

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

A. N. TOWNE.

LOCK AND SEAL FOR TRUNKS.

No. 348,358.

Patented Aug. 31, 1886.

Fig. 1.

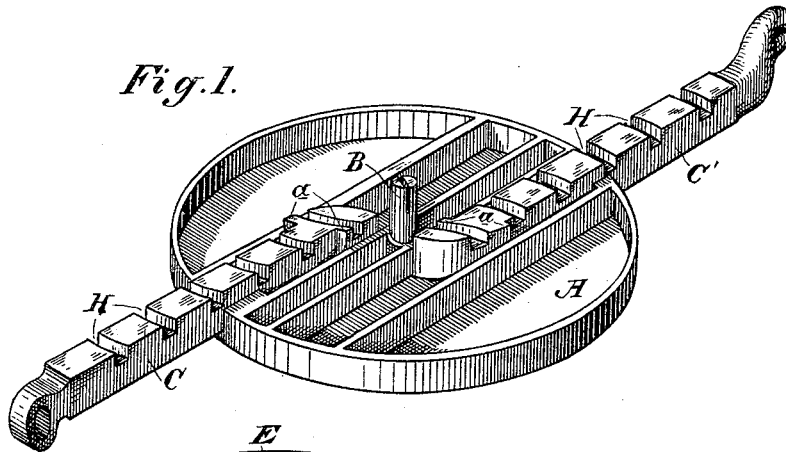


Fig. 2.

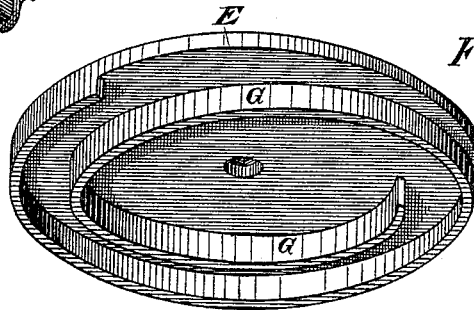


Fig. 3.

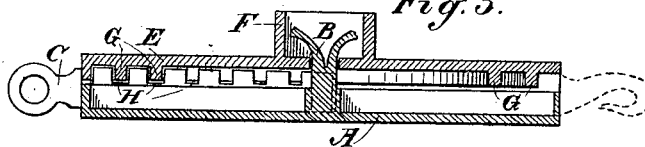


Fig. 4.

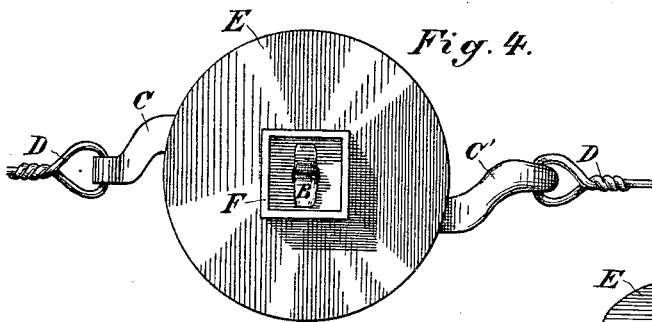
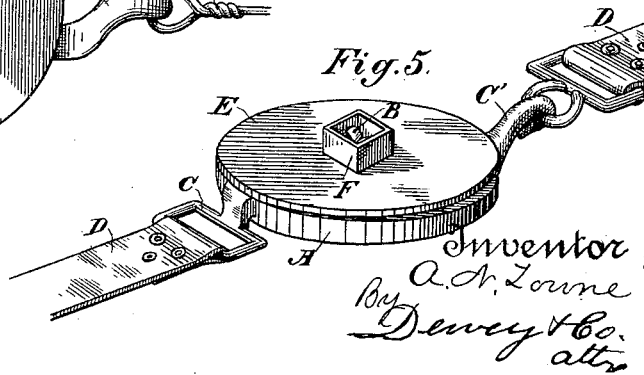


Fig. 5.



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Fig. 6.

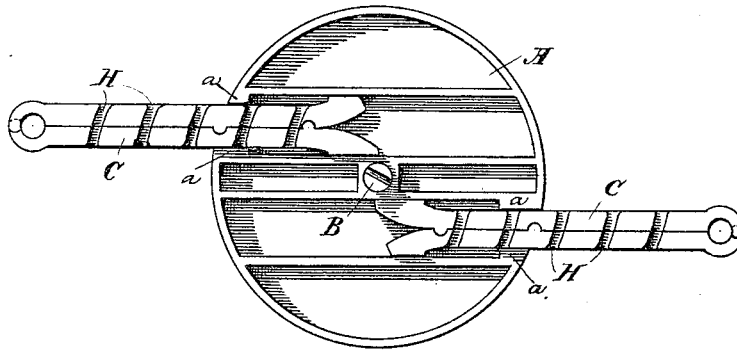
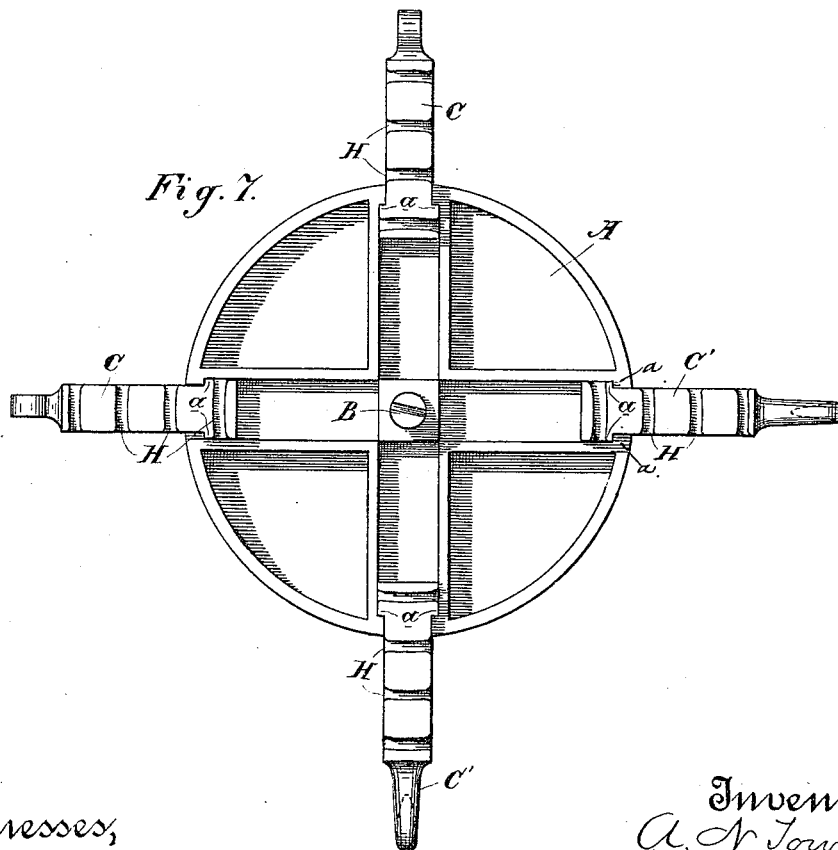


Fig. 7.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALBAN N. TOWNE, OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

LOCK AND SEAL FOR TRUNKS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 348,358, dated August 21, 1886.

Application filed June 21, 1886. Serial No. 205,844. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALBAN N. TOWNE, of the city and county of San Francisco, State of California, have invented an Improvement in
5 Locks and Seals for Trunks; and I hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same.

My invention relates to a device for more perfectly securing trunks against the danger
10 of breakage and liability to theft of contents; and it consists of a metallic band or strap, together with a disk or casing, with sliding bars moving in opposite directions within it, and a rotary cap having a spiral thread, whereby
15 these bars with which the opposite ends of the band are connected may be moved, so as to loosen or contract the band.

Referring to the accompanying drawings for a more complete explanation of my invention,
20 Figure 1 is a perspective view showing the lower part of the casing with the slides or bars in position. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the cap, showing the lower portion with the spiral thread thereon. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal
25 vertical section, showing the parts united. Fig. 4 is a plan view showing the parts united. Fig. 5 shows the construction where the flat band is to be used. Fig. 6 is a plan view
30 showing the slides C divided longitudinally and having lugs or projections to keep the parts from slipping. Fig. 7 is a modification to be referred to.

A is a casing, which I have shown in the present case in the form of a disk, having cylindrical upturned sides or edges of shallow
35 depth, and a central spindle, B, extending upward, as shown. Within this casing are formed radial channels or guides, within which tension-slides C C' are fitted to move. The
40 outer ends of these slides are formed with eyes or hooks, to which the opposite ends of the band or strap D may be attached. I prefer to have one end of the strap permanently attached to one of the slides C C', while the other
45 may be provided with an eye with which the hook from the opposite slide may be engaged. The channels in which the slides C C' move are made a little wider than the body of the
50 slide, and the openings through the rim of the disk A are just wide enough to allow the body of the slides to move freely through them.

The inner ends of the slides are made of sufficient diameter to fill the channels, and they thus form a shoulder, as shown at *a*, which will prevent their being entirely withdrawn
55 from the casing when the parts are secured together.

In Fig. 6 I have shown the slides C C' made in two parts divided longitudinally, with lugs and depressions in the two parts fitting each
60 other, so as to keep the two parts from slipping, and thus moving the transverse grooves out of line. The outer end of this two-part slide has a hole to connect with the wire or band, and it is opened or closed by sep-
65 arating or closing the two sides of the slide. To do this automatically, the inner ends are made flaring or diverging, and when the slides are moved out as far as they will go, by turning the spiral these diverging ends will strike
70 the edges of the shoulders *a*, and this will separate the outer ends sufficiently to receive or release the strap or band. When the slides are drawn into the casing, they will be closed and retained so by the pressure of the shoulders *a* against their sides. 75

E is a cap which fits the casing, forming a cover for it. This cap has a central hole or opening through which the pin B projects, and this pin may be split or slotted from the up-
80 per end, so that it can be spread out after the parts are put together, thus holding them in place.

F is a square projection arising from the center of the cap E, and made hollow, so that
85 the bolt B extends up within it. The exterior of the projection F serves to receive a wrench by which the cap may be turned about on the pin or post B. The lower surface of this cap has a spiral thread, G, projecting a sufficient
90 distance from it to engage with corresponding grooves or channels, H, which form the upper surfaces of the slides C C'. It will be seen that when the cap E has been placed upon the disk A, the pin B passing through
95 the central opening of the cap, and spread or otherwise secured, so that the cap cannot come off, the spiral flange G will lie within the transverse grooves or channels in the slides C, and when this cap E is turned around it will cause
100 the slides to move either in or out within their guiding-channels.

In order to operate the device, the cap E will be turned until the slides have been moved outward to their full distance, or as far as desired. The strap D will then be passed around the trunk, and the opposite end connected with the hook on the slide C', after which, by the use of the wrench, the cap E may be turned in the opposite direction, and the spiral thread traveling through the channels in the slides C' will gradually draw them inward until the strap or band has been drawn as tight as may be desired, in which position it will remain locked until released by the use of the wrench.

In the present case I have shown the channels in which the slides move as being made one upon each side of the central spindle or pin, B, and parallel with each other, and in order to cause the draft to be as nearly central as possible the ends which are connected with the strap are bent slightly to one side, so that they come very nearly or quite in line with the central spindle.

If the casing is made of considerable diameter it will be seen that the guides may stand in a line with the central spindle, and that four of these guides (see Fig. 7) may be employed standing at right angles, so that one strap may pass around the trunk in one direction and the other in a direction at right angles with it, the whole being tightened up by the single operation of turning the cap E, in which case the spiral thread operates simultaneously upon all the slides and draws them toward each other. When the strap has been drawn as tight as may be desired, the device may be sealed by filling the hollow portion of the projection F with sealing-wax or any other suitable material, which, flowing around the projecting ends of the spindle B, will fill the space within the part F, and when it is set it will be impossible to turn the cap and release the band without breaking the wax within the chamber.

It will be manifest that the upper portion of the device may form the casing and guides, and the lower portion may have the spiral formed upon it, the spindle in this case passing up through the upper part and having its

upper end formed to receive a wrench or other device by which to turn it. By forming lugs upon the casing, it may be secured to the trunk to prevent the loss of it or the strap.

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

1. A stationary disk having radial guides or channels, and two or more slides extending radially from the center and having hooks or eyes formed on their outer ends, whereby they may be connected with a band or bands, in combination with a revolving disk having a spiral thread formed upon its surface which engages with corresponding grooves or channels made in the slides, so that by turning the disk the slides may be drawn inward to tighten the bands or moved outward to loosen them, substantially as herein described.

2. The casing having the radial guides and slides fitted to move therein, a supplemental disk fitting over said casing having a spiral thread formed upon its surface to engage corresponding grooves in the slides, said casing having a hollow projection extending up centrally for the application of a wrench and to receive a sealing material, in combination with a spindle extending upward from the lower disk into the hollow projection having its ends split and spread or separated, substantially as herein described.

3. The casing having radial guides and the slides fitted to move therein, in combination with the cap E, having on its lower surface a spiral thread which engages the slides, as shown, said slides being divided longitudinally, having diverging inner ends and having holes in the outer ends, which are opened or closed by the movement of the slides between the shoulders of the guides, substantially as herein described.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

ALBAN N. TOWNE.

Witnesses:

S. H. NOURSE,
H. C. LEE.