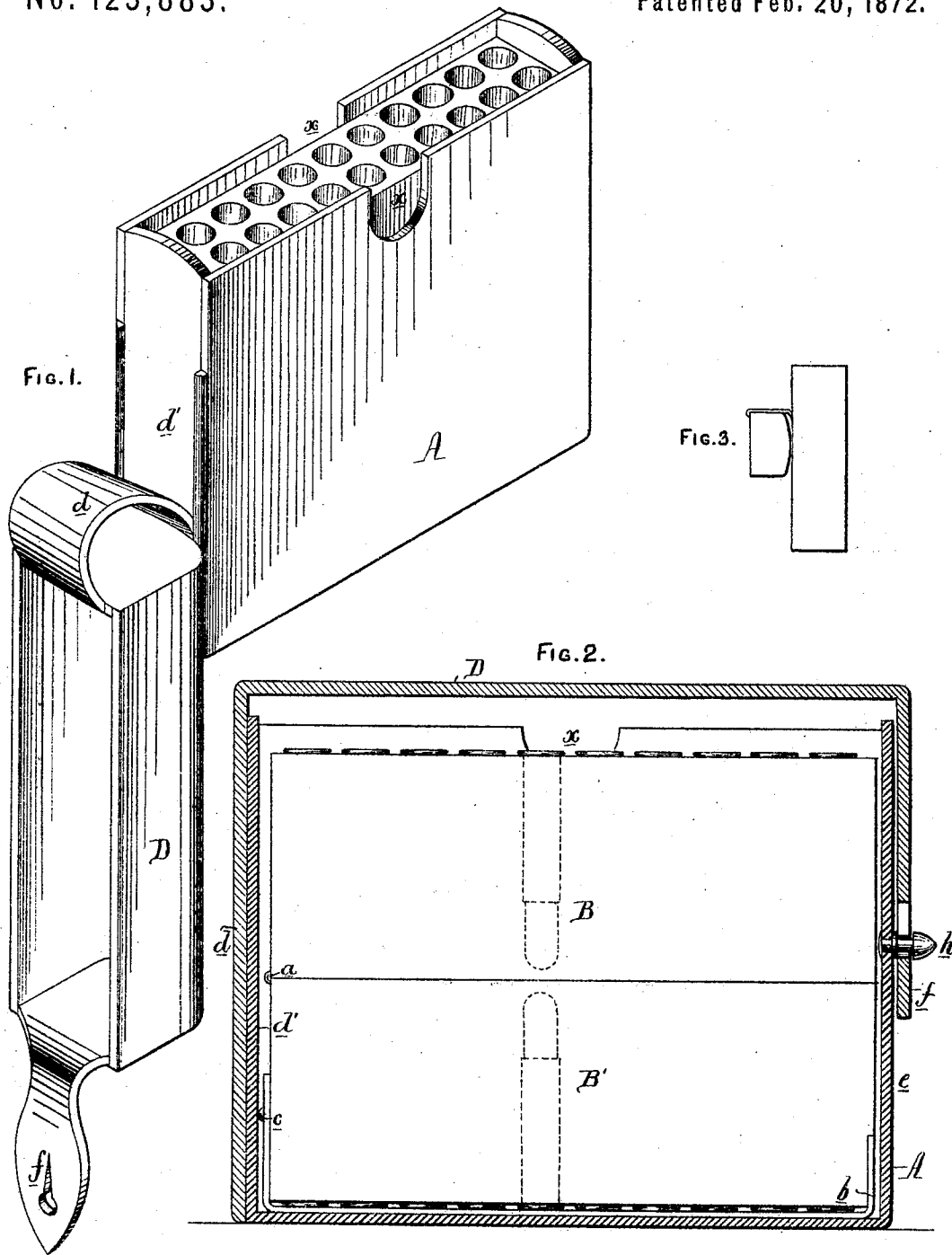


J. W. FRAZIER.

Improvement in Cartridge Boxes.

No. 123,883.

Patented Feb. 20, 1872.



WITNESSES.

John Parker
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J. W. Frazier
By his Attys
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH W. FRAZIER, OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY.

IMPROVEMENT IN CARTRIDGE-BOXES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 123,883, dated February 20, 1872.

Specification describing an Improvement in Cartridge-Boxes, invented by JOSEPH W. FRAZIER, of Newark, Essex county, New Jersey.

Improvement in Cartridge-Boxes.

My invention consists of a cartridge-box, to the body of which a lid is hung, substantially in the manner described hereafter, so as to require no such effort on the part of the soldier, to keep the box open, as the flap of an ordinary cartridge-box demands.

In the accompanying drawing Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved cartridge-box; Fig. 2, a vertical section of the same; and Fig. 3, a view illustrating a modification of my invention.

The greatest objection to ordinary cartridge-boxes is the manipulation demanded in extracting a charge. In order to do this, it is necessary to hold up the double flap in front of the box, a matter of inconvenience, if not difficulty, for the soldier, especially when in action and when he is armed with a breech-loader. Holding the weapon in his left hand, the soldier must unbutton and elevate the flap in order to gain access to the interior, and while he extracts a cartridge with the finger and thumb of the right hand, it is necessary to hold up the flap by pressing it against his body with the elbow of his left arm—in other words, the soldier is compelled to adopt a very complex system of manipulation, in order to extract a cartridge from an ordinary box and insert it into the breech of the fire-arm; and the difficulty of these manipulations is increased by the excitement of the soldier in action, and by the rapid loading and discharging of weapons demanded by modern warfare.

My invention, which I will now proceed to describe, has been designed with the view of rendering more simple the operation of withdrawing cartridges from a box.

A is the body of the box, made of leather as usual, and of the ordinary shape, and within this body are deposited the wooden block or blocks, having a number of holes for receiving the metallic cartridges. In the present instance there are two wooden blocks, B and B', hinged together at *a*, for a purpose rendered apparent in a separate application for a patent, which I have made for a knapsack and cartridge-blocks combined. The cartridges are

retained in the holes of the lower block B', by a strap, *b*, fastened to one end of the said block, and passing beneath the heads of the cartridges, as shown in Fig. 2, the outer end of the strap being turned up against and buttoned to the opposite end of the block. When the upper tier of cartridges has been exhausted, both wooden blocks are withdrawn from the body of the box and reinserted therein after being reversed, so that what was previously the lower block becomes the upper block, from which the cartridges may be withdrawn after unbuttoning the strap *b*. In order to permit the ready withdrawal of the blocks from the body of the box, the opposite sides are cut away at *x x*, Fig. 1, to allow the operator to grasp the upper portion of the upper block between his finger and thumb. Instead of the usual flaps for closing the top of the body of the box, I employ a falling lid, D, having at one end a strap, *d*, united in any suitable manner to the end *d'* of the body, near the lower portion of the same, the strap being long enough to permit the lid to fall to the position shown in Fig. 1. The outer end of the lid is furnished with a short strap, *f*, provided with a slot for attachment to a stud, *h*, at the end *e* of the body of the box. The soldier, desiring to gain access to the cartridges, has simply to unbutton the strap *f* and throw the lid back to the position shown in Fig. 1, when he has no further care about keeping the box open, such as is required to keep up the flap of an ordinary cartridge-box, both hands and arms being at liberty to withdraw the cartridges from the box, load his fire-arm, and discharge the same as rapidly as he may desire. The falling lid may be attached to the front of the box, as shown in Fig. 3; in this case, however, the hanging lid would be more in the soldier's way than one hanging on the end of the box, as shown in Fig. 1.

I claim as my invention—

A cartridge-box, having a lid hung by a flexible strap, or its equivalent, substantially in the manner and for the purpose described.

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

Witnesses: JOSEPH W. FRAZIER.

H. HOWSON,

JNO. B. HARDING.