

No. 651,070.

Patented June 5, 1900.

J. C. ENOCH.

COVER FASTENING FOR BOXES OR LIKE ARTICLES.

(Application filed Oct. 20, 1899.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

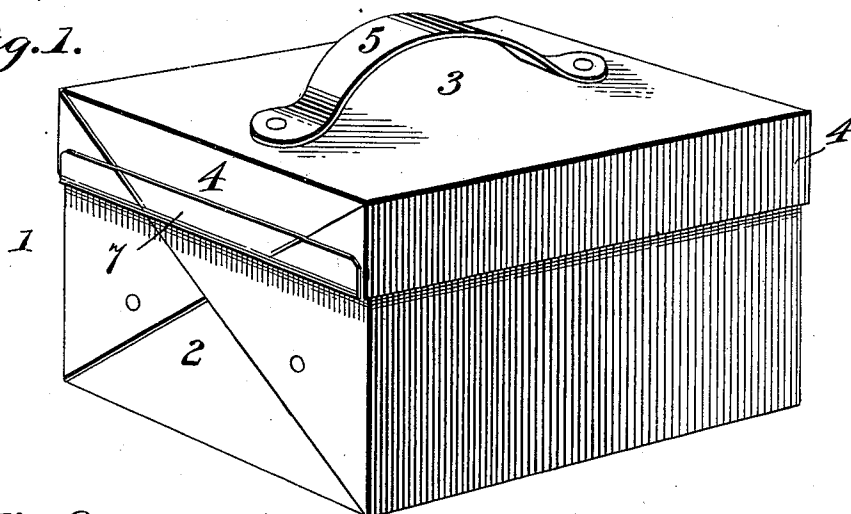


Fig. 2.

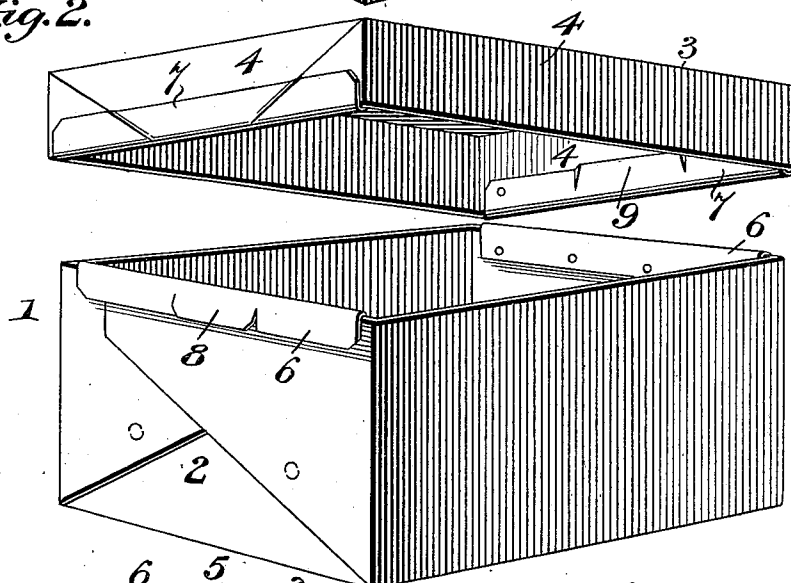


Fig. 3.

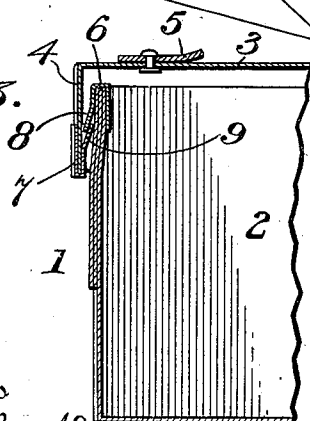


Fig. 4.

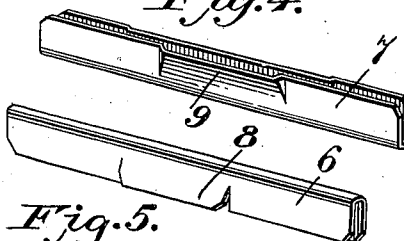


Fig. 5.

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Witnesses

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COVER-FASTENING FOR BOXES OR LIKE ARTICLES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 651,070, dated June 5, 1900.

Application filed October 20, 1899. Serial No. 734,271. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN C. ENOCH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Mount Sterling, in the county of Montgomery and State of Kentucky, have invented a new and useful Cover-Fastening for Boxes or Like Articles, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to cover-fastenings for boxes and like articles; and it has for one object to provide a simple and efficient fastening of this character providing positive and reliable means for securely fastening the cover of a box or analogous article to its body, so as to prevent displacement thereof in the ordinary use of the article. To this end the invention primarily contemplates a cover-fastening that is specially applicable to paper or similar boxes made of flexible material, and particularly to that type of paper boxes known as "lunch-boxes," which are usually encircled with a strap to hold the cover in place and at the same time provide a handle for carrying the same. The present invention obviates the necessity of passing a holding-strap around the box and permits of a handle being applied directly to the cover. In carrying out this object the invention contemplates a construction whereby the weight of the box when being carried will serve to hold the parts of the fastening more firmly interlocked and to resist any tendency thereof to become separated.

Another object of the invention is to provide a fastening that is especially useful in connection with paper boxes to provide for not only securing the cover in place, but also to reinforce or strengthen the contiguous edges of the box-body and its cover.

With these and other objects in view, which will more readily appear as the nature of the invention is better understood, the same consists in the novel construction, combination, and arrangement of parts hereinafter more fully described, illustrated, and claimed.

The essential features of the invention are susceptible to some modification without departing from the spirit or scope thereof; but the preferred embodiment of the improvements is shown in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a paper

lunch-box fitted with a cover-fastening constructed in accordance with the present invention. Fig. 2 is a similar view of the box, showing the cover separated from the body. Fig. 3 is an enlarged vertical sectional view through one end of the box and its cover, showing the separate members of the fastening interlocked. Figs. 4 and 5 are details in perspective, respectively, of the separate plates constituting the fastening.

Like numerals of reference designate corresponding parts in the several figures of the drawings.

In carrying out the invention the separate parts or members constituting the fastening may be applied to different types of boxes or like articles in which the cover is fitted over the open side of the body and is usually held in place by an encircling strap or equivalent holding device; but the fastening is preferably associated with boxes made of paper-board or other flexible material—such, for instance, as the ordinary paper or leather board lunch-boxes—inasmuch as the flexibility of the box-body facilitates the disengagement of the separate locking members and the removal of the cover. Therefore for illustrative purposes, to show the preferable manner of applying the invention to use, a paper lunch-box 1 is shown in the drawings. The box 1 consists of the usual rectangular body portion 2 and the cover 3, provided with a peripheral depending flange 4, adapted to fit over the top edges of the body 2, at the open side thereof. This form of paper box is usually provided with no means of retaining the cover in place except a strap to encircle both the body and cover thereof and which strap also provides a handle for carrying the same. In the use of the fastening contemplated by the present invention the extra strap or string for holding the cover in place is dispensed with, and the cover 3 may have attached directly to the outer side thereof a carrying-handle 5.

The fastening constituting the present invention consists of a pair of plates 6 and 7, arranged at each end of the box-body and its cover, as plainly shown in Fig. 2 of the drawings, and inasmuch as each pair of plates duplicates a description of one pair will suf-

fice for the other. The plates 6 and 7 of the
 fastening are formed from strips of sheet
 metal of sufficient length to form reinforce
 bindings for the edges of the box-body and
 its cover, to which the same are applied, and
 the plates 6 of the opposite pairs of fastenings
 are folded upon themselves and are securely
 clenched or otherwise suitably fastened on
 the upper edges of the opposite end walls of
 the box-body, and the said plates 6 are coex-
 tensive in length with the box-body, so as to
 extend the full length of the end walls and
 provide stiff metallic bindings for the top
 edges thereof, thus greatly strengthening the
 structure of the box and increasing the du-
 rability thereof. The fastening-plates 7 of
 the opposite pairs are likewise folded upon
 themselves and are clenched or otherwise se-
 curely fastened over the bottom edges of the
 cover-flange 4 at the ends of the cover, and
 by reason of extending the full width of the
 cover the fastening-plates 7 also serve as me-
 tallic bindings for reinforcing the ends there-
 of, which is very desirable in paper struc-
 tures, which are easily bent out of shape and
 often caused to collapse on account of im-
 proper reinforcement. The fastening-plate
 6 of each pair has struck out from the outer
 side thereof and at an intermediate point be-
 tween its ends an integral offset catch-tongue
 8, which is disposed in a downward direction
 and is adapted to engage in and have an in-
 terlocking engagement with an offset keeper
 or socket 9, projecting from the inner side of
 the plate 7, with which the plate 6 is associ-
 ated. The keeper or socket 9 of each fasten-
 ing-plate 7 is an integral part thereof and is
 offset therefrom in a similar manner to the
 catch-tongue 8 of the plate 6; but the said
 keeper or socket of each plate 7 is disposed
 reversely to the tongue 8 cooperating there-
 with—that is, it is disposed in an upward di-
 rection, so that when the cover is in place the
 catch-tongue will engage inside of the keeper
 or socket, and thereby provide for securely
 locking the cover in place and preventing dis-
 placement thereof in any direction.

In carrying out the invention the position
 of the separate plates 6 and 7 of the fasten-
 ing could of course be reversed without af-
 fecting the interlocking action of the catch-
 tongue and the keeper or socket cooperating
 therewith, it being simply necessary that these
 locking members maintain a reverse relation
 to each other and project in opposite direc-
 tions to secure the engagement of one within
 the other.

With the parts constructed as described it
 will be understood that when the cover of the
 box is slid over the open side thereof the in-
 wardly-offset keepers or sockets 9 of the
 plates 7 will be forced over the downwardly-
 disposed catch-tongues 8 of the plates 6, fitted
 to the end walls of the box-body. These end
 walls, by reason of the flexibility of the pa-
 per-board, will bend inwardly when the cover
 is being fitted in place and permit of the keep-

ers or sockets passing over and below the
 plane of said catch-tongues 8. When the
 cover has been thus positioned, an outward
 pull thereon will carry the keepers or sockets
 9 into interlocking engagement with the catch-
 tongues 8, as plainly illustrated in Fig. 3 of
 the drawings. When the keepers or sockets
 and the catch-tongues 8 are engaged, it will
 be observed that the cover is locked against
 displacement either laterally or off from the
 box-body, and the engagement of the parts
 is maintained by the weight of the box when
 carried. When it is desired to remove the
 cover, the latter is forced inwardly upon the
 body to carry the keepers or sockets 9 out of
 engagement with the tongues 8. By then
 pressing inwardly upon one of the end walls
 of the box-body, to move the catch-tongue 8 at
 such end at one side of the plane of the keeper
 or socket, the cover may be readily removed.

From the foregoing it is thought that the
 construction and many advantages of the
 herein-described fastening will be readily ap-
 parent to those familiar with the art without
 further description, and it will be understood
 that changes in the form, proportion, and
 minor details of construction may be resorted
 to without departing from the principle or
 sacrificing any of the advantages of this in-
 vention.

Having thus described the invention, what
 is claimed as new, and desired to be secured
 by Letters Patent, is—

1. A box-cover or similar fastening com-
 prising a pair of companion fastening-plates
 applied to and extending along the contigu-
 ous edges of a box-body and its cover and
 constituting metallic bindings therefor, said
 plates having detachable interlocking con-
 nection one with the other, as and for the pur-
 poses described.

2. A box-cover or similar fastening com-
 prising a pair of fastening-plates applied to
 and extending along the contiguous edges of
 the box-body and its cover to form metal bind-
 ings therefor, said plates being provided with
 integral reversely-disposed locking members
 adapted to engage one within the other, sub-
 stantially as set forth.

3. A box-cover or similar fastening com-
 prising a pair of folded fastening-plates em-
 bracing and extending along the contiguous
 edges of the box-body and its cover, said
 plates constituting metallic edge-bindings for
 the body and its cover at the inner and outer
 sides thereof, and being provided with in-
 tegral reversely-disposed locking members
 adapted to engage one within the other, sub-
 stantially as set forth.

4. A box-cover or similar fastening com-
 prising a pair of companion fastening-plates
 applied to the contiguous edges of a box-body
 and its cover and constituting metallic bind-
 ings therefor, one of said plates being pro-
 vided with an offset catch-tongue, and the
 other plate having an offset keeper or socket,
 said catch-tongue and the keeper being dis-

posed in reversed relation one to the other and adapted for detachable interlocking connection, as and for the purposes described.

5 In a box-cover or similar fastening, the combination with the box-body and its cover, of oppositely-located pairs of fastening-plates embracing the contiguous end edges of the box-body and its cover, and extending the full length of said edges, one of the fasten-
10 ing-plates of each pair being provided at the outer side thereof with an integral offset downwardly-disposed catch-tongue, and the

other plate of the pair being provided at the inner side thereof with an integral, offset upwardly-disposed keeper or socket, substantially as set forth. 15

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

JOHN C. ENOCH.

Witnesses:

MYER COHEN,
BERTRAM G. FOSTER.