

J. BERGOFF.
BOX.

APPLICATION FILED AUG. 31, 1904.

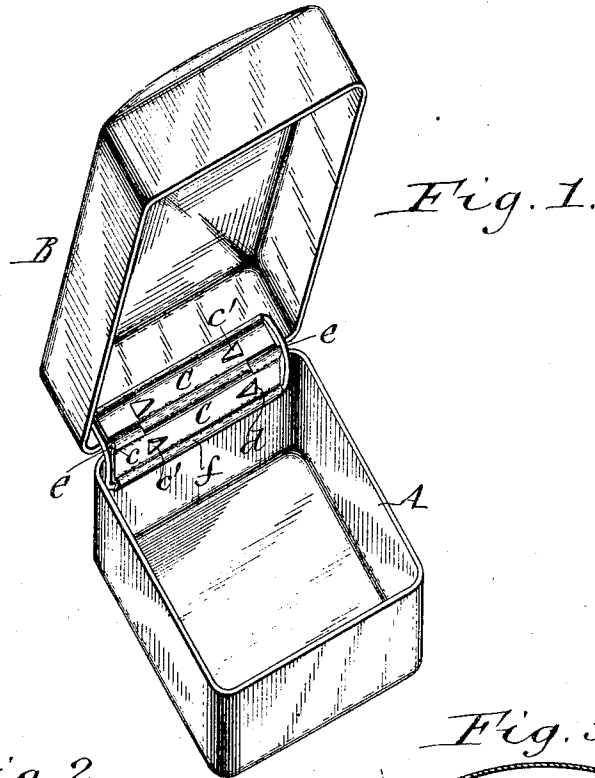


Fig. 1.

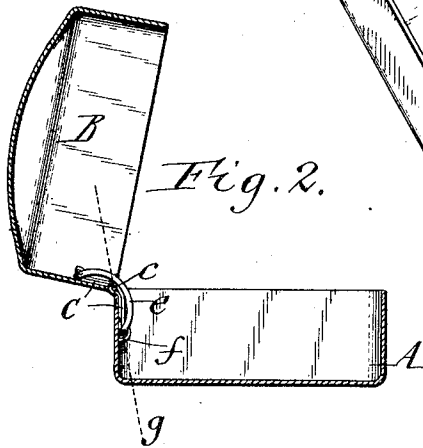


Fig. 2.

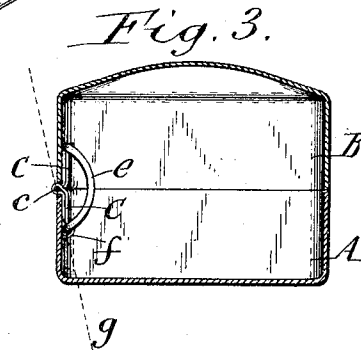


Fig. 3.

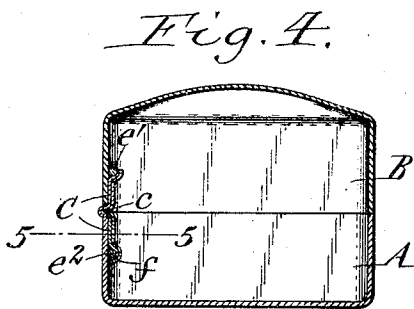


Fig. 4.

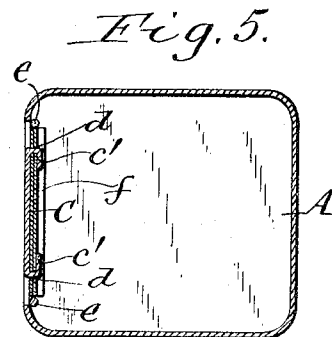


Fig. 5.

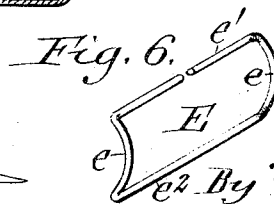


Fig. 6.

Witnesses:
Louis W. Gratz.
Robert Weismacht.

Julius Bergoff
Inventor
By Geyer & Papp Attorneys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JULIUS BERGOFF, OF BUFFALO, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR TO EMPIRE JEWELRY CASE COMPANY, OF BUFFALO, NEW YORK, A CORPORATION OF NEW YORK.

BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 783,410, dated February 28, 1905.

Application filed August 31, 1904. Serial No. 222,818.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JULIUS BERGOFF, a citizen of the United States, residing at Buffalo, in the county of Erie and State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to the class of boxes or cases having a hinged cover, which is provided with a spring serving to hold the same both in its open and closed positions.

The object of my invention is to provide a simple and inexpensive cover-retaining device of this kind which is especially applicable to jewelry-boxes or similar receptacles containing blocks or cushions and which is not liable to crush or disfigure such blocks or tear, chafe, or otherwise deface the usual covering of the box.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a jewelry-box containing my invention, the covering and the usual blocks or cushions being omitted. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section of the box with the cover open, the plane of the section being at one end of the hinge-leaves. Fig. 3 is a similar section with the cover closed. Fig. 4 is a longitudinal section with the cover closed, taken centrally through the hinge. Fig. 5 is a horizontal section in line 5 5, Fig. 4. Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the retaining-spring.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts throughout the several views.

A indicates the body, and B the cover, of the box, which may be of any suitable form and dimensions and which are preferably stamped out of sheet metal. When the box is used as a receptacle for jewelry, its members may be covered with leather, velvet, or other suitable material and provided with the customary blocks or cushions. (Not shown in the drawings.) The cover and body members are connected together by a suitable hinge consisting, preferably, of leaves C C, having eyes or knuckles which receive a pintle *c*. In the construction shown in the drawings the leaves are secured to the rear walls of the body and the cover by pointed tongues *c'*, formed integral with the body and cover and

passing inwardly through slits *d*, formed in the leaves and clenched against the latter, as shown in Figs. 1 and 5.

E indicates a spring for yieldingly retaining the cover either in its open or its closed position. This spring is preferably oblong or rectangular in form, and consists of a single piece of spring-wire bent into that shape. The end bars *e* of the spring extend across the joint between the rear walls of the body A and cover B and are located at the ends of the hinge-leaves C or adjacent to the sides of the box members, as shown, while the longitudinal upper and lower bars *e'* *e''* of the spring are suitably attached to or connected with said rear walls, so that the end bars *e* are sprung or deflected both in opening and closing the cover. Preferably the upper and lower bars of the spring engage under the marginal upper and lower portions of the leaves, which latter are raised for this purpose, and, if desired, the leaf which covers the unsplit bar *e''* may be beaded or provided on its inner side with a groove *f* for receiving said bar, as shown in the drawings. The end bars *e* of the spring are bowed or curved in the direction of their length with their concave sides facing the hinge of the cover. By this construction when the cover is open the end bars of the spring are relaxed and their upper ends stand on the rear side of the dead-center, or, in other words, a line *g* drawn through the lower ends of said end bars and the hinge-pintle *c*, as shown in Fig. 2, thus yieldingly holding the cover in that position. When the cover is swung toward its closed position, the upper ends of the end bars move forward with the rear wall of the cover, gradually straining these bars until their upper ends pass beyond the dead-center line *g*, as shown in Fig. 3, when said bars react and contract to their relaxed condition, thus automatically completing the closing movement of the cover and yieldingly holding it in that position. The spring will also hold the cover in an intermediate or partly-closed position when its end bars are on said dead-center line. The split bar *e'* of the spring is preferably loosely confined under the adjacent hinge-leaf

C, so that the end portions of the spring which form said bar are free to play up and down or come and go as the end bars are strained in opening and closing the cover. This allows the end bars to move laterally as well as backward and forward and causes the strain to be distributed over a greater portion of the spring than if its ends were tightly held in place. The result is that the spring is gentler and softer in action and not liable to cause the cover to close forcibly and cut the velvet or other covering at the meeting edges of the cover and the body of the box. It is obvious that the same result would be obtained if the spring were reversed, so as to bring its split or divided bar under the lower leaf of the hinge.

As the bowed end bars *e* of the retaining-spring are located at the ends of the hinge-leaves or near the sides of the box members, they do not bulge into the usual block or cushion of the jewelry-box and detract from its appearance by crushing or indenting it when the cover is closed, as is the case when such a spring is located midway between the sides of the box members. The spring can be cheaply made of a single piece of wire, and as the leaves of the hinge are utilized for attaching the spring to the box members the cost of the attachment is exceedingly small.

I claim as my invention—

1. The combination of the body and the cover of a box, a hinge connecting the same, and a retaining-spring comprising longitudinal upper and lower bars attached to the body and the cover and bowed end bars connecting said longitudinal bars and located adjacent to the sides of said box members, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination with the body and the cover of a box and a hinge connecting the same, of a retaining-spring comprising longitudinal upper and lower bars attached to the body and the cover and terminating near the sides of

said box members, and bowed end bars connecting the ends of said longitudinal bars and extending across the hinge-joint between said box members, one of said longitudinal bars being split and the sections thereof free to move toward and from the other longitudinal bar, substantially as set forth.

3. The combination with the body and the cover of a box, of a separate connecting-hinge having its leaves secured to the inner sides of said members, and a retaining-spring extending across the hinge-joint between said box members and having its end portions engaged with said hinge-leaves, substantially as set forth.

4. The combination with the body and the cover of a box, of a separate connecting-hinge having its leaves secured to the inner sides of said members, and a rectangular retaining-spring having its longitudinal bars interlocked with said hinge-leaves and its end bars bowed end extended across the hinge-joint between the box members and located adjacent to the sides of the box members, substantially as set forth.

5. The combination with the body and the cover of a box, of a separate connecting-hinge having its leaves secured to the inner sides of said members, and a retaining-spring consisting of a single piece of wire bent into rectangular form, the longitudinal bars of the spring being confined under the corresponding outer edges of said hinge-leaves and one of said bars being formed by the opposing end portions of the wire, the end bars of the spring being bowed and arranged adjacent to the sides of the box members, substantially as set forth.

Witness my hand this 25th day of August, 1904.

JULIUS BERGOFF.

Witnesses:

EDWARD WARNER,
C. F. GEYER.