

(No Model.)

H. W. LAUN.
HOUSE DOOR LETTER BOX.

No. 468,605.

Patented Feb. 9, 1892.

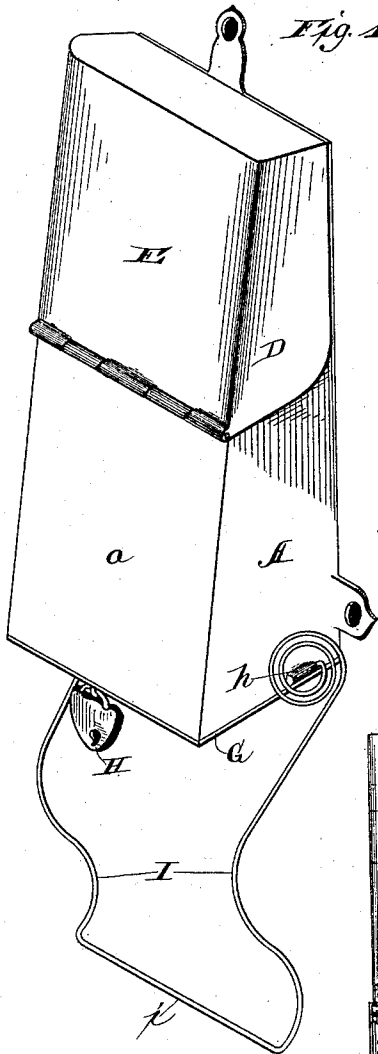


Fig. 1.

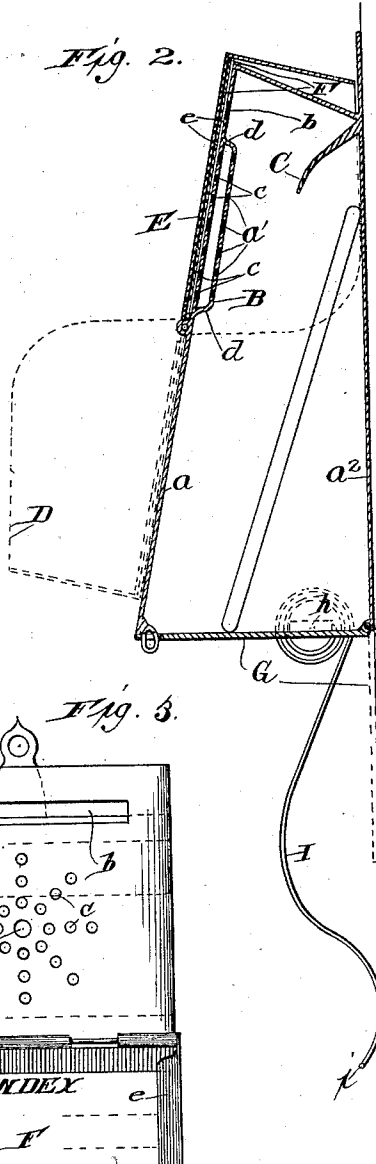


Fig. 2.

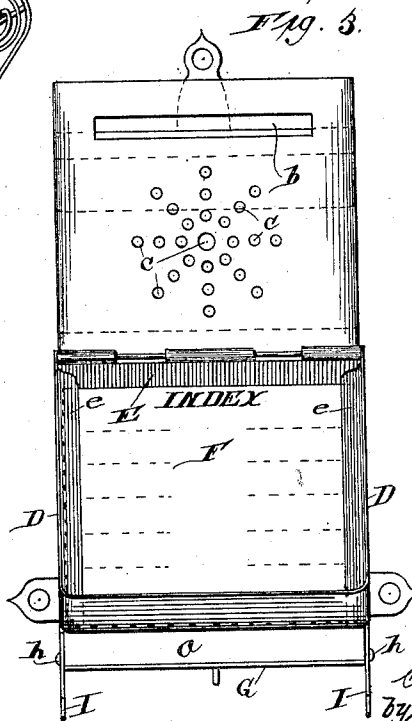


Fig. 3.

Witnesses.
 Chas. E. Gordon
 M. V. Pettit

Inventor.
 Henry W. Laun.
 by Chas. Dillman
 Atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY W. LAUN, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

HOUSE-DOOR LETTER-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 468,605, dated February 9, 1892.

Application filed October 12, 1891. Serial No. 408,482. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY W. LAUN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, (Englewood,) in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail or Letter Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in a receptacle for letters and other packages of mail; and it consists in certain peculiarities of the construction and novel arrangement and operation of the various parts thereof, as will be hereinafter more fully set forth and specifically claimed.

The objects of my invention are, first, to provide for dwellings, stores, offices, &c., a neat and attractive box or receptacle for letters and other parcels of mail which shall be inexpensive in construction, strong, and durable, yet simple and effective in operation; second, such a box or receptacle which shall protect its contents from rain, dust, and snow and will afford reasonable security against the removal of letters by thieves, and, third, a box so constructed as to disclose the presence of mail without being opened or unlocked and into which the carrier may deposit the mail with the use of one hand only.

In order to enable others skilled in the art to which my invention pertains to make and use the same, I will now proceed to describe it, referring to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my device closed as it appears when ready to be secured to the surface of a door or other support. Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view with the box closed and showing a letter therein; and Fig. 3 is a face or front view showing the lid lowered, so that letters can be deposited or the contents of the box ascertained.

Similar letters refer to like parts throughout the different views of the drawings.

Figure 1 represents a box made of suitable size, form, and material, but preferably of sheet metal and of the form illustrated in the drawings. In the front wall *a* of the box A and near the top thereof is provided a horizontal slot *b*, through which the letters are passed to the interior of the box. At a suitable point below the slot *b* is

provided a number of perforations or apertures *c*, through which can be seen the interior of the box and the contents thereof, if any. To the inner surface of the wall *a* is secured a plate B, which is formed with a number of apertures *a'* to correspond both in size and number with those in the wall. This plate may have its edges bent over, as at *d*, and secured to the wall *a*, by means of solder or otherwise, so that it will be held a short distance from the inner surface of the wall *a* and the apertures *a'* will be in alignment with the perforations *c*. By reference to Fig. 2 of the drawings it will be seen and understood that this construction and arrangement will permit of an unobstructed view of the interior of the box and at the same time will prevent, by reason of the distance of the plate B from the wall *a*, the abstracting or withdrawal of letters through the slot *b* by means of a wire or other instrument inserted in any of the apertures.

To render the box more secure against pilferers and to prevent the removal of letters by inserting an instrument through the slot *b*, I sometimes secure, in a horizontal position to the inner surface *a*, the rear wall *a²* of the box A, or to the sides of said box a plate C, which is deflected and extends to about midway between the walls *a* and *a²* to a point somewhat below the slot *b*, as is seen in Fig. 2. It is therefore obvious that the letters when dropped in the slot, will pass the plate C and will incline against the rear or front walls, when, if attempted to be removed, they will pass to the rear of the plate C and thereby be stopped.

To the front wall *a* and about the middle thereof and below the apertures *c* is hinged a cover or lid D, which is substantially quadrilateral in form and is adapted to fit snugly over the upper portion of the box A. To the inner surfaces of the sides of the box A and longitudinally therewith and a short distance from the inner surface of the face-plate E of the box are secured two flanges *e*, which project inwardly from the sides, and, together with the plate E, form a receptacle for an index or register card F, upon which may be inscribed the names of the occupants of the premises or other instructions for the letter-carrier.

To the bottom of the rear wall a^2 is hinged a drop-door G, which closes the lower end of the box A and may be there secured by an ordinary padlock and staple H or by means of any other suitable locking device. Near the lower portion of the box A and to the sides thereof are secured the ends of a paper or parcel holder I, which is preferably formed of one piece of wire, which is coiled at each end, as at h , to form a spring and extends downward a distance and is curved outwardly to form a bow on each side of the box, which terminate and are united at their lower ends by extending the wire horizontally across, as at i , which forms a handle for raising the holder, when the parcels may be placed thereunder, the coiled ends serving as a spring to retain them in place.

What I claim is—

1. In a box or receptacle for mail, the combination of the box A, having the slot b and the apertures c , the door G, the plate B, having the apertures a' in alignment with the apertures c , and the plate C, projecting into the box, with the cover D, hinged to the front wall of the box A, all constructed, arranged, and operating substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. In a box or receptacle for mail, the com-

bination of the box A, having the slot b and the apertures c , with the plate B, having the apertures a' in alignment with the apertures c , the plate C, the cover D, having the flanges e for the reception of the card F, and the door G, having a locking device H, all constructed, arranged, and operating substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. In a box or receptacle for mail, the combination of the box A, having the slot b and apertures c , with the plate B, having the apertures a' in alignment with the apertures c , the door G, having the lock H, the cover D, having the flanges e for the reception of the card F, and the spring parcel-holder I, all constructed, arranged, and operating substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

4. In a box or receptacle for mail, the combination of the box A, having the slot b and apertures c , with the plate B, having the apertures a' in alignment with the apertures c , the plate C, the door G, having the lock H, the cover D, and the spring parcel-holder I, all constructed, arranged, and operating substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

HENRY W. LAUN,

In presence of—

CHAS. C. TILLMAN,
E. H. BURLAND.