

(No Model.)

M. F. JAMES.  
Barrel Cover.

No. 239,507.

Patented March 29, 1881.

Fig. 1.

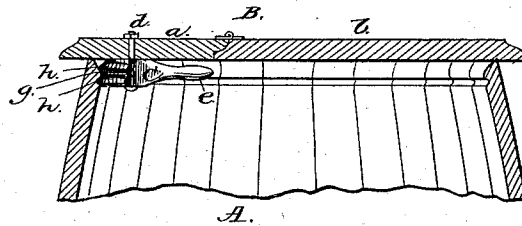


Fig. 2.

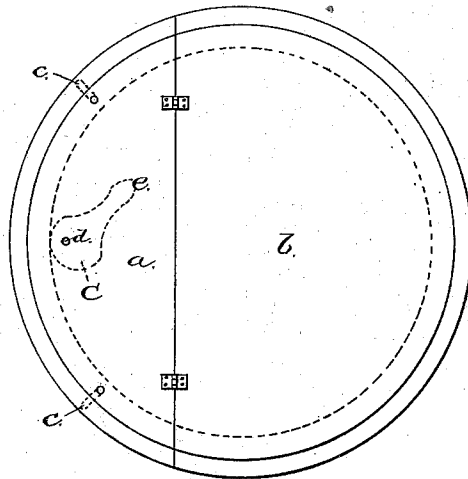


Fig. 3.

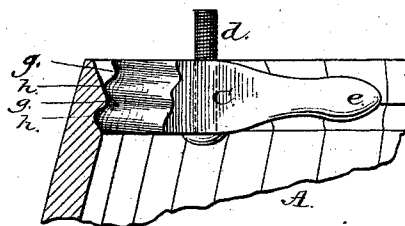
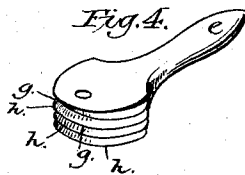


Fig. 4.



WITNESSES

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MORTON F. JAMES, OF BIG RAPIDS, MICHIGAN.

## BARREL-COVER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 239,507, dated March 29, 1881.

Application filed January 22, 1881. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MORTON F. JAMES, of Big Rapids, in the county of Mecosta and State of Michigan, have invented a new and valuable Improvement in Barrel-Covers; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a cross-section of a barrel, showing the device in use. Fig. 2 is a top view, showing the same in dotted lines. Figs. 3 and 4 are enlarged details.

This invention relates to devices for fastening temporary covers to barrels.

The object of this invention is to construct a device which will firmly hold the cover in place and prevent accidental or unintentional displacement, and yet allow ready removal when required. Heretofore attempts have been made to secure this desirable result. A locking-eccentric which binds against the inner face of the staves has been found the most efficacious holding device.

As heretofore constructed this device is open to serious objections. The first and commonest form was that which had a smooth surface, and merely held by the friction between the surface of the staves and the material forming the eccentric, which was slight, a very small degree of shaking incidental to moving being sufficient to dislodge the same. The next form to remedy the above evil was the making of ridges upon the edge of the eccentric transverse of the same, said ridges being sharp, so as to bite into the wood of the staves. While this latter form would appear to gripe the wood better than the smooth surface already referred to, in practice it is found to have most serious disadvantages. The ridges, instead of simply biting into the wood by cutting it, operate lengthwise upon the fibers and mash out portions of the same, which prevents the edge of the eccentric from catching by forming a groove, and these broken fibers, falling into the barrel, become mingled with the contents.

To obviate the disadvantages incident to the use of the fastening devices above described, I have invented an eccentric whose edge is provided with grooves running spirally across the same, thereby forming ridges which, in use, operate like a screw. By this construction the ridges cut across the fibers, making a path for themselves, but leaving the fibers in place. This screwing action of the eccentric draws the cover down into place firmly, and as the fibers are not displaced the cover can only be removed by unscrewing the eccentric, which thus holds both by its nature as an eccentric and also by the peculiar character of its edge.

In the drawings hereto annexed, A is an ordinary barrel; B, the temporary cover to be placed thereon. This cover consists of a stationary portion, *a*, and a hinged portion, *b*. To the portion A, on the under side, near the rim, are placed two hooks, *c c*, each one somewhat near the ends of said portion *a*. On the under side of said portion *a*, on a line midway of the hooks, but nearer the center of the cover B, upon a pin, *d*, is fastened the eccentric C, having handle *e*, and its edge *f* provided with spiral grooves *g* and ridges *h*.

The cover is to be placed upon the open top of the barrel, with the hooks *c c* outside and the eccentric C inside.

By turning the eccentric its spirally-ridged edge cuts into the wood of the same, holding firm and drawing the hooks *c c* into the outside of the staves.

To remove the cover the eccentric is turned back.

What I claim is—

In combination with a barrel-cover, the hooks *c c* and the eccentric C, the edge of which is spirally grooved, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony that I claim the above I have hereunto subscribed my name in the presence of two witnesses.

MORTON F. JAMES.

Witnesses:

JAMES H. BROWN,  
CHAS. COMSTOCK.