L. F. GROSENBECK.

KNOCKDOWN MAIL CONTAINER.

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1,135,892.

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Fig. 1.

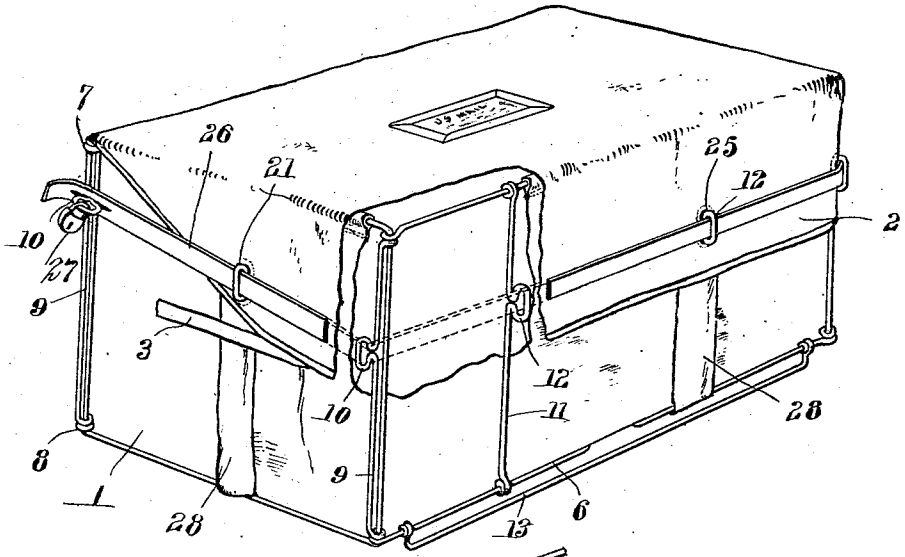
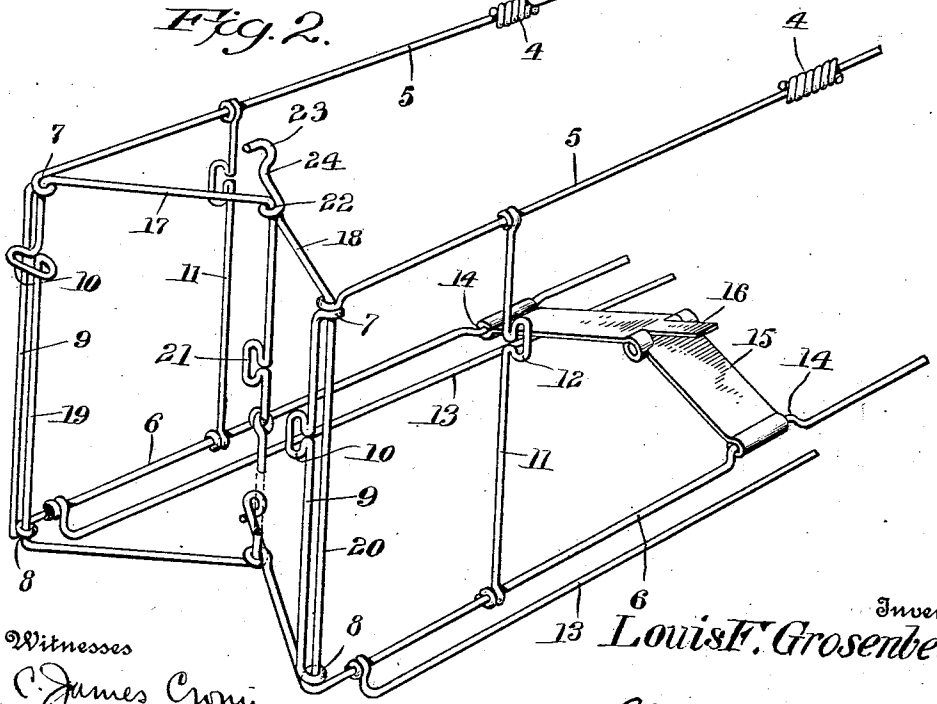


Fig. 2.



Witnesses

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KNOCKDOWN MAIL-CONTAINER.

1,135,892. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Apr. 13, 1915.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LOUIS F. GROSENBECK, a citizen of the United States, residing at Poughkeepsie, in the county of Dutchess and State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Knockdown Mail-Containers, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to collapsible receptacle frames especially adapted to be used for containing matter transmitted by parcel post and it consists in the novel features hereinafter described and claimed.

An object of the invention is to provide a frame of simple and durable structure which may be easily and readily collapsed or set up and when in set up position is adapted to support a receptacle or container in which the mail matter may be packed or placed.

The container is attached to the frame and is of a flexible nature consequently the container will fold when the frame is collapsed and at such time the container and frame may be transported or stored and will occupy but little space. The frame is provided with means for holding a strap or other securing device for effectually holding the receptacle or container closed while in transit and the frame includes means for frictionally holding the frame in an extended or set up position.

In the accompanying drawings: Figure 1 is a perspective view of the receptacle and frame with parts of the receptacle broken away. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a portion of the frame.

As illustrated in Fig. 1 of the drawing the receptacle 1 may be made from canvas, leather or other suitable flexible material and the said receptacle is provided with a top flap 2. If desired handles 3 may be provided at the ends of the receptacle 1.

The frame includes front and back sections and as the sections are alike the description of one will answer. The said sections are formed from metal rod or wire and are of single pieces having their ends joined together as at 4. Each section comprises an upper part 5 and a lower part 6. These parts are approximately parallel with relation to each other. The parts 5 and 6 are provided at their ends with coils 7 and 8 respectively which are continued into end parts 9. The ends parts 9 are provided with loops 10. Braces 11 connect the parts 5 and 6 together and are provided with loops 12. Runners 13 of wire or rod are connected at their ends with the end portions of the parts 6 and the intermediate portions of the said runners 13 are spaced from the intermediate portions of the parts 6. When the same is in a set up position it may be moved along the surface of a floor by sliding the runners 13 over the floor. Each part 6 is provided at a point approximately between its ends with an inwardly disposed bend 14 and plates 15 are hingedly connected together at their inner end portions and the outer ends of the said plates are hinged to the bends 14 as most clearly shown in Fig. 2 of the drawing.

One of the plates 15 is provided at its inner end with a tongue 16 which is adapted to lie upon the upper surface of the other plate 15 when the parts are in set up position and consequently the said plates are prevented from swinging in a downward direction at their inner end portions with relation to each other. At the same time when the inner portions of the plates are swung in an upward direction as indicated in Fig. 2 the tongue 16 will bear against the bottom of the receptacle 1 and tend to fold the bottom of the said receptacle in an upward direction whereby the said receptacle may be completely held within the side sections of the frame when the parts are collapsed. The end sections of the frame consist of members 17 and 18 which are hingedly connected together as best shown in Fig. 2 and the said members are formed from metallic wire or rods and have parts 19 and 20 which are journaled in the coils 7 as the back and front sections respectively. The member 17 is in the general shape of a rectangle and is provided at its inner side with a loop 21. The end portions of the upper and lower parts of the member 18 are provided with coils 22 in which the inner part of the member 17 is hinged. The ends of the upper and lower parts of the member 17 are provided with hook extensions 23 adapted to engage the upper and lower parts of the members 17 when the frame is in set up position and adjacent the said hooks the upper and lower parts of the member 18 are formed with humps 24 adapted to frictionally engage the upper and lower parts of the member 17

when the frame is in set up position and the said humps serve as means for frictionally holding the frame in set up position.

The flap 2 of the receptacle is provided with openings 25 which may receive the loops 12 and 21 and the rear side of the said receptacle may be provided with similar openings for the reception of the loops 12 carried by the braces 11 at the rear section of the frame.

When the receptacle is in set up position as shown in Fig. 1 a strap 26 may be passed through the loops 12 and 21 and the ends of the said strap may be secured together by a lock 27 and consequently the flap 2 is securely held in a closed position upon the body of the receptacle 1.

From the above description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing it will be seen that a simple and durable frame structure for supporting a flexible receptacle is provided and that the parts may be easily and quickly manipulated in order to collapse the frame or set the same up. If desired the inner end portions of the members 7 and the braces 11 may be covered by strips 28 which are secured in any suitable manner to the body of the receptacle 1.

Having described the invention what is claimed is:—

1. In combination with a flexible receptacle having a flap provided with openings, a frame comprising front and rear sections and end sections hingedly connected therewith the said sections being provided with loops adapted to pass through the openings and a securing device passing through the loops.

2. In combination with a flexible receptacle having a flap, a frame comprising front and rear sections and end sections hingedly connected thereto the said frame having loops, the receptacle having openings through which the loops may pass, a securing device adapted to pass through the loops, the end sections of the frame consisting of members hingedly connected together one of the said members having hook extremities provided with humps adapted to frictionally engage the other of the said end members.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

LOUIS F. GROSENBECK.

Witnesses:

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