(No Model.)

R. J. PATTON.

TORPEDO SIGNAL HOLDER.

No. 381,277. Patented Apr. 17, 1888.

Fig. 1

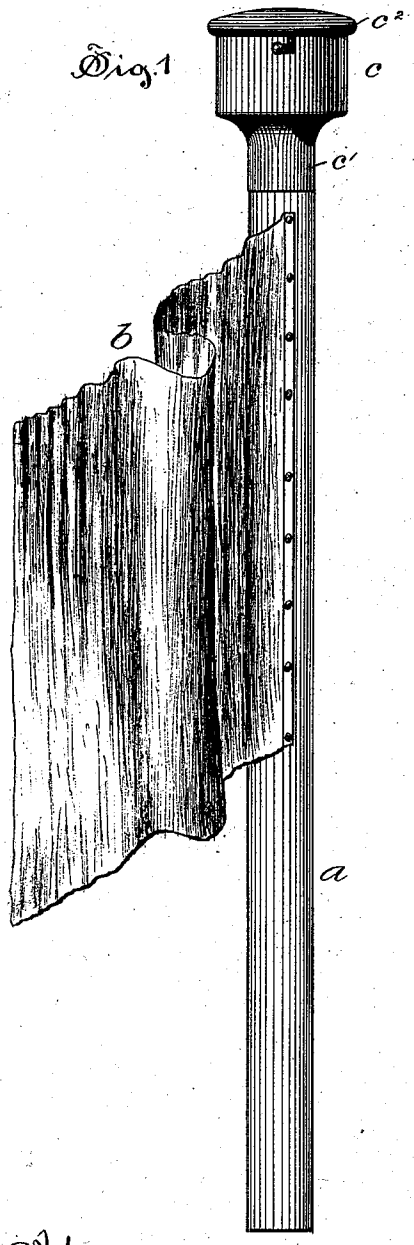


Fig. 2

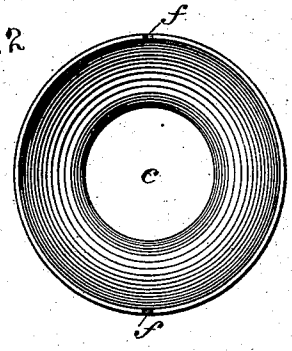
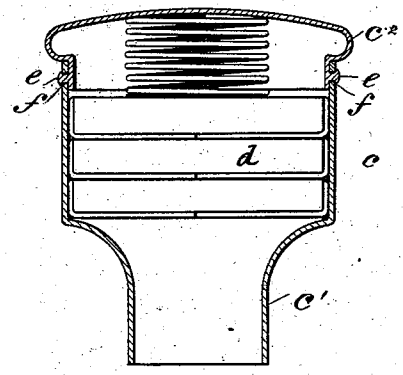


Fig. 3



Witnesses:

A. R. Williams

A. B. Jenkins.

Inventor,

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by Simonds & Burdett

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT J. PATTON, OF WATERBURY, CONNECTICUT.

TORPEDO-SIGNAL HOLDER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 381,277, dated April 17, 1888.

Application filed November 28, 1887. Serial No. 256,389. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT J. PATTON, of Waterbury, in the county of New Haven and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Torpedo-Signal Holders, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, whereby any one skilled in the art can make and use the same.

The object of my invention is to provide train-men with a convenient device that will enable the one whose duty it may be to signal a moving train to move without unnecessary delay in providing himself with the usual equipment of flag and torpedoes; and to this end my invention consists in the combination, with a flag-staff, of a torpedo-holder secured thereto; and it further consists in the combination of the staff and the several parts making up the carrier or holder, as more particularly hereinafter described, and pointed out in the claims.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 is a view of a flag-staff provided with my improved holder. Fig. 2 is a plan view of the holder on enlarged scale and with the cover removed. Fig. 3 is a detail view, in central longitudinal section, of the holder.

In the accompanying drawings, the letter *a* denotes the flag-staff, of the size and material in common use on railroad-trains, with a flag, *b*, of any suitable and usual color for use as a warning-signal. When for any reason a train stops at a point not a station, or not provided for in the schedule, it becomes the duty of a brakeman to go back along the track a certain distance to warn by the flag or torpedo any approaching train of the obstruction, and flags for such purpose are carried on the rear car of each train. A supply of dynamite caps or track-signals is also provided; but these must be taken by the signal-man in his pockets, and in the great haste necessary in many cases to get back a sufficient distance to stop the following train in time no caps are taken, and then dependence must be placed on the use of the flag alone as a means of attracting the attention of the engine-driver or the fireman, and in some instances this has not been enough.

The holder *c*, that is of proper size to contain several of the caps or explosive signals *d*, that are of a standard and nearly uniform size, is secured to the flag-staff, and the caps are stored therein, so that when the flag is taken the caps may also be taken, with no delay in looking them up in another place. The holder *c* is preferably of thin metal, spun to shape with the integral shank *c'*, that is hollow to fit upon the end of the staff, and to which it is fastened, as by nails or screws, and the removable cap or cover c^2 is fastened to the body of the holder by means of headed pins *e*, that project from the flange of the cover and enter the angular slot *f* in the body of the holder. This catch or fastening is similar to the well-known bayonet-catch, a partial rotation of the cap when the pins are in the slots carrying them along the part of the slot that is in the plane of rotation and locking the cap in place.

In order to prevent the signal-caps from shaking about in the holder, a spring may be secured to the under side of the cover, so as to press upon the caps and hold them with a yielding pressure, whether one or more are in the holder.

The cover of the holder is made removable to a sufficient extent to enable the caps to be taken out of the holder; and I do not limit myself to any particular means of attaching the cover to the holder or securing it in place. Instead of cutting the locking-slots through the body of the holder, they may be formed integral by pressing out an angular mortise.

I claim as my invention—

1. In combination with a portable flag-staff, a torpedo carrier having a removable cover, all substantially as described.

2. In combination with a portable flag-staff, *a*, a torpedo-carrier, *c*, secured thereto by its shank *c'*, the said holder having a removable cap or cover, c^2, with a projecting pin adapted to engage an angular slot in the body of the holder, all substantially as described.

3. In combination with the portable flag-staff *a*, the holder *c*, secured thereto, and the cover c^2, removably secured to the holder and bearing a spring projecting within the body of the holder, all substantially as described.

ROBERT J. PATTON.

Witnesses:
CHAS. L. BURDETT,
ARTHUR B. JENKINS.