(No Model.)

H. RICE.

TRUNK CLAMP.

No. 341,604. Patented May 11, 1886.

Fig. 1.

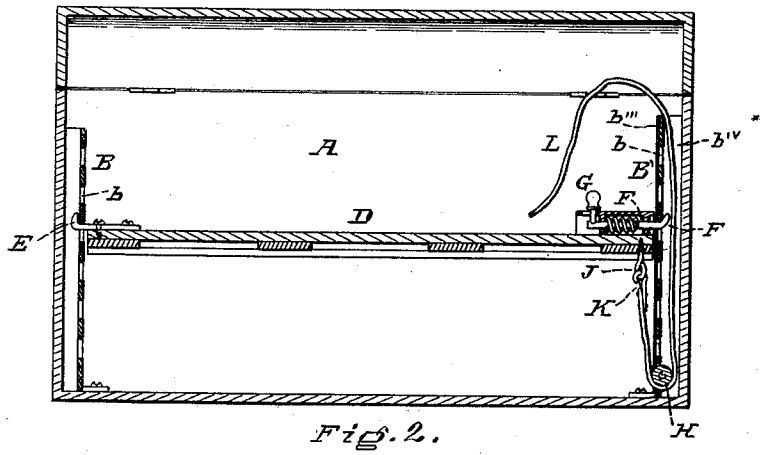


Fig. 2.

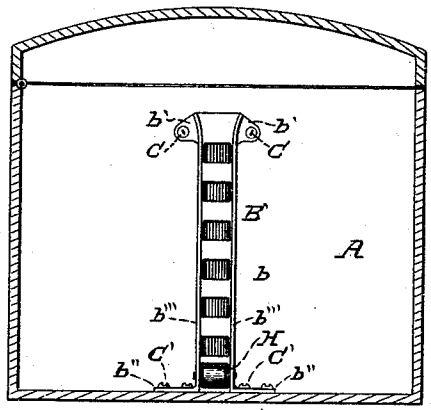
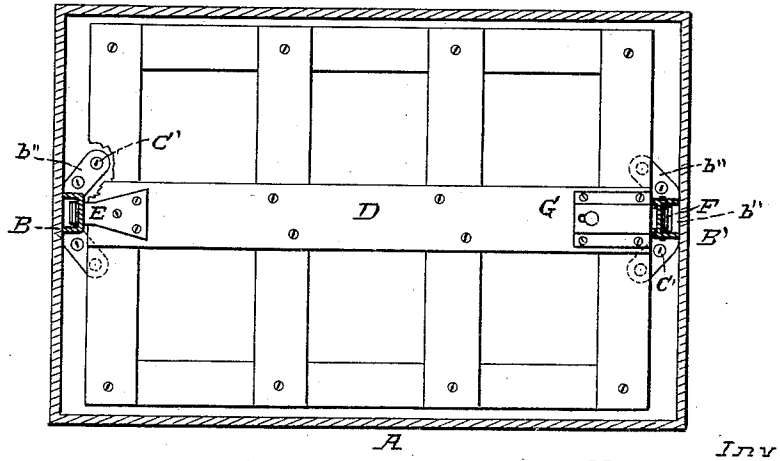


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HANNIBAL RICE, OF AURORA, INDIANA, ASSIGNOR OF TWO-THIRDS TO FREDERICK REICHERT AND FREDERICK THOMS, OF SAME PLACE.

TRUNK-CLAMP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 341,604, dated May 11, 1886.

Application filed February 27, 1886. Serial No. 193,499. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HANNIBAL RICE, of Aurora, Dearborn county, Indiana, have invented a new and useful Trunk-Clamp, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an adjustable lid, clamp, or cover and brace, for the interiors of trunks, packing-cases, and other receptacles employed for transportation of wearing-apparel, dry-goods, samples, &c. The said clamp has hooked catches capable of engagement in racks, which are fastened in a vertical position to two opposite inner walls of the trunk or other receptacle. A strap, being engaged to one end of such clamp, and being passed around a sheave or roller on the adjacent rack, and then drawn up through the passage between the rack and the trunk-wall, operates to compress and hold the contents with greater or less stress, at will of the operator, the neighboring spring-catch so coacting with its rack as to securely retain the said clamp to whatever position it may have been thus drawn by said strap. Perforate lugs or flanges, that extend horizontally from the lower ends of said racks, being screwed or bolted to the trunk-floor, operate both to fasten said racks in position and to strengthen the connection between the ends and bottom of the trunk. The hooked form of the catches coacts with the racks to oppose out-thrust of the trunk ends, and said clamp—in addition to its function of retaining the contents immovably in place, however much or little goods there may be in the box or trunk—further serves as an effectual brace or support for the trunk-walls against crushing forces which would be liable to stave in the sides or ends of the receptacle.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a vertical longitudinal section of a traveler's trunk or chest provided with one of my clamps. Fig. 2 is a vertical transverse section of such trunk before insertion of the clamp. Fig. 3 is a horizontal section of such trunk with its clamp in position.

A may represent any customary chest, packing-case, traveler's trunk, or like receptacle.

B B′ are racks, which have orifices *b*, to receive the hooked catches, to be presently described. Perforate lugs *b′* at the top of said racks receive screws C, to attach said racks in the represented vertical position to the inner walls of the trunk-ends. Perforate lugs *b″*, that extend horizontally from the lower ends of the racks, receive screws C′, for attachment to the trunk-floor. By this arrangement the racks serve as re-enforces both to the ends and floor, and strengthen the connection of these parts to one another. One of the racks has two ridges, *b‴*, along its face, which ridges flare outward at their upper ends. These ridges, beside serving to stiffen the rack, operate as guides to the spring-catch, about to be described, in the operation of engagement.

D represents an open-work frame, preferably composed of slats of hard wood screwed together in form of a lattice. The dimensions of said frame (called by me the "clamp") are such as to cause it to fit loosely within the trunk.

Screwed to one end of the clamp D is a hook, E, which is capable of engagement in any selected orifice of the rack B. Screwed to the other end of the clamp D is a spring-catch, F, also of hooked form, and having a customary knob or handle, G, for optional retraction, when desired, to disengage it from its rack.

H is a sheave or roller, which is journaled in the lower part of the rack B′. An eye, J, that extends downward from that end of the clamp which bears the spring-catch F, receives a clip or snap, K, on one end of a strap, L, whose other end, having been rove around the sheave H, is passed up through the passage b^{iv}, between the rack B′ and the trunk end.

While the hooked form of the catches E and F opposes any bursting tendencies in a crowded trunk, it also makes impossible any accidental disengagement of the catches.

My said clamp, although chiefly designed for, and here shown in connection with, a traveler's trunk, is applicable to a great variety of receptacles—such, for example, as laundry-baskets, sample-cases, boxes, and buckets.

I claim as new and of my invention—

1. The combination, with a trunk or other receptacle having perforate racks B B′ at its

opposite ends, of the clamp D, whose opposite ends have hooked catches E F, for engagement and retention within the rack-orifices, as and for the purposes explained.

2. In combination with the clamp D, having the hooked catches E F, the perforate racks B B′, having the upflared guiding and stiffening ridges b''', as and for the purposes designated.

3. The combination, with the clamp D, having the hooked catches E F, of the racks B B′, of which that which coacts with the spring-catch F has the guiding and retaining ridges b'''.

4. The combination, with the clamp D, the spring-catch F, and the rack B′ and roller H, of the strap L, having the snap K, as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony of which invention I hereunto set my hand.

HANNIBAL RICE.

Attest:
GEO. H. KNIGHT,
FREDRICK THORNE.