

(No Model.)

S. B. GROVE.  
INDICATOR FOR HAT BOXES.

No. 346,474.

Patented Aug. 3, 1886.

Fig. 1.

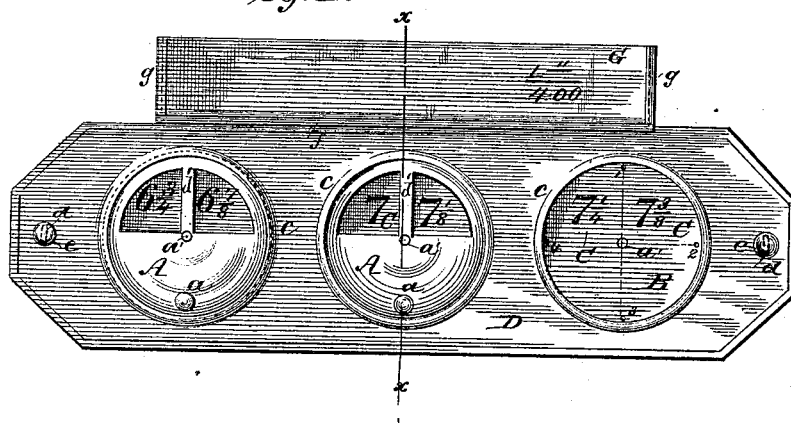


Fig. 2.

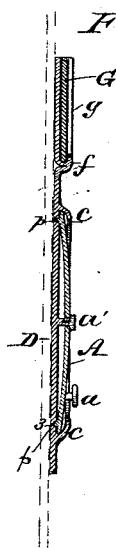
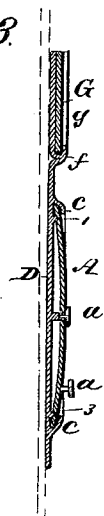


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES:

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SHEPHERD B. GROVE, OF URBANA, OHIO.

## INDICATOR FOR HAT-BOXES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 346,474, dated August 3, 1886.

Application filed September 11, 1885. Serial No. 176,770. (No model.)

### *To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, SHEPHERD B. GROVE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Urbana, in the county of Champaign and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Indicators for Hat-Boxes; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, like letters of reference referring to like parts in the several figures.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 is a front elevation of my device; Fig. 2, a section on line *xx*, Fig. 1; and Fig. 3, a section of a modification of the device.

The invention relates, primarily, to indicators for hat-boxes; but it is obvious that the device can be applied to boxes and drawers containing other articles of merchandise.

The object of the device is to present a ready means for ascertaining at a glance the contents of a hat-box, and thus save time and labor.

To this end it consists in a plate provided with a card or tag receiver to denote the style or make of the contained article, and one or more movable disks, by means of which the sizes or sets may be exposed or concealed, as required.

By referring more particularly to the drawings, it will be seen that the device consists of a plate, D, of metal, pasteboard, or other suitable material. At the top there are two side flanges, *g*, and a bottom flange, *f*, into which is placed a removable card or tag, G, indicating the style of hat or contained article and the cost thereof, as well as any other suitable mark of reference. Below the flange *f*, and on plate D, I have provided circular flanges *c*, which are struck up, and beneath which flanges disks A are moved. These disks are cut away so as to leave half partially open to expose the plate. The other half is left whole to conceal the plate, the segmental openings C being separated by an arm, *d*'. On the face of the plate D, and preferably in the quadrants of the upper half of the plate, so as to be seen through the segments C of the disk or concealed by the lower part of the disk, are placed or made the figures indicative of the sizes contained in the box. Usually in hat-boxes there are six sizes,

and these are indicated in the drawings, as in Fig. 1.

Suppose the size six and three-fourths is exhausted; then the disk is moved to the right until the closed portion of the disk covers this number. If size six and seven-eighths are all sold, the disk is turned to the left in the same manner, and if both sizes be exhausted, then the disk is turned so as to conceal both sets of figures. A glance at a box will thus show whether a given size of a certain manufacture is contained within the box without the necessity of opening the box.

The disk A is made convex at or near the center, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, so as to give spring to the disk and exert a slight but even pressure of friction along the outer edge beneath flange *c*.

In order to hold the disk in a fixed position, I have a projection or projections, *p*, Fig. 2, on the under side of the disk, which enter a recess or depression in the plate. I provide four depressions in the plate, as at 1 2 3 4, Fig. 1, into which the projection (or projections) will enter as the disk is turned; or the disk may have a depression or depressions and the plate the projections, as shown in Fig. 3. The disks are secured to the plate by means of the central rivet, *a*'.

In order to easily move the disks, I provide each of them with a small button, *a*, which will preferably be struck up and made integral with the disk. It may, however, be secured in any suitable way. The plate D, which is of thin material and flexible, is secured to the box or drawer by means of a paper-tack, *e*, inserted in a slot, *d*, for the purpose. The material is light, and the device is not only easily stamped up and cheaply made, but can be quickly attached or detached, as required.

Generally the boxes in use are made of pasteboard or paper-board, and in such cases it would be preferable to have the flanges *f*, *g*, and *c* struck up on or from the side of the box. The disk need only be made separate in this instance. This can also be done with other paper boxes, such as glove and shoe boxes. This will be done whenever the material will economically permit. In all other instances the plate D will be manufactured as just described.

Having thus described my invention, what I

claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. An indicator for boxes, consisting of a plate provided with flanges for an indicating-card, circular flanges for a disk or disks, indices on the plate for the contents of the box, and a movable disk cut away to expose or conceal the indices, and means for securing the indicator to the box, as set forth.
2. In an indicator, the combination, with the plate D, having flanges for an indicating-card, a circular flange for a disk, and depressions and indices within the circular flange, of a movable disk partially cut away to show or conceal the indices, and having a projection for entering the depressions in the plate, as set forth.

3. The combination, with the plate D, having circular flanges and provided with a series of depressions, as described, of a movable disk, A, cut away so as to form segments on one-half of the disk for exposing or concealing figures on the plate, and provided with one or more projections arranged to engage the depressions at the indicating positions, whereby the disk is held in a fixed position, as set forth.

In testimony whereof I hereunto set my hand in presence of two witnesses.

SHEPHERD B. GROVE.

Witnesses:

J. F. EICHELBERGER,  
I. H. McDONALD.