

S. PATTERSON & J. W. WISEMAN.

SIGNAL LOCK FOR MAIL BOXES.

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Fig. 1.

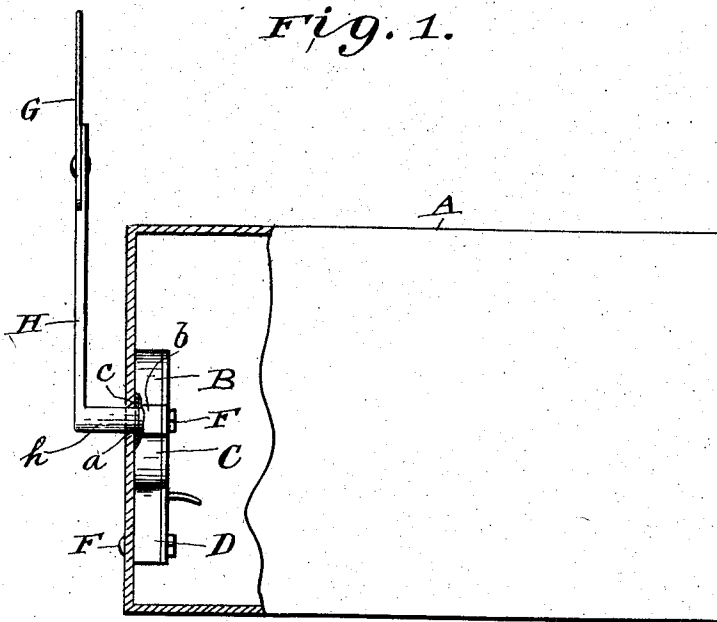
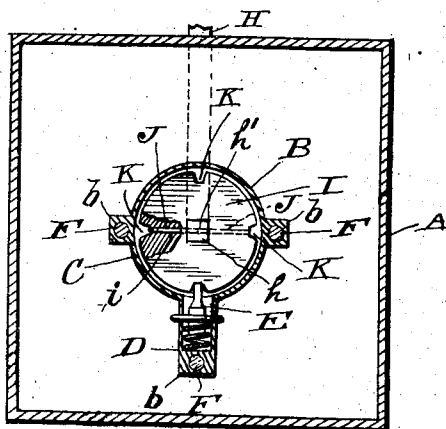


Fig. 2.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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TEXAS.

SIGNAL-LOCK FOR MAIL-BOXES.

No. 833,798.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 23, 1906.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, SAMUEL PATTERSON and JOHN W. WISEMAN, citizens of the United States, residing in the county of Gonzales, in the State of Texas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Signal-Locks for Mail-Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

Our invention relates to devices for locking the signals used on house letter-boxes, and has for its object the provision of a signal-lock secured to the inside of the mail-box so that it can be operated only when the mail-box is open, and consequently cannot be tampered with by mischievous persons or affected by high winds, heavy snows, &c.

Our device is very durable in character, easy to operate, and being inexpensive in construction and capable of attachment to mail-boxes in present use will be found to dispense with the necessity of providing a combined box and signal, as in the case of mail-boxes in present use. As our device may be transferred from one box to another, it will be also readily understood that it possesses economical advantages not possessed by any other device in present use.

Our invention will be described in detail hereinafter and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a view of a mail-box, partly broken away, showing our improved signal and lock in position; and Fig. 2 a view of the end of the box with the top of the lock-casing removed, showing the mechanism of the lock.

In the drawings similar reference characters indicate corresponding parts throughout both views.

A represents a mail-box of conventional design on which our improved signal-lock, to be described hereinafter, is secured. The box shown in the drawings being for the purposes of illustration only, it will be understood that we do not limit ourselves to the construction of box shown, but that our device is applicable to any style of box.

B represents a casing secured to the side or

end of the box, as desired, said casing having a substantially circular portion C, in the center of which is drilled a hole *c*, said hole being placed opposite a hole *a* in the mail-box A.

D represents an elongated portion integral with the circular portion C, having a spring-actuated bolt E mounted therein. The casing B is secured to the mail-box by means of screw-bolts or rivets F, secured through ears *b*, extending from the circular portion C and through the end of elongated portion D.

G represents the signal secured to one arm of L-shaped staff H, while the other arm *h* of staff H extends through holes *a* and *c* into circular portion C of casing B and has secured thereto a disk I by means of a pin J inserted in hole *i* in the disk and a hole *h'* in the arm *h*. The edge of disk I is notched, as shown at K, to receive the end of bolt E to hold the signal in an upright position when mail is contained in the box or in a horizontal position when the box has been emptied, the signal being adjusted before the cover is locked to indicate the presence or absence of mail-matter.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim is—

1. In combination with a mail-box having a hole therein, a casing secured to the inside of the box having a circular portion with a central hole therein that registers with the hole in the mail-box, an elongated casing connected with said circular portion, a spring-actuated bolt mounted in said elongated casing, a signal-staff extended through the holes in the box and casing, and a disk secured to the end of said staff seated in the circular portion of the casing and having notches in its edge to receive the end of the spring-actuated bolt aforesaid, substantially as shown and described.

2. In combination with a mail-box having a hole in one of its sides, a casing secured to the inside of the box having a circular portion with a central hole therein that registers with the hole in the side of the mail-box, an elongated casing connected with said circular portion, a spring-actuated bolt mounted

in said elongated casing, an L-shaped signal-
staff extended through the holes in the box
and casing, and a circular disk secured to the
end of said staff, seated in the circular por-
5 tion of the casing, and having radial notches
in its edge to receive the end of the spring-
actuated bolt aforesaid, substantially as
shown and described.

In testimony whereof we hereto affix our
signatures in the presence of two witnesses. 10

SAMUEL PATTERSON.
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Witnesses:

E. J. MERREM,
W. O. MEWES.