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I. SPARKS.

TELEPHONE BOX OR CABINET.

(Application filed Mar. 22, 1898.)

(No Model.)

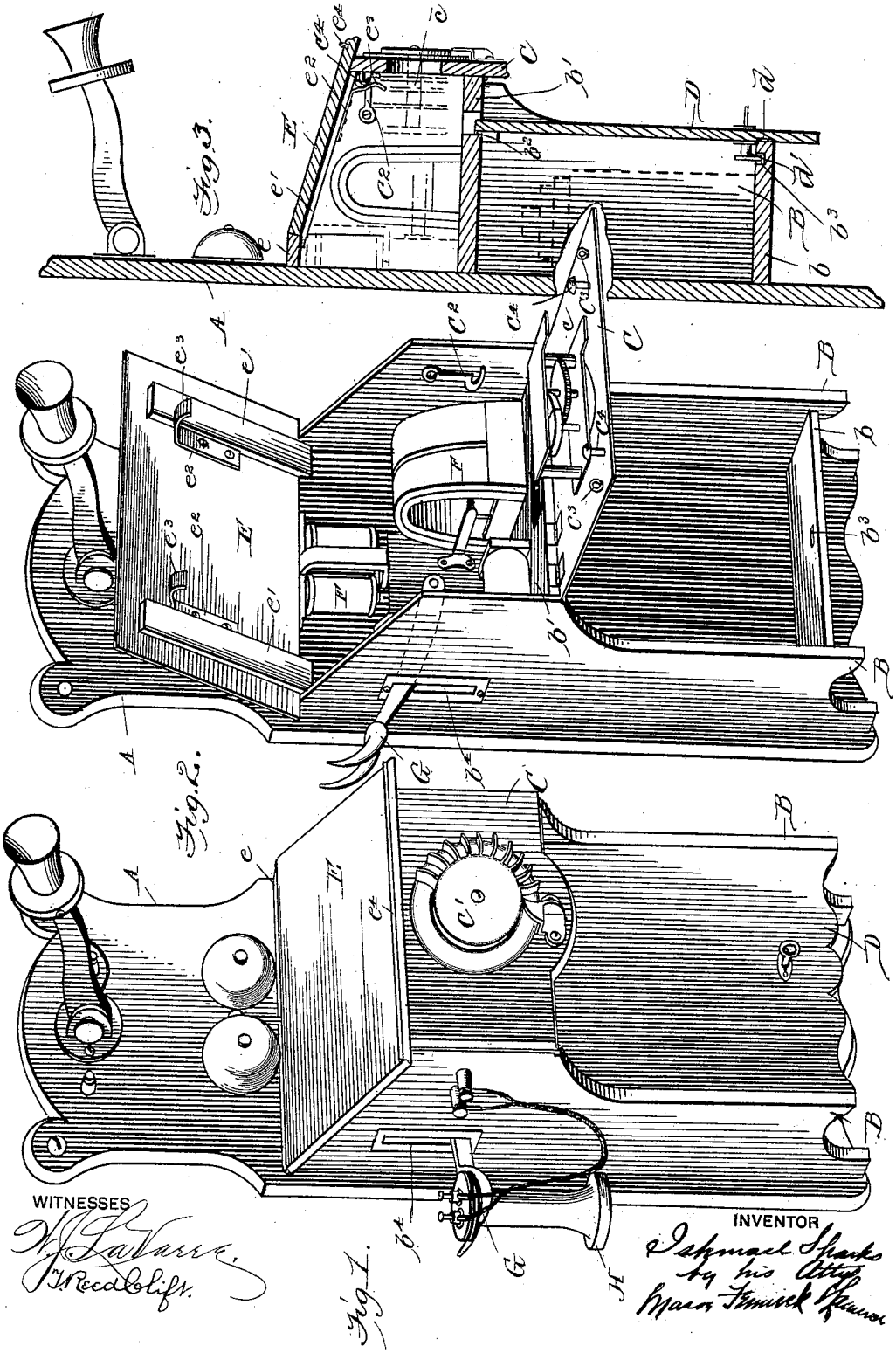


Fig. 3.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 1.

WITNESSES

INVENTOR

Ishmael Sparks
by his Attys
Mann Fennick & Pearson

THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ISHMAEL SPARKS, OF SANTA FÉ, TERRITORY OF NEW MEXICO.

TELEPHONE BOX OR CABINET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 613,533, dated November 1, 1898.

Application filed March 22, 1898. Serial No. 674,831. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ISHMAEL SPARKS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Santa Fé, in the county of Santa Fé and Territory of New Mexico, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Telephone Boxes or Cabinets; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to improvements in boxes or cabinets for telephones, and particularly for telephones using automatic call devices.

It consists in providing a cabinet with an inclosure or box having a partition for separating the battery receptacle or closure from the closure holding the call mechanism and the electromagnets, the fronts of the upper and lower closures in said box being adapted to be opened and the top of the said box being closed by a movable writing board or pad.

It also consists of certain other novel constructions, combinations, and arrangements of parts, as will be hereinafter more fully described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents a perspective view of my improved telephone-cabinet, the top and front of the same being closed. Fig. 2 represents a perspective view of the same with the front thrown open and the top board slightly lifted off; and Fig. 3 represents a vertical section through the said cabinet, showing the means for fastening the fronts and top in place.

A in the drawings represents a main back board; B B, sides forming a part of the closures; C, the swinging front of the upper closure; D, the removable front of the lower closure, and E a removable top or writing board.

In the development of telephones various boxes or cabinets have been devised for use; but no box has yet been designed which is particularly well adapted for use in connection with telephones using automatic exchange or call boxes such as are now coming into favor and extended use. I have devised a box or cabinet for use with such a telephone which is not only compact and neat in its appearance, but is particularly well adapted to this class of telephones and for the opening and examining of the mechanical parts mounted therein.

In carrying out my invention I contemplate consolidating the mechanism and mounting it all within one structure, except the transmitter and the alarm-bells. The back board A has secured to it the side boards B B, which extend the entire length of the closures holding the batteries and the call and magnet mechanisms. A bottom board, as b, is secured between the lower ends of the side boards and to the back to support the batteries used in these telephones. A partition, as b', is also secured between the side boards B B a little above their central portions, so as to divide the boxes into two receptacles, sufficient room being left in the lower receptacle for the batteries and their connections. The partition b' not only forms a division or wall between the upper and lower closures, but is used as a shelf or support for the magnets and the alarm mechanism, parts of said mechanism resting directly upon the said partition or shelf and the other parts being secured to the back and sides of the receptacle. The battery-receptacle is closed by means of a movable board or door, as D, the said board fitting between the sides B B and having its upper edge shaped to extend into an opening, as b^2, formed upon the under side of the partition b'. A shallow groove, as d, is also formed upon the inner side of the said board, near its lower end, to fit upon the front edge of the lower board or bottom b. A lock or bolt, as d', is secured to the front board at its lower end and engages a groove or keeper b^3, formed in the lower board or bottom b. A key of any suitable design or shape may be used to operate this lock from the outside, so that when the front board or door D is put in place and locked there it cannot be opened by unauthorized hands.

The upper closure is closed in front by means of a movable piece or board, as C. This door or board C is preferably hinged to the front edge of the partition b' and has secured to its inner face the automatic call mechanism, as at c. The main spindle of the call mechanism extends through the front

board C and engages an operating-dial, as c', by which the automatic call or exchange mechanism is operated. When the front board C is closed, it is locked in place by any suitable means interiorly of the receptacle, preferably hooks, as c^2, engaging eyes or sockets, as c^3, mounted on the inner face of the door C. The magnets and coils for operating the alarm mechanism are mounted upon the board b' and the back of the top closure, as at F. An arm, as G, for holding the telephone-receiver is pivoted to the back board interiorly of the upper closure and extends through a slot, as at b^4, formed in one of the side boards B. The outer end of the said lever is forked in the usual way to support the telephone-receiver H. The top of the upper receptacle is closed by means of a narrow fixed strip, as e, and the removable board E. The alarm-bells, as $a\,a$, are mounted on the back board just above the strip e, and the transmitter is mounted near the upper end of the said back board A. The striker for operating the alarm-bells extends through a suitable opening formed in the narrow strip e. Beginning at the front edge of the narrow strip e the upper edges of the side boards are beveled forward, and the top board E, resting upon these edges, is therefore inclined at a desirable angle for use as a desk or writing-support. In order to secure the top board E in place, I preferably secure to the under side thereof cleats, as e', having their rear ends projecting slightly beyond the rear ends of the board, so that they take under or engage the under surface of the narrow strip e when the top board is put in place. Near the forward edges of the top board E are secured bent clips or engaging pieces, as $e^2\,e^2$, having their front ends projecting downwardly and provided with curved contacting end portions, as e^3. When the board is placed in position and the front edge forced downwardly, the curved depending ends e^3 of the pieces e^2 will engage and snap over the ends of catches or detents c^4. A convenient way of forming these detents c^4 is by using screws therefor and screwing them the required distance into the front board C. The lower edge of the top board is provided with a ledge or projection, as e^4, to hold a writing tablet or paper from slipping off of the said top board. In order to accommodate the moving parts of the call mechanism mounted upon the front board C, a groove or slot, as at b^5, may be cut or formed in the partition b'.

It will be evident from the above description that the parts of the telephone may be mounted in a box of this character with a great degree of compactness and are practically all inclosed within one box, while at the same time the operating mechanism is separated from the battery mechanism in such a manner that the call-operating mechanism may be inspected or repaired at any time, while the battery may be kept under lock and key, so as not to be disturbed by unauthorized persons. By constructing the upper receptacle with a movable top and a hinged front carrying a portion of the call mechanism it may be readily thrown open and in such a way that the parts are so exposed as to render them easy to reach both for the purpose of cleaning or repairing the same.

It will be evident that the combination and arrangement of the parts may be slightly varied or modified and the box may be formed with any desirable configuration or design-work upon the exterior and that the design may be varied according to the taste without departing from the spirit of my invention.

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

1. In a telephone cabinet or box, the combination with a back board, of a box mounted upon the front thereof, the said box being provided with a partition for forming an upper and lower closure therein, a removable front board or door for the lower closure, and a swinging or hinged front carrying part of the call mechanism for the upper closure, and a removable top or writing-cover closing the upper closure, the construction being such that the batteries may be mounted in the lower closure while the call mechanism and magnets may be mounted in the upper closure, substantially as described.

2. In a telephone-cabinet, the combination with a box formed thereon, of a partition for dividing the said box into an upper and lower closure, a movable front for closing the upper closure, adapted to carry a portion of the call mechanism, means for locking the said front board in its closed position, a removable top board provided with means to engage detents mounted on the inner surface of the front board and a door for the lower closure, substantially as described.

3. In a telephone-cabinet, the combination with a box, of a partition for dividing the same into two closures, a removable door for closing the lower closure, the said door engaging at its upper end a groove formed in the partition and having a lock at its lower end, whereby it may be closed so as to prevent unauthorized tampering with the batteries inclosed in the said lower closure, a swinging front for closing the upper closure, and a removable top therefor, substantially as described.

4. In a telephone-cabinet, the combination with a suitable box having an upper and lower closure formed therein, a narrow fixed strip and a removable top for closing the upper closure, cleats mounted upon the under side of the top board and adapted to engage the fixed strip and clips or bent pieces secured to the under side of the said top board near its forward edge, and detents mounted upon the front board of the upper closure for engaging the said clips whereby the upper board is held firmly in place, substantially as described.

5. In a telephone cabinet or box, the combination with a back board, of a box mounted

upon the front thereof, the said box being provided with a partition for forming an upper and lower closure therein, a movable front board or door for the lower closure, and a movable front for the upper closure, and a movable top or writing-cover closing the upper closure, the construction being such that the batteries may be mounted in the lower closure, while the call mechanism and magnets may be mounted in the upper closure, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

ISHMAEL SPARKS.

Witnesses:
G. L. SOLIGNORE,
S. D. LASIER.