(No Model.)

E. J. BROOKS.

SEAL.

No. 314,994. Patented Apr. 7, 1885.

Fig. 1.

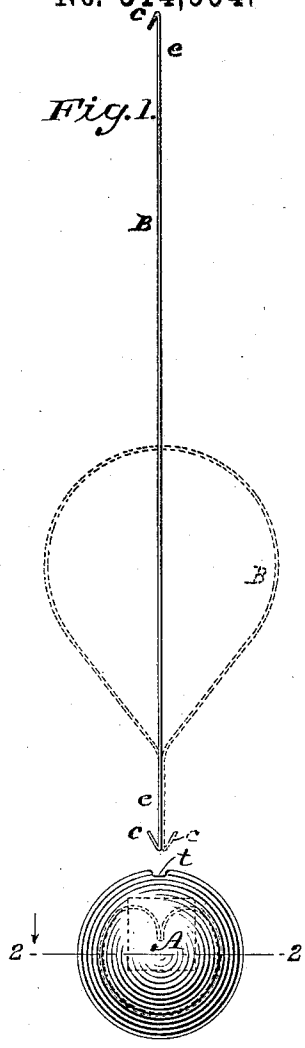


Fig. 2.

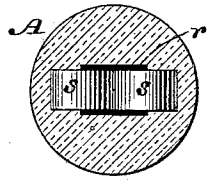


Fig. 3.

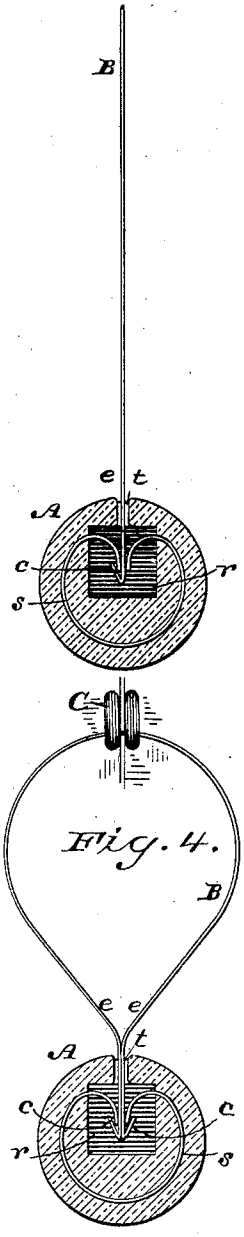
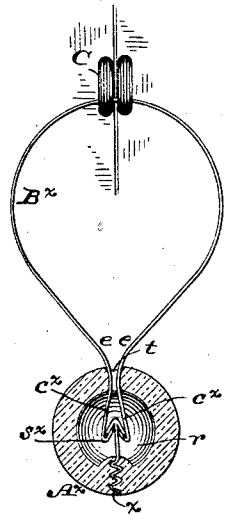


Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD J. BROOKS, OF EAST ORANGE, NEW JERSEY, ASSIGNOR TO E. J. BROOKS & CO., OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

SEAL.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 314,994, dated April 7, 1885.

Application filed June 21, 1884. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD J. BROOKS, a citizen of the United States, residing at East Orange, in the State of New Jersey, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Seals, of which the following is a specification.

In a previous specification, forming part of an application for United States Patent filed April 10, 1884, Patent No. 303,417, I set forth "self-fastening" seals of that general class a characteristic of which is the employment or use, as a part or the whole of each seal, of a flexible shackle the ends of which are united or fastened at the "sealing" operation after passing the shackle through a pair of staples or otherwise "applying" the same, and which is or may be easily cut to open or unseal a car-door or other object secured by the seal, the said self-fastening seals set forth in said previous specification having double "seal parts," of pottery or other hard and frangible material, within which the ends of sheet-metal shackles are secured by interlocking snap-catches formed on the respective extremities of the shackle, the two halves of each seal part being fast on the respective shackle ends.

The present invention consists in improved self-fastening seals of the same general class, and adapted, like those above named, to be made with sheet-metal shackles and "pottery" seal parts, and to be quickly "opened," to unseal the object to which it is applied, either by cutting the shackle or by breaking the seal part, as may be most convenient, the shackles being adapted, furthermore, to be passed through small staples or the like, and the seal parts to be made each in one simple piece, the latter having a narrow threading-hole, and provided internally with a metallic catch to coact with snap-catches integral with the threading end or ends of the shackle, to fasten the latter securely within the seal part, notwithstanding any inequalities in the pottery itself, and without straining said integral snap-catches in the fastening operation, each seal part having an internal spring-catch distinct from the shackle, and a narrow threading-hole leading thereto, each shackle having snap-catches at its respective extremities, whereby I am enabled at once to manufacture and pack the parts separately, and to unite them by the aforesaid mode of fastening preliminary to applying the seal, so as to facilitate carrying and using the same.

A sheet of drawings accompanies this specification as part thereof.

Figure 1 of the drawings is an elevation of the two parts of a seal, illustrating this invention. Fig. 2 represents a horizontal section through the seal part, with the fastening-catch therein in elevation. Fig. 3 is a sectional edge view of the parts preliminarily united. Fig. 4 is a like view of the seal fastened; and Fig. 5 is a sectional edge view of another fastened seal, illustrating modifications.

Like letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several figures.

This improved self-fastening seal in each of the forms represented by the drawings consists of a single hard and brittle seal part, A or A^x, adapted to be made of pottery or baked clay, and preferably of this cheap and readily-manipulated material, and a flexible sheet-metal shackle, B or B^x, adapted to be made of "frangible tin" (hard tin-plate) cut into suitable strips, which is preferred for seals of the customary small sizes. The seal part is, moreover, in each form made hollow, with a permanent recess, *r*, and provided internally with a spring-catch, *s* or s^x, projecting within said recess, and with a narrow threading-hole, *t*, leading thereto, sufficiently contracted to preclude turning a shackle end therein, and to prevent inserting unfastening-instruments, while the shackle has at the extremity of each threading end *e* a snap-catch, *c*, adapted to enter said threading-hole and to interlock with said internal catch of the seal part, for which purposes short rigid catches adapted to enter without material strain will suffice. The seals would preferably be packed for shipment, or leave the factory with their shackles "straight," as shown in full lines in Fig. 1, and with the parts united at one end of the shackle, as shown in Fig. 3, so as to be conveniently carried as one part. The free threading end is readily passed through a pair of car-door staples, C, or the like, even of small size, after which, by simply inserting this end of the shackle, the seal is fastened, as shown in Figs. 4 and 5, so as to "seal" the object to which it is applied, which is quickly unsealed,

as aforesaid, either by cutting the sheet-metal shackle or by breaking the brittle seal-part, as may be most convenient.

In the form represented by Figs. 1 to 4, inclusive, the two parts A B are adapted to be made and packed for shipment separate from each other, as seen in Figs. 1 and 2. The seal part has an internal spring-catch *s* formed by a bent strip of flat metal, preferably steel, with recurved ends which project into the recess *r* and form central fastening-shoulders. Both ends of the shackle are threading ends *e*, and terminate in catches *c*, which, being single, are adapted to project outwardly when the shackle is bent in use, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1, and when inserted to coact with said internal catch, as aforesaid. One shackle end is inserted to unite the parts preliminarily, as shown in Fig. 3, and the seal is fastened by inserting the other end, as shown in Fig. 4.

In that analogous form represented by Fig. 5 the two parts A^x B^x may be made and used in the same manner; but the internal spring-catch s^x is "double" or of arrow-head shape, with a roughened shank, *x*, around which the material of the seal part is solidified, and the shackle ends terminate in snap-catches c^x c^x, adapted to project inwardly when inserted, as shown in the figure.

Other materials adapted to be molded or cast into a hard and brittle seal part, sufficiently cheap, strong, and weatherproof, may be used instead of pottery; and flat wire, band-iron, and the like are considered equivalents of sheet metal for the purposes of this invention; and the seal parts and shackles may each or either be provided with suitable distinguishing-marks in any approved ways.

Having thus described my said improvement in seals, I claim as my invention and desire to patent under the present specification—

An improved self-fastening seal composed of a hard and brittle seal part, having a permanent recess, an internal spring-catch distinct from the shackle, and a narrow threading-hole leading to said catch, and a flexible flat shackle having snap-catches at both extremities adapted to interlock successively with said internal catch, whereby the shackle is adapted to be made and packed for shipment separate from the seal part, and to be united therewith preliminary to the sealing operation by inserting one shackle end, and fastened at the sealing operation by inserting the other shackle end, as herein specified.

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