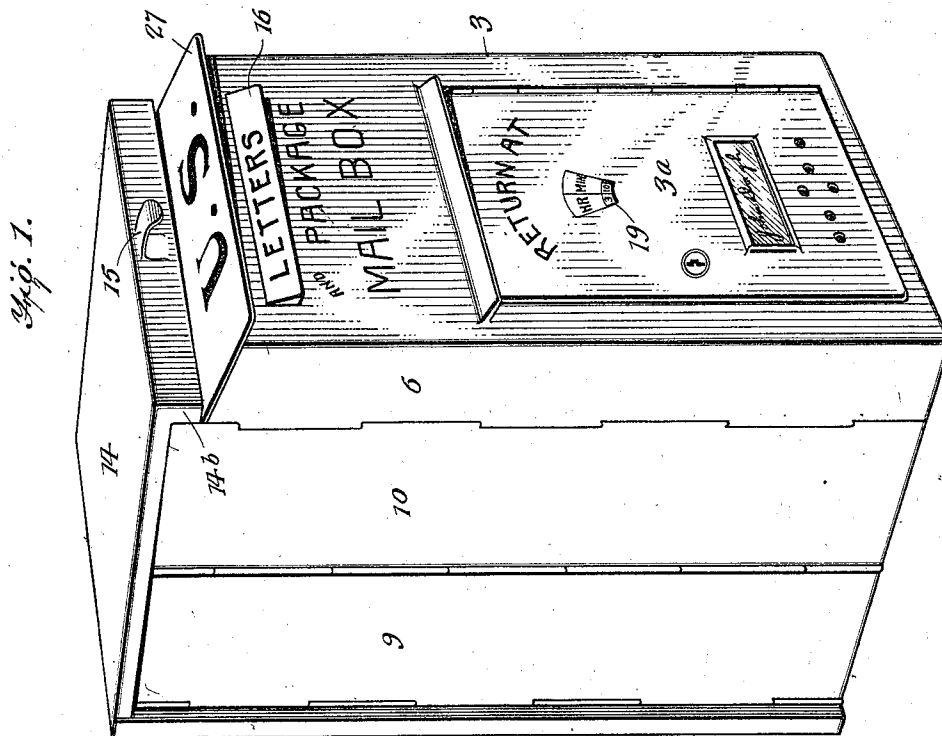
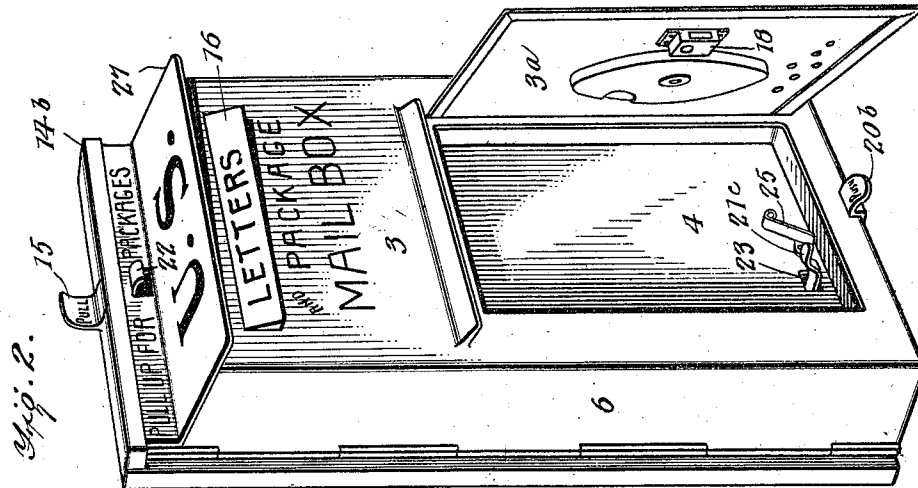


C. OHLSON.
 LETTER AND PACKAGE MAIL BOX.
 APPLICATION FILED NOV. 30, 1910.

1,014,508.

Patented Jan. 9, 1912.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



WITNESSES:

L. H. Schmidt
L. A. Stanley

INVENTOR

CARL OHLSON,
 BY *Munn & Co.*

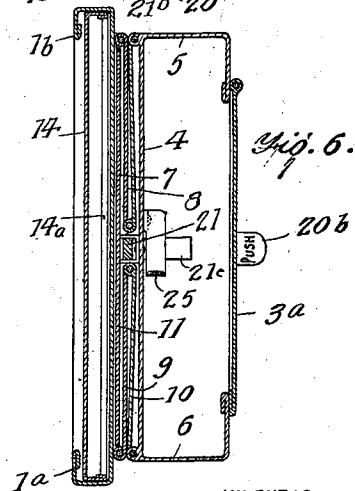
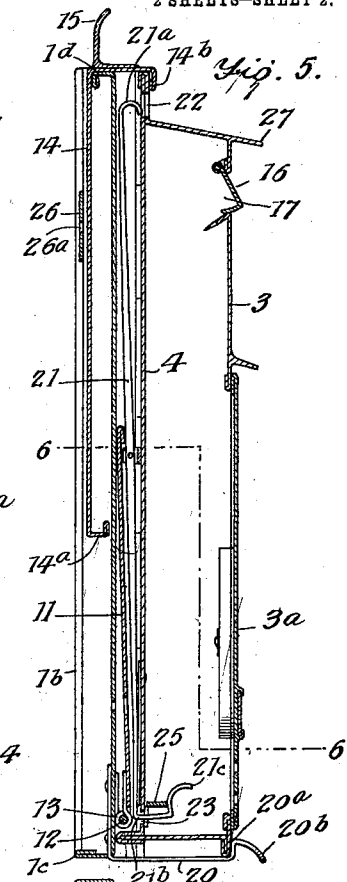
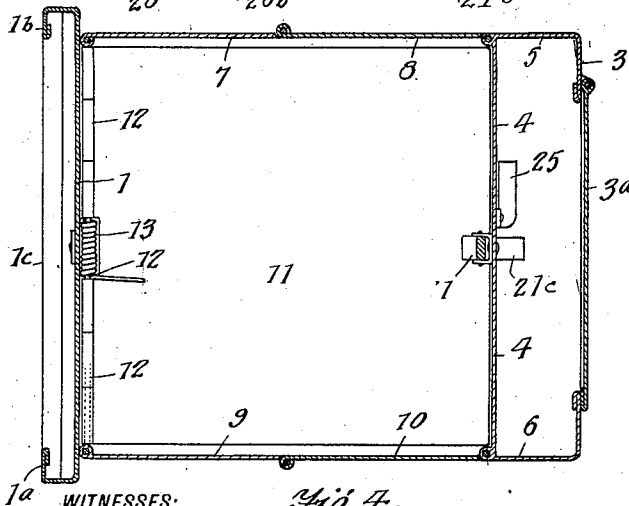
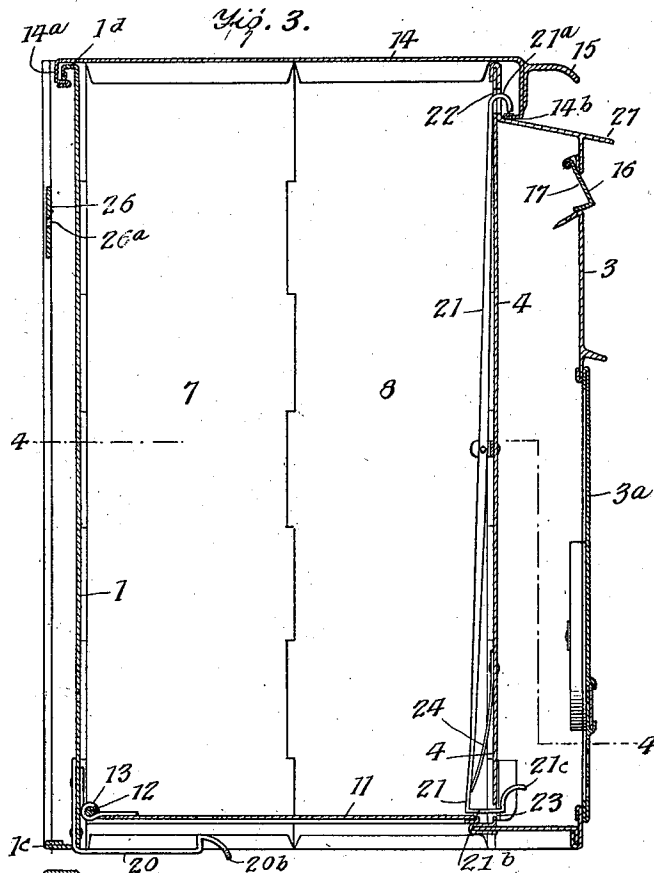
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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CARL OHLSON, OF SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA.

LETTER AND PACKAGE MAIL-BOX.

1,014,508.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Jan. 9, 1912.

Application filed November 30, 1910. Serial No. 594,972.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CARL OHLSON, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Sacramento, in the county of Sacramento and State of California, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Letter and Package Mail-Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in combined letter and package mail boxes, this invention being an improvement over that disclosed in my prior Patent #922,181 of May 18, 1909.

In the prior patent, above referred to, I disclosed a mail box, which could be closed into a small space, and which when closed was designed to be used for the reception of letters. This mail box was so constructed that it could be unfolded so as to provide a larger receptacle for packages. Means were provided for retaining the box in its unfolded position for receiving packages.

An object of the present invention is to provide novel means for causing the box to spring open from its closed position. This I accomplish by means of a catch and a spring bottom member, so that when the catch is operated it permits the spring bottom member to force the sides outwardly. This catch, it may be stated, can be operated by one hand.

A further object of my invention is to provide a novel form of lock for retaining the box in its opened and extended position and for releasing it when it is desired to close it into its compact form.

A further object of my invention is to provide a novel cover which will be automatically locked when brought into position, but which may be released and lowered into a slide at the back of the box, where it is completely out of the way.

Other objects and advantages will appear in the following specification and the novel features of the device will be particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

My invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings forming part of this application in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the box extended for receiving packages, Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the box folded for receiving letters, a door of the box being open, Fig. 3 is a vertical section from front to rear through the extended box, Fig. 4 is

a horizontal section along the line 4—4 of Fig. 3, Fig. 5 is a vertical section similar to Fig. 3, showing the box in its closed position, and Fig. 6 is a horizontal section along the line 6—6 of Fig. 5.

In carrying out my invention, I employ a back 1 which is provided with laterally and inwardly turned side flanges 1^a and 1^b and a bottom flange 1^c. The space between the flanges 1^a, 1^b and 1^c forms a run-way for a slidable cover 14, which will be hereinafter described.

The front of the box consists of an outer portion 3 having a hinged door 3^a and an inner partition 4. The space between the outer and inner members 3 and 4 constitutes the receptacle for letters. The members 3 and 4 are joined at their ends by the walls 5 and 6 (see Figs. 4 and 6). Between the back and the member 4 are the hinged folding side members 7 and 8 on one side and 9 and 10 on the other side. The side members 7 and 8 are hinged together so that they may fold inwardly, as are also the side members 9 and 10. In Fig. 4, I have shown the bottom member 11, which is hinged at 12, and which is provided with a spring 13, which tends to force the bottom outwardly from the back 1.

In Fig. 5, I have shown the normal position of the slidable cover 14. This cover, as it will be observed, has an inwardly and upwardly turned flange 14^a at one end, which is arranged to engage the outwardly and downwardly turned flange 1^a, as shown in Fig. 3, when the cover is in position. The edge of the cover 14 opposite the flange 14^a is provided with a laterally and downwardly turned flange 14^b (see Fig. 5) and with a thumb or finger hold 15. In Fig. 3 this cover is shown as pulled out, and as covering the box in its extended position.

The letter box proper is provided with a hinged plate 16 which normally covers an opening 17 for the deposit of letters. The door is provided with the customary spring lock 18, and has upon its inner side mechanism for displaying the time of return through the openings 19 on the outer side of the door (see Fig. 1).

The means for locking the box in its closed and opened positions are as follows: In Fig. 5, I have shown a catch, which consists of a leaf spring 20 having a shoulder 20^a and a thumb piece 20^b adjacent thereto. It will be seen that when the box is collapsed or in

its closed position this spring holds the bottom portion of the box from outward movement. The top portion of the letter box is held by means of the flange 14^b of the slideable plate 14, as shown in Fig. 5.

On the opposite side of the partition 4, I mount a lever 21. The upper end of this lever is bent into the form of a hook 21^a, which is arranged to project through an opening 22 in the member 4. The lower end of the lever 21 is bent laterally at 21^b and projects through an opening 23 and is provided with a curved thumb piece 21^c. This lever is normally pushed inwardly at its lower end by means of a leaf spring 24. In Fig. 2, the end 21^c of the lever 21 is shown extending through the opening 23. A stop 25 is pivoted on the partition 4, and is arranged to extend between the thumb piece 21^c and the partition 4, to hold the lower end of the lever 21 in an outward position, as shown in Fig. 5. The upper end of the lever 21^a will, therefore, be swung inwardly.

At 26, I have shown flanges provided with openings 26^a for the reception of hooks for suspending the box. I may use as many of these flanges as is necessary.

From the foregoing description of the various parts of the device the operation thereof may be readily understood. The normal position of the box is that shown in Fig. 5. In this position the box is in a compact form, and may be used for letters. In Fig. 2, I have shown the box in its closed position for the reception of letters only. The postman generally has one hand full of mail, which he is assorting as he delivers it, the other hand being free. It is only necessary for him to push on the lid 16, which will swing inwardly to permit the deposit of the letter in the space between the front 3 and the partition 4. Of course, the door is supposed to be closed, as shown in Fig. 1. In its closed position, as shown in Fig. 2, the box is compact, and presents the appearance of the ordinary mail box. Now, when the postman brings a package, he pushes downwardly on the thumb piece 20^b, which, as shown in Fig. 2, is marked "Push," thereby releasing the bottom of the collapsible box. He then pulls upwardly on the finger hold 15, which, as shown in Fig. 2, is marked "Pull," thereby disengaging the flange 14^b (see Fig. 5) and permitting the top of the box to be free. The spring 13, which actuates the bottom 11 will now cause the latter to swing downwardly and to push the box into its extended position, shown in Fig. 4. The outward movement of the box may be assisted by pulling outwardly on the projecting cover 27. As the bottom 11 is swung downwardly, it pushes the lever 21 outwardly against the action of the spring 24, and as soon as it clears it, the spring brings the part 21^b of the lever over the end of the

bottom, as shown in Fig. 3, thereby locking the bottom in position. The cover 14 is now raised vertically in its run-way as far as it will go, and then is swung over the top of the box and pressed downwardly. The flange 14^b moves the end 21^a inwardly, but the end 21^a immediately springs over the flange, as shown in Fig. 3, thereby locking the cover. It will be remembered that these operations may be conducted with one hand. Now, when the occupant of the house wants to get his mail he unlocks the door, removes the letters and pulls forwardly on the thumb piece 21^c. The upper end of the lever swings inwardly, thereby permitting him to open the cover 14 and take out the package. By merely closing the cover down again, it will remain locked. If the occupant wishes to fold the box, he pulls forwardly on the finger piece 21^c, thereby unlocking the cover, which he raises, and drops in the run-way behind the box, he then pushes upwardly on the bottom 11, at the same time pushing inwardly on the outer letter box until the shoulder 20^a of the spring 20 engages the lower part of the box, as shown in Fig. 5. The upper part of the box is locked by raising the cover slightly, and allowing the flanged portion 14^b to engage the top of the partition 4, as shown in Fig. 5, when the box is in its original condition.

If the occupant of the house should be away for any length of time, and wishes to leave the cover 14 unlocked so as to receive packages when the box is in its extended position, he pulls forwardly on the thumb piece 21^c (see Fig. 2) and swings the stop 25 between the thumb piece and the partition 4, as shown in Fig. 5. The end 21^a of the lever 21 is thus out of the way of the flange 14^b of the cover, so that the latter can be raised at any time by the postman.

It will be seen that I have provided a novel device in which the box can readily be changed from one form into the other by the use of only one hand, and that the devices for locking the box in both positions are simple and effective.

I claim:—

1. In a combined letter and package mail box, a back having a run-way, a cover slidably carried in said run-way, collapsible sides adapted to be extended, a spring-controlled bottom pivotally secured at its rear edge, a front portion pivotally secured to the sides, said slidable cover being adapted to extend over the top of the box, and means for locking the cover to the top of the box when the latter is in its extended position.

2. In a combined letter and package mail box, a back having a run-way, a cover slidably carried in said run-way, collapsible sides adapted to be extended, a spring-controlled bottom pivotally secured at its rear

edge, a front portion pivotally secured to the sides, said slidable cover being adapted to extend over the top of the box in its extended position, and means carried by said front portion for locking said bottom and said cover in the extended position of the box.

3. In a combined letter and package mail box, a back having a run-way, a cover slidably carried in said run-way, collapsible sides, a spring-controlled bottom pivotally secured at its rear edge, a front portion pivotally secured to the sides, and a spring actuated lever carried by said front portion provided with a bent portion at each end, one of said bent portions being arranged to engage the cover to lock it in position and the other bent portion being arranged to engage the bottom to lock it in position.

4. In a combined letter and package mail box, a back having a run-way, a cover slidably carried in said run-way, collapsible sides, a spring-controlled bottom pivotally secured at its rear edge, a front portion pivotally secured to the sides, and a spring actuated lever carried by said front portion provided with a bent portion at each end, one of said bent portions being arranged to project through an opening in said front portion and to engage the cover for locking the latter in position, and the second bent portion being arranged to extend through an opening in the front portion and being provided with a thumb piece for moving the lever against the spring, said second bent portion being arranged to extend over the spring bottom for retaining the latter in position.

5. In a combined letter and package mail box, a back having a run-way, a cover slid-

ably carried in said run-way, collapsible sides, a spring-controlled bottom pivotally secured at its rear edge, a front portion pivotally secured to the sides, a spring actuated lever carried by said front portion provided with a bent portion at each end, one of said bent portions being arranged to project through an opening in said front portion and to engage the cover for locking the latter in position, and the second bent portion being arranged to extend through an opening in the front portion and being provided with a thumb piece for moving the lever against the spring, said second bent portion being arranged to extend over the spring bottom for retaining the latter in position, and a stop member carried by said front portion and adapted to engage said thumb piece for holding the ends of said lever out of engagement with said top and said bottom members.

6. In a combined letter and package mail box, a back having a run-way, a cover slidably carried in said run-way, collapsible sides, a spring-controlled bottom pivotally secured at its rear edge, a front portion pivotally secured to the sides, said slidable cover being arranged to extend over the top of the box, and a spring secured to said back portion and having a shoulder arranged to engage the front portion of the box when the latter is in its closed position, said slidable cover having a flange arranged to engage the top of the front portion of the box to hold the latter in place in its closed position.

CARL OHLSON.

Witnesses:

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SOLON C. KEMON.