

(No Model.)

J. A. ROOSEVELT.
MAIL BAG FASTENER.

No. 508,841.

Patented Nov. 14, 1893.

Fig. 1.

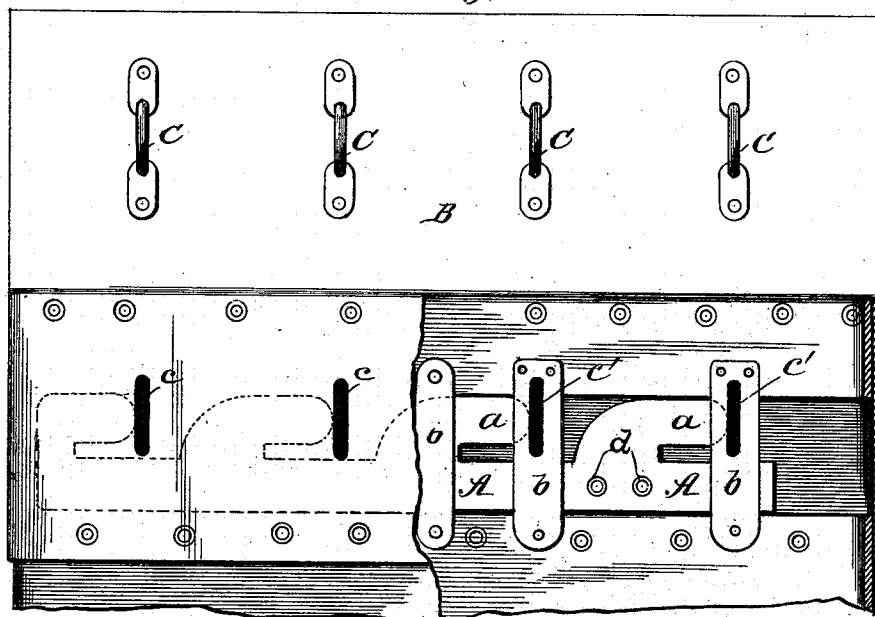


Fig. 2.

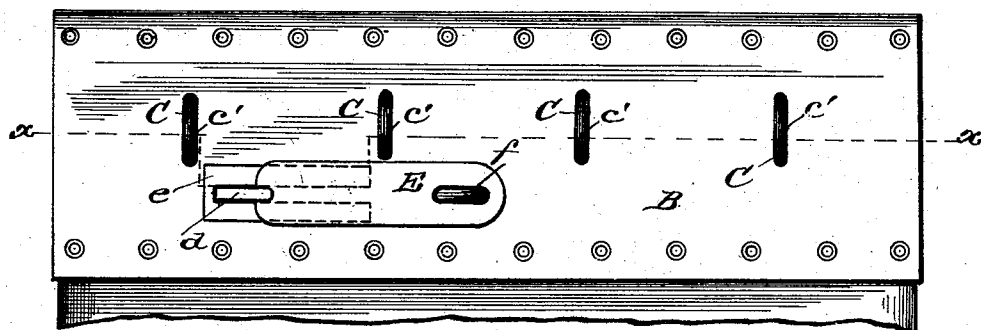
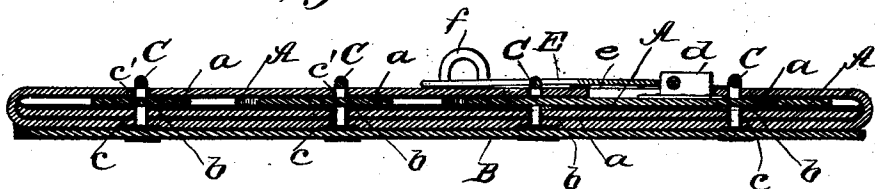


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES ALBERT ROOSEVELT, OF AUSTIN, TEXAS, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO
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MAIL-BAG FASTENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 508,841, dated November 14, 1893.

Application filed August 3, 1891. Serial No. 401,595. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES ALBERT ROOSEVELT, residing at Austin, Travis county, in the State of Texas, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Mail-Bag Fasteners, of which the following is a specification.

My invention consists of the novel construction and arrangements of parts hereinafter described and claimed.

Reference is had to the accompanying drawings, in which the same parts are indicated by the same letters.

Figure 1 is a side view of the mouth of the bag with the flap turned back and the near edge of the mouth of the bag partly removed to show the longitudinally sliding strap and locking tongues. Fig. 2 is a side view from the opposite side of the bag, the mouth being closed, and Fig. 3 is a section through the mouth of the bag taken on line *x-x* of Fig. 2.

In the drawings A represents a strap of stiff leather which has upon one side a series of offsetting projecting tongues *a a* extending parallel to the strap. This strap is retained on one of the inner sides of the mouth of the bag by means of metal keepers *b* extending transversely across the strap and guiding it in its longitudinal movement. At the mouth of the bag, the leather, of which it is constructed, is of double thickness except at the point where the strap plays, and here it is of single thickness which gives a channelway for the strap to move in.

Upon one side of the mouth of the bag is extended the flap B which on its inner side is provided with a series of staples C. To correspond with these staples there is cut through the mouth of the bag a series of slots *c* on one side of the mouth, and a second series of slots *c'* on the other side, the latter series being also extended through the metal keepers that retain the strap. When the flap is folded down over the bag and its staples are passed through the slots *c c'* in the mouth of the bag, the row of staples are in a direct line with the tongues on the strap, so that if the strap is moved longitudinally, the tongues will pass through said staples and thus lock the mouth of the bag.

To accomplish the foregoing result, the

strap has attached to its back a lug or staple *d*, which passes through a slot arranged transversely in the mouth of the bag, which slot is reinforced or bound with a metal plate *e* and is long enough to allow the proper movement of the lug in the adjustment of the strap. To this lug is loosely hung a hasp *E*, which, when the strap is in its locking position is adapted to be fastened over a staple *f* and be secured by a padlock. This hasp is provided with a label and serves the triple purpose of locking hasp, label holder, and handle by which the strap is worked or slid longitudinally to its locked or unlocked position.

The advantages of the fastening are that it is easily and quickly operated and affords perfect security to the contents. It also leaves the bag smooth on the outside and there is no danger of water or dirt getting into the bag. The fastener can be applied to an old bag already in use, and is not liable to get damaged or out of order from rough handling.

The leather strap A is in plain sight whenever the bag is opened, and hence its condition may be inspected every time the bag is so opened. Should it become worn out it may be readily withdrawn and a new strap made and put in place, this without the necessity for any special tools other than are found in any cobbler's shop. Again the strap A and guides *b* lie flat and are not liable to catch in and tear any mail matter thrown into the bag.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

1. The combination with a mail bag provided with a flap B, slots *c*, a double upper portion on the side contiguous to said flap, and a channel cut in said portion; of guides *b* having slots *c'* secured across said channel; a leather strap A adapted to slide in said channel and having tongues *a* integral therewith and projecting from one side of said strap; staples C secured to the inner side of said flap and adapted to pass through said slots *c* and *c'* when said flap is closed, and means for moving said strap and engaging said tongues in said staples when said flap is closed, substantially as described.

2. The combination with a mail bag provided with a flap B, slots *c*, a double upper

portion on the side contiguous to said flap,
and a channel cut in said portion; of guides
b having slots c' secured across said channel;
a leather strap A having tongues a integral
5 therewith and projecting from one side of
said strap; staples C secured to the inner side
of said flap and adapted to pass through said
slots c and c' when said flap is closed, a staple
secured to said bag, and a combined hasp and

tag holder secured to the back of said strap 10
and adapted to engage said staple when the
flap is closed and the strap moved into the
locking position, substantially as described.

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Witnesses:

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