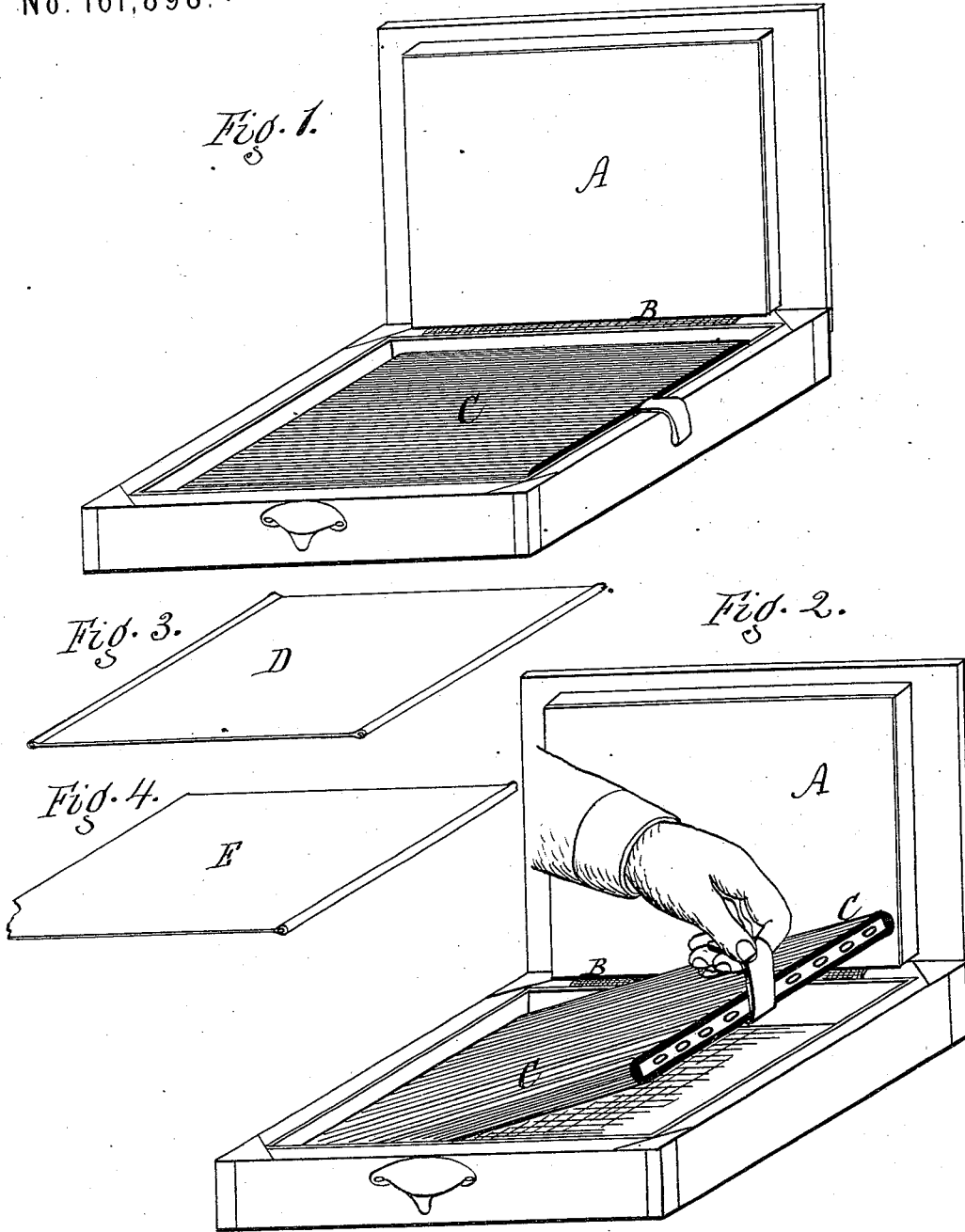


W. J. PURCELL.
 Damping-Box for Copying-Presses.
 No. 161,898. Patented April 13, 1875.



Witnesses:
 R. F. Osgood.
 Jacob Spahr

Inventor.
 William J. Purcell

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM J. PURCELL, OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK.

IMPROVEMENT IN DAMPING-BOXES FOR COPYING-PRESSES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **161,898**, dated April 13, 1875; application filed September 17, 1874.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM JAMES PURCELL, of the city of Rochester and State of New York, have invented a Damping-Box for moistening pages of letter-books and for dampening copying-paper, to be known as the German Copying-Case.

The following is a description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the box or reservoir open. Fig. 2 is a perspective view with the pad-block partly raised; Fig. 3, a plan of the moistening-sheet wired at both ends; Fig. 4, a plan of the moistening-sheet wired at one end.

I make a box or reservoir of metal or wood, or other material that the manufacturer may find most convenient, the inside of which (the box) must be non-corrosive. The box is furnished with a cover or lid, the inside of which is raised, and made water-proof. (See A, Fig. 1.) The lid or cover is hinged with a slack cloth strap. (See B, Fig. 1.) The block-pad (see C, Fig. 2) consists of a block of wood, tunneled with holes through it flatwise, and the block wrapped in felt, cloth, batting, or paper, and having a thumb-strap at one end, the use of which I will describe farther on. The moistening-sheet (see D, Fig. 3) is made of muslin or cloth, and wired at both ends with non-corrosive wire. The small moistening-sheet (see E, Fig. 4) is made of muslin or cloth, and wired at one end with non-corrosive wire.

Having now described the way in which I make it, I will now proceed to specify the mode of using my invention.

Having poured water into the box until the water comes half-way on the block-pad, which lies flat in the box, I then turn the block-pad upside down by the aid of the thumb-strap, which brings the wet side of the block-pad uppermost, and place the moistening-sheets on flatwise on the block-pad, and close the lid, the raised surface of the inside of the lid falling on the sheets, and pressing the sheets against the block-pad when pressed from the top or bottom. The box is then placed in the press, and pressed in the manner of pressing a book, which causes sufficient moisture from the block-pad to saturate the moistening-sheets, and at the same time

it presses out superfluous water, which falls down into the reservoir or box. After pressing the box and opening it the sheets are ready to damp with, and the leaves to be copied on being placed over the letters one of those moistened sheets is placed on top of each, and the book with sheets in it next the leaves you desire copies on is placed in the press and pressed; then the book is taken out, opened, the letters taken out, and the moistening-sheets replaced on the block-pad in the box, where they will, for many days afterward, absorb enough of moisture to be nearly always ready for copying, and when they become too dry or unevenly dampened turn the block-pad upside down, replace the sheets on it, and repress the box in the press.

The advantages are: First, in using dampening-sheets as described an immense amount of time and labor is saved. Instead of dampening leaf after leaf by hand in an uneven manner, the sheets are almost always ready to lay in the letter-book without any preparation, or may be rapidly prepared when required. Secondly, the dampening-sheets are properly and evenly moistened, and in copying a single or a hundred letters all may be done at one pressure from the press, and have the first and last letter that was placed in the book copied evenly, giving clear strong copies, free from blurs, with the use of any ink that will copy, or any paper that will copy. Thirdly, the end or ends of the sheets being wired, as shown in Fig. 3 and Fig. 4, the sheets are easily handled, and the corners do not curl up, the sheets with two wires being used for full-page copies, and the sheets with single wires being used for part-page copies when they are used crosswise in the book.

What I claim is—

A damping-box for copying-presses lined with non-corrosive material, and having a loosely-hinged cover with projection A, a damping-pad, C, and damping-cloths D E, all constructed in the manner herein set forth.

In witness whereof I have hereunto signed my name in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

WILLIAM J. PURCELL.

Witnesses:

R. F. OSGOOD,
JACOB SPAHN.