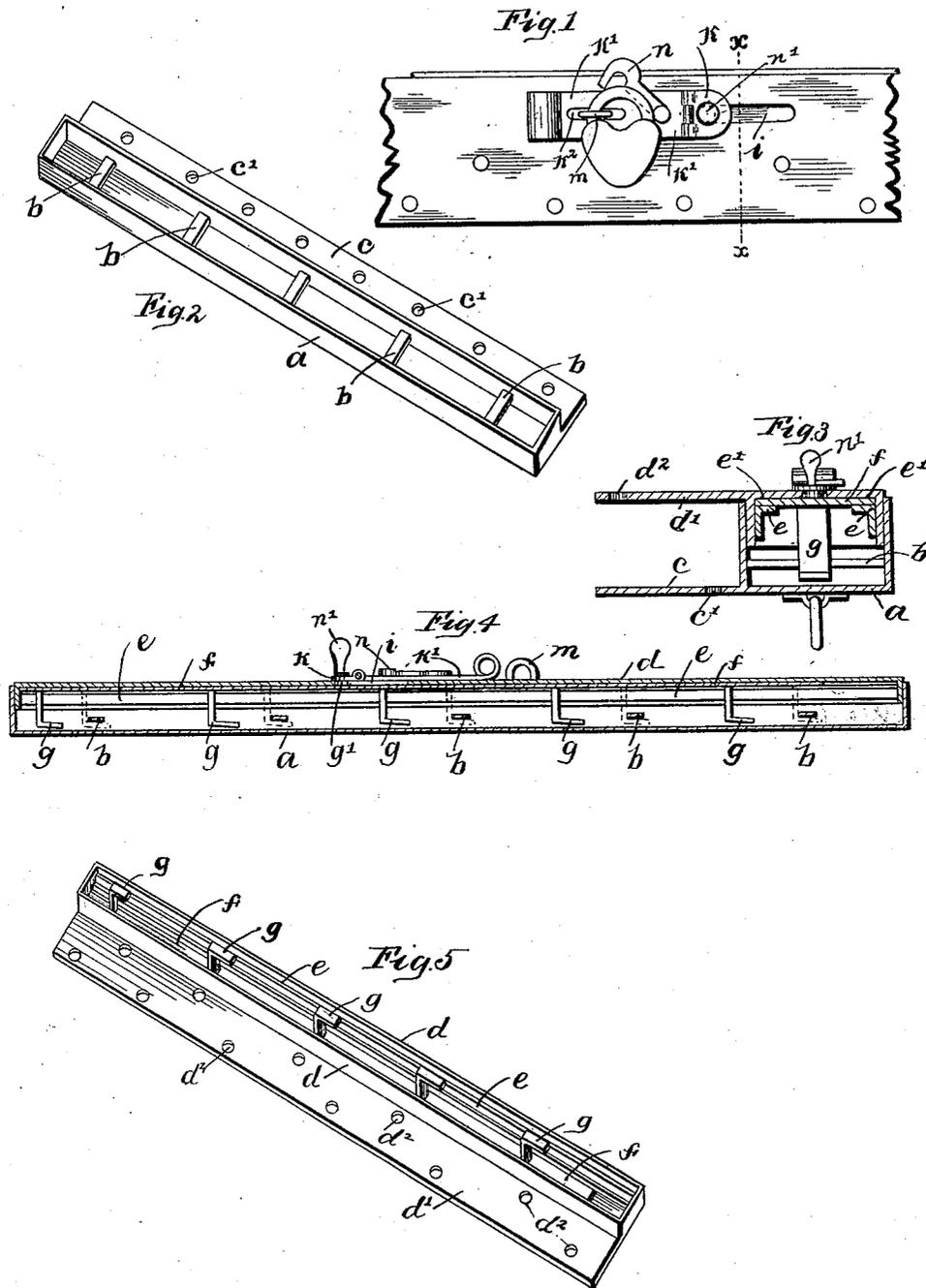


(No Model.)

M. V. MITCHELL. BAG LOCK.

No. 454,058.

Patented June 16, 1891.



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BAG-LOCK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 454,058, dated June 16, 1891.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MARTIN V. MITCHELL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Columbus, in the county of Franklin and State of Ohio, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Locks, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to the improvement of locking devices of a class particularly adapted for use in connection with mail-sacks, valises, and similar articles, but which may be effectively utilized for locking purposes in general.

The objects of my invention are to produce a superior form of lock of such construction as to admit of the interlocking or engagement of the locking parts being produced at a number of different points by one operation and by this distribution of locking-points insure such firm and equal connection as to insure safety and an equal resistance at all points of connection of the lock parts, to construct my device in a simple and comparatively inexpensive manner, and admit of its being operated with rapidity and ease. These objects I accomplish in the manner illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a view in elevation of the central portion of one of the lock-faces. Fig. 2 is a view in perspective of one of the lock-sections. Fig. 3 is a transverse section on line xx of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a central longitudinal section of the lock when two sections are united and ready for locking, and Fig. 5 is a view in perspective of the remaining section of my improved lock.

Similar letters refer to similar parts throughout the several views.

a represents one section, which I will term the "first" section, of my improved lock, and the body of which, as shown in the drawings, is in the form of an oblong cap or case having one of its sides or faces opened, as shown. Extending between the side walls of the cap thus formed are transverse bars b , said bars being arranged at equidistant points therein and a short distance above the case-bottom or closed side thereof. As shown in the drawings, this first section preferably has formed therewith on one of its long sides an outwardly-projecting lip or flange c , which is provided with suitable perforations c' , and which

has one of its sides flush with the closed side of the case.

d represents the remaining section of my improved lock, which consists, as shown in the drawings, of an oblong cap-shaped body of such form as to telescope and fit snugly within the case a of the first section. The case d is also provided on its closed side with a laterally-extending lip or flange d' , provided with suitable perforations d^2 , and corresponding in form with the lip c of the case a .

To the inner faces of the longer sides of the case d are riveted or otherwise secured longitudinal guide-strips e , which in cross-section are in the form of right angles. These angular guide-strips e are slightly above the bottom or closed face of the case, thus forming between their inwardly-extending flanges and the closed face of the case guideways e' .

f represents a sliding lock-plate of such form as to fit and slide within the guideways e' . As shown in the drawings, this sliding lock-plate is somewhat shorter than the length of the case to admit of the desired sliding motion therein.

Projecting inwardly from the exposed face of the sliding plate e and arranged at equidistant points in the center of the width thereof are angular projections, which form approximately hook-shaped tongues g , the outer horizontal arms or end portions of which extend in the direction of the length of the case. As shown in Fig. 4 of the drawings, the outer ends of these locking-tongues g may be inclined outwardly at a slight angle from the sliding plate. As indicated in the drawings, the number of locking-tongues g correspond with the number of locking-bars b of the first section.

Formed in the outer or otherwise closed face of the case d is a short longitudinal slot i , said slot being arranged, preferably, slightly to one side of the center of the length thereof.

k represents a hinge-plate, which abuts against the outer face of the case d and which is secured to the sliding locking-plate f by a short pin g' , which projects from said sliding plate through the slotted opening i . To the hinged plate is jointedly connected or hinged a suitable hasp k' , having a slot k^2 in its outer end portion, through which, when the hinge-plate pin is at the inner end of the case-slot,

is adapted to project loosely a staple *m*, which also projects from the face of the case *d*. The hasp is provided, as shown, with the ordinary form of pivoted catch-hook *n*, while the hinge-plate has projecting outwardly therefrom a suitable finger-piece *n'*.

The operation of my device is as follows: The lips *c* and *d'* of the locking-sections having been respectively connected with the lips or adjoining parts of the mouth of the sack, valise, or other article to be locked in such manner that the open sides of the sections are toward each other, and the sliding locking-plate having previously been forced by pressure upon the finger-piece *n'* to one end of the case *d*, the locking-sections are forced together, the case *d* entering, as shown, the case *a*. The tongues *g* are arranged in such position in relation to the cross-bars *b* that when the hinge-plate pin is in the outer end of the slot *i* and the two lock-sections are brought together, as described, said tongues will enter the spaces between said cross-bars. The forcing together of the sections having been accomplished, as described, the pin *g'* is driven to the inner end of the slot *i* by pressure upon the finger-piece and the hasp fixed in the usual manner over the staple *m*. This last movement of the sliding locking-plate will result in the engagement of the hook-shaped tongues of said plate with the under sides of the cross-bars *b*, thus resulting in a locking connection of the sections at a number of different points. This locking movement having been accomplished, the hook *n* may be dropped into the staple on the outer side of the hasp to prevent the displacement of the latter, or a padlock, as shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings, may be employed in the ordinary manner.

In case my improved lock is desired for use on a valise or other similar article, it is obvious that the ends of the case may be continued downward approximately at right angles with their bodies to form the usual mouth-end bindings of the valise.

From the construction shown and described it will be seen that the locking-points are so distributed as to produce a firm engagement

of the parts at many points other than the center, and in case my improved lock is adapted for use in connection with the articles above mentioned said article would be as effectively locked throughout its entire length as at its center or usual locking-point.

It will be observed that this lock will be particularly effective in the locking of the lips of a mail-sack, in which, as is well known, it is particularly desired to produce a number of locking-points. By my device the locking of the sack at these points is controlled by one operation and may be quickly and easily accomplished.

The construction of the lock herein shown is of such simple and substantial arrangement as to greatly lessen any tendency of parts becoming broken or inoperative.

Having now fully described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a lock, the combination, with the case *a* and transverse cross-pieces *b*, arranged, as described, at intervals within said case, of the case *d*, adapted to fit within the case *a*, a longitudinally-sliding plate *f* within said case *d*, hook-shaped projections *g*, arranged at intervals in said sliding plate, and means for imparting a sliding motion to the latter, substantially as specified.

2. In a lock, the combination, with the case *a* and transverse cross-pieces *b*, arranged, as described, at intervals within said case, of the case *d*, adapted to fit within the case *a*, a longitudinally-sliding piece *f* within said case *d*, hook-shaped projections *g*, arranged at intervals in said sliding plate, a slotted opening in case *d*, a pin projecting through said slotted opening from the sliding plate, a hinge-plate connected with the outer side of said pin, a hasp jointedly connected with said hinge-plate and a staple or suitable hasp-catch projecting from said case, substantially as specified.

MARTIN V. MITCHELL.

In presence of—
C. C. SHEPHERD,
E. E. BRAGG.