(No Model.)

W. D. STILLMAN.

TRUNK.

No. 386,902. Patented July 31, 1888.

Fig. 1.

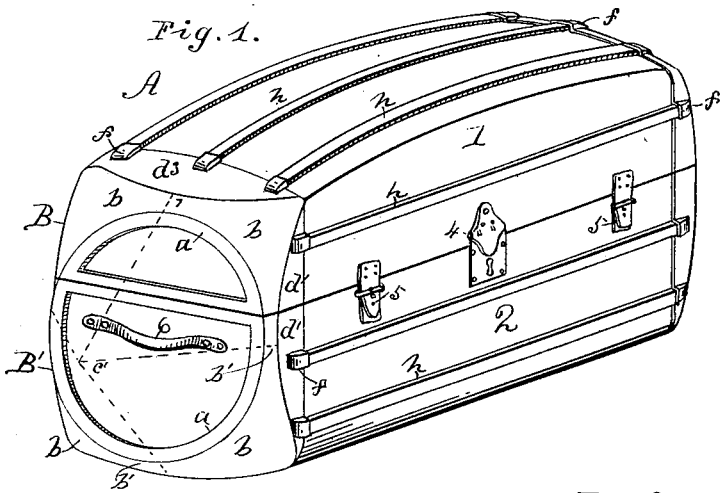


Fig. 2.

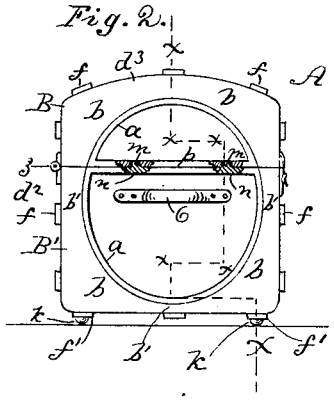
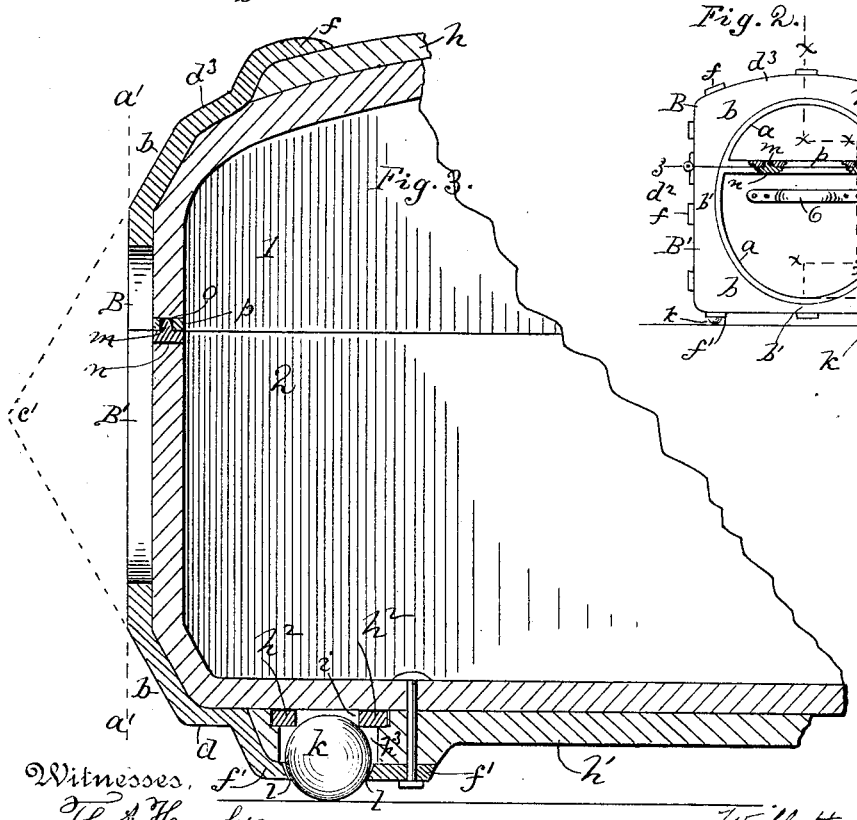


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLETT D. STILLMAN, OF MADISON, WISCONSIN.

TRUNK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 386,902, dated July 31, 1888.

Application filed September 17, 1887. Serial No. 249,985. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLETT D. STILLMAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Madison, in the county of Dane and State of Wisconsin, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Trunks; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to that class of trunks which are constructed with the object of being easily rolled along on their ends like a barrel. The attainment of this object has been attempted by making the trunks of barrel form or with rounded corners. I accomplish this object by a peculiar conformation of the ends of the trunk, as will be hereinafter clearly shown in the accompanying drawings, and pointed out in the claims.

My invention also relates to the novel arrangement and combination of a ball-caster with my improved trunk.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a trunk embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is an end elevation of the same. Fig. 3 is a vertical longitudinal section on line *x x* of Fig. 2, through one end of the trunk and one caster.

The trunk A consists of a cover or upper portion, 1, and a body or lower portion, 2, and is provided with hinges 3, lock 4, binding-straps 5, and handles 6, in the usual manner. The trunk is furthermore provided with my improved metal ends B B′, by which the whole structure is firmly united together and adapted to be upended and rolled around as easily as a barrel. These metal ends B and B′ may be made each of one piece of metal, so as to present the appearance of solid metal ends, without departing from the spirit of my invention; but I prefer to make them skeleton ends or frames, as herein shown.

a a are the extreme outward ends of the frame, standing in a vertical plane, *a′ a′*. The front, back, and bottom side flanges, *d′*, d^2, and *d*, of the frame are straight planes at right angles to vertical plane *a′ a′*. The top flange, d^3, is curved to suit the usual round-top Saratoga trunk; or it may be made flat, like the side and bottom flanges, if desired.

Between the end vertical plane, *a′ a′*, and flanges *d*, *d′*, d^2, and d^3, I make the frames B B′ of a conoidal pyramidal form whose apex is at *c′*. This gives an easy rolling surface, upon which the trunk may be easily rolled about. Said rolling surface *b* extends all around the vertical end flange, *a a*, and although somewhat narrower at three points—namely, at *b′*—is still sufficiently wide to give a good rolling surface, which when the trunk is upended will enable it to be easily rolled from place to place.

m are dowel-pins secured in the flange *n* of the lower portion of the frame.

o are holes in flange *p* of upper portion, B, of the frame. Said holes *o* register with dowel-pins *m*.

h h′ are slats to bind and strengthen the trunk.

f and *f′* are lugs or ears adapted to receive the ends of slats *h h′*, to which they are secured by bolts or screws passing through both and into the trunk top, body, or bottom.

Lugs *f′* upon the bottom of the trunk are made a little longer than lugs *f*, and are adapted to receive a ball-caster, as follows:

l is a circular aperture through the lower part of lug *f′*, large enough to allow ball *k* to project about one-third its diameter. Each end of slats *h′* has in it a rabbeted hole, h^3, of larger diameter than ball *k*.

h^2 is a hardened-steel washer fitting loosely into rabbeted hole h^3 of slat *h*, and is perforated concentrically with a straight or parallel sided opening, *i*, of a diameter equal to the chord of about one-eighth of the diameter of ball *k*. The lower edge of opening *i* has just the sharp edge taken off.

By sustaining the ball of the caster upon a loosely-fitting ring adapted to rotate in a horizontal plane, I avoid all liability of cutting circular grooves on the ball, and therefore keep the surface of the ball smooth, so that it will move easily in any direction.

I claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. In combination with a trunk, metal ends B B′, provided with conoidal pyramidal surfaces *b*.

2. The combination, with a trunk provided with metal ends having side flanges to fit the body of the trunk and lugs to receive the ends of slats, of a loosely-fitting ring in a recess in the ends of said slats at the bottom of the trunk as a bearing-surface for a ball-caster, as set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

WILLETT D. STILLMAN.

Witnesses:
M. C. CLARKE,
W. M. C. PARSONS.