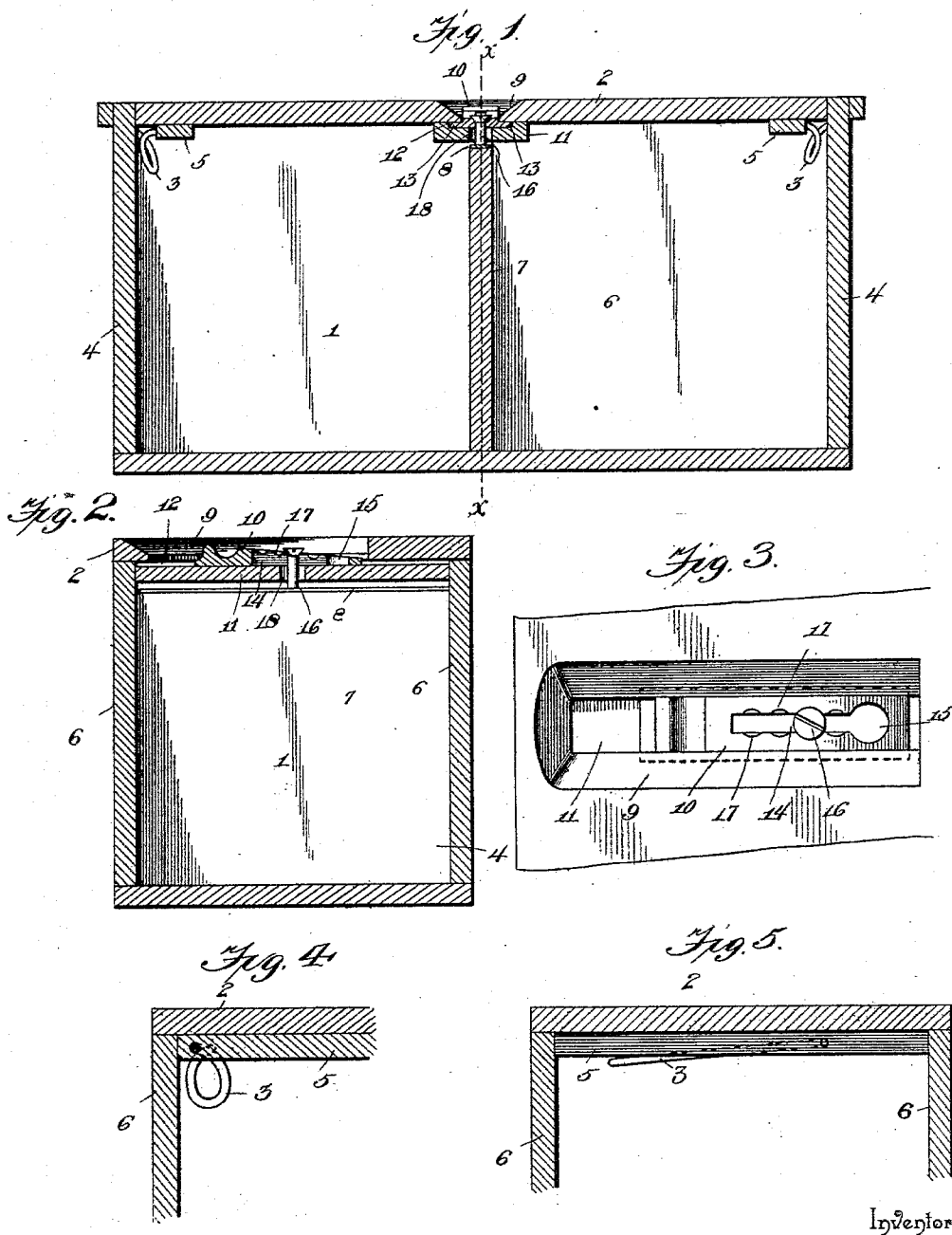


(No Model.)

W. D. MAYFIELD.
EGG CASE FASTENER.

No. 565,115.

Patented Aug. 4, 1896.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM DUDLEY MAYFIELD, OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS.

EGG-CASE FASTENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 565,115, dated August 4, 1896.

Application filed October 15, 1895. Serial No. 565,782. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM DUDLEY MAYFIELD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Fort Worth, in the county of Tarrant and State of Texas, have invented a new and useful Egg-Case Fastener, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to egg-cases and packages of similar character designed for shipping goods and which are required to be returned to the consignor to be again used; and the invention relates most especially to the means employed for securing the cover or top in place against accidental displacement under ordinary conditions and which will obviate the marring of the case or the cover, as usually results where removable fastenings, such as pointed wires or nails, are employed.

The fastening, while especially adapted and particularly designed for egg-cases, can be applied to boxes and packages whose tops or covers are required to be secured by positive means against accidental displacement and which are designed to be used time and again.

For a full understanding of the merits and advantages of the invention reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings and the following description; and to this end the improvement consists of certain details, novel features, and combinations of parts, which hereinafter will be more particularly set forth, illustrated, and claimed.

Figure 1 is a vertical longitudinal section of a case or package, showing the application of the invention. Fig. 2 is a transverse section on the line X X of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a top plan view of a portion of the case or box cover, showing the fastener in locked relation. Fig. 4 is a detail view showing the connection between the cover and the box or case. Fig. 5 shows a modification of the connection.

Referring to the drawings, in which the same reference-numerals denote similar and corresponding parts in all the figures, 1 indicates the case or box, and 2 the top or cover, the latter being secured to the box or case by positive connections 3, which will admit of the cover being removed and turned down alongside of the case, and which will prevent loss or displacement of the said cover. These

connections are preferably rawhide strings or straps, as shown in Fig. 4, or they may be formed of wire, which latter has its end portions bent and fitted into the cleat of the cover and the end of the case or box. The sole purpose of these connections is to prevent the separation and loss of the cover; and any means that will attain this end may be employed and is contemplated by the term "connection."

The top or cover 2 is of such a length as to come between the ends 4 of the case or box, and is of a width to overlap and be supported upon the top edges of its sides, and is strengthened at its ends by cleats 5, which are of a length to extend between the sides 6 of the case or box and thereby prevent lateral displacement of the cover. The middle partition 7 is protected at its upper edge by a strap or plate of iron 8, which will preclude the driving of a nail or similar fastening through the cover into the said partition, thereby compelling the merchant or consignee to resort to the fastening provided to secure the cover to the box.

A transverse opening 9 is provided in the cover opposite the partition 7, and its edges or walls are flared upwardly and outwardly to admit of ready access to the locking-wedge 10, which is located and operates in the bottom portion of the said opening, and is supported by means of a plate 11, secured to the under side of the cover opposite the opening 9. This plate 11 has a channel or groove 12, in which reciprocates the locking-wedge 10, and this channel is slightly wider than the opening 9, and ribs 13 project laterally from the sides of the locking-wedge 10 and operate in the space formed immediately beneath the edge portion of the cover bordering upon the opening 9 and overlapping the channel or groove 12. By this means the locking-wedge is secured in the channel or groove against accidental displacement. The locking-wedge is formed with a longitudinal slot 14, which is enlarged near the smaller end of the wedge, forming an opening 15, through which is adapted to pass the head of the fastening 16, secured in the upper edge of the partition 7, and notches 17 are provided at intervals along the sides of the slot 14 to receive the head of the fastening 16, so as to secure the locking-

wedge in the adjusted position. An opening 18 is provided in the plate 11 for the passage therethrough of the head of the fastening 16.

The fastening 16 may be of any desired 5 form so long as its upper end is enlarged or provided with a head to overlap the sides of the slot in the locking-wedge and engage therewith and hold the cover firmly in place, but for the sake of simplicity and economy 10 of construction the said fastening consists of an ordinary wood-screw let into the upper edge of the partition 7, and this screw can be moved either in or out to secure the proper distance between its head and the locking- 15 wedge to attain a positive and firm connection between the fastening 16 and the locking-wedge. The plate 11 may be either of metal or wood, the latter being preferred, but the locking-wedge is of cast metal, so as 20 to withstand the wear and strain to which it is subjected, and this locking-wedge is formed at its larger end with a depression to receive the finger or a suitable tool to enable the locking-wedge to be moved forward or withdrawn 25 from an operative position, as required.

In disposing the parts the upper edge of the partition 7 should extend within a short distance of the lower side of the plate 11, so that the middle portion of the cover can be depressed by applying pressure to its top side, thereby admitting of the locking-wedge being easily moved forward, and when the pressure is removed from the cover the latter will 30 spring, so as to cause the notches in register with the head of the fastening 16 to receive the said head, and thereby secure the locking-wedge in a positive manner against accidental displacement. To loosen the locking- 35 wedge, the cover can be depressed or the locking-wedge may be struck a smart blow, so as to disengage its notches from the head of the fastening 16, as will be readily comprehended.

Having thus described the invention, what 45 is claimed as new is—

1. The combination with a box and its cover having an opening, of a headed fastening applied to the box, a plate secured to the cover opposite the said opening and formed with an 50 opening to receive the headed end of the fastening, and a longitudinally-slotted locking-wedge supported by the said plate and having the longitudinal slot enlarged at the smaller end of the wedge to receive the headed fastening, and having notches on each side of the 55 said longitudinal slot to receive the head of the said fastening to secure the locking-wedge in a positive manner in the located position, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination with a box having a 60 partition and its cover having an opening opposite the said partition, of a plate secured to the under side of the cover opposite the opening therein and having a groove or channel in the side adjacent to the said cover, and hav- 65 ing an opening, a headed fastening secured to the said partition and adapted to pass through the opening of the plate, a locking-wedge operating in the opening of the cover and in the said channel of the plate and hav- 70 ing laterally-extending ribs to project beneath the edge portions of the cover bordering upon the opening therein, said locking-wedge having a longitudinal slot which is enlarged at the smaller end of the wedge, substantially as 75 and for the purpose set forth.

3. The combination with a box having a partition, and a headed fastening adjustably connected with the said partition, of a cover, and a longitudinally-slotted locking-wedge 80 mounted upon the cover and having its slot enlarged at the smaller end of the wedge, and having notches along the sides of the said slot so that the head of the aforesaid fasten- 85 ing may become firmly seated in the proper notch and held therein by the spring of the cover, substantially in the manner set forth for the purpose described.

4. In combination, a box having a vertical partition having its upper edge protected by 90 a metal strap, a headed fastening adjustably connected with the upper edge of the said partition, a cover overlapping the top edges of the box sides and having its ends coming between the ends of the box, said cover hav- 95 ing a transverse opening whose walls flare upwardly, a channeled plate secured to the under side of the cover opposite to the opening therein and formed with an opening to receive the headed fastening, and a longitudi- 100 nally-slotted locking-wedge having a depression at its larger end and having the slot enlarged at the smaller end of the wedge, and having notches along the sides of the said slot, and having laterally-extending ribs to en- 105 gage beneath the projecting edge portions of the transverse opening in the cover, the notches of the locking-wedge being engaged with the headed fastening by depressing the cover, substantially in the manner set forth. 110

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

WILLIAM DUDLEY MAYFIELD.

Witnesses:

GEO. E. BRYAN,
J. J. CURRY.