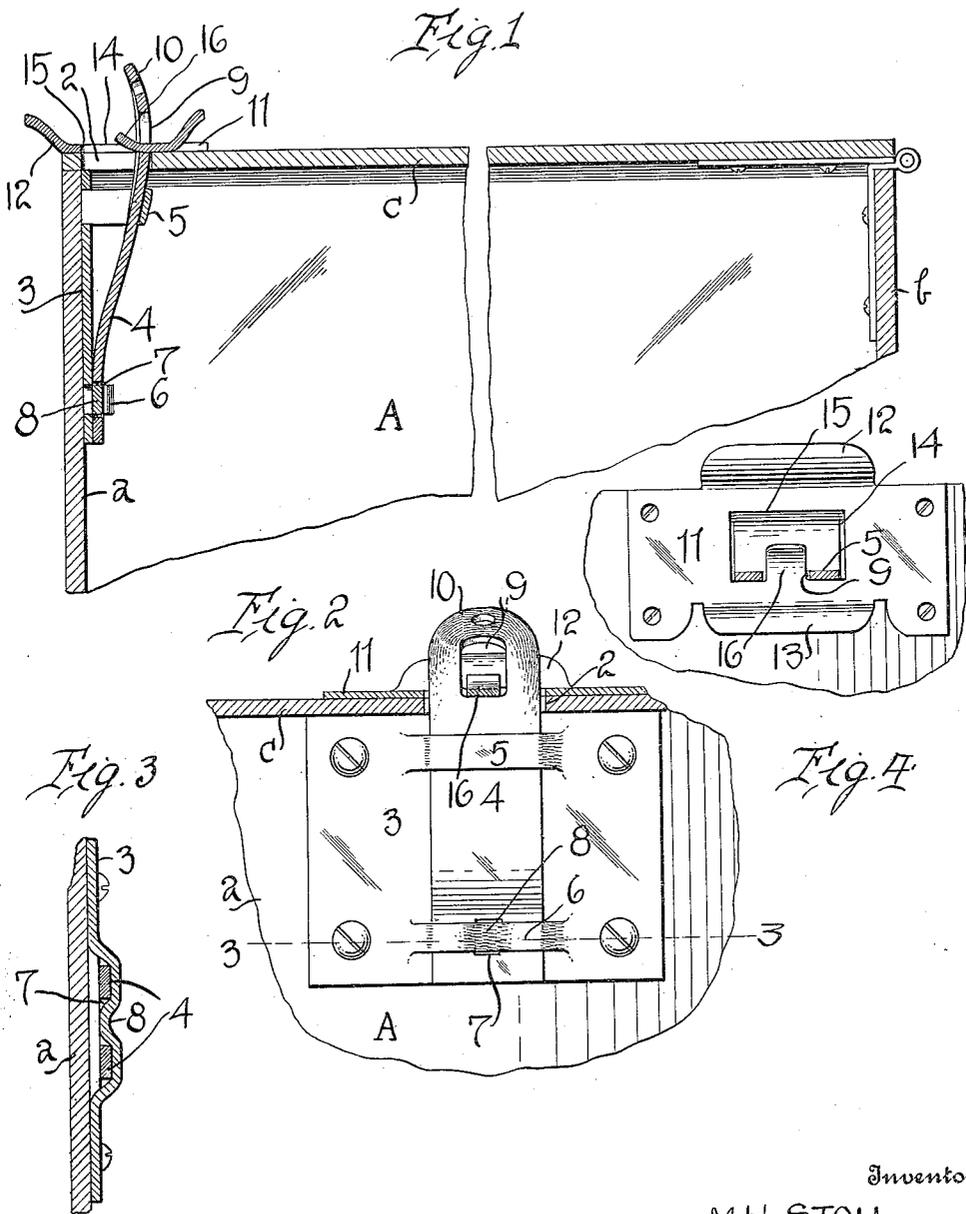


M. H. STOLL.
 CONTAINER LATCH.
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MATHEW H. STOLL, OF LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN.

CONTAINER-LATCH.

1,154,739.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MATHEW H. STOLL, a citizen of the United States, residing at La Crosse, in the county of La Crosse and State of Wisconsin, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Container-Latches, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

My invention relates to locks, or latches, and particularly to latches designed for holding the covers of boxes in closed position.

The primary object of my invention is the provision of an extremely simple form of lock or latch for this purpose having very few parts, and these so shaped that they may be easily stamped out from sheet metal and easily assembled.

A further object of my invention is to so construct the lock or latch that it will obstruct the entrance of light into the box through the opening in the box lid through which the latching member passes.

Still another object is to so form the lock or latch that the latching member may be withdrawn by the thumb of the hand, while the finger is used to raise the cover of the box.

Another object of the invention is to provide very simple and cheap means for holding a hasp in engagement with a hasp plate and locking it thereto.

Other objects will appear in the course of the following description.

My invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein—

Figure 1 is a transverse section from front to rear of a portion of a box, the latching means being shown in vertical section; Fig. 2 is a detail section of a portion of the box with a face view of the latching means; Fig. 3 is a section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2; Fig. 4 is a top view of the keeper, the hasp being in section.

Referring to these drawings, A designates a box of any suitable construction, having front and rear walls *a* and *b*, and a lid *c*. The lid is hinged to the rear wall of the box in any suitable manner, and adjacent its forward edge is provided with a slot 2. Mounted upon the inside face of the front wall of the box is a hasp carrying plate 3, upon which the hasp 4 is mounted. This plate 3 is made of relatively heavy sheet metal, and has cut out and stamped from

it the transversely extending straps 5 and 6 which are integral with the plate. The strap 5 is longer than the strap 6, and both of these straps are forced out beyond the inner face of the plate. The hasp or tongue 4 is also made of sheet metal which is resilient, and the base of the hasp or tongue is formed with an opening 7. The tongue is of such width that the base may be inserted beneath the strap 6 and will fit snugly between the ends of the strap, the middle of the strap being depressed or forced inward as at 8, so as to fill and engage in the opening 7. The hasp passes beneath the strap 5 which acts as a keeper. The hasp, as will be seen from Fig. 1 is so formed as to extend upward and outward from the inner face of the plate 3, and the upper portion of the hasp is slightly rounded transversely and is formed with an opening 9, the upper wall of which is rounded. The extremity of the hasp is inwardly deflected as at 10 to provide convenient means whereby the finger may be applied to the hasp, as will be later stated. The resiliency of the hasp will cause it to spring inward, as illustrated in Fig. 1, but it may be forced against the plate 3 to release it from its engagement with the keeper.

The keeper consists of a plate 11 of thin sheet metal, cut away or so formed as to provide an upwardly and outwardly projecting wing 12 and an upwardly and outwardly projecting wing 13, these wings being disposed at the middle of the plate. The middle of the plate is also cut away as at 14 adjacent the forward edge of the plate, and this opening is formed with a straight front wall 15, and the rear wall of the opening is provided with the projecting lug 16. The opening 14 has a length approximately equal to the width of the tongue or hasp 4, so that the upper end of the hasp may be inserted through this opening, and the resiliency of the hasp will carry it into engagement over the lug 16.

With the parts as described, it is obvious that upon the closing of the lid of the box the upwardly and forwardly inclined lug 16 will engage with the deflected end 10 of the hasp and will force the hasp outward, and that as soon as the lug 16 has passed the opening 9 the hasp will spring inward so as to engage over the lug 16, locking the lid or cover securely to the body of the box. When it is desired to open the lid or cover

the thumb is placed upon the deflected end 10 of the hasp, the fingers are engaged beneath the wing 12, and the hasp drawn outward, the fingers acting to lift the lid.

5 It is to be noted that the tongue or hasp 4 is so disposed that the thumb and fingers only have to be drawn together in order to unlatch the lid, and that the fingers are then in such position that the lid may be readily 10 raised practically simultaneously with the withdrawal of the hasp from its engagement with the lug 16. It is further to be noted, and is of importance that in this construction the hasp 4 when engaged with the 15 lid is disposed transversely to the opening 2 in the box lid and extends upward and bears against the rear wall of this opening. As a consequence, light which may pass downward through the opening 14 of the 20 keeper plate and through the opening 2 cannot enter the rear portion of the box, but is stopped or obstructed by the hasp 4. Of course some amount of light may pass laterally, but this light will be very much dif- 25 fused, and no direct light can enter the box when the lid is closed.

This latch is particularly designed for use with boxes holding bottled beer, and in this class of boxes it is very desirable that 30 light shall not enter. In other devices akin to mine of which I am aware the hasp or tongue is so arranged that when in operative position it is at the forward end of the opening 2 and the slot 14, and as a conse- 35 quence permits light to enter into the body of the box. It is of course obvious that in beer cases it is not advantageous to have the light so enter for the reason that light has a deteriorating influence on bottled beer.

40 My invention is not only entirely effective for the particular purpose named and for which it is particularly designed, but the parts are few, readily assembled, and the latching members may be very cheaply 45 made.

Having described my invention, what I claim is:

1. The combination with a container and a lid, the lid having an opening adjacent its 50 free edge, of a keeper mounted upon the lid and having a lug projecting from the rear wall of the opening and extending partly over the opening, the front wall of said opening being vertical, and a resilient hasp 55 mounted upon the front wall of the box and extending upward above the top thereof,

said hasp being resiliently urged toward the hinged side of the lid and adapted to be disposed through the opening in the lid 60 when the lid is closed, the hasp being formed adjacent its upper end with an opening for the reception of the lug, and the hasp below said opening being imperforate and having a width approximately equal to the width 65 of the opening in said lid whereby said hasp when the lid is closed shall obstruct the entrance of light into the box through said opening.

2. As a container fastening means, a keeper plate having an opening at its mid- 70 dle, the front wall of the opening being straight and the rear wall of the opening being formed with a deflected upwardly projecting lug, the front edge of the plate being 75 formed with an outwardly extending wing providing a finger-hold and the rear edge of the plate being also formed with an upwardly and rearwardly extending wing forming a finger-hold, a latch coacting with the keeper plate and including a hasp 80 formed of a resilient bowed strip, the hasp being formed with an opening for engaging a first named lug on the keeper plate, said opening being disposed a sufficient distance 85 below the upper extremity of the hasp as to cause the extremity of the hasp to project above the wings on said keeper plate.

3. As a container fastening means, a keeper plate having an opening, the front 90 wall of the opening being vertical, and the rear wall of the opening being formed with an upwardly deflected projecting lug, the front edge of the plate being formed with an outwardly extending wing forming a 95 finger-hold, a latch coacting with the keeper plate and including a hasp formed of a resilient bowed strip, the hasp being formed with a single opening for engaging the lug on the keeper plate, the opening being dis- 10 posed a sufficient distance below the upper extremity of the hasp as to cause the ex- 105 tremity of the hasp to project above the wing on said keeper plate, the hasp below said opening having a width equal to the length of the opening in the keeper plate and being imperforate.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

MATHEW H. STOLL.

Witnesses:

JOHN F. DOHERTY,
CECELIA VOLZ.