

(No Model.)

I. M. SMITH.
DISPLAY CASE.

No. 455,770.

Patented July 14, 1891.

Fig. 1

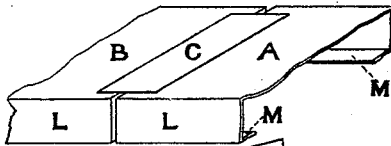


Fig. 2

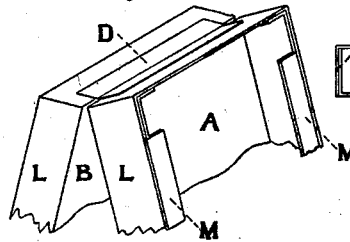


Fig. 4

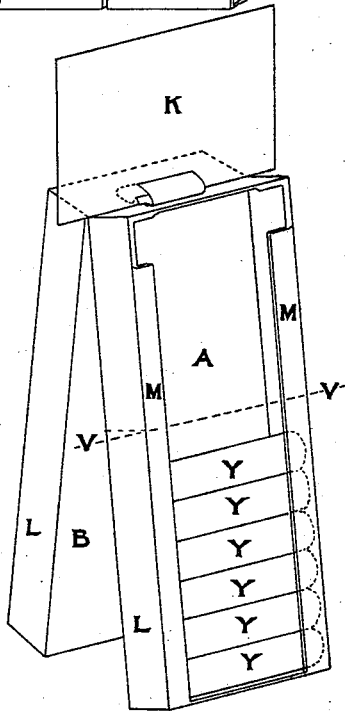


Fig. 5



Fig. 7

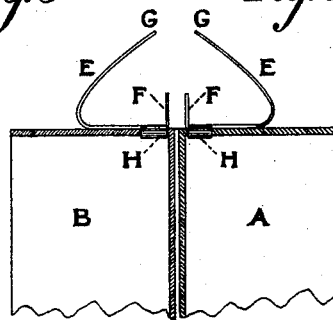


Fig. 3

Fig. 8

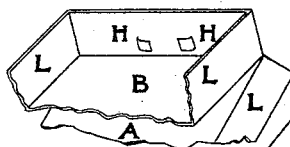
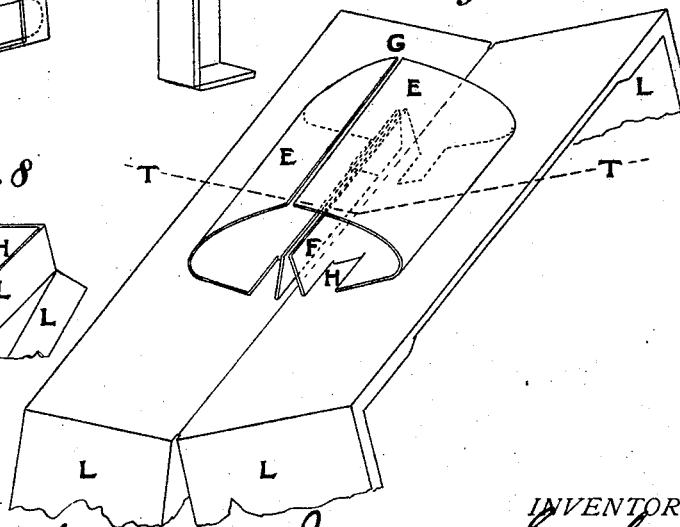


Fig. 6



WITNESSES:

Lewis M. Smith
John J. Flynn

INVENTOR

Irving M. Smith

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

IRVING M. SMITH, OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND.

DISPLAY-CASE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 455,770, dated July 14, 1891.

Application filed January 26, 1891. Serial No. 379,087. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, IRVING M. SMITH, of the city of Providence, in the county of Providence and State of Rhode Island, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Display-Cases, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to the construction and mode of arranging two open boxes made of card-board or any other suitable material back to back and so connected at one end as to allow the other ends of the two boxes to separate sufficiently, so as to enable each box to serve as a brace or support for the other when the display-case is placed standing upon its open ends, the two boxes being constructed with inwardly-extending flanges upon the sides of the boxes for the purpose of retaining articles in position when placed in the box as an advertising display of such articles for sale, and also provided with an advertising-card holder attached to and operated in connection with the two open boxes, or with one box and its support when only one box and its support is used, and which serves to limit the separation of the two open ends of the boxes or when attached to any two equivalent supports.

The construction and use of my invention are illustrated by the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the two boxes placed back upward and hinged together end to end. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the two boxes partly folded back to back and hinged together at one end. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the display-case standing upon its opened ends and partially filled with articles for display as in ordinary use. Fig. 4 is a transverse section of one of the boxes, taken on line *vv* of Fig. 3. Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a separate side piece with flange detached from the box. Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the advertising-card holder made in two similar disconnected parts or halves attached to the ends of the boxes and drawn to an enlarged scale. Fig. 7 is a vertical sectional view of the advertising-card holder, taken on line *TT* of Fig. 6. Fig. 8 is a perspective view of the boxes, showing the mode of fastening the advertising-card holder to the boxes.

Similar letters refer to similar parts throughout the several views.

A and B are two similar common open-front boxes, made of card-board or any other suitable material of any convenient size and shape and connected together by a strip of muslin C or any other suitable flexible material, cemented or otherwise firmly attached to the bottoms of the two boxes or any other hinge, the boxes being placed closely end to end, and said strip extending across the adjacent ends from the bottom of one to the bottom of the other, and thus holding the lower or bottom edges of the two adjacent ends of the boxes firmly together, but permitting the two boxes to fold closely together back to back and to open at the other ends, using the said flexible strip as a hinge. The two ends thus connected are also, if desired, more firmly united by cementing a strip of muslin D or other suitable flexible material or other hinge across the said two ends of the boxes when the same are placed back to back, which also serves as a hinge on which the two boxes may swing or move apart at their lower ends.

E is an advertising-card holder constructed and made up of two similar parts or halves, preferably of sheet-tin; but they may be made of any other suitable material—as, for instance, wire, sheet-iron, &c.—and are made by striking sharply up one edge F of a strip of sheet-tin of the desired size, say, two inches square at right angles to the plane of the sheet, making a flange, say, one-quarter of an inch deep, and bending or folding over the opposite edge G of the sheet in the form similar to one-half of an ellipse until the edge G rests nearly over and in nearly the same plane as F and at a distance above F, say, about one-half an inch. E is then attached to the upper hinged end of box A, so that the flange F will stand nearly in the plane of the back of box A. E may be thus attached to box A by any suitable means; but, as a convenient way, I cut two short slits in the opposite sides of the sheet at H H and bend them downward at right angles to the sheet and pass them through corresponding slits in the end of the box and clinch them on the inside. B is also similarly provided with a similar fixture E, so that when the two boxes A and B are folded closely back to back the upper edges G G of

E E will lie in parallel lines with sufficient space between them to admit the insertion of an advertising-card. The flanges F F will also lie in parallel planes just far enough apart to permit any ordinary advertising-card to be admitted between them. By spreading apart the lower ends of the boxes the upper edges G G will approach each other, and operating as a pair of jaws will grasp firmly between them the advertising-card K, and as the lower ends of the boxes spread apart the upper edges of flanges F F also approach each other, and likewise as a pair of jaws grasp the advertising-card K and assist the upper jaws G G in holding the card firmly, and the pressure of these two pairs of jaws upon the card K and also the pressure of the flanges E E against one another, when no card is held between them, prevents the lower ends of the boxes from being spread farther apart than is desired—that is, the spreading apart of the lower ends of the boxes is limited by the resistance of G G to one another and also by the resistance of F F to one another.

The opposite sides L L of boxes A and B are each provided with a narrow flange M, extending inward, say, one-half an inch in width, shaped at right angles to the plane of the side by means well known to paper-box manufacturers and running lengthwise nearly the whole length of the box, leaving, however, near the top just space enough to allow of the insertion of the articles that it is desired to exhibit. This flange may be made in one piece with the side of the box and shaped at the desired angle, or preferably it may be made a part of a separate strip N of cardboard, which is cemented or otherwise fixed to the sides of the box upon the inside by any well-known means, thus giving strength to the box. Fig. 5 shows a view in perspective of such separate side N detached from the box, provided with a flange M, ready for insertion therein. I prefer to make the flanges a part of a separate strip, because when so constructed the box is stronger and the flange is stronger than when it forms a part of the side L of the box. The flange may be strengthened in its position by outside paper bands pasted upon and passing around the sides of the box and embracing the lower corners thereof and covering the joint made by the lower end of flange M and the end of the box. The display-case, composed of boxes A and B thus constructed, furnishes a very convenient and effective means of displaying for sale articles of merchandise. The articles to be exposed, as Y Y Y, being of sufficient length to reach across the box, are placed in the box at the point where the flange M terminates near the top, and are held in place by said flange and

thus exposed to view, as shown in Fig. 3. The boxes are then folded closely together back to back, the advertising-card inserted between jaws G G and flanges F F. The lower end of the boxes are spread apart until the jaws G G and flanges F F grasp the advertising-card. The boxes are then placed with their lower ends separated and resting on the counter, show-case, or wherever it may be desired to place them for exhibition.

Boxes A and B serve as mutual supports; but a single box A may be used alone, substituting for box B any equivalent support, provided with its card-holder E, without departing from the principle of my invention.

The dimensions of the various parts above given are not intended as absolute, but may be varied in size and proportions to suit the taste of the user and the purposes to which the case is to be devoted.

The card-holder E E may be used without the use of flanges F F to assist in holding the card, the jaws G G alone effectually holding the card between them, or the flanges F F may be used alone without the use of G G to assist in holding the card; but the object is best secured by using both sets of jaws.

What I claim as my invention is—

1. The advertising display-case consisting of boxes A and B, having the two hinges C and D, or either of them, each box being provided with side flanges M M and provided with card-holder E E, having jaws G G and flanges F F, substantially as described.

2. The advertising display-case consisting of boxes A and B, having the two hinges C and D, or either of them, each box being provided with side flanges M M and provided with card-holder E E, having jaws G G, substantially as described.

3. The advertising display-case consisting of boxes A and B, having the two hinges C and D, or either of them, each box being provided with side flanges M M and provided with card-holder E E, having flanges F F, substantially as described.

4. The advertising display-case consisting of boxes A and B, having the two hinges C and D, or either of them, each box being provided with side flanges M M, substantially as described.

5. The advertising display-case consisting of box A, having flanges M M, the two hinges C and D, or either of them, card-holder E E, and the support B, substantially as described.

6. An advertising-card holder E E when used with hinged supports A and B, substantially as described.

IRVING M. SMITH.

Witnesses:

LEWIS M. SMITH,
JOHN J. FLYNN.