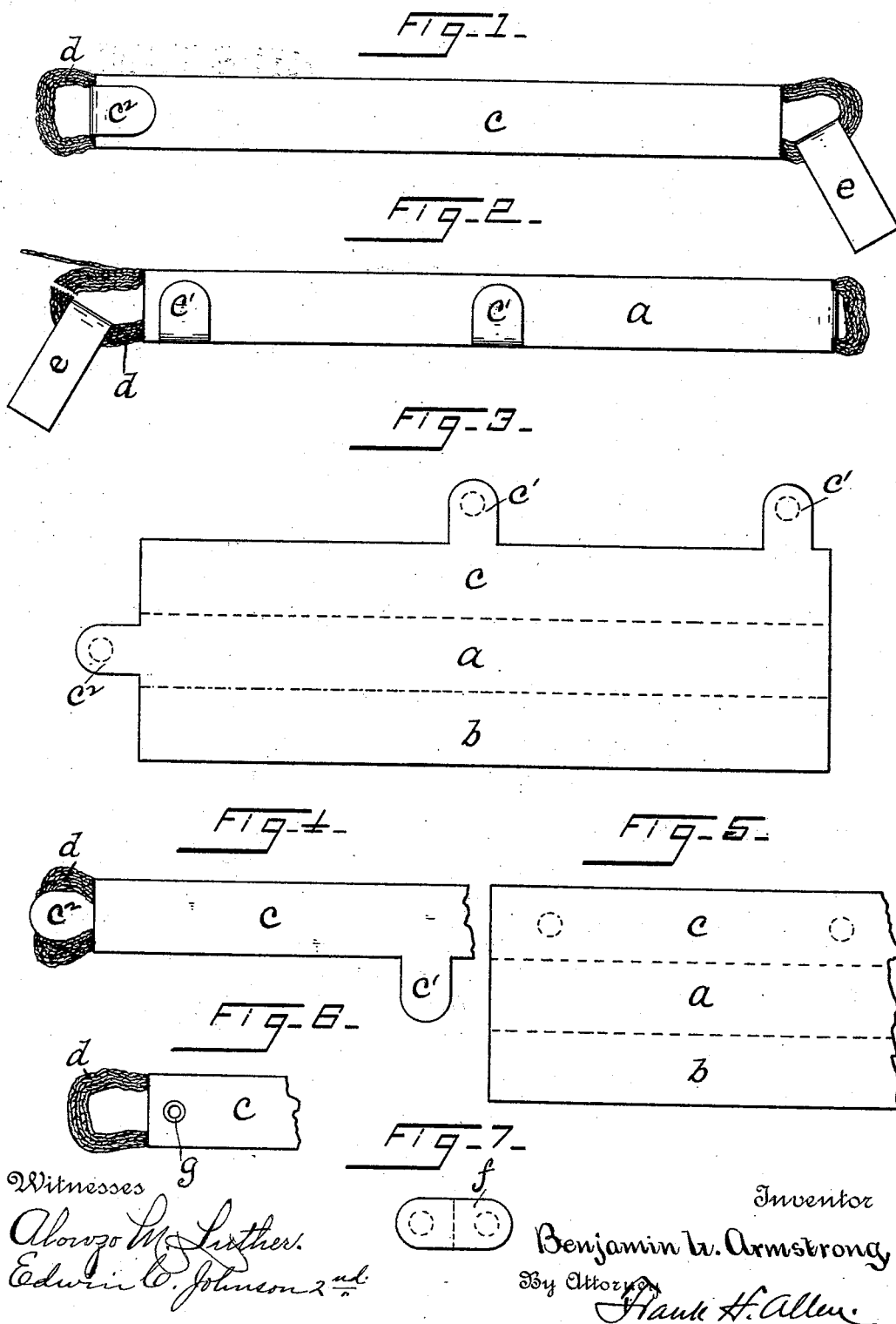


(No Model.)

B. L. ARMSTRONG.  
THREAD PACKAGE.

No. 523,139.

Patented July 17, 1894.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE,

BENJAMIN L. ARMSTRONG, OF NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT.

## THREAD-PACKAGE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 523,139, dated July 17, 1894.

Application filed May 18, 1894. Serial No. 511,674. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN L. ARMSTRONG, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city and county of New London and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Thread-Packages, which improvements are fully set forth and described in the following specification, reference being had to the accompanying sheet of drawings.

The object of this invention is to produce a package by means of which skeins of thread, yarn or analogous material, may be advantageously handled and marketed, with little or no liability of becoming soiled, faded, or tangled. These desirable results are attained by inclosing each separate skein in a casing or envelope of paper, or similar material, in such manner that only sufficient portions of the skein are visible to expose to view the quality, color and class of goods composing the complete package.

While my invention is useful in connection with skeins of thread, yarns, &c., it is especially valuable for use with skeined silk and throughout the remainder of this specification it is described as employed in connection with that class of goods but I do not wish to be understood as confining or limiting myself to that use only.

To assist in more readily explaining my invention the accompanying drawings have been provided, in which—

Figure 1 illustrates one form of my thread package and Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the reverse side of said package. Fig. 3 is a plan view of the blank which, when properly folded, composes the envelope or casing already referred to. Fig. 4 illustrates a part of the operation of securing a skein of silk within its case. Fig. 5 is a modification of my invention and illustrates a portion of a blank of simple form from which the case may be constructed. Fig. 6 shows one end of a complete package and illustrates one of many means that may be employed for retaining the several folds of the blank in position after the same has been formed into the case or envelope, and Fig. 7 is a view of a certain fastening which may be employed in connection with the style of blank illustrated in Fig. 5.

The envelope within which a skein of silk is to be inclosed may be formed of a blank of suitable paper, or like material, cut to proper size, and of the general shape shown in Figs. 3 and 5. Said blank is designed to be folded on the dotted lines indicated in the said figures, which dotted lines it will be seen divide the blank proper into three sections, viz: the middle section *a* and the sections *b* *c*.

In Fig. 3 section *c* is provided on its outer edge with one or more lips *c'* and section *a* is provided at one end with a similar lip *c''*. Lips *c'* and *c''* are gummed, or provided with gummed spots as indicated by dotted circles, for a purpose hereinafter explained.

The class of skeined silk in connection with which this device is employed, and the manner in which such skeins are made up for the market, are well known to all conversant with silk manufacture, said skeins consisting simply of a piece of silk of given length, reeled into several strands and having its opposite ends suitably tied together; these several strands being preferably prevented from falling apart by means of an ordinary paper tag, the skein and tag being, respectively, indicated by reference letters *d* and *e*.

Having now described the blank from which the case or envelope is formed and in a general way the style of skein which is to be inclosed therein, I will proceed to describe the process of assembling said blank and skein in order to produce a complete thread package on my improved form.

The skein *d* is first introduced to the blank on the middle section *a* and looped over the lip *c''*, said blank being slightly shorter than the skein so that the latter overhangs somewhat at each end, and to such overhanging portions, opposite the end at which is located the lip *c''*, the tag *e* may be connected. Section *b* is now folded over the skein thereby inclosing it between said section and the section *a* and the third section *c* is then folded over the section *b*, the several folds being now as shown in Fig. 4. Lips *c'* may now be folded over and pasted on the outside of section *a* (see Fig. 2), thereby retaining the various sections in their folded positions. In order to prevent the skein from being withdrawn from the package and so becoming soiled or tangled lip *c''* is passed through the doubled

end of the skein (see Fig. 4), then folded and finally pasted to the outside of section *c*. The lip *c*<sup>2</sup> prevents the withdrawal of the complete skein, in one direction, but when the skein has been cut through at one end of the package, as in Fig. 2, each strand may be drawn out separately without disturbing the remainder of the silk. The thread may thus be removed from the envelope by needlefuls, leaving the balance protected from dirt and light until needed.

The manner of folding the envelope provides ample space upon which an advertisement, or "directions for use," may be printed.

Fig. 5 illustrates a form of blank in which the gummed lips *c'* *c*<sup>2</sup> are not provided, the section *c* being gummed as indicated by dotted circles and, when properly folded, is pasted directly to the section *b* with which latter it is in contact. A strip *f*, shown in Fig. 7, is then used in place of lip *c*<sup>2</sup>, said strip passing through the doubled skein in the same manner as the lip *c*<sup>2</sup> and being pasted to opposite sides of the complete package,

the blank shown in Fig. 5 being simply a rectangular piece of paper. If desired, no paste whatsoever may be used, suitable fastenings being obtained by setting eyelets *g* at proper points, as shown in Fig. 6.

My device as a whole is simple in its construction, may be very cheaply produced, is very useful in handling silk or like articles in thread form and also serves as a receptacle, after the skein has been cut, to retain the several strands of silk until desired for use.

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

A thread package consisting of a casing or envelope, inclosing a skein as set forth, said casing being closed at one end within the doubled portion of the skein to prevent the withdrawal of the latter, all substantially as specified.

BENJAMIN L. ARMSTRONG.

Witnesses:

B. A. ARMSTRONG,  
A. H. GAGER.