Aug. 9, 1927. 1,638,227

E. J. WITCHGER

CASE FOR TAPE MEASURES

Filed Nov. 8. 1926

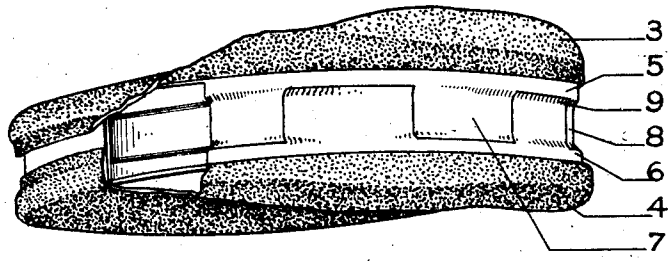


Fig. 1

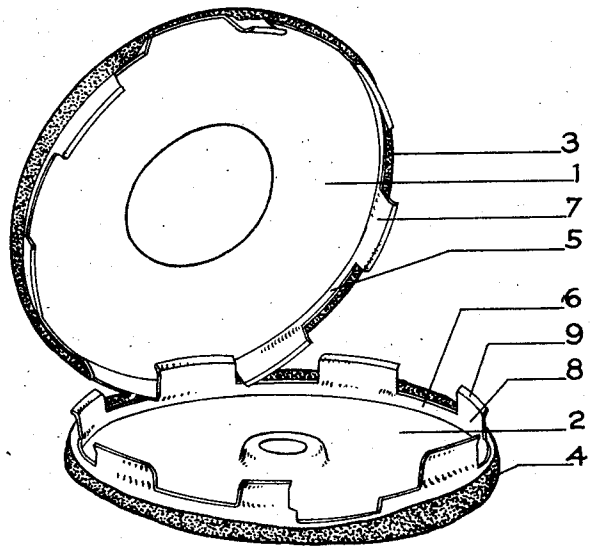


Fig. 2

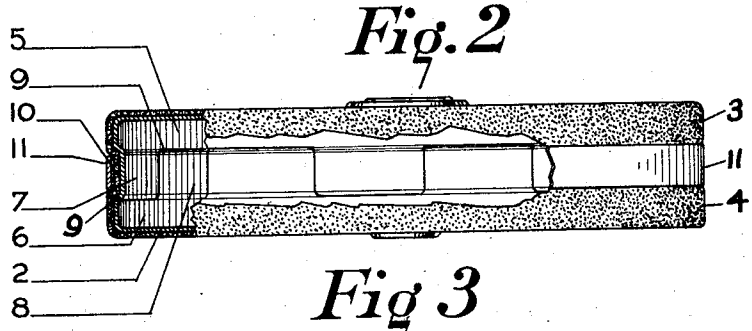


Fig 3

INVENTOR.
Eugene J. Witchger
BY George B. Miller
ATTORNEY.

Patented Aug. 9, 1927. 1,638,227

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EUGENE J. WITCHGER, OF SAGINAW, MICHIGAN, ASSIGNOR TO LUFKIN RULE CO., OF SAGINAW, MICHIGAN, A CORPORATION OF MICHIGAN.

CASE FOR TAPE MEASURES.

Application filed November 8, 1926. Serial No. 147,034.

This invention is a case for tape measures and pertains to that general type of tape measure case now in common use, in which the tape is enclosed by a pair of disk-like metal covers which are in turn overlaid by a covering of leather, fibre or similar material. The metal covers usually have flanged rims and are assembled so that the two rim edges meet and form a complete box-like container for the tape. The meeting edges of the fabric cover are commonly stitched together in a seam that runs around the rim and holds the top and bottom plate members of the case together.

The improvement that I now contribute to the art, and the inventive novelty as set forth in the claims is found in the construction and arrangement of the flanged portions of the top and bottom plates and in an improved means including a flat band, whereby the fabric covering is tightly stretched and clamped upon the circular annularly grooved and internally beaded rim that is associated with the said flanges of the cover plates.

An object of my invention is to clamp the edges of the fabric tightly and to stretch the material like a drum head, by means of a flat clamping band that has its outer face flush with the outer faces of the fabric, so that no projecting rim or ridge is formed, and the exterior surface of the completed case is smooth.

Another object is to provide the flanges of the top and bottom members of the case with opposing tongues adapted to intermesh to form a peripheral groove in which a locking band is received. The construction of the tongues is such that they engage the edges of the locking band to hold the two halves of the case in place without the use of any second retaining band. With respect to this construction and mode of operation the device differs from that shown in my co-pending application, Serial No. 118,592, filed June 25, 1926, of which this application is a continuation in part.

With the foregoing and certain other objects in view, which will appear later in the specifications, my invention comprises the devices described and claimed and the equivalents thereof.

In the drawings Fig. 1 is an edge view of the case with the tape removed and the outer cover partly turned back to show the case.

Fig. 2 is a view of the case opened.

Fig. 3 is a part sectional edge view, the outer cover partly broken away.

The case comprises a top 1 and bottom 2 formed with peripheral flanges 5 and 6, the flanges having extensions or tongues 7 and 8 spaced apart around their edges, as shown in Fig. 2. The tongues of one flanged member fit the spaces between the tongues of the other, alternating and intermeshing when the case is closed and forming a complete rim, as shown in Figs. 1 and 3.

The tongues are ribbed peripherally to form an external groove when assembled. Their edges are flanged outwardly, as at 9, forming parts of the lateral walls of the groove. When assembled, the flanges on the tongues 5 of the top of the case are on opposite sides of the groove from those of the bottom of the case and alternate therewith, as shown.

The clamping band 11 extends around the case and is received within the groove. Its edges are engaged by the opposite flanges 9, thereby holding the two halves of the case together in tightly locked relation.

The two halves of the case are covered with flexible material, such as leather or fabric 3 and 4, and the meeting edges 10 of the fabric are preferably clamped in the groove by band 11, as shown in Fig. 3, to lock the case and also to draw the outer coverings taut around it.

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

1. A case for tape measures comprising flanged top and bottom members, the flanges formed with tongues spaced apart in alternate interlocking relation, said tongues formed with peripheral grooves, the edges of said tongues flanged to form the lateral sides of said grooves, and a clamping band

having its lateral edges co-acting with the flanges of said tongues, to lock together said top and bottom members.

2. A case for tape measures comprising flanged top and bottom members, fabric covers for said members, said flanges formed with tongues spaced apart and in alternate interlocking relation, said tongues formed with peripheral grooves, the edges of said tongues flanged outwardly, and a clamping band received in said groove and engaging the meeting edges of said fabric cover, to lock said top and bottom members together.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature.

EUGENE J. WITCHGER.