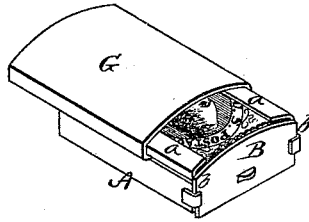


P. W. HALL.  
Postage-Stamp Holder.

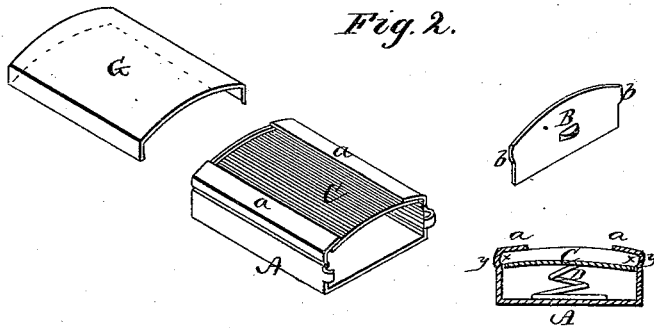
No. 161,225.

Patented March 23, 1875.

*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 3.*



WITNESSES

*Henry W. Miller*  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

PHIDELLO W. HALL, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

## IMPROVEMENT IN POSTAGE-STAMP HOLDERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 161,225, dated March 23, 1875; application filed January 13, 1875.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, PHIDELLO W. HALL, of St. Louis, in the county of St. Louis and in the State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Postage-Stamp Holders; and do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, making a part of this specification.

The nature of my invention consists in the construction and arrangement of a box or device for holding postage-stamps, as will be hereinafter more fully set forth.

In order to enable others skilled in the art to which my invention appertains to make and use the same, I will now proceed to describe its construction and operation, referring to the annexed drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my postage-stamp holder. Figs. 2 and 3 are detailed views of the same.

A represents a box, made of sheet metal or other suitable material. The interior of the box A should be as long as a postage-stamp, or a little longer, and it should be not quite as wide as the stamp. One end of the box A is open, and provided with a slide, B, which slips in from above, and has a projection, *b*, at each end, near the upper edge, to prevent it from passing down too far, and giving sufficient space for the stamp to pass out when the pressure is applied by the finger or thumb. The sides of the box A are bent over inward, forming flanges *a a*, against which a convex plate, C, is held by means of one or more springs, D.

In the drawing, I have shown a single coil-spring, placed nearer the rear end than the front, so that the pressure will be greater behind. This spring is also made small at the top and larger at the bottom, so that it does not occupy a space thicker than the wire. The top of the spring is made fast to the plate or apron C, leaving the lower end free, so that the apron and spring can be drawn out at pleasure. At the top of each side, im-

mediately below the flange *a*, is formed a longitudinal groove, *x*, on the inside of the box, which grooves relieve the pressure from the edges of the upper stamp, and also form ridges *y* on the outside, to hold the lid G in place. The lid is made concave on its under side, to correspond with the shape of the apron C.

The stamps are placed on the plate C and held, by the action of the spring D thereon, against the flanges *a a*. By the box being not quite as wide as the postage-stamps, the stamps are slightly contracted, and their edges press lightly against the sides of the box, while the pressure on the top stamp is relieved by the grooves *x*, so that it can be easily drawn off by the friction and pressure of the thumb or forefinger, the lid G being first drawn back a short distance, as shown in Fig. 1.

The inner sides of the box should be roughened by longitudinal grooves, for the purpose of preventing the stamps from slipping more on one side than on the other, and also to act as guides for the stamps. The upper surface of the apron C may also be roughened in any suitable manner, to prevent the last stamp from sticking to the same.

Instead of a sliding lid, as shown, the lid may be hinged to the box, if so desired.

This device may be used for street-car or other tickets, as well as for postage-stamps.

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

The within-described stamp-holder, consisting of the box A, provided with flanges *a a*, interior grooves *x*, and exterior ribs *y*, the apron C, one or more springs, D, slide B, and cover G, all constructed and arranged substantially as and for the purposes herein set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 28th day of September, 1874.

PHIDELLO W. HALL.

Witnesses:

J. A. BEAL,  
FRED. BREITENSTEIN.