No. 609,017. Patented Aug. 16, 1898.

W. J. FOSS.

AUTOMATIC MATCH BOX.

(Application filed Apr. 12, 1897.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

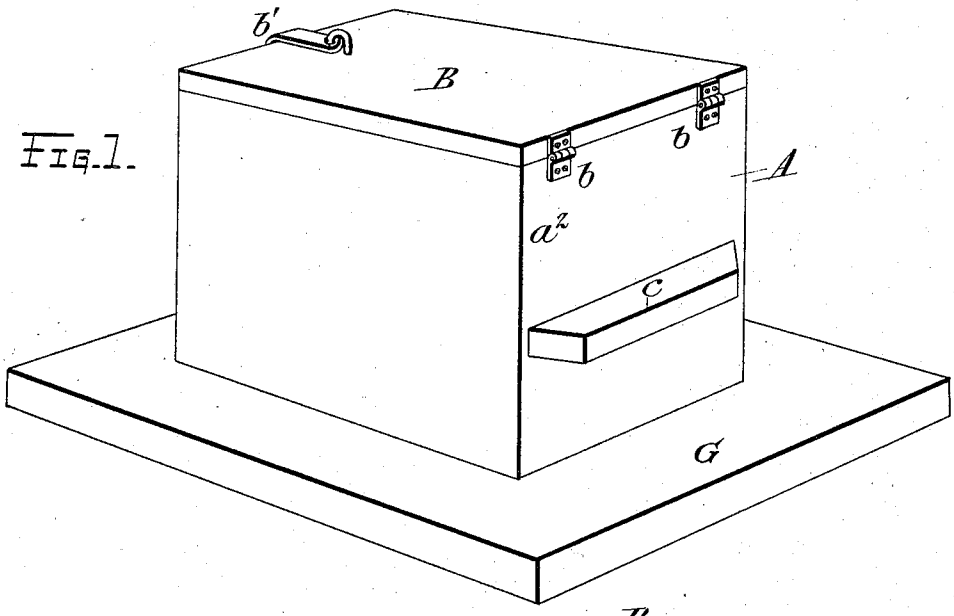


Fig. 2.

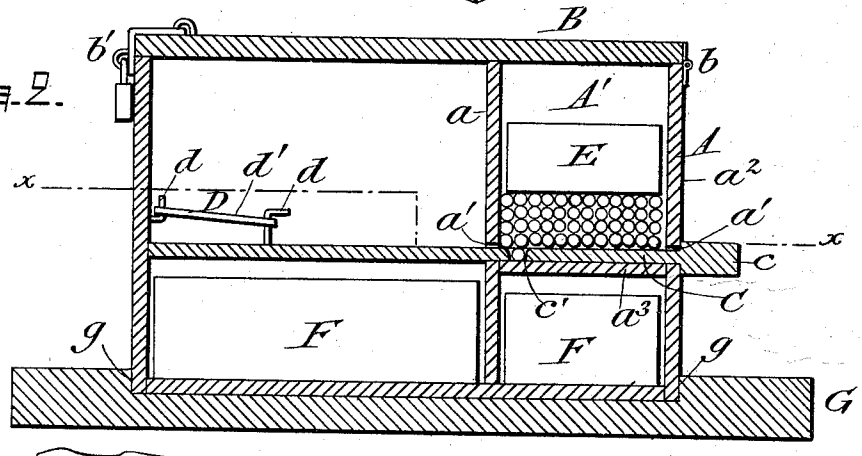
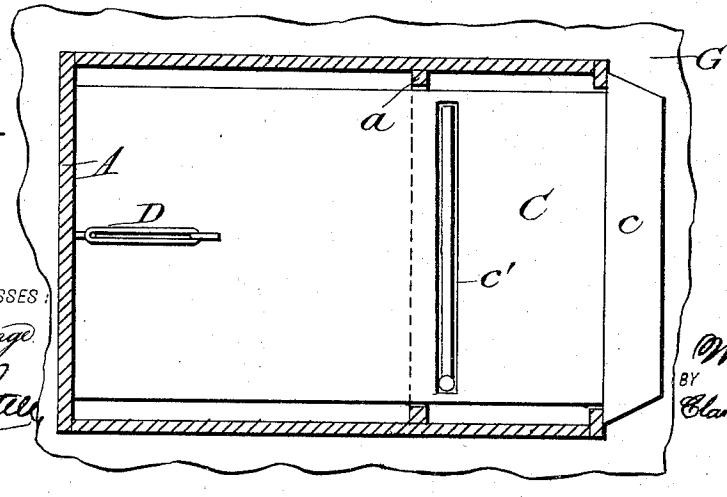


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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AUTOMATIC MATCH-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 609,017, dated August 16, 1898.

Application filed April 12, 1897. Serial No. 631,818. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM J. FOSS, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Jersey City, county of Hudson, and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Automatic Match-Boxes, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part thereof, in which similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

This invention relates to that class of match-safes which embody a slide forming the bottom of the receptacle or reservoir and provided with a slot through which the matches are adapted to be automatically passed by operation of the slide.

The object of my invention is to provide a simple and improved match-safe of this class which will possess advantages in point of inexpensiveness, convenience, ease of operation, and general efficiency.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the match-safe embodying my improvements. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal vertical sectional view. Fig. 3 is a top or plan view of the slide.

Referring to the drawings, A designates the body of the match-safe, which is box shape, as shown, and provided with a top or cover B, which may be hinged, as at *b*, and secured by a clasp and lock, as at *b'*. The box or body A is divided by an interior vertical partition *a* to form a match reservoir or receptacle A', the bottom of which is formed by a slide or platform C, said slide being mounted and guided in transverse horizontal slots or openings *a' a'* in the interior partition *a* and the front wall a^2 of the box.

The horizontal slide C is longitudinally arranged with respect to the box or body and is provided with a front enlargement or head *c*, projecting exteriorly at the front of the box and forming a hinge by which the slide may be operated against a tension of a spring mechanism D, connecting the inner end of the slide with the box. This spring mechanism may embody two hooks *d d*, respectively projecting from the slide and the rear end of the box, over which hooks an elastic strap or band *d'* may be sprung. At a point near the inner end of the portion of the slide which forms the bottom of the match-compartment A' the slide is provided with a transverse slot or opening *c'*, adapted to accommodate a match, and under the slotted end of the slide is arranged a platform or horizontal partition a^3, which serves to retain the match within a slot *c'* during the movement of the slide.

The matches are assembled in a transverse position within the reservoir or compartment A' and are retained in proper relative position for feeding into the slot *c'* by means of a weight or block E, which is superposed upon the matches in the bottom of the box or body A. Below the slide I prefer to arrange weights or blocks, as shown at F, which will serve to retain the device in position during operation.

The box or body may be mounted in any suitable or desired position or manner; but I prefer to seat it within the corresponding recess *g*, formed in a flat extended base G, which base G may be constructed of rubber or other elastic or flexible material, by which arrangement the device is especially adapted for effective and convenient use upon counters or the like, and the latter are insured against scratching or other damage by reason of the cushion-base.

The operation and advantages of my invention will be readily understood. In the automatic feeder of the matches a single match will always rest within the slot of the slide, and it is only necessary to pull the slide outwardly with respect to the box or body until the match is carried outside the latter, when it will automatically drop in the hand of the operator or upon the cushion-base G. When the slide is released, it automatically returns to normal position by action of the spring mechanism D, and in its return movement another match is fed into the carrying-slot in the slide.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

As a new article of manufacture, a match-safe comprising the body A provided with the cover B, said body having a vertical partition *a* forming a match-receptacle A', the slide C mounted in transverse horizontal slots in the partition *a* and front wall a^2 of the box, said slide provided with a head *c* projecting in

front of the box, a spring mechanism D connecting the inner end of slide with the box, said spring mechanism embodying hooks *d d* projecting from the slide and rear ends of box respectively, and an elastic band *d'* engaging said hooks, a slot *c'* in the bottom of the slide to receive a match and a horizontal partition a^3 arranged under the slot to retain a match in the slot during movement of the slide, and a weighted block E resting upon the matches in the box A to retain them in position for feeding into the slot, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention I have signed my name, in presence of two witnesses, this 10th day of April, 1897.

WILLIAM J. FOSS.

Witnesses:
E. TIBBITS,
C. SEDGWICK.