March 17, 1925. 1,530,068

L. A. ABROTT

TRAVELER BOX FOR CURTAINS

Filed April 1, 1924

Fig. 1.

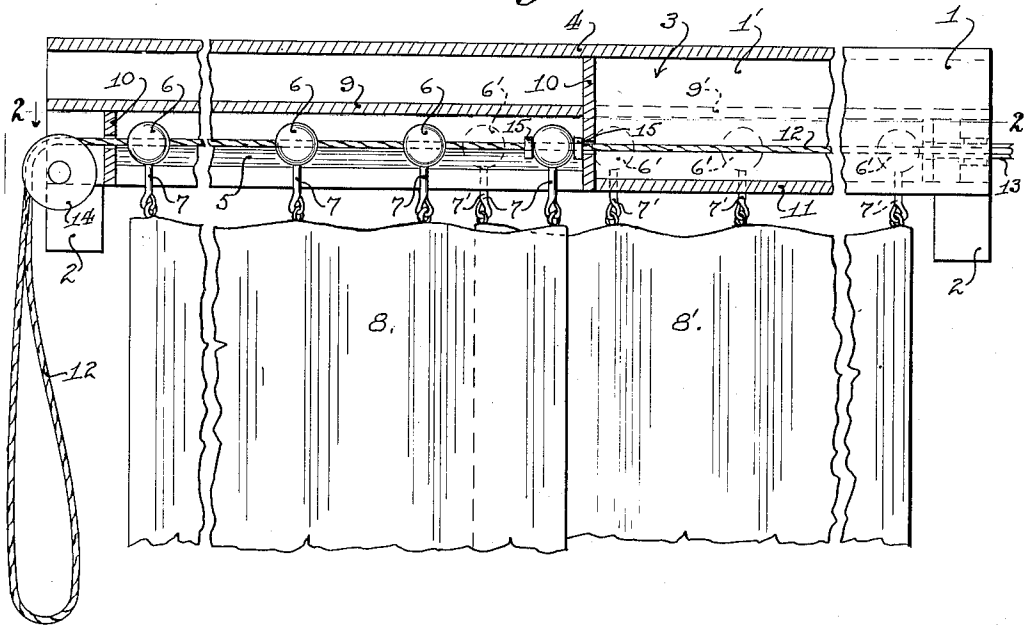


Fig. 2.

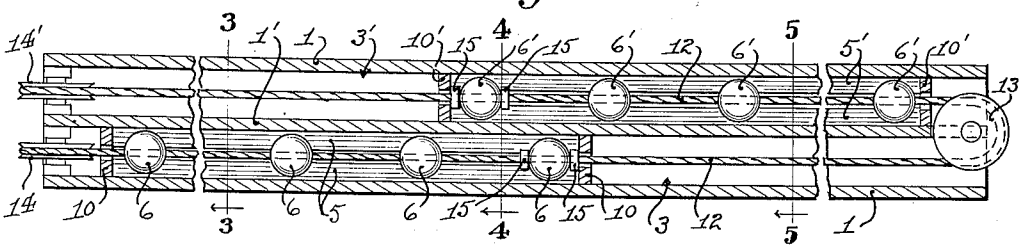


Fig. 3.

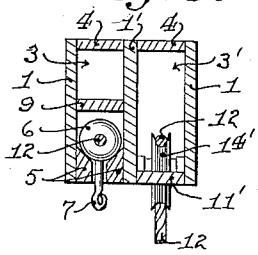


Fig. 4.

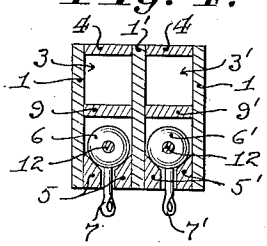
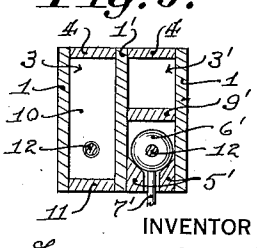


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LAWRENCE A. ABBOTT, OF OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA.

TRAVELER BOX FOR CURTAINS.

Application filed April 1, 1924. Serial No. 703,546.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LAWRENCE A. ABBOTT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Oakland, in the county of Alameda and State of California, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Traveler Boxes for Curtains, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to traveler-boxes for horizontally movable curtains of the type used upon theater stages.

The objects of my invention are to provide a traveler-box having sufficient strength and rigidity to span the entire width of any ordinary stage and support the heaviest curtains at present employed; to provide tracks and hangers or travelers of such a nature that the movement of the latter will be smooth and free; to provide for a sufficient overlap of the two parts of the curtain at the center; and to provide for the simultaneous operation of both parts of the curtain by means of a single cord, the horizontal runs of said cord being fully enclosed within the box to prevent them from interfering with each other or becoming entangled. These and other objects of my invention will become apparent from the following specification, wherein a preferred embodiment of my said invention is described. It should be understood, however, that the form and construction of the device may be varied, within the limits of the claims hereto appended, from that herein shown and described, without departing from the essential principles of the invention.

A preferred embodiment of my invention will now be fully described with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein—

Fig. 1 is a part sectional front elevation of my traveler-box.

Fig. 2 is a horizontal section taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Figs. 3, 4 and 5 are transverse sections taken respectively on the lines 3—3, 4—4, and 5—5 of Fig. 2, and viewed in the direction of the arrows.

In the drawings, the reference numerals 1 designate a pair of spaced girder members, which form the side walls of the box, and extend the entire width of the stage, resting at their ends on supports 2. 1′ is a central girder member, similar in form and dimension to the members 1, which divides the box into two parallel channels 3 and 3′. Top members 4 are provided to connect the girders 1 and 1′ firmly together and to provide covers for the channels 3 and 3′.

The channel 3, from the left hand end of the box to a point slightly beyond its center, is provided with a pair of spaced track members 5, forming a V-shaped slotted track as shown, in which ride the preferably spherical travelers 6. Hangers 7, of any suitable form, are secured to the traveler balls 6, and, extending through the slot formed between the track members 5, support the left hand portion 8 of the curtain. A horizontal guide member 9 is placed in the channel 3 above the traveler balls 6, to prevent said balls from riding upon and jamming each other. Transverse stop members 10 are provided at the ends of the track to limit the movements of the curtain, said stop members and the guide member 9 serving to further strengthen the box by connecting the girders 1 and 1′. The remaining, or right hand portion of the channel 3, is provided with a bottom 11.

The channel 3′ is similarly provided with track members 5′ extending from its right hand end to a point somewhat beyond the center, said members forming a track for the travelers 6′ which support, by means of hangers 7′, the right hand portion 8′ of the curtain. This track is similarly provided with a horizontal top guide 9′, and end stop members 10′, and the remaining, or left hand portion of the channel 3′ is provided with a bottom member 11′.

It will be observed that the two tracks formed by the members 5 and 5′ lie in different vertical planes, and overlap at the center of the box, so that the two portions 8 and 8′ of the curtain, when drawn together, will overlap smoothly and automatically, without interfering with each other, and without further attention on the part

of the operator, and will therefore make a complete closure without spreading apart.

The two portions 8 and 8′ of the curtain are operated, simultaneously and in opposite directions, by a single cord 12, which passes first through the channel 3, then around a horizontally disposed sheave 13, and back through the channel 3′. The two end portions of said cord preferably hang down over vertically disposed sheaves 14 and 14′, and may be joined together as shown, if desired. The cord 12 passes centrally through the ball travelers 6 and 6′ in the respective channels 3 and 3′. The end-most ball of each series, that is, the right hand ball of the series 6 and the left hand ball of the series 6′, are fixed upon said cord 12, preferably by means of suitable clamps 15, one such clamp being secured to the cord 12 on each side of each such ball; the remaining balls are freely slidable upon said cord. Therefore, when the cord 12 is moved in one direction, by pulling upon one of the depending falls of its bight, the two portions of the curtain will be drawn apart, and when said cord is moved in the other direction, they will be drawn together.

In practise, I prefer to construct the entire box of wood, although other materials may be used with equal success. The depth of the girders 1 and 1′, and consequently of the entire box, is, of course, dependent upon the length of the span and the weight of the curtains to be supported, and by making said girders of sufficient depth, the heaviest curtains can be supported, without appreciable sag.

It will be seen that the horizontal portions of the cord 12 lie wholly enclosed in the channels 3 and 3′, and are separated by the central girder 1′, so that there is no exposed cord to become entangled with the travelers or hangers.

I claim:

1. A traveler-box for curtains comprising spaced girder members forming a pair of parallel channels extending the entire length of the box; track members secured to said girder member within said channels, the track members of the two channels extending from the opposite end regions thereof toward the ceneral region of the box and over-lapping in said central region; travelers movably carried by said track members; and means for connecting said girder members together.

2. A traveler-box for curtains comprising spaced girder members forming a pair of parallel channels extending the entire length of the box; track members secured to said girder members within said channels, the track members of the two channels extending from the opposite end regions thereof toward the central region of the box; travelers movably carried by said track members; means housed wholly within said channels for moving said travelers; and spacing members fixed to and extending between said girder members for partially enclosing said channels, said spacing members connecting said girder members together.

3. A traveler-box for curtains comprising spaced girder members forming a pair of parallel channels; track members secured to said girder members within said channels, the track members of the two channels extending from the opposite end regions thereof toward the central region of the box; travelers movably carried by said track members; means within said channels for moving said travelers; upper spacing members extending the entire length of said girder members, fixed to and extending between the upper edges thereof; and lower spacing members fixed to and extending between the lower edges of said girder members, said lower spacing members occupying the portions of the channels beyond the ends of said track members, said spacing members enclosing said channels and connecting said girder members together.

4. A traveler-box for curtains comprising spaced girder members forming a pair of parallel channels extending the entire length of the box; track members secured to said girder members within said channels, the track members of the two channels extending from the opposite end regions thereof toward the central region of the box; travelers movably carried by said track members; means within said channels for moving said travelers; upper spacing members extending the entire length of said girder members, fixed to and extending between the upper edges thereof; and guide members positioned below said spacing members and extending between and fixed to said girder members for connecting the same together, said guide members being spaced above said track members to retain the travelers therein.

5. A traveler-box for curtains comprising spaced girder members forming a pair of parallel channels extending the entire length of the box; a pair of oppositely disposed track members secured to the girder members within each channel, said track members having oppositely sloping upper edges forming V-shaped tracks and being spaced to provide longitudinal slots in the bottoms of said tracks; substantially spherical travelers mounted in said tracks; hangers secured to said travelers and extending downwardly through said slots; and means for connecting said girder members together.

6. A traveler-box for curtains comprising three spaced parallel girder members extending the entire length of the box, the

central girder member forming a partition to divide the interior of the box into two separate and parallel channels; spacing and connecting members extending between said girder members for rigidly uniting the same and for partially enclosing said channels; oppositely disposed spaced track members secured to said girder members within said channels; and travelers movably carried by said track members.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification.

LAWRENCE A. ABROTT.