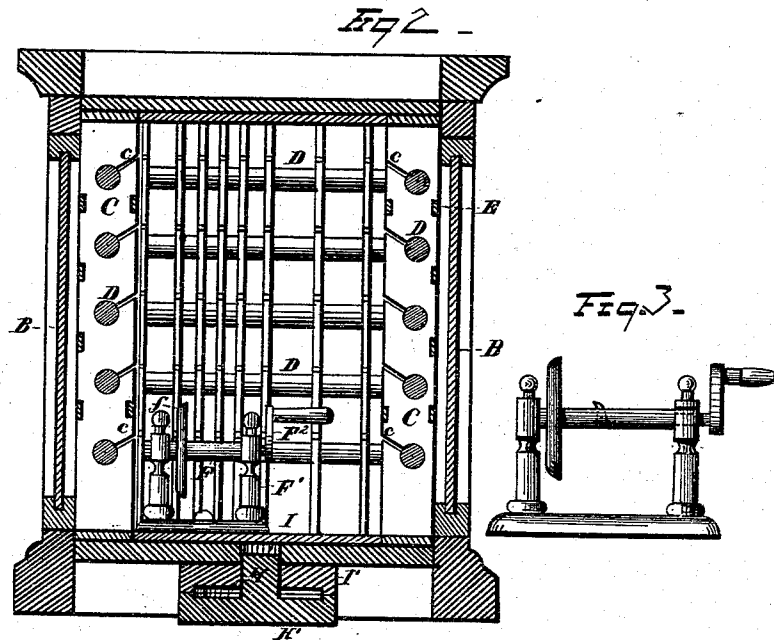
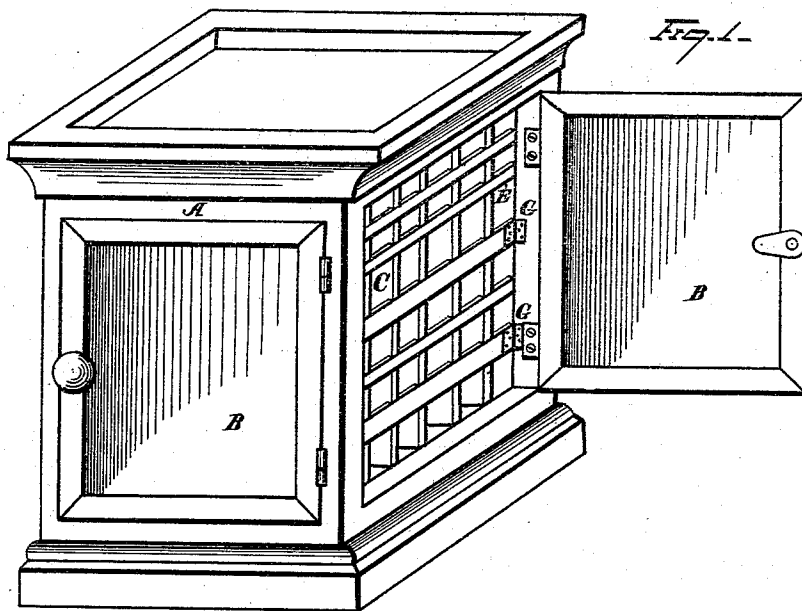


F. L. STOFFER.

SHOW-CASE.

No. 177,972.

Patented May 30, 1876.



WITNESSES

E. J. Nottingham,
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANKLIN L. STOUFFER, OF KENT, OHIO.

IMPROVEMENT IN SHOW-CASES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **177,972**, dated May 30, 1876; application filed February 9, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANKLIN L. STOUFFER, of Kent, in the county of Portage and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Device for Preserving and Showing Laces, &c.; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and use it, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form part of this specification.

My invention relates to a device for preserving, and at the same time displaying, laces, edgings, and other articles of a like nature, which are habitually handled by purchasers, and are liable to become soiled or stolen.

My invention consists in a glass case, within which the laces, &c., are suspended upon rollers, and displayed therefrom, provided with an interior hinged frame, giving access to said interior. My invention consists, also, in connection with the display-case, of a windlass, upon which the material is wound and afterward transferred to rolls, which windlass is located within the case, all substantially as hereinafter set forth and claimed.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the case with one of the doors opened, so as to give access to the windlass. Fig. 2 is a section by a vertical plane, containing the axes of the windlass. Fig. 3 is a side elevation, in detail, of said windlass.

A is a suitable frame, which may be of any desired shape, that in the drawing being in the form of a cube. B are the glass faces, each of which is hinged at one of its edges, so as to permit of ready access to the case. C are uprights, slotted at *c* for the insertion of the journal-rolls D, upon which the goods are to be wound. E are cross-pieces, which are located on the outer edges of the uprights, over which the goods from any roller may be drawn and displayed. The outer edges of the uprights C are preferably provided with graduated scales, so that the clerk, when selling goods from one roll, can make the measurements immediately without resorting to another measure. F is a windlass, adjusted so as to be readily removed from its standards

F¹. It is operated by a crank, F². *f* is a guide, for the purpose of guiding the material to the outer edge in winding. *f'* is a loose catch, which will grasp the goods and prevent them from slipping during the operation of rolling, but will immediately yield when it is desired to slip the goods from the windlass and insert a roller, E, in place thereof. One series of rolls—that is, one of the faces—is attached to frame-work, so as to permit of opening around hinges G to admit of access to the windlass.

The operation of the device is very simple, and may be briefly described as follows: The piece of goods to be displayed is wound upon the roller F, and is wound straight by holding one of its edges against the guide *f*, and is prevented from turning loosely on the windlass by the catch *f'*. When the piece is all wound upon the windlass, the windlass is taken out of its bearings F¹, the guide *f* is removed, and the windlass is drawn out, the catch *f* yielding for that purpose. One of the rollers D is then slipped into the opening left in the roll of goods. The roller D is then replaced in the frame by slipping its journals into their proper seats through the slots *c*. The end of the goods is then drawn out and hung over the cross-piece E, so as to display the same through the glass door B. If, then, it is desired to measure off a length for sale, the door B is opened, and the clerk catches the end of the goods and measures off the proper amount upon a scale on the edge of the frame C, adjacent therefor, and so with any other piece.

A merchant may display in a case of this nature—say one cubic yard in dimension—a very large assortment of this class of goods, and when the rollers are well filled they will hold quite a large stock as well. He can also display all the goods, or their samples, to a very good advantage, where they can be readily examined by customers without handling, and without liability of loss by theft.

This case should preferably be made so as to be revolved about a vertical axis. Such a contrivance is shown beneath, H being a vertical axis, depending from a disk, H', into a shoe, I, in the disk I'. All that is necessary is to prevent the disk I' from shifting out of

its place as the case is revolved. This may readily be prevented by placing a piece of sand-paper upon the counter with its rough side uppermost; then stand the case so that the bottom of the disk I' shall rest upon the sand-paper. This will present sufficient friction to prevent the shifting of the case as it revolves.

It is understood that this device is not necessarily made revolving, as it may be placed upon a stationary stand, where access can be had to two sides of it. So, also, it is not absolutely essential that the windlass should be placed upon the inside of the case, though it is preferable, being always at hand. Moreover, other means for shifting the rollers D may be employed instead of slots c, this being but one of many methods.

What I claim is—

1. The combination, with the case A and faces B, of a series of rolls, attached to a frame hinged at G, to admit of access to the interior of the case, substantially as and for the purpose described.

2. In a show-case for the displaying of fine goods, the windlass F, having guide *f* and loose catch *f'*, as shown and described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

FRANKLIN L. STOUTER.

Witnesses:

B. F. KELLER,
E. N. DAVIS.