

No. 708,189.

Patented Sept. 2, 1902.

G. A. WIRT.
SIGNALING TARGET.

(Application filed May 23, 1901.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

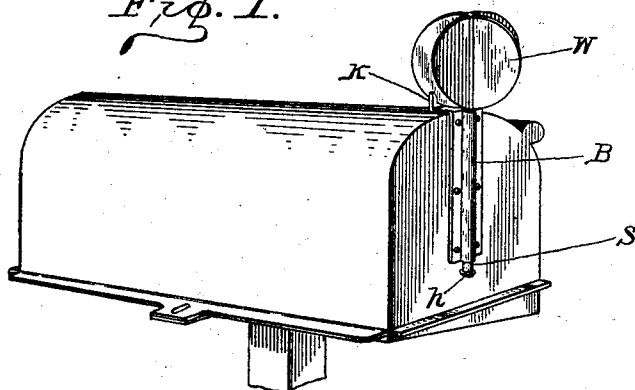


Fig. 2.

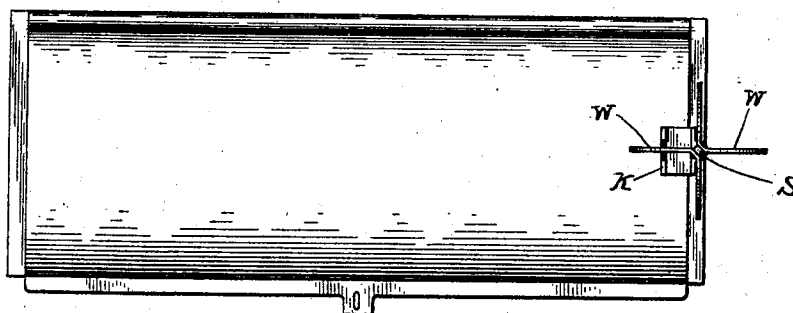
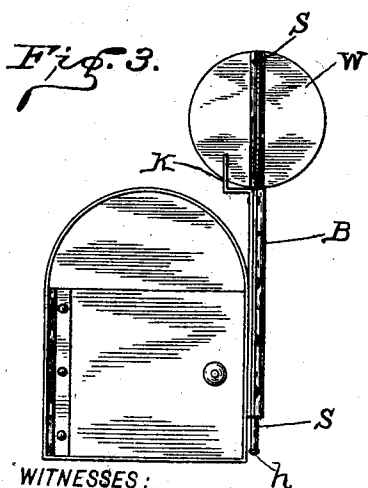


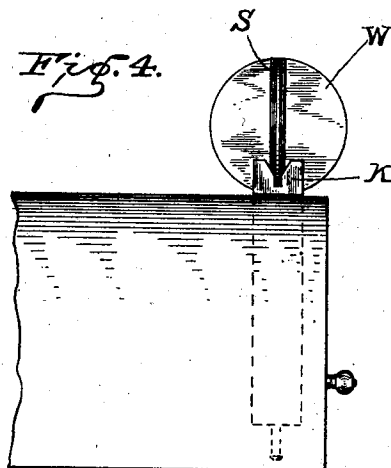
Fig. 3.



WITNESSES:

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Fig. 4.



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SIGNALING-TARGET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 708,189, dated September 2, 1902.

Application filed May 23, 1901. Serial No. 61,560. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE A. WIRT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Fugit township, in the county of Decatur and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Signaling-Targets, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my said invention is to provide a simple, efficient, and inexpensive target for transmitting signals, by the use of which signals may be given by simply turning that side of the target indicating the desired message toward the point of observation, where it will be held until its position is purposely changed, as will be hereinafter more particularly described and claimed.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, which are made a part hereof and on which similar reference characters indicate similar parts, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a mail-box suitable for use in what is known as the "rural delivery system" provided with a target embodying my said invention, and thus illustrating one very advantageous use of such a target; Fig. 2, a top or plan view thereof; Fig. 3, a side elevation of the target on a differently-constructed box; and Fig. 4, a fragmentary side elevation of a portion of such a box provided with such a target and showing the form of the keeper or detent by which it is held in place when adjusted.

While this target is shown in connection with a mail-box for use with which it has been especially designed, it is, as will be readily understood, capable of use in many situations, and I desire, therefore, to be understood as claiming it for any use to which it is applicable.

The target structure preferably consists of several wings W, (four are shown) secured to a stem S, which in turn is mounted in a bearing B, and is provided with a head h on its lower end below the bearing. The wings or blades may be of any suitable form. I have shown them semicircular, so that two of them, one upon each side of the stem, when seen from a little distance give the appearance of a circular disk. Any other shape, however, may be employed that is desired. The keeper K is placed alongside the target, and into this the lower edge of one of the wings is adapted to enter. This keeper is preferably V-shaped

in form, (as best shown in Fig. 4,) so that less care is required to place the target therein.

The wings or sides of the target may be made distinguishable from each other in any desired manner. A common way is to paint those surfaces which face in a given direction a distinct color. Each set of faces being distinguishably painted or otherwise distinctly formed or marked, the target is capable of transmitting as many different signals as there are sets of faces, and these distinctive colorings or markings may of course be arranged in any relation that is desired.

To set the target, all that is necessary is to raise the same, revolve it until the surface desired faces in the proper direction, and drop it, when it will be held to that position by the engagement of one of the wings with the keeper. The head h will prevent it from being separated from its bearing. In use in rural mail-delivery work let it be assumed, for example, that the display of a red surface toward the street is to be considered the signal to the postman that there is mail-matter in the box for which he should call and that the display of the same-colored surface toward the house is to indicate to the patron that mail-matter has been delivered to the box for him. In such a case the other surfaces may be painted white or any other distinctly-contrasting color, and thus either the postman or the patron can know at once upon looking at the box whether or not it is necessary to visit it. Other uses and other distinctive colorings or markings will readily occur to the manufacturer or user and can be employed at will, according to taste or requirements.

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

1. The combination, with a mail-box, of a signaling-target therefor comprising a socket or bearing, a stem bearing the signaling-target on its upper end mounted to extend through and slide and turn in said bearing, being provided with a head below said bearing for limiting the movement of said stem, and a detent with which said target is adapted to engage and be thereby held in adjusted position, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination, in a target, of a suitable vertically-arranged bearing, a stem

adapted to be inserted and revolve in said bearing and provided with a head on the lower end thereof, wings secured to the upper end of said stem, and a keeper having a notch
5 therein into which an edge of one of the wings may enter, said stem being of sufficient length to permit a longitudinal movement in the bearing, substantially as set forth.

3. The combination, in a target, of a bearing, a stem mounted therein, wings secured
10 on said stem, and a V-shaped keeper secured

alongside of said stem and adapted to receive an edge of one of the wings, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, at Indianapolis, Indiana, this
15 18th day of May, A. D. 1901.

GEORGE A. WIRT. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

CHESTER BRADFORD,
L. H. COLVIN.