W. T. MUNGER.

Reversible Latches.

No. 138,919. Patented May 13, 1873.

Fig. 1.

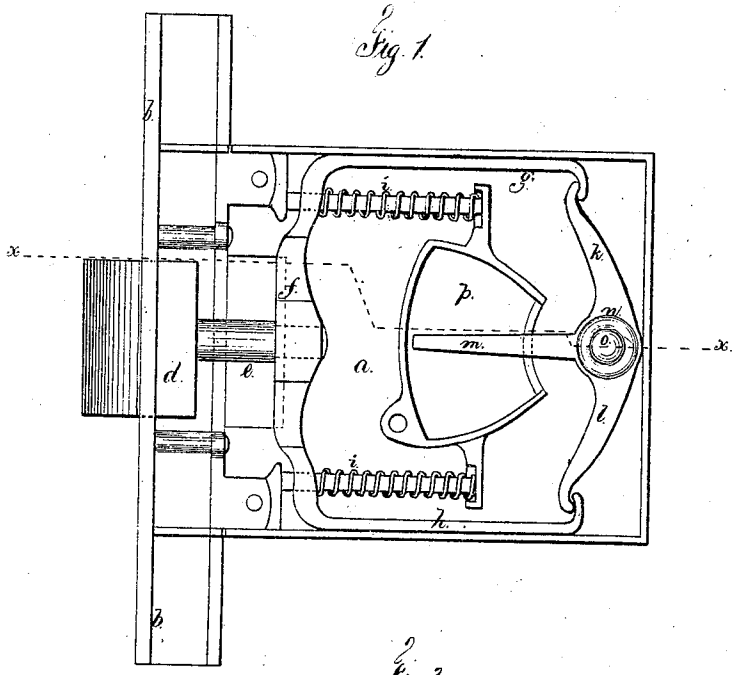
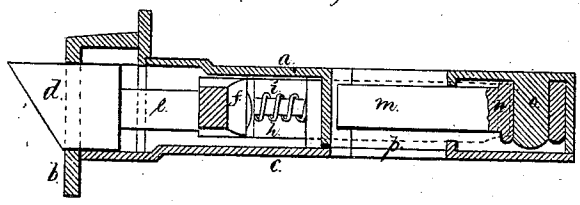


Fig 2.



Witnesses,

Chas. H. Smith

Geo. D. Walker.

Inventor

Wallace T. Munger

Lemuel W. Serrell

atty

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WALLACE T. MUNGER, OF NEW BRITAIN, CONNECTICUT, ASSIGNOR TO P. & F. CORBIN, OF SAME PLACE.

IMPROVEMENT IN REVERSIBLE LATCHES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **138,919**, dated May 13, 1873; application filed April 12, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WALLACE T. MUNGER, of New Britain, in the county of Hartford and State of Connecticut, have invented an Improvement in Reversible Latches, of which the following is a specification:

This invention relates to a mortise-latch that is designed for use, especially on store-doors, as a right or left hand latch without altering the mechanism.

This invention consists in a latch-case made with an opening through it in which projects an arm that is operated for withdrawing the latch, and this arm is central so that the latch-case may be reversed for the bevel of the latch to stand in either direction.

In the drawing, Figure 1 is an elevation of the latch with the cap plate removed, and Fig. 2 is a sectional plan at the line *x x*.

a is the back plate or box of the latch-case; *b*, the front plate; and *c* is the cap plate. *d* is the latch-bolt; these parts are of any usual size or character. The bolt *d* is provided with the shank *e*, which passes through and is riveted to the horseshoe or yoke *f*. The yoke *f* extends across the case so as to be held in position by the latter, and its ends extend as arms *g h* toward the back end of the case and are bent inward to form hooks. The springs *i i* and their guide-pins keep the yoke *f* and bolt *d* in place and guide the same as the latch is pressed out when in use. The trident, composed of arms *k l m* from a hub, *n*, which is upon a stud, *o*, at the center of the latch-case, operates the latch as follows: The arms *k l* extend to the tail pieces *g h*, respectively, of the yoke *f* and bear against them so that the arm or lever *m* is held central of the lock-case.

If the arm *m* is moved up or down it will act to draw the latch back by one or the other of the arms *k l*, acting upon the tail piece *g* or *h*.

The latch-case and cap plate *c* are formed with an opening, *p*, into which opening the arm *m* extends so that it may be operated from the outside by any suitable device, such as a thumb-piece upon the end of a lever, said lever passing through the opening *p*.

It will be seen that the latch *d* and arm *m* being central of the case, the case may be placed with the bevel of the bolt in either direction, and the operation will be the same, and no change is required in the mechanism of the latch, the arm or lever *m* operating precisely the same whether moved up or down.

If the yoke *f* is made with only one arm, *h*, a lever can be employed to move the same, in which case the arms *k l* will be shortened to act as cams against such lever.

I claim as my invention—

1. The latch-case made with an opening, *p*, through the same, in combination with the trident *k l m*, yoke *f*, and latch *d*, substantially as set forth.

2. The case of the latch made with an opening, *p*, through the same, in combination with the latch mechanism and the arm *m*, occupying a central position in such opening to allow the latch-case to be reversed, substantially as specified.

Signed by me this 4th day of April, A. D. 1873.

W. T. MUNGER.

Witnesses:
CHARLES PECK,
JOHN R. SLOAN.