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CASKET LOCK STRUCTURE

Filed June 21, 1961

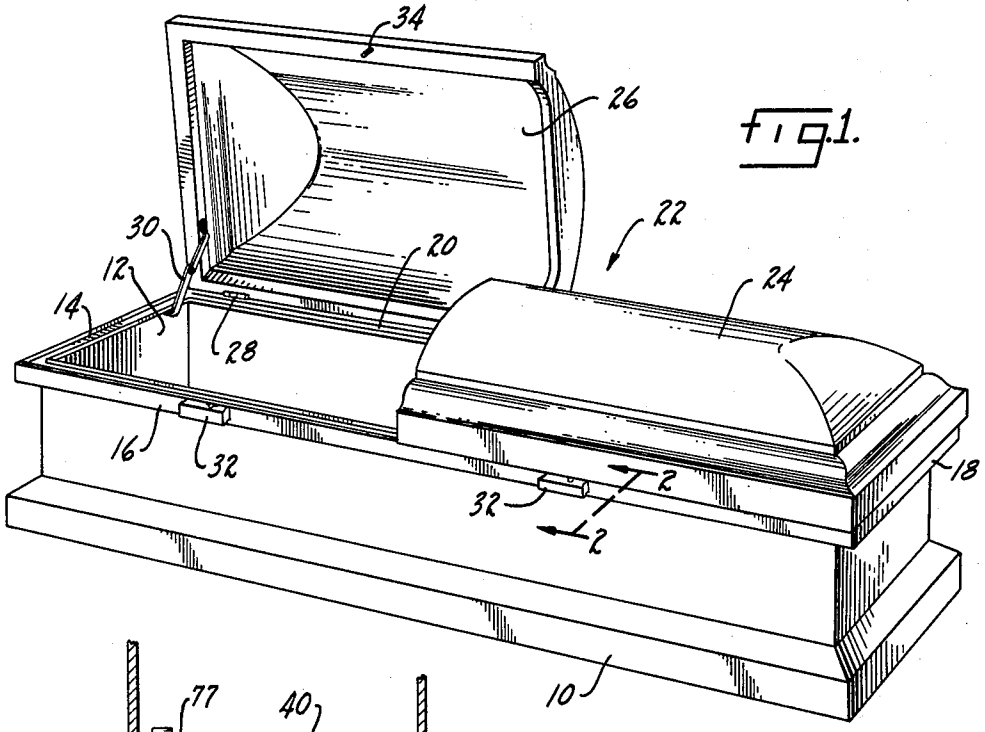


fig. 1.

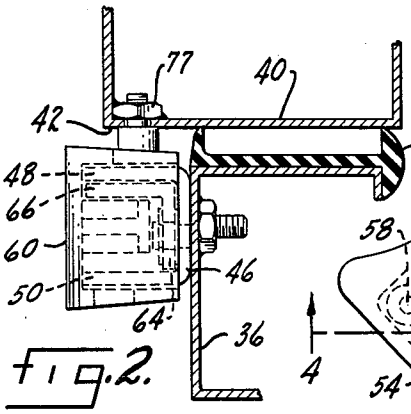


fig. 2.

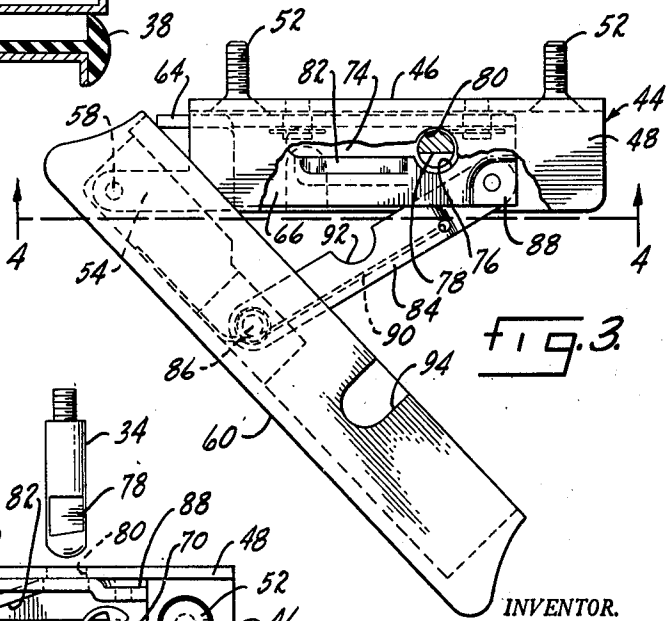


fig. 3.

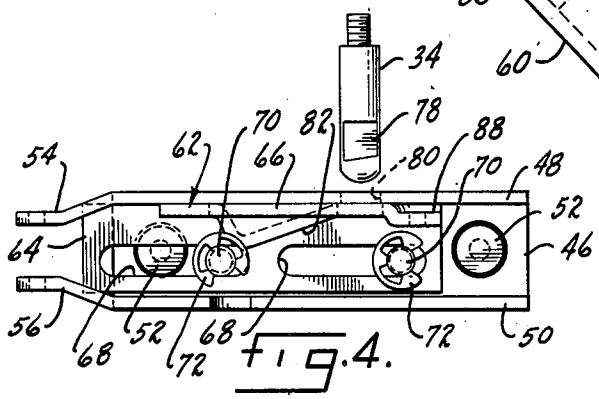


fig. 4.

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CASKET LOCK STRUCTURE

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2 Claims. (Cl. 27—16)

This invention is in the field of caskets and is concerned with a combination casket and lock structure which greatly simplifies holding a casket closed but at the same time has a good appearance.

A primary object of my invention is a casket lock structure which can be simply and quickly attached to the outside of the casket.

Another object is a lock structure which does not have to be mounted inside the casket and is, therefore, much easier to assemble.

Another object is a casket lock structure which simplifies production problems.

Another object is a casket lock structure which, although totally on the outside of the casket, nevertheless, presents a good appearance.

Another object is a simplified casket and lock structure which is, nevertheless, reliable in use and operation.

Other objects will appear from time to time in the ensuing specification and drawings in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective of a casket with my invention;

FIGURE 2 is a section along line 2—2 of FIGURE 1, on an enlarged scale;

FIGURE 3 is a top view of the lock structure shown in FIGURE 2, partly in section, with the lock open or unlocked; and

FIGURE 4 is a section along line 4—4 of FIGURE 3 with the handle removed.

In FIGURE 1, I show a casket structure in which a casket body is indicated at **10** which is generally open at its upper end, as at **12**, the opening being defined by marginal edges **14**, **16**, **18** and **20**. The open upper end is closed by a top **22** which, in the case of FIGURE 1, is shown as a split top or half couch having a foot portion **24** and a head portion **26** shown in FIGURE 1 as open. The top is hinged, as at **28**, to the marginal edge **20** of the body so that the top may be pivoted open or closed and, if desired, may be held open by a suitable linkage **30** or the like. Both the head and foot portions of the top may be locked closed by a lock structure **32**, each of which cooperates with a pull-down element **34**, explained in detail hereinafter.

Referring to FIGURE 2, the front marginal edge **16** may take the form of a closed channel **36** having a suitable gasket **38** or the like on its upper surface to seal against a flat surface **40** on the top. It will be noted that the top extends somewhat beyond the lateral confines of the body's marginal edge **16**, as at **42**.

The lock structure for both the head and foot ends may be the same and only one will be explained in detail. Briefly, the lock structure includes a housing **44** which may be U-shaped in cross section opening outwardly and defined by an inner somewhat vertical portion **46** and top and bottom legs **48** and **50**. I connect the inner portion **46** to the outside of the marginal edge **16** of the casket by any suitable means, such as screws **52** or the like. It should be understood that instead of screws I may connect the housing by spot welding or the like.

As seen in FIGURE 3, the top and bottom legs **48** and **50** are reduced to tabs **54** and **56** at their left end to provide a pivot **58** for a handle **60**. The handle **60** overlies the housing **44** and is closed in front as well as on all four sides but opens rearwardly so that it fits over the housing in the manner shown in FIGURES 1 and 2.

A lock slide **62** is positioned inside the housing and

may be generally L-shaped with a vertical leg **64** and a top horizontal leg **66**. The vertical leg **64** has suitable elongated openings **68** to accept pins **70** mounted inside the housing which hold the lock slide in place by snap washers **72** or the like but allow it to move back and forth longitudinally.

The upper leg **66** of the lock slide has an elongated slot **74** with an opening **76** at one end. The pull-down element **34** may take the form of a pin held in the top by a suitable nut **77** or the like with a cam groove **78** toward its lower end on one side. The pin, when the top is closed, is aligned with an opening **80** in the top of the housing which, in turn, is aligned with the enlarged opening **76** in the lock slide when the lock slide is in unlocked position. The lock slide is formed with a cam surface **82** which is depressed, as shown in FIGURE 4, on one side of the elongated slot **74**. The cam portion **82** is aligned with the portion of the hold down pin defined by the cam groove **78**, as shown in FIGURE 3, so that with the pin fully inserted into the housing, when the lock slide is moved from left to right, unlocked to the lock position, the cam portion **82** will engage the bottom of the cam groove **78** thereby pulling the top down firmly against the gasket **38**.

A link **84** may be pivoted to the handle **60** between the ends thereof as at **86** and also to a depressed portion **88** of the lock slide. I may encircle the pivot **86** with a suitable spring **90** to bias the handle to a closed position at all times. It will be noted that the link has a slot **92** to fit over the hold-down pin, as does the handle at **94** when the handle is in fully closed position.

The use, operation and function of my invention are as follows:

Basically I provide a combination casket and lock structure which greatly simplifies assembly. For example, the lock is entirely located on the outside of the casket except for possibly a suitable mounting arrangement. Be that as it may, the operating mechanism of the lock structure can be easily tack welded, screwed or otherwise connected to the outer marginal edge of the casket body. Thus, it does not require any complicated sliding bars, hooks, latches or otherwise inside of the casket body.

One of the most important advantages is simplicity and ease of assembly along with reliability of operation. Since casket appearance governs or influences sales to a heavy extent, the lock structure has the advantage that it does not ruin or otherwise detract from the external appearance of the casket.

At the same time, reliability of operation has not been sacrificed and the lock structure is accurate in use and quiet in operation, both being desirable features.

While I have shown and described the preferred form of my invention, it should be understood that suitable additional modifications, changes, substitutions and alterations may be made without departing from the invention's fundamental theme. I, therefore, wish that the invention be unrestricted, except as by the appended claims.

I claim:

1. For use with a casket structure including a casket body generally open at its upper end and having four marginal edges, a top pivoted to the body and adapted to close the otherwise open upper end, hinges between one of the marginal edges and the top, the improvement comprising a lock structure on the marginal edge of the body opposite the hinges, said lock structure including a generally U-shaped housing, open at the side, mounted on the marginal edge and extending laterally outwardly therefrom, a handle pivoted to the housing about a vertical axis to swing laterally outwardly therefrom, said handle having horizontal side walls and a vertical front wall which overlie and close the housing, a lock slide within the housing adapted to move longitudinally between

locked and unlocked positions, a hold-down element on the top opposite the hinges adapted to cooperate with the housing, an opening through the top of the housing to accept the hold-down element allowing it to enter the housing to be engaged by the lock structure, a link pivoted to the handle and to the lock slide constructed to move the lock slide back and fourth between locked and unlocked positions in response to pivotal movement of the handle, a spring connected between the handle and link for biasing the handle and lock slide toward locked position, said lock slide including a longitudinal slot, a cam surface formed in the lock slide along one side of the slot, a cam groove in the hold-down element aligned with the cam surface on the lock slide, said lock slide and hold-down element being relatively positioned, when the casket top is closed, to permit the lock slide to move into the cam groove with the cam surface applying a downwardly directed locking force to the hold-down element.

2. The structure of claim 1 further characterized in that said hold-down element has a width greater than that of the slot in the lock slide, and an enlarged opening at one end of the lock slide slot which is of a size to permit entrance of the hold-down element.

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