

L. F. MERGOTT.
Lock for Cigar Boxes.

No. 221,177.

Patented Nov. 4, 1879.

Fig: 1.

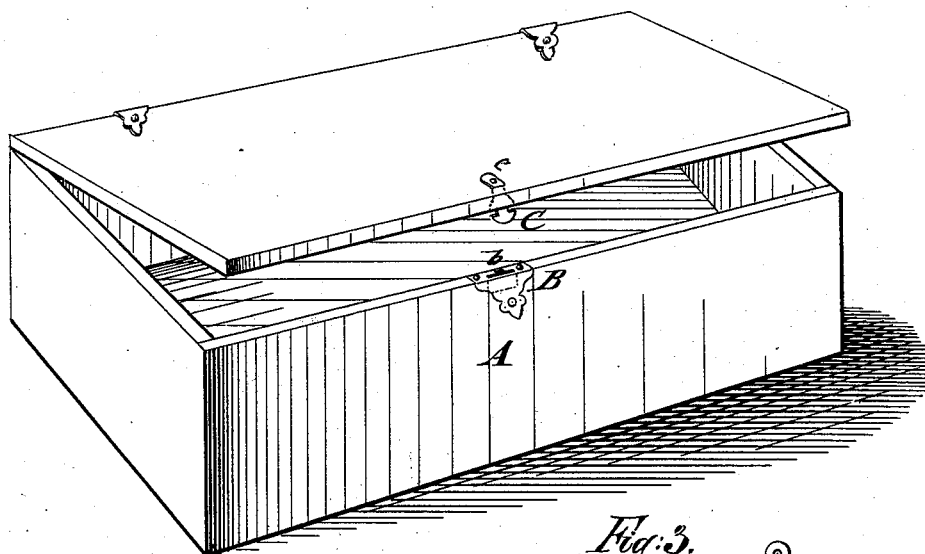


Fig: 3.

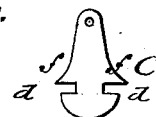
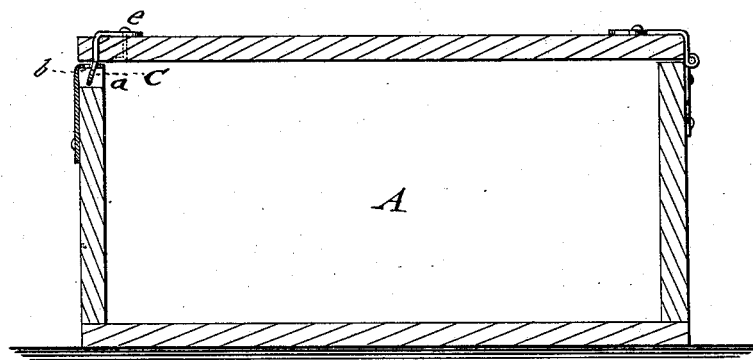


Fig: 2.



Witnesses:

Carl Karp
Otto Prisch

Inventor:

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by Paul Goppel
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LUDWIG F. MERGOTT, OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY.

IMPROVEMENT IN LOCKS FOR CIGAR-BOXES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **221,177**, dated November 4, 1879; application filed February 21, 1879.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LUDWIG F. MERGOTT, of Newark, county of Essex, and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Locks for Cigar-Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents a perspective view of a cigar-box with my improved catch; Fig. 2, a vertical transverse section of the same, shown in closed position; and Fig. 3, a detail view of the catch or anchor of the lid.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

This invention has reference to an improved lock for cigar and other boxes; and it consists of a cigar-box having a notched or recessed front wall, and a retaining-plate that extends over the recess, and is attached at the ends and front to the front wall. The retaining-plate has a slot that is wider at the front and contracted at the rear, into which a catch or anchor of the lid is forced and engaged by the shoulders formed by the contracted portion of the slot. The lower wider end of the anchor is inclined for entering the slot, contracted above the lower end, and enlarged again above the contractions, and then tapered off, being driven through the lid and secured rigidly in position thereon.

Referring to the drawings, A represents a cigar or other box, whose front wall is arranged with a central recess or notch, *a*, at the upper edge. A plate, B, that is cut or stamped up of sheet-brass or other metal, is secured to the front wall, and bent down at right angles, so as to cover the notch, both on the top and at the front, and be able to resist in a reliable manner the pressure of the cigars packed in the box. The front extension of the plate B is made of any suitable ornamental shape. The plate B is arranged with a slot, *b*, above the recess *a*, the slot being of greater width at the front and contracted at the rear, so as to form shoulders, which serve to engage the catch or anchor C of the lid. The anchor C is cut or stamped out of sheet metal of the shape shown in Fig. 3, being contracted at *d*, so as to form an enlarged catch at the lower end. The upper part of the anchor is driven through the lid, turned back at the top, and

fastened by a rivet or tack, *e*, which is clinched at the under side.

The anchor C is enlarged above the contracted part, and then gradually tapered off toward the upper end, so as to afford the anchor a firm position laterally as well as in upward direction. The lower end projects below the lid, and is slightly bent forward, so as to enter into the wider front part of the slot when pressing down the lid.

The pressure on the lid draws the front wall inwardly, and allows it to spring back into its natural position again when the anchor has entered into the narrower portion of the slot. The anchor is then engaged by the shoulders of the contracted part, which lock the lid reliably to the box.

For opening the box, the thumb is pressed on the front wall on or near the catch, so that the receiving-plate is forced back until the shoulders formed by the contracted portion of the slot clear the anchor and admit the raising of the lid.

The inclined position of the anchor secures its reliable interlocking with the plate until released therefrom by the pressure on the front wall. The intimate interlocking of the plate and anchor, together with the reliable fastening of the plate to the box and of the anchor to the lid, enables the lock to resist the pressure exerted by the cigars on the lid, and to overcome thereby a main disadvantage of the locks at present in general use.

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

1. A cigar-box having a recessed front wall and a slotted retaining-plate secured over the recess to the top and face of the front wall, the slot of the retaining-plate being contracted toward the rear, in combination with a lid having a catch or anchor that is provided with a lower enlarged part, contractions above the same, and with an enlarged and tapering shank, embedded in and secured to the lid, substantially as and for the purpose described.

2. The combination of the lid of a cigar-box with a catch or anchor that is set by an enlarged portion of its shank into a slit of the lid and secured to the lid at its upper turned-down end, substantially as set forth.

3. In cigar-box locks, a catch or anchor, C, having an enlarged lower part, contractions *d* *d* above the same, and a wider and then tapering-off portion or shank above the contractions, substantially as specified.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention I have signed my name, in pres-

ence of two witnesses, this 7th day of February, 1879.

LUDWIG F. MERGOTT.

Witnesses:

PAUL GOEPEL,
CARL KARP.