No. 781,518. PATENTED JAN. 31, 1905.

J. R. HICE.

EXHIBITION CASE.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 21, 1904.

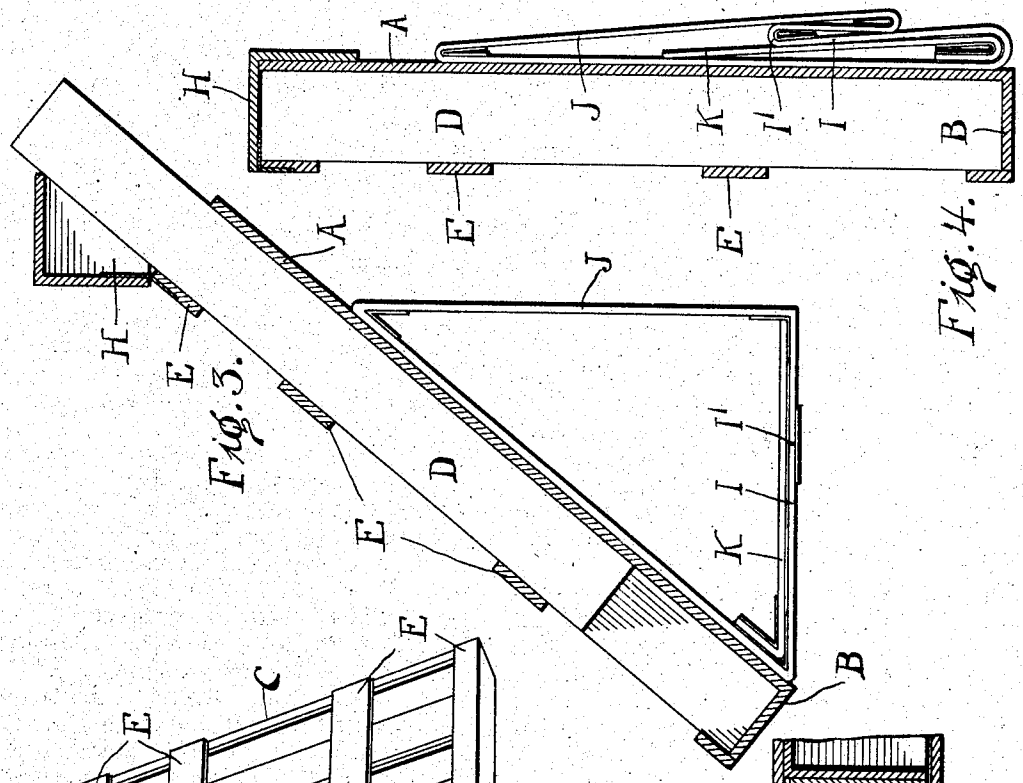


Fig. 4.

Fig. 3.

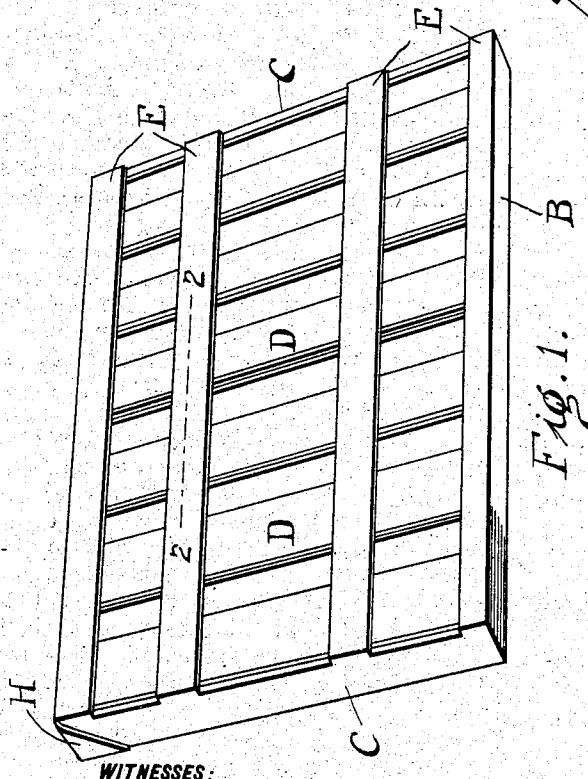


Fig. 1.

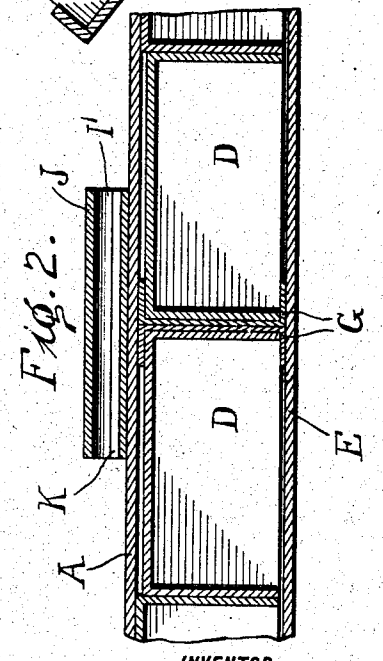


Fig. 2.

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No. 781,518. Patented January 31, 1905.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH R. HICE, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

EXHIBITION-CASE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 781,518, dated January 31, 1905.

Application filed June 21, 1904. Serial No. 213,512.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH R. HICE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Philadelphia, county of Philadelphia, and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Exhibition-Cases, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a new and useful improvement in display-cases, and has for its object to provide a cheap but efficient and durable show-case for the displaying of several bottles or packages of medicine or merchandise, the case being so constructed as to stand upon a counter or show-case of the store.

With these ends in view this invention consists in the details of construction and combination of elements hereinafter set forth and then specifically designated by the claims.

In order that those skilled in the art to which this invention appertains may understand how to make and use the same, the construction and operation will now be described in detail, referring to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved display-case; Fig. 2, a lateral section taken on the line 2 2 of Fig. 1; Fig. 3, a vertical section through my improved show-case when the same is in position upon the counter, one of the box-compartments being partially withdrawn from the same; Fig. 4, a vertical section through the display-case, showing the easel-back folded.

My improved display-case is preferably constructed of cardboard, but also may be constructed of any other suitable substance, such as wood, celluloid, metal, or the like.

The display-case consists of a back A, a bottom B, and sides C. Thus the case is open at the front and upper end.

D is box-shaped compartments, each of which also consists of a back, bottom, and sides, being open at the front and upper end. These box-shaped compartments D are adapted to contain the bottles or packages of merchandise and are adapted to slip into the show-case from the upper end and lie side by side.

In order to prevent either the boxes D or the packages of merchandise from being removed from the front of the case, I provide retaining-strips E, which extend from one side of the case to the other over the boxes D, and said retaining-strips are secured at each end to the sides C and may be further secured between their two ends by means of the tie-strips G, which are secured at one end to the back A of the case and at the forward ends to the back of the retaining-strips E. These tie-strips extend between the boxes, as clearly shown in Fig. 2. Of course, if desired, these tie-strips could extend between each two boxes; but I have found by experience it is sufficient to only secure the retaining-strips at the center. It will thus be seen that the boxes D or packages of merchandise can only be removed through the open top of the case A, and in order to normally close this top I provide a lid H, which is triangular in cross-section and hinged to the upper retaining-strip E. This lid will close down over the upper end of the case and protect the contents to a certain extent and add to the appearance of the case.

One of the principal objects of my invention is to provide an easel for the display-case which will not fold when the display-case is moved around. The easel consists of a member I, hinged to the back of the lower end of the show-case, and to the outer end of this member I is hinged the member J, the other end of the member J being hinged to the back of the show-case, near the upper end thereof. The member I is weakened at the point I′ to enable the member I to fold upon itself when the easel is folded against the back of the case. The construction of the easel as far as described is old; but in all such easel constructions said easel is apt to fold when the case is pushed rearward. To prevent this, I provide a strip K, hinged to the back A above the member I and adapted to lie flat upon the member I when the easel is extended, the rearward end of the strip K pressing against the inside lower end of the member J, thus causing the easel to become a solid triangular support for the case, and the case may be moved in any manner without any danger of the easel folding upon itself; but when it is desired to fold the easel the strip K may be

easily raised and folded against the back of the case, and the balance of the easel can then be folded in the ordinary manner, as shown in Fig. 4.

It will thus be seen by the foregoing description and drawings that I have provided a show-case which, while being ornamental, efficient, and durable, may at the same time be manufactured at a comparatively small cost and will attract attention in any store.

Of course I do not wish to be limited to the exact construction here shown, as slight modifications could be made without departing from the spirit of my invention.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new and useful is—

1. In a display-case, a box-shaped case consisting of a back, bottom and two sides, box-shaped compartments fitted to slide in the case from the upper end, each compartment being open at the front, retaining-strips extending across from one side of the case to the other above the compartments, a lid hinged to the upper retaining-strip and adapted to normally close the upper end of the case, and a folding easel secured to the back of the case, as specified.

2. In a display-case, a box-shaped case consisting of a back, bottom and two sides, retaining-strips extending across the case from one side to the other, said strips being secured to the sides of the case at each end, removable box-shaped compartments adapted to slide into the case from the upper end, each compartment open at the front, tie-strips secured at one end to the back and at the other end to the retaining-strips intermediate of their two ends, said tie-strips extending between the box-compartments, a lid hinged to the upper retaining-strip and adapted to normally close the upper end of the case, and a folding easel secured to the back of the case, as and for the purpose specified.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto affixed my signature in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOSEPH R. HICE.

Witnesses:

MARY E. HAMER,

L. W. MORRISON.