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Patented May 9, 1899.

W. ZOERB & A. BECKER.
EYEGGLASS OR SPECTACLE CASE.

(Application filed July 30, 1896.)

(No Model.)

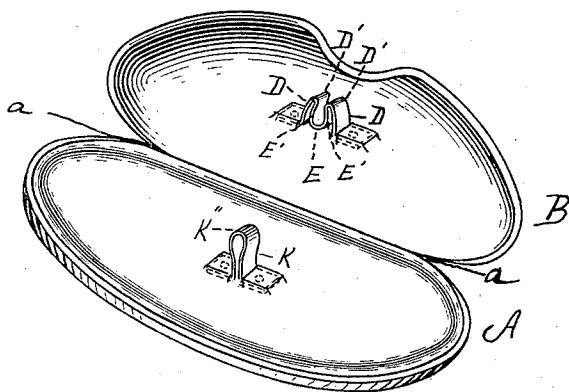


Fig. 1.

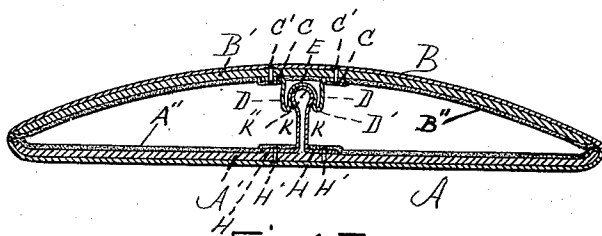


Fig. 2.

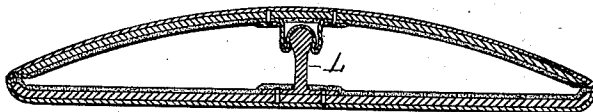


Fig. 3.

WITNESSES

Frank G. Parker

A. N. Bonney

INVENTORS

William Zoerb
August Becker
By their Atty.

Henry W. Williams

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM ZOERB, OF DEDHAM, AND AUGUST BECKER, OF WINTHROP,
MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNORS, BY DIRECT AND MESNE ASSIGNMENTS,
TO ELIZABETH ZOERB, OF DEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS.

EYEGLASS OR SPECTACLE CASE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 624,603, dated May 9, 1899.

Application filed July 30, 1896. Serial No. 601,060. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, WILLIAM ZOERB, residing in Dedham, in the county of Norfolk, and AUGUST BECKER, residing in Winthrop, in the county of Suffolk, State of Massachusetts, citizens of the United States, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Eyeglass or Spectacle Cases, of which the following is a specification.

10 This invention relates to cases made for holding spectacles or eyeglasses and adapted to be carried in the pocket, and particularly to that style of case which consists of two rigid members or lids hinged together and adapted to be secured in closed position by means of an internal locking device and capable of being unlocked by more or less forcibly separating said lids.

20 The invention has for its object to construct an eyeglass or spectacle case with an internal locking device for the parts or lids thereof, whereby said lids may be closed together and locked notwithstanding any slight variation in their relative positions, which may be due to said lids working slightly on their hinged connection, such variation usually increasing as the case is worn.

30 The invention consists in a case composed of two lids hinged together at one side and an internal fastening for holding said lids closed, comprising a socket on the inside of one lid, which projects inwardly and is provided with an elongated receiving-opening, and a post on the inside of the other lid, which also projects inwardly and is adapted to enter the opening of said socket at different points, according to the relative positions of said lids; also, in a case composed of two lids hinged together at one side and an internal fastening for holding said lids closed, comprising two co-
40 operating parts or members secured, respectively, to said lids at their inner faces at points substantially midway their length and width, one of said parts consisting of a socket having an elongated receiving-opening extending transversely to the lid and arranged at right angles to the axis of the hinge and the other consisting of a post having a head which en-

ters said receiving-opening at the center or at different points at either side of the center, according to the relative positions of the lids; and the invention also consists in a spectacle-case consisting of two oblong lids hinged together at one side and an interior fastening for holding said lids closed, comprising two co-
50 operating parts or members secured, respectively, to the interior faces of said lids, one of said parts consisting of a spring-socket having an elongated receiving-opening extending transversely to the lid at right angles to the axis of the hinge and the other part consisting of a post having a head which enters said socket at different points, according to the relative positions of the lids.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of an eyeglass or spectacle case embodying our invention in an open position. Fig. 2 is a central longitudinal vertical section of the same in a closed position. Fig. 3 is a similar section showing a modification.

70 A represents the flat leaf or lid, and B the concave leaf or lid, the two being hinged together at *a* in any usual or suitable manner. The leaf or lid B is provided centrally upon its inner side with a spring-socket, which consists of a piece of flat metal bent to present feet C, which are secured at C' to the body B' of the lid, inside of the lining B, and also to present a pair of loop-like jaws D, which are projected into the case and which are separated a short distance apart to present a receiving-opening E, which is herein shown as somewhat enlarged at E' by turning in the ends of the loop-like jaws D toward each other. The space between said loop-like jaws is more or less elongated and, as herein shown, is formed with parallel sides and open ends, and the bottom of the socket presents a bearing portion of a length corresponding to the width of the arms D. The spring-socket is secured to the inside of the lid and, as herein shown, is so disposed relatively to the lid that said elongated space or elongated opening extends transversely across the lid at right angles to the axis of the hinge.

95 The leaf or lid A is provided centrally on

its inner surface with a headed post or tongue composed, as herein shown, of a piece of flat metal, whose opposite ends are bent outward to form feet H, which are secured at H' to the body A' of the lid and covered by the lining A'', and said flat metal piece is also bent to present a loop-like tongue or post K, the outer end K' of which is more or less enlarged to form a head, thereby producing a pear-shaped post.

When the case is closed, the headed post is forced into the spring-socket, thus locking the case, and to unlock the case the lids are forcibly separated. The spring action of the locking device is not strong, and so no great exertion is required to separate said lids, yet it is strong enough to hold the lids from voluntarily opening. The headed post is made long enough to not only enter but to bottom in the spring-socket, and in such case the bottom of said socket, hereinbefore referred to as the "bearing portion," forms an abutment to prevent the lids from being crushed in. The receiving-opening of the spring-socket being elongated, as shown and described, the headed post is free to enter and fasten therein at different points to accommodate the lids, which may have moved slightly relative to each other, such a movement being common in nearly all cases that have been in use a short time, even though the hinged connection may have been constructed in the best possible manner, and the bearing portion being likewise elongated provides an abutment at the different points for the headed post.

In the modification shown at Fig. 3 a solid headed post is shown instead of one formed of a flat strip of metal, which serves as an equivalent therefor. It will be seen that by providing an internal locking device for the case, the cooperating parts or members of which may be attached to the inner faces of the lids, yet caused to project inwardly into the case, imperforate lids may be employed, and in such case a smooth exterior surface will be presented and one devoid of abrupt formations, and hence leatherette and other equivalent material may be used as well as leather, and, furthermore, we find that the particular spring-socket herein shown is easily and cheaply manufactured and presents both the abutment required as well as a parallel-sided elongated receiving-opening; but it is obvious that said abutment may be otherwise provided.

Believing ourselves to be the first to construct an eyeglass or spectacle case having two lids hinged together and provided with an internal locking device one of the cooperating parts or members of which has an elongated receiving-opening for the other part, whereby said parts may be brought into locking engagement notwithstanding slight variations in the relative positions of the lids, we desire to broadly claim such a device.

We claim—

1. An eyeglass or spectacle case consisting of two lids hinged together at one side, an internal spring-fastening for holding said lids closed comprising a socket on one lid having an elongated receiving-opening, disposed at right angles to the axis of the hinge, and a post on the other lid, adapted to enter the opening of said socket at different points, substantially as described.

2. A spectacle or eyeglass case consisting of two members hingedly connected, one of which is provided with a block embodying an elongated recess or socket disposed at right angles to the axis of the hinge of the case, and the other of which is provided with a projection adapted to enter said socket or recess.

3. An eyeglass or spectacle case consisting of two lids hinged together at one side, an internal fastening for holding said lids closed comprising a socket on one lid projecting inwardly and having an elongated receiving-opening and also having an elongated bearing portion and a post on the other lid also projecting inwardly which is adapted to enter the opening of said socket at different points according to the relative positions of said lids and to bear upon different portions of said bearing portion, substantially as described.

4. An eyeglass or spectacle case consisting of two members hingedly connected, one of which is provided with a pair of spring-arms vertically erected and arranged at right angles to the axis of the hinge of the case and at such distances apart as to be adapted to guide or center a pair of spectacles or eyeglasses placed within the case, and the other of which is provided with a projection arranged to enter the opening between the arms at different points of the width of the latter, substantially as described.

5. An eyeglass or spectacle case consisting of two members hingedly connected, one of which is provided with a pair of vertically-disposed spring-arms having their upper ends turned inward toward each other and which are disposed at right angles to the axis of the hinge of the case, a tongue on the other member, adapted to be forced between said intumed ends, and formed as a pear-shaped loop of sheet metal provided with feet, substantially as described.

6. An eyeglass or spectacle case consisting of two shells hingedly connected, a block or projection mounted in one of said shells, and consisting of a pair of vertically-disposed spring-arms having intumed upper ends and connected by a bearing portion, and presenting an elongated receiving-opening, and a tongue carried by the other of said shells, and adapted to be forced between said intumed ends and against said bearing portion, substantially as described.

7. An eyeglass or spectacle case consisting of two members hingedly connected, one of which is provided with a pair of vertically-disposed spring-arms having their upper ends turned inward toward each other, a tongue on the other member, adapted to be forced between said inturned ends, and formed as a pear-shaped loop of sheet metal provided with feet, substantially as described.

WILLIAM ZOERB.
AUGUST BECKER.

Witnesses:

HENRY W. WILLIAMS,
A. N. BONNEY.