of said strip, said extension being folded over the folded portions of said side wings, the folded portions of said side wings and the free end of said strip being constructed with a slot and with prongs designed to enter and engage said slot when the inner end of said strip is inserted through the slot in said extension and under the folded portions of said wing members.

3. An improved seal comprising a metal strip, side wings opposite each other spaced from the outer end of said strip, said wings being folded over said strip, an extension formed at the outer end of said strip, provided with a transverse slot near its free end, said extension being folded over the folded portions of said side wings, the folded portions of said side wings and the inner end of said strip being constructed with a slot and with prongs designed to enter and engage said slot when the inner end of said strip is inserted through the slot in said extension and under the folded portions of said side wings, the folded portions of said side wings being constructed with downward extensions at their outer ends designed to engage the inner end of said strip and to prevent any movement of said end toward the outer end of said seal after said prongs have entered the slot designed to receive them.

Des Moines, Iowa, December 22, 1910.

NELSON H. TUNKS.

Witnesses:
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