(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

T. TRIBE.

CIGAR OR CIGARETTE CASE.

No. 356,806. Patented Feb. 1, 1887.

Fig. 1.

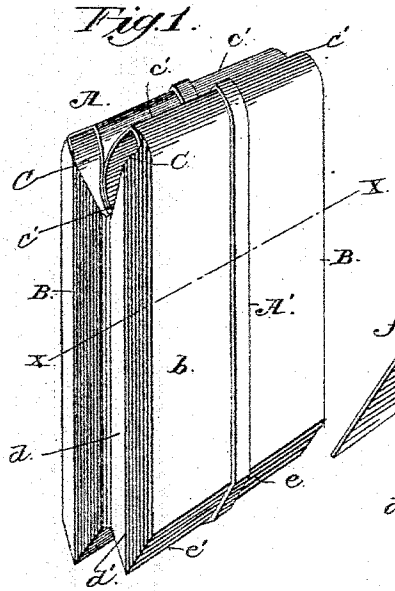


Fig. 2.

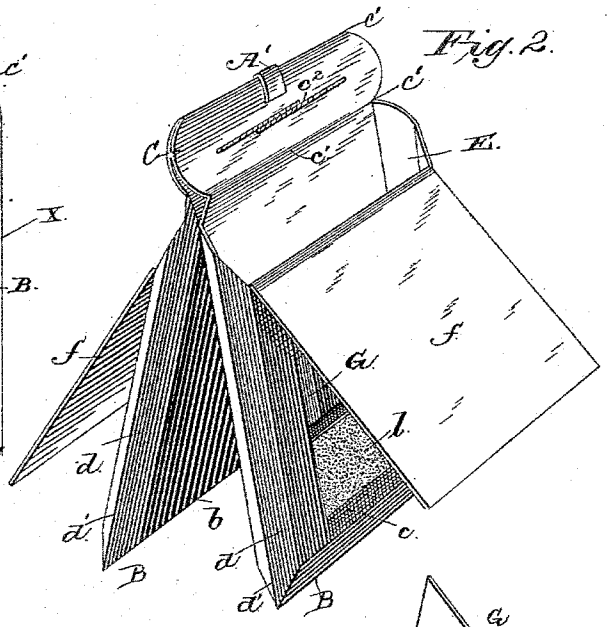


Fig. 3.

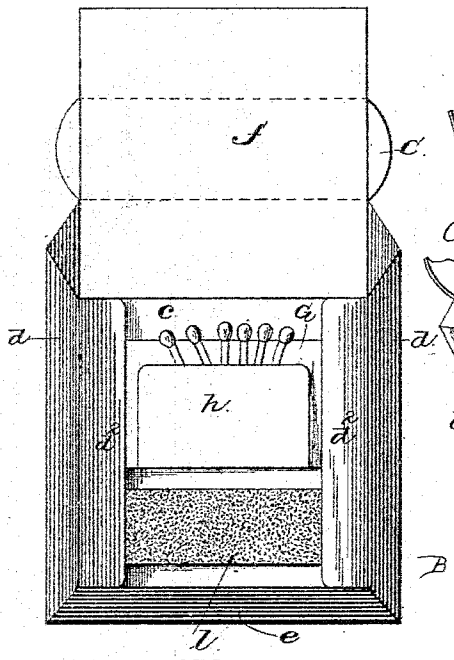
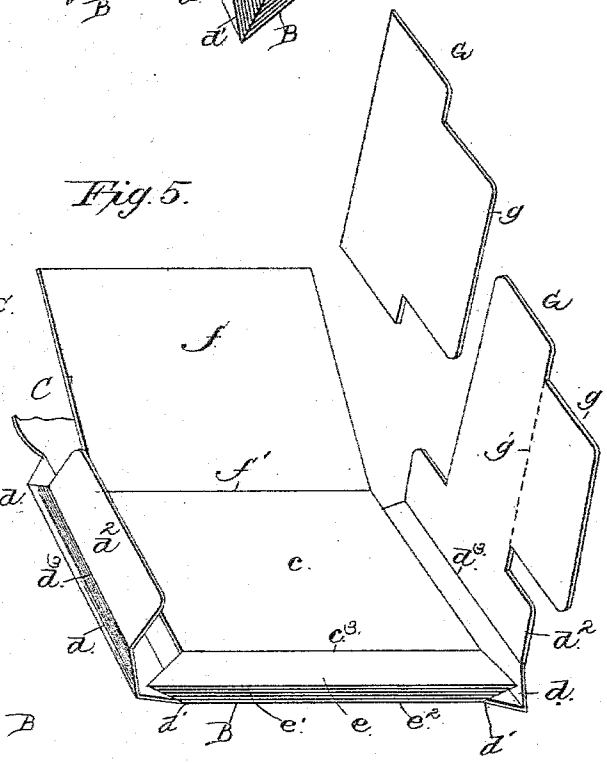


Fig. 5.



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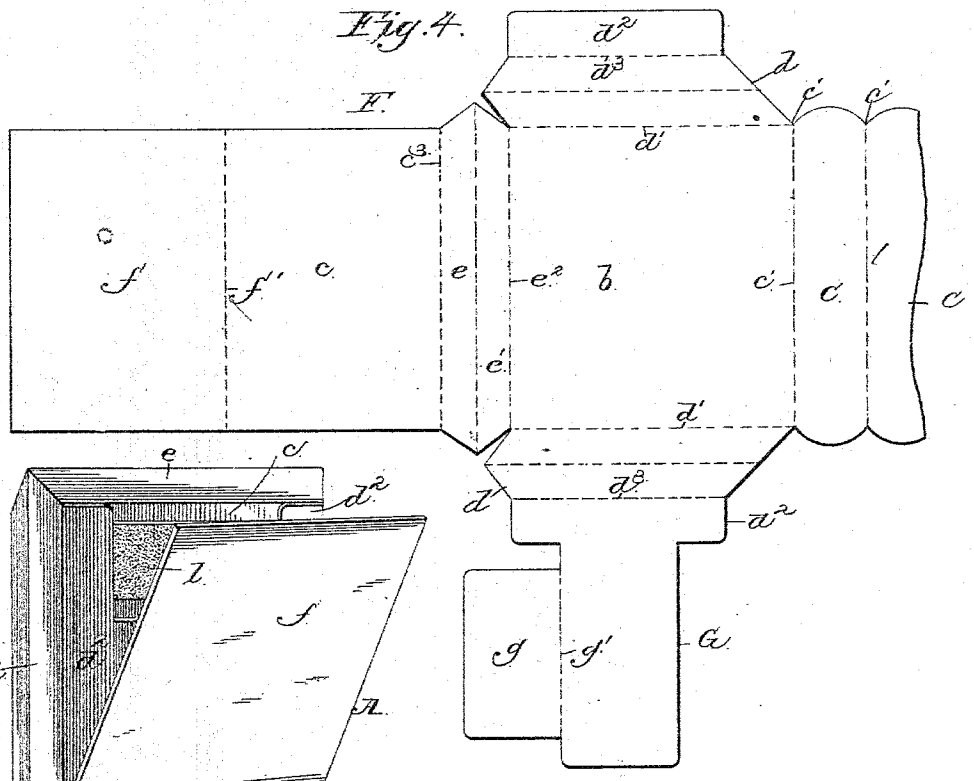
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Fig. 4.



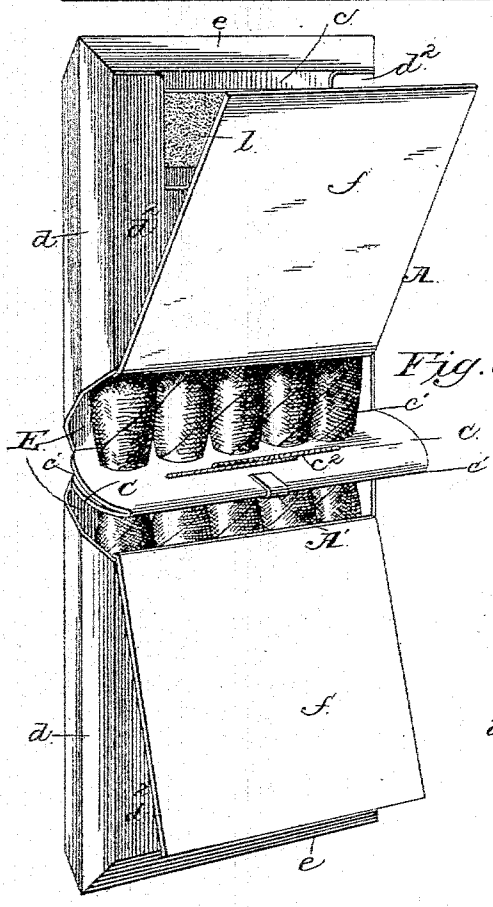
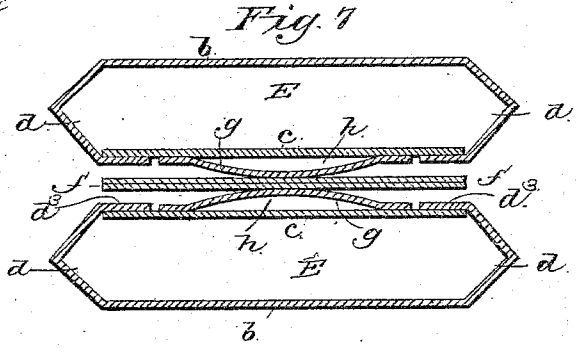


Fig. 6.

Fig. 7



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS TRIBE, OF COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO.

CIGAR OR CIGARETTE CASE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 356,806, dated February 1, 1887.

Application filed October 20, 1885. Serial No. 180,435. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS TRIBE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Colorado Springs, in the county of El Paso and State of Colorado, have invented new and useful Improvements in Cigar or Cigarette Cases, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

My invention has relation to improvements in cigar or cigarette cases; and it consists in the peculiar construction and combination of parts, substantially as hereinafter fully set forth, and specifically pointed out in the claims.

My invention has for its object to provide a cigar or cigarette case which can be easily opened or folded, the cigars, &c., being kept from falling out during such opening and closing movements; which shall fold compactly and closely, and of which the side edges shall conform to the shape of the cigar; to provide each section of the case with an auxiliary compartment or pocket for carrying matches, cigarettes, and other like small articles, and with means for protecting the contents of said pockets when the sections of the case are folded one upon the other.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a cigar or cigarette case in a closed position embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the case open and turned wrong side out. Fig. 3 is an elevation with the protecting-flap thrown back to show the pocket for one of the case-sections. Fig. 4 is a view of the blank for one of the case-sections, and Fig. 5 is a view showing one section partly put together. Fig. 6 is a perspective view showing the device open, and Fig. 7 is a transverse section on the line *x x* of Fig. 1.

Like letters of reference denote corresponding parts in all the figures of the drawings.

Referring by letter to the drawings, A designates my improved cigar or cigarette case, comprising two sections or receptacles connected together and adapted to fold one upon the other and be secured by a flexible strap, A'.

I will now proceed to describe the peculiar construction and arrangement of the several parts of one section of the case and the manner of putting or securing the several parts thereof together; but it will be understood that both of the sections of the case are made and constructed substantially alike.

Referring more particularly to Figs. 1, 2, and 3 of the drawings, each of the sections B B of the case A consists of a back piece or back wall, *b*, and a front piece or inner wall, *c*, two side walls, *d*, an end wall, *e*, a flap, *f*, and a filling-in piece, G, connecting the side walls, and having a pocket, *h*, on its outer face. The end and side walls of each case-section are creased at their middle, as at *d' e'*, and in the direction of their length, and said walls fold or project outwardly from beyond the edges of the front and back walls of the case-section. By this construction of the side and end walls folding outwardly the case-section, when empty, is permitted to fold more compactly and closely than when the said walls fold inwardly between the front and back walls thereof, and when the section is filled with cigars or cigarettes the side walls conform to the shape thereof and permit the cigars to lie snugly against the side walls of the case, thus obviating the danger of injuring the wrappers of the cigars, &c., inserted therein. The front wall and projecting flap are preferably in one piece, and the edge where they are joined together is made blunt by folding the flap over upon the front wall, so that the wrappers of the cigars or cigarettes are not so liable to be torn or injured as if the edge were left sharp when introducing or withdrawing them from the main compartment of the case-section. The flaps *f* of the sections fold over the front pieces, C, and lie over the receptacles *h*, and serve to protect matches, stamps, &c., carried therein from dampness or moisture, and prevent them from falling out and the matches from igniting.

Each of the sections of my improved case is provided at its upper edge with a flap, C, that is adapted to retain the cigars in the receptacle, preferably formed with the back wall of the section and creased, as at *c'*, and the retaining-flaps C of the two sections are connected together by a cord, c^2, or by any other suitable means—as, for instance, a rubber or elastic band, staples, &c. The two sections of the case are thus flexibly connected or hinged together, and are adapted to fold one upon the other and be secured or held together by an

elastic strap or band, A′, which passes through and is thus secured to the flaps C at their upper edges, and the elastic strap or band is adapted to embrace the outer surfaces of the sections of the case when they are folded one upon the other.

Each section is provided with a main compartment or receptacle for the reception of cigars and cigarettes by the front, back, and end walls, and this compartment is designated by the letter E.

I attach importance to the retaining or stop flaps C of the receptacles or sections, as they prevent the cigars or cigarettes from falling out of the receptacles E when the sections of the case are opened or closed.

In opening or closing an ordinary cigar-case one of the sections thereof is usually turned upwardly, so that its open end or mouth is brought into a lower position than the closed end, and so the cigars are liable to fall out; but in my improved device I overcome this objection by the retaining or stop flaps C, which lie in an inclined position or at an angle to the mouth or open end of the receptacle, whereby the cigars which would fall out strike the retaining or stop flaps, and are thus prevented from further endwise movement. The flaps thus serve as retainers or stops to prevent the displacement or falling out of the cigars or cigarettes when the case is opened or closed, and they extend transversely across the mouth of the receptacles E at an angle thereto, this feature of the flap serving as stops being clearly shown in perspective in Fig. 6.

In practice I prefer to make the entire case and the sections thereof in one piece, and in Figs. 4 and 5 of the drawings I have shown my preferred method of cutting a blank and of putting the same together to form the sections of the case; but it is obvious that the sections of the case can be made from independent blanks or in separate parts, and flexibly secured or hinged together, to enable them to fold very readily and quickly.

The improved case is preferably made of paper; but it can be made of any other suitable strong material and ornamented to any desired extent.

To make or construct one of the sections of the case of one piece of paper or other suitable material, I proceed as follows, reference being had more particularly to Figs. 4 and 5: A blank, F, is provided which consists of the back piece or wall, *b*, the end wall, *e*, creased at the line of juncture therewith, as at e^2, and at its middle, e', the front wall, *c*, having a transverse crease or bend at the juncture with the end wall, as at c^2, the flap *f*, creased as at f', the two side walls, *d*, creased at their middle, and also at the line of juncture with the back wall, as at d', and the flap C, creased as at c', the lower ends of the side walls and outer ends of the end walls being obliquely cut at each side to form an inverted-V-shaped end thereto, and the upper ends of said side walls being cut in an oblique or slanting line from the crease c' to the outer end thereof. The side walls, *d*, are further provided with strips d^2, which are creased at d^3, and when the blank is folded together said strips d^2 lie over the edges of the front wall, *c*, and are connected and secured together by the filling-in piece G. This filling-in piece projects from the free edge of the strip d^2, and it is provided with a flap, *g*, that extends at right angles therefrom and is creased at its juncture therewith, as at g'.

When the case is constructed of a size to hold cigars or a large number of cigarettes, the filling-in piece G, with its flap *g*, is made or cut separate from the blank F, so as to leave the outer edge of the strip d^2 free, and the filling-in piece is connected therewith when the cases are constructed or put together, so as to avoid a waste of material; but when the cases are made of a reduced size the piece G, with its flap *g*, which serves to connect the side walls together, is cut or stamped with the blank F.

To secure the several parts together to provide or form one section of the case, the front wall, *c*, is first turned or folded at the line or crease f'' so as to lie over the back wall, *b*, and in such folding of the front wall the lower end wall, *e*, is bent up into proper shape and the flap *f* brought to lie opposite the upper end of the back wall, *b*. The side walls, *d*, are then bent up at the crease d', so that the strips d^2, thereof lie over the edges of the front wall, the filling-in piece G is secured to said strips d^2, and the flap *f* is bent over the outer face of the receptacle or case-section, which is thus formed or put together very rapidly. The diagonal cuts at the ends of the side and end walls enable them to fit or close together very closely, and to project outwardly from the edges of the front and back walls, for the purpose hereinbefore described, and by forming the front wall, *c*, and flap *f* in one piece and bending them at the point f' a blunt or dulled edge is provided, which is not so liable to cut or injure the wrappers of cigars as a sharp free edge in introducing or withdrawing them from the receptacles E.

The filling-in piece G is secured to the strips d^2 of the end walls at or near the middle of said strip d^2 of said walls by any suitable means—as, for instance, by cords, staples, or glue—and to form the pocket *h* from the flap *g* said flap is bent or folded over and upon the strip G, and the side edges thereof secured upon the upper face of said strip by cords or glue, and the upper end or mouth thereof left open for the introduction of matches, postage-stamps, cigarette-papers, &c. A piece of sand-paper, *l*, or other rough substance, may be secured upon the outer faces of the sections, beneath the hinged flaps *f* thereof, for convenience in igniting or striking matches thereon.

I would have it understood that I do not desire to limit myself to any particular means for securing the filling-in piece or connecting-strip G to the strips d^2 of the end walls of the

sections, nor to connecting the flaps C thereof together, as I am aware that other means than these herein shown and described can be substituted without sacrificing the advantages of my invention.

From the foregoing description, taken in connection with the drawings, it will be observed that a cigar or cigarette case constructed in accordance with my invention is very strong and durable in its construction, can be manufactured very rapidly and cheaply, and retailed at a small cost; that the device folds compactly and can be packed very closely for shipping or storage; obviates the danger of injuring the wrappers of the cigars and prevents them from falling out when the sections of the case are opened or closed; that independent pockets or receptacles are provided for conveniently carrying matches, &c., and keeping them from contact with the cigars or cigarettes and protected by a flap or cover, and that the case presents a neat appearance.

Various changes in the form and proportion of parts and in details of construction can be made without departing from the principle or sacrificing the advantages of my invention.

By the peculiar construction of the blank F, I am enabled to manufacture the cases very rapidly and cheaply, and the case is very strong and durable in construction, and by reason of the creasing of the end and side walls the case folds very compactly, and it also conforms to the shape of the cigars or cigarettes, and thus obviates in a measure the danger of injuring the wrappers.

In Fig. 6 I have shown the device open to exhibit the cigars and contents of the case.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

1. A cigar-case made in two sections flexibly connected together and having two main compartments, and adapted to fold one upon the other, and having a retaining-flap arranged at an angle to said compartments, each section having an inner pocket, *h*, and a hinged flap, *f*, substantially as described.

2. As an article of manufacture, a cigar-case comprising two sections having two main compartments flexibly connected together and adapted to fold one upon the other, and a retaining or stop flap, C, arranged transversely across the mouths of the main compartments at an angle thereto, each of the sections having its side walls creased longitudinally and projecting outwardly therefrom, and provided with an inner pocket, *h*, having a hinged flap, *f*, forming a blunt upper edge, substantially as described.

3. A cigar or cigarette case consisting, essentially, of two foldable sections flexibly connected together, and having their open ends or mouths arranged in proximity to each other, and a stop or retaining flap intermediate of the open ends of the sections and lying at an angle thereto, said flap being of a width equal to the width of the open ends of the sections, and completely closing the said open ends of both sections when they are folded upon each other, substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

THOMAS TRIBE.

Witnesses:
H. T. BERNHARD,
J. W. GARNER.