E. A. Thomas,

Seam-Joint for Metal Cans.

No. 83,107. Patented Oct. 13, 1868.

Fig: 1.

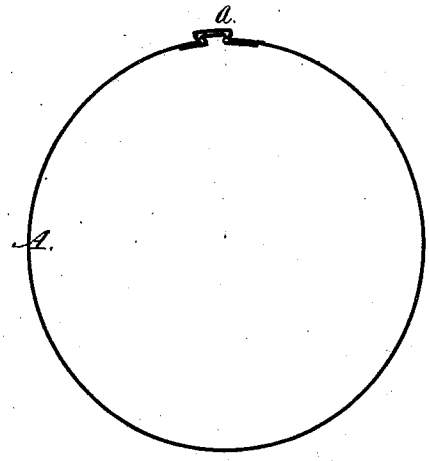
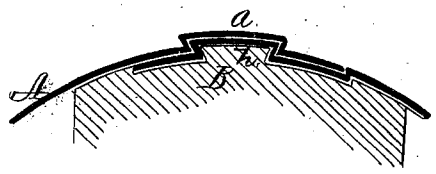


Fig: 2



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

E. A. THOMAS, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN SEAM-JOINTS FOR CANS, &c.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **83,107**, dated October 13, 1868.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, E. A. THOMAS, of Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and Improved Seam-Joint for Cans and Other Metallic Vessels; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification.

This invention relates to a new and improved joint or seam for joining the edges of the piece of sheet metal which forms the body or main portion of a box or can.

The object of the invention is to obtain a side seam or joint which may be made very expeditiously and be perfectly tight.

In the accompanying sheet of drawings, Figure 1 is a horizontal section of a sheet-metal can or box having my improved side seam or joint; Fig. 2, a horizontal section of a portion of sheet-metal can or box, showing the way in which the side seam or joint is made.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

A represents a piece of sheet metal, which is bent in cylindrical or other desired form around what may be termed a "former," B. This piece of sheet metal A forms the body of the can or box, and its edges are lapped one over the other, and the lapped portions are, by means of dies, swaged or struck up so as to form a raised dovetail projection, *a*, extending the whole length of A, a rib, *b*, being made by grooving the former B, over which rib the dovetail projection may be readily swaged or struck up, as will be readily seen by referring to Fig. 2.

After the dovetail projection *a* is thus formed, the former B is withdrawn from the sheet-metal cylinder A, and then turned and inserted in it again, so as to bring a smooth surface underneath the dovetail projection *a*, and the latter is flattened down by a hammer, so as to effectually close the joint, as shown in Fig. 1.

By this means a tight side seam or joint for sheet-metal cans may be expeditiously and perfectly made, and at a less expense than those now used in the manufacture of sheet-metal cans or boxes.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

A side seam or joint for sheet-metal cans or boxes, composed of a dovetail projection, *a*, struck or swaged up on the lapped edges of the metal, and then hammered or closed down, substantially as herein shown and described.

The above specification of my invention signed by me this 24th day of August, 1868.

E. A. THOMAS.

Witnesses:
J. A. BURTON,
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