July 27, 1926. 1,594,013

W. JOHNSON

LETTER BOX

Filed July 12, 1924

Fig. 4.

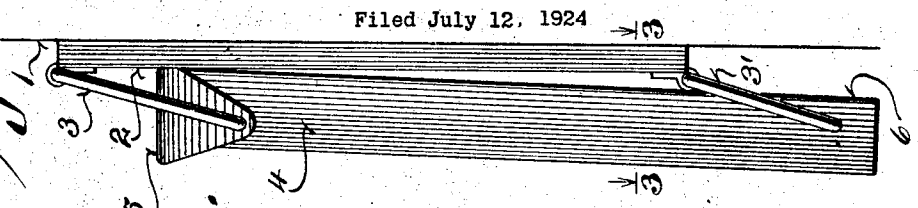


Fig. 3.

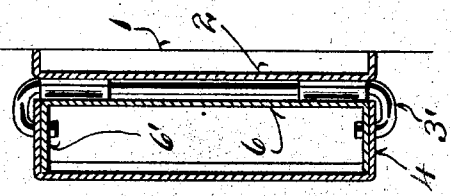
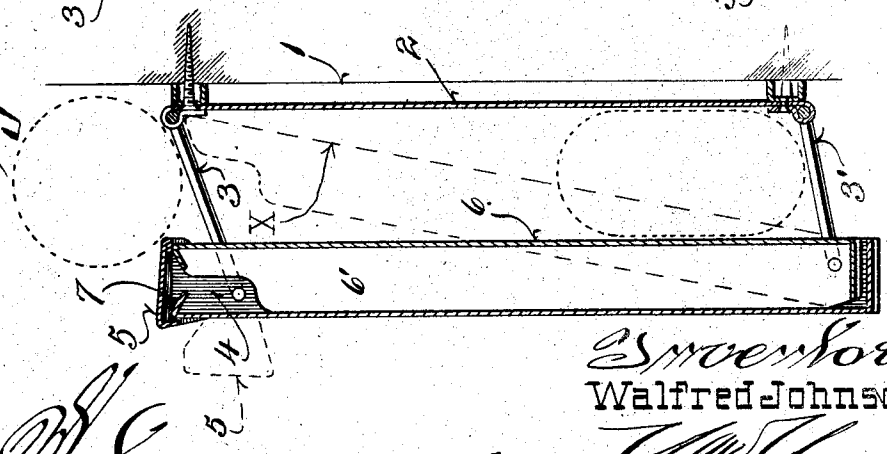


Fig. 2.



Fig. 1.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WALFRED JOHNSON, OF RACINE, WISCONSIN.

LETTER BOX.

Application filed July 12, 1924. Serial No. 725,631.

My invention refers to letter boxes, and it has for its primary object to provide flexible means for suspending the box, whereby bulky packages, which cannot be inserted within the box, may be clamped or grippingly secured between said box and its support to thus insure safety of delivery.

Other objects of my invention are:—

To provide links in connection with the box support and box, whereby the box may be swung in and out from its support to provide a space therebetween for packages.

To provide a box having a swinging or linked connection, with a yieldable back wall, whereby the box and its mouth may be expanded for the reception of bulky mail and thereafter the shiftable back wall may be compressed when the box is shifted towards its support.

Applicant has had practical experience in delivering mail matter, and in utilizing the ordinary or standard mail box, it has been demonstrated that no facility has been made for taking care of bulky packages. Hence, applicant has primarily provided for a swinging movement of any type of box from its supporting wall, whereby packages can be tucked between the rear wall of the box and its support. By providing this arrangement to any type of box, it will readily be understood that the cost of manufacture is increased only slightly as the link attachment can be readily adjusted to such types of letter boxes as are now on the market.

A further advantage of this construction is that the carrier is not required to perform awkward manipulations, for the reason that the mail can, in this swinging type of box, be adjusted in position both in the box and to the rear of it with one hand. It has also been found in practice by applicant that the usual mail delivery box is limited in its capacity to the size of its mouth, which mouth is usually a narrow slot. Hence a substantial volume of mail cannot be fed into the box except by inserting one or two pieces at a time. In view of this objectionable feature, and for the purpose of saving time, applicant has devised in connection with his box invention a yieldable back wall which is preferably pivoted at the bottom and provided with a cap closure in such relation that when it is desired to deposit mail, the expansible or swinging rear wall can be readily tipped backwardly to develop a wide or gapping mouth of maximum capacity, whereby a large package of mail can be suitably dropped into the receptacle when the box is swung away from its support, and upon leaving the box the deliverer will perform a simple operation of pressing the box backwardly towards the support whereby the rear flexible wall will swing towards the closed position and tightly compress the mail therein between the two walls.

Another object of applicant's arrangement is that the upper portion of the box, when swung outwardly, in conjunction with the upper link or links, serves as a support for large rolls, or the like, which cannot be inserted between the rear wall of the box and its support.

Another object of applicant's invention is that provision may be made for supporting boxes in accordance with the invention, either in vertical direction or horizontal, this positioning being readily accomplished by minor details of design or structure.

With the above objects in view, the invention consists in certain peculiarities of construction and combination of parts, as will be hereinafter set forth with reference to the accompanying illustrations and subsequently claimed.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 represents a longitudinal, sectional elevation of a mailbox embodying the features of my invention.

Figure 2 is a front face view of the same showing the box swung flat against the support.

Figure 3 is a cross section of said box, and Figure 4 is a side elevation of the same.

Referring by characters to the drawings, 1 represents a fixed support to which is secured, by any suitable means, a backplate 2 which may be of skeleton formation, or solid, as the case may require. This plate has pivoted to its upper and lower ends links 3—3′, respectively, which links have their outer ends inturned to form pivots for the side walls 4 of a letter box. The inturned ends of the upper links 3 also form pivots for a swinging cap or cover 5, which is adapted to serve as a closure for the mouth of the box.

The ends of the lower link 3′ serve as pivots for the back wall 6 of the box, said back wall having inturned side walls 6′, which are in sliding union with the side

wall 4 of the main box section. The upper edges of the swinging back wall and the front wall of the box are formed with an inturned lip 7 for the mouth of the box, and it will be observed that said mouth extends from side wall to side wall of the box and is therefore of a width equal to the width of said box, so as to provide maximum capacity.

When the box is in its normal closed position, as shown in Figure 4, it represents maximum capacity, and for example in such position, should a thick volume of mail be inserted between the mouth lips, the back wall will automatically expand or swing out, as indicated by dotted lines X, so as to increase the capacity of the box in proportion to the mail inserted therein.

When such mail is inserted, the box can be pressed backwardly towards its support, and the lower wall will, due to its engagement with the plate 2, snugly compress the mail and permit the box to move towards its support until the mail matter therein obstructs further rearward movement of the front wall of said box.

It is understood that under normal conditions the box is in position, as indicated by Figure 4 of the drawings, and if an ordinary amount of mail only is to be inserted in the box, the cap closure 5 can be swung outwardly upon its pivots, whereby the mouth is exposed and the mail delivered. If a large amount of mail, bulky packages, etc., is to be delivered, the operator grips the bottom of the box between its support and the rear wall, and by a gentle pull outwardly said box will swing upwardly and outwardly guided by its links to the position shown in Figure 1, in which position all mail matter can be deposited, as indicated by dotted lines.

It is obvious that while it may be preferable to connect the links to a back plate of solid or skeleton frame, applicant in some cases directly connects the links to the support and dispenses with this back plate, but under ordinary conditions the back plate is preferable as it constitutes a very convenient method of attaching the box and also adds to the neatness of appearance.

It will also be understood that while I have shown and described the peculiar form of box, having the advantage of expansibility, due to the pivotal back wall, I may without departing from the spirit of my invention, attach the forward end of links in any suitable manner to any standard type of letter box now in use. It will also be understood that although it may not be preferable in ordinary instances, I may provide a single central link connection between the box and its support, as a substitute for the double link connection shown, and in connection with this invention applicant has manufactured and thoroughly tested boxes embodying the general features, as disclosed, and said boxes have been found to meet all of the necessary requirements of the house delivery box, and disinterested carriers have stamped their approval upon it, due to the fact that it is not only a convenient container for mail, but it expedites their work and insures and eliminates the possibility of bulky mail or papers being inadvertently blown from the usual position in which they are placed on the top of boxes, or the like. In other words, the bulky mail is snugly gripped between the box and its support in the same manner that an individual would frictionally grip such packages between the arm and the body.

While I have described certain specific forms of my invention minutely as to detail, it is understood that I may, without departing from the spirit of it, vary the structural features indefinitely within the scope of the claim.

I claim:—

A letter box comprising a back plate adapted for attachment to a support, a pair of links hinged to said back plate at their rear ends, a letter box carried by the forward ends of said links, the forward ends of said links having inturned ends projecting into the walls of said letter box, said letter box having an open top, a cover for said top having downturned sides pivoted upon the inturned ends of said upper link.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand at Racine, in the county of Racine and State of Wisconsin.

WALFRED JOHNSON.