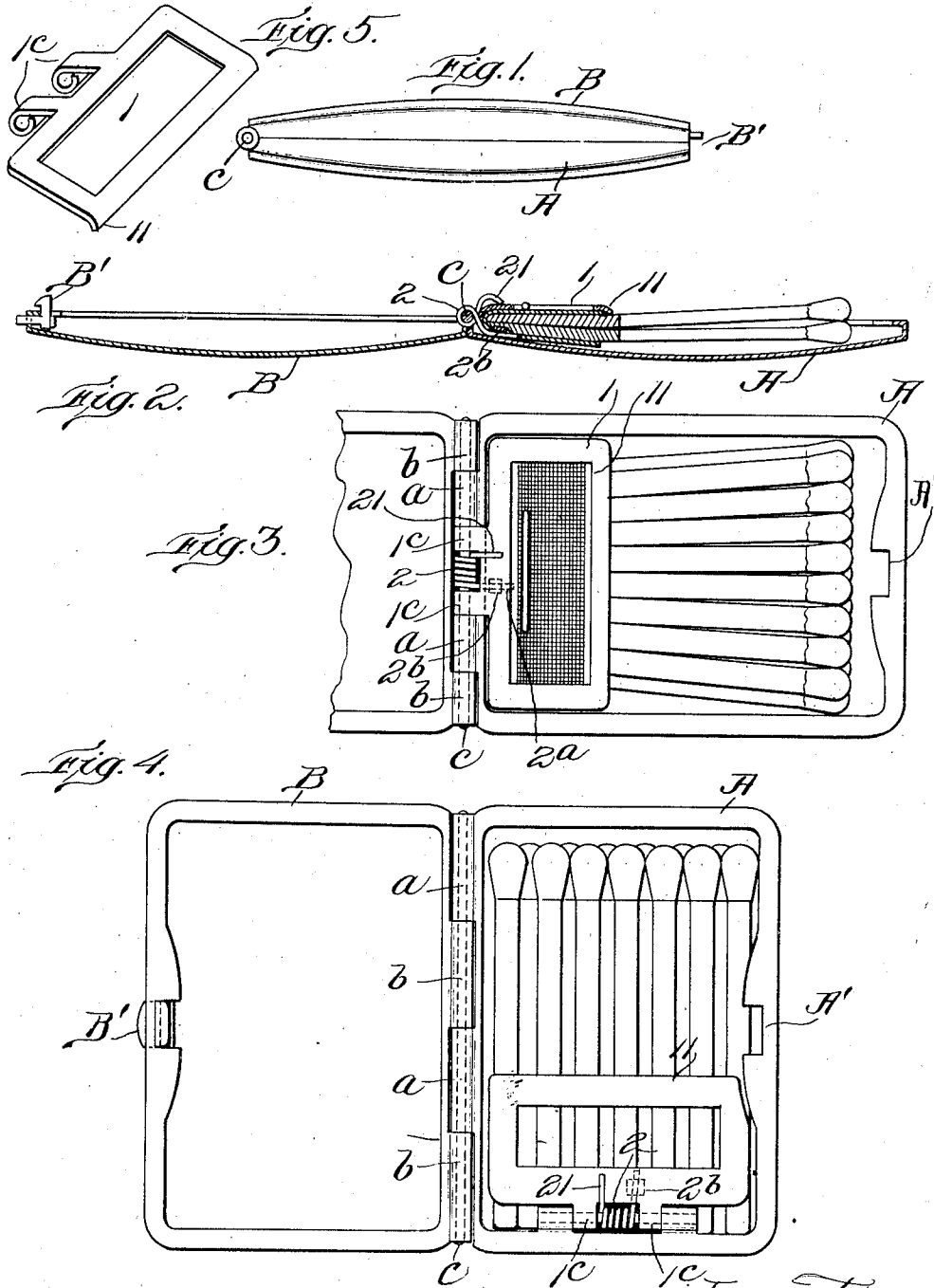


W. G. WEMMELL.
MATCH BOX.
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1,344,746.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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MATCH-BOX.

1,344,746.

Specification of Letters Patent. Patented June 29, 1920.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM G. WEMMELL, a citizen of the United States, residing at North Attleboro, in the county of Bristol and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Match-Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention is an improved pocket match box, which may, however, be used for or readily adapted to holding other small articles.

My improved match box is adapted to receive and hold either the well known paper matches, which come in card or comb form, or loose matches.

My improved match box is simple in construction, being constituted of four elements only,—it is therefore relatively cheap to construct and to assemble and it is equally adapted to carry loose matches or matches assembled in card or comb form.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is an end view of the match box, closed;

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional elevation of the box of Fig. 1, in open position;

Fig. 3 is a plan view of the body portion of my box, open, showing a comb of matches in position;

Fig. 4 shows a modification; and

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the presser plate.

The match box or holder is made up of the box proper, made up of two parts a body A, and a cover B, hinged together along one edge of each part by the usual eyes, *a*, and *b*, secured to the parts A and B respectively, and connected by a pintle, *c*, passing through the eyes *a* and *b*.

A third element in the combination is a frame-like presser plate, 1, having on one edge eyes, 1^c, by means of which the presser plate is preferably mounted upon the pintle, *c*, by which the parts A and B are connected, so that the plate is pivoted upon the same element, namely the pintle *c*, upon which the parts A and B are mounted and by which they are connected together. The presser plate may, however, be pivoted upon one edge or side of part A, or otherwise, as shown in Fig. 4.

A coiled spring 2 is also preferably mounted upon the pintle *c*, the spring being close wound, one end 2^a of the spring is engaged with a detent 2^b, secured on the inner

surface of part A and the other end 2^l rests against the outer surface of plate 1, the effort of the spring, distorted to effect these engagements being to force the plate and the part A together.

The part B, which is the cover part, swings freely upon the pintle *c*, and is provided with a catch B' of any well known kind, to engage a cooperating part A' on the other member A, of the box, to lock the parts in closed position.

The plate 1 is preferably provided with a lip 11 on its forward free edge, which in use presses upon the loose matches, when the box is loaded with loose matches and concentrates pressure along the line of the lip 11 and, when a comb of paper matches is carried, hooks over the edge of the binding strip of the paper cover of the comb and gives a secure hold on the comb, to retain it in place as an individual match is twisted and pulled, for removal. The plate 1 is formed as an open frame.

In operation, the parts A and B being separated, the plate 1 is lifted against the effort of spring and matches laid in part A. Plate 1 is then released, and presses upon and securely holds in place the contained matches, which, however, may easily be removed individually by pulling a single match. In the case of loose matches, in filling the box, a slight cross-wise, rolling action on the matches will cause them to arrange themselves side by side and the plate will follow up and hold them.

In this specification, the words body and cover are used to designate respectively the part of the box which receives the matches and the part which closes over and covers the body.

I claim:—

In a match box, the combination with a body and a cover of a frame-like presser member, pivoted upon the body and cooperating therewith; a presser spring engaged at one end with the body and at the other end engaging the presser member to continuously force it into and toward the body; an inwardly projecting hooked lip on the forward free end of the presser member, which engages the contained matches and concentrates pressure along the line of the lip.

Signed at North Attleboro, Mass., this 29th day of January, 1919.

WILLIAM G. WEMMELL.