March 24, 1931. W. F. WEMHOENER 1,797,489

ADJUSTABLE MAIL BOX

Filed May 17, 1928

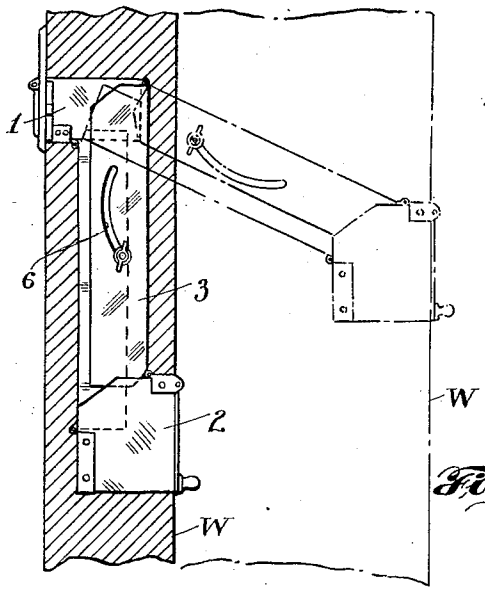


Fig. 1.

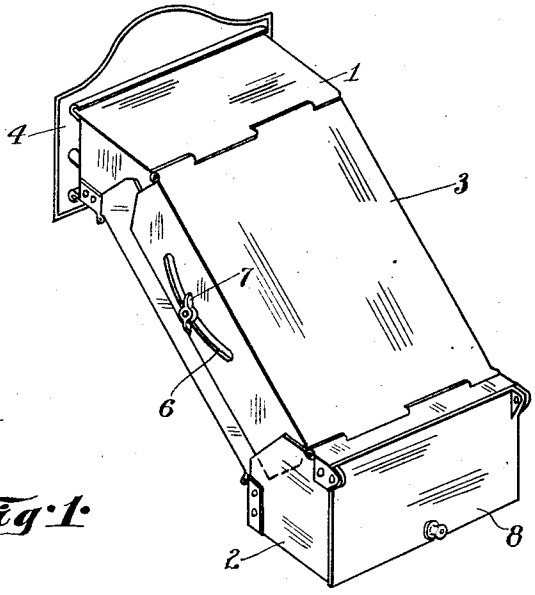


Fig. 2.

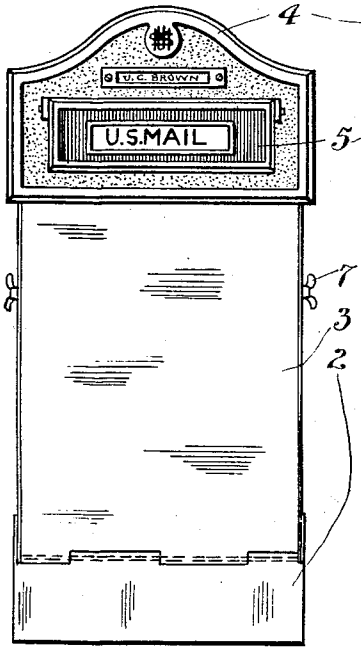


Fig. 4.

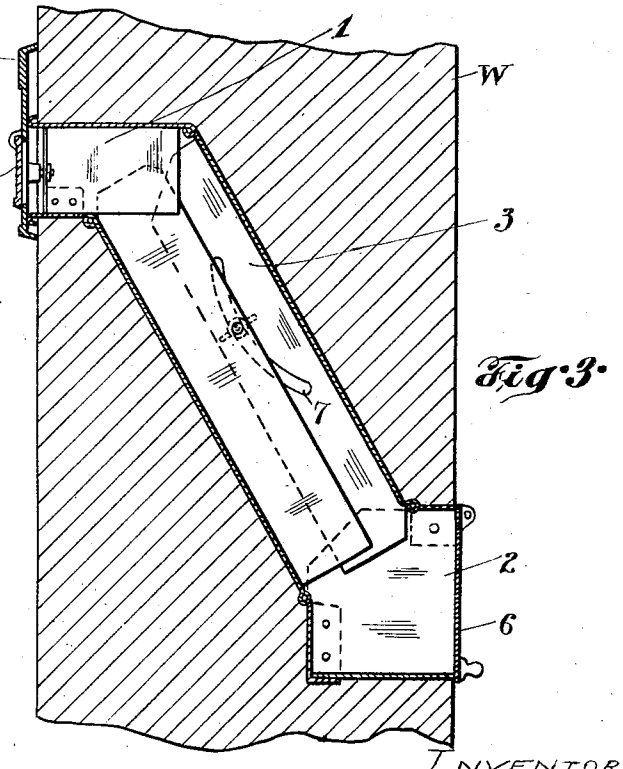


Fig. 3.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

WILLIAM F. WEMHOENER, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

ADJUSTABLE MAIL BOX

Application filed May 17, 1928. Serial No. 278,420.

My invention relates to improvements in mail boxes and has among its objects the production of such devices, which shall be simple, convenient, sturdy, reliable, economical, and efficient and satisfactory for use wherever found applicable.

As heretofore constructed, it has been necessary to make such a box for a certain depth or thickness of wall, each box being intended for this given wall thickness and for no other. Obviously, the manufacturers of such boxes would have to make up a fairly large series of such boxes for the usual range of wall thickness, thereby increasing his stock overhead in each type of box. One of the principal objects of my invention is to design a mail box which shall be so constructed that the single box may be installed in walls of varying thicknesses, without cutting off or adding anything to the box structure, whereby the same box may be built into a premises having, say, a six-inch wall, or into one having a sixteen-inch wall.

Many other objects and advantages of the construction herein shown and described will be obvious to those skilled in the art to which this invention appertains, from the disclosures herein given.

To this end, my invention consists in the novel construction, arrangement, and combination of parts herein shown and described, and more particularly pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings, wherein like reference characters indicate like or corresponding parts throughout—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of my improved box as installed in a wall;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of said box at some intermediate position of adjustment;

Figure 3 is a cross-sectional view, showing the box installed in a wall of a thickness intermediate the smallest and largest wall thickness for which the box is intended; and

Figure 4 is a front elevation of the box.

In the drawings, wherein I have illustrated the preferred embodiment of my invention, W indicates the wall of a house or any other premises in which it is desired to install a mail box, the thickness of the wall varying between the ordinary ranges of building construction, and generally between six inches and sixteen inches thickness, the former being for frame structures.

The mail box comprises three main members, these being the front chamber member 1, the rear chamber member 2, and the conduit for interconnecting the two to form a continuous chambered passage through which the mail may pass, said conduit preferably being made of two or more parts or elements 3, each trough or channel-shaped in lateral cross-section.

The front chamber member 1 is of tubular cross-section, somewhat as shown, and may have a more or less ornamental plate 4 at its forward end, this face plate having the mail-receiving opening 5 therein, communicating with the interior of the chambered member, and also having a name-receiving opening, etc., thereon.

The rear end member 2 is also tubular and may have an outlet door 6 hinged or otherwise suitably associated therewith, and through which the contents of the box may be removed.

Between these two end members there is a connecting member comprising the multi-part trough member 3, hereinbefore mentioned. Each of the elements of this connecting member is of the trough or channel shaped lateral cross-section, somewhat in the shape of the letter U, the parallel side walls of one of the channels preferably overlying the exterior side walls of the other channel members. One end of each of the channels is hinged or pivotally secured to the adjacent edge of the front member 1 and the opposite end is similarly hinged to the adjacent edge of the rear member 2, so that when said channels are mounted in place as shown in the drawings, the side walls of the elements will overlap one another, whereby the tube formed by said pair of elements will always be substantially closed about the perimeter.

The pair of hinge axes at each end is not in vertical alignment, but on the contrary, one axis of each pair is a suitable distance forwardly (or rearwardly, depending upon which direction is considered forward or

rearward) of the other axis of the pair. The front and rear edges of the box will always be in vertical planes, as shown, in all positions of adjustment.

When the mail box is installed in a wall of the minimum thickness, as indicated in heavy lines in Figure 1, the channel elements will be substantially vertical, the front and rear end members 1 and 2 being at their maximum vertical separation.

As the channel elements are moved slidably past one another, longitudinally relatively of each other, to their position as indicated in the dotted lines in Figure 1, the front and rear ends 1 and 2 of the box, will be at their farthest longitudinal or horizontal separation, and the vertical separation will be at the minimum amount.

Where the wall W is of a thickness intermediate that shown by the dotted or the full lines in Figure 1, the box is adjusted by sliding the channel sections past one another to some intermediate position as indicated in either Figures 2 or 3, the front and rear edges of the box always lying in parallel vertical planes so as to be parallel to or flush with the front and rear walls of the wall structure.

In order to lock or otherwise maintain the box at its desired adjusted position while installing the same, and to keep it in such relationship after installation, I have provided a slot 6 in one or both of the side walls of one of the channel elements 3, the other element carrying a pin or bolt 7 for insertion through said slot and by means of which sliding adjustment may be controlled.

From the foregoing description it is seen that I have constructed a mail box of the kind described, which may be built in the single size, and yet accommodate itself to a wide range of wall thicknesses, thus affording a great saving in time, money and convenience.

Having thus described my invention, it is obvious that various immaterial changes and modifications may be made in the same without departing from the spirit of my invention; hence I do not wish to be understood as limiting myself to the exact construction, form, arrangement, and combination of parts shown and described, or uses mentioned, except as limited by the claims.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A mail box of the kind described, comprising front and rear end members having openings therethrough, and a pair of channel members slidable relative to one another connecting the same and each pivotally connected at the ends to each of said members.

2. A mail box, comprising front and rear hollow sections, and means connecting the same and hinged to each of them and slidable past one another to vary the overall depth between said section so that the same box may be installed into walls of different thicknesses, said connecting means and one of said hollow sections being movable together through an arc of substantially more than 45° relatively of the other section.

3. A mail box of the kind described, comprising front and rear sections through which the mail may be inserted and thence removed, and a pair of opposed trough-shaped elements connected to said sections to form a conduit and slidable in opposite directions longitudinally of one another to vary the difference in elevation between said sections.

4. A mail box, comprising front and rear hollow members, and a pair of relatively slidable channel sections forming a conduit therebetween, each of said sections being pivoted at both the ends to said members and movable parallel to one another while maintaining constant spacing therebetween.

5. A mail box of the kind described comprising front and rear end members having openings therethrough, and a pair of channel members slidable relative to one another connecting the same and each movably connected at their ends to each of said members.

6. A mail box of the kind described, comprising front and rear end elements having openings therethrough, and a pair of members each movably connected at their ends to each of said elements and said members being longitudinally movable relative to one another, said members mutually constituting a housing.

WILLIAM F. WEMHOENER.