(No Model.)

J. C. KELTON.

CARTRIDGE CASE.

No. 394,376. Patented Dec. 11, 1888.

Fig. 1.

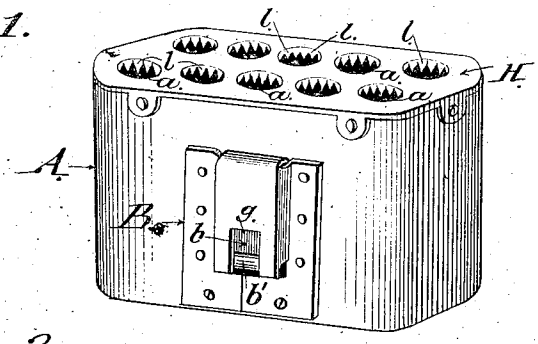


Fig. 2.

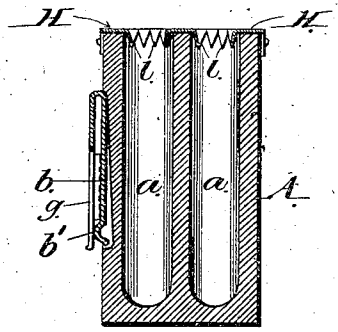


Fig. 3.

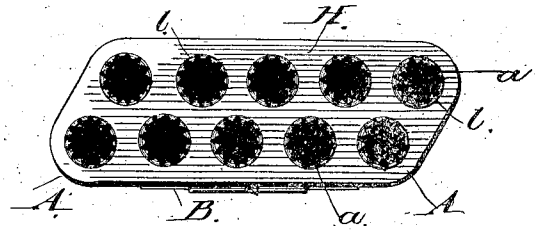


Fig. 4

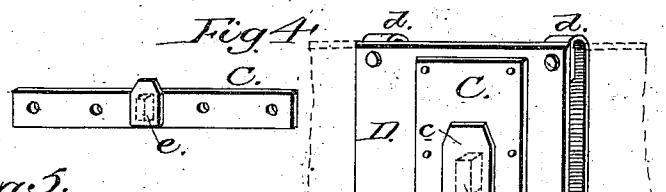
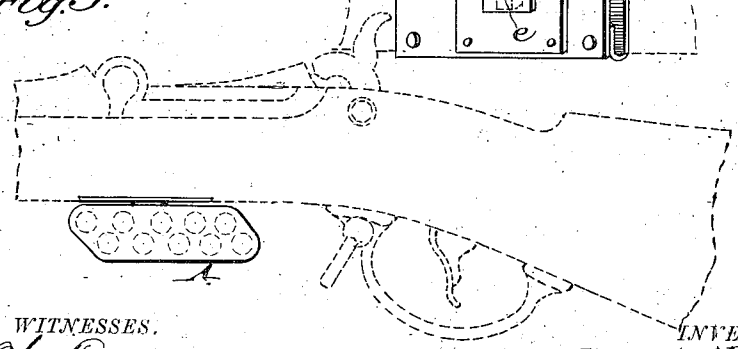


Fig. 5.



WITNESSES.

P. W. Fowler.

N. H. Patterson.

INVENTOR,

John C. Kelton,

A. G. Evans & Co.

Attorneys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN CUNINGHAM KELTON, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

CARTRIDGE-CASE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 394,376, dated December 11, 1888.

Application filed May 17, 1888. Serial No. 274,178. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN CUNINGHAM KELTON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Washington city, in the District of Columbia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Cartridge-Cases, of which the following is a full and clear description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents a perspective view of a cartridge-case embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a transverse sectional view of the same. Fig. 3 is a plan view. Fig. 4 shows studs or plates secured to a gun or belt for securing the cartridge-cases thereto. Fig. 5 illustrates the case secured to the gun.

My invention is designed to meet the need felt especially by cavalrymen, that of securing a number of cartridges upon the carbine or rifle or shotgun entirely out of the way of the hands in manipulating the piece, and at the same time convenient to the hand and in view, and in securing said cases to a belt or sling; and my invention consists in the constructions and combinations of devices which I shall hereinafter fully describe and claim.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will now describe its construction and indicate the manner in which the same is carried out.

In the said drawings, A represents the case within which the cartridges are to be placed. This case is preferably made of wood, and may or may not be provided with a cover, and said case is formed with cylindrical receptacles *a*, within which five, ten, or any desired number of cartridges may be placed, the wood between the receptacles being sufficiently thick to prevent the flanges or heads of the cartridges which are placed therein from overlapping. This case A is preferably shaped as shown in Fig. 3, so that when more than one row of cartridges is placed in the case the cartridges in one row lie between those in the adjacent row. The cases are then easily packed in boxes for transportation. A plate, B, secured to the case, is provided with a pocket having a slot, *g*, opening centrally from one end, and beneath or within said pocket is secured the spring-plate *b*, preferably formed integral with the plate B and provided at its lower free end with a projection, *b'*, which is adapted to be pressed into a recess formed in the case back of the plate, so as to permit the passage of a lug, *c*, attached to or forming a part of a plate, C, secured to the gun or to a belt or sling. When attached to a belt, the plate C will in turn be fastened to a leather or other piece, D, having loops *d*, through which the belt passes, this construction being particularly shown in Fig. 4.

In practice it may be desirable to secure the lug *c* to a stud, *e*, projecting from the plate C and having a width to snugly fit the slot *g* as the lug *c* is passed within the pocket, and of a thickness sufficient, when pressed down, to depress the spring-plate and permit the case to be readily removed or detached from the gun, belt, or sling.

In the present instance I have constructed the cases of wood; but this material alone would not suffice, owing mainly to its being affected by atmospheric changes to such an extent that if the diameter of the receptacles is of the same or nearly of the same diameter as the cartridges the wood, under certain conditions, as when submerged in water, would swell, and thereby bind the inserted cartridge so that it could only be removed by the application of consi lerable force and a consequent loss of time.

I have overcome the defects above noted by constructing my case of wood and forming the receptacles *a* with a diameter somewhat greater than the diameter of the cartridges, so that the latter will not be affected by the expansion of the wood.

To securely hold the inserted cartridges against displacement by any ordinary cause, I secure to the top of the case, immediately over the entrance to the receptacles, a metallic plate, H, having openings corresponding with but slightly smaller than the diameter of the receptacles.

The openings in the plate H are surrounded by a series of spring points or lugs, *l*, which are struck out of the plate and project downwardly and slightly inwardly, as shown in Fig. 2, thus slightly reducing the size of the opening. From this description it will be observed that when the points of the cartridges

are inserted in the openings in the plate they strike against the spring-points and depress them. The cartridges may now be readily forced into the receptacles in the case, while the spring-points will exert sufficient force against their sides to prevent them from falling out of the case when the latter is turned over. At the same time there is left sufficient space between the walls of the receptacles and the sides of the cartridges to prevent the latter binding, because of the swelling of the wood case. When in place on the gun, the cartridges lie transversely beneath the barrel and in a position where they may be seized with the thumb and finger and inserted into the gun with the least expenditure of time and effort. When one case is emptied, it can be instantly removed and thrown away and another one attached. In this manner I provide a practical magazine, which, for the time being, forms a part of the gun itself, and which may either be thrown away after being emptied, or, if desired, it may be returned to the belt to be refilled from single cartridges which the rifleman may have issued to him.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination, with a cartridge-case, of a plate secured thereto, having the centrally-disposed slot or opening *a* and pocket, a spring integral with said plate and within said pocket, and the locking-plate secured to a belt, sling, or gun, and having a lug adapted to be confined within said pocket by the spring-plate, substantially as herein described.

2. A cartridge-case having receptacles for the cartridges and provided on its top surface with a metallic plate having spring points or lugs extending downward into the receptacles, whereby the cartridges are held by contact with said points or lugs.

3. A cartridge-case having receptacles for the cartridges and a metallic plate having openings in alignment with said receptacles, said openings being surrounded by downwardly and inwardly projecting spring-points which press upon the sides of the inserted cartridges, substantially as and for the purpose described.

4. An improved cartridge-case having receptacles for the cartridges and provided with a perforated metallic plate over the entrance to said receptacles, said plate having a series of downwardly-extending spring-points adapted to enter the receptacles and bear against the cartridges, in combination with means for securing the case to a gun, belt, or sling, consisting of a plate having a pocket and centrally-disposed slot, an internal spring within the pocket, and a locking-plate having a lug adapted to enter the pocket and to be confined therein by the spring, substantially as described.

JOHN CUNINGHAM KELTON.

Witnesses:
BEN. EMZEL,
J. C. LYONS.