2 Sheets--Sheet .

J. LEE.

Cartridge-Box.

No. 162,481. Patented April 27, 1875.

Fig. 1.

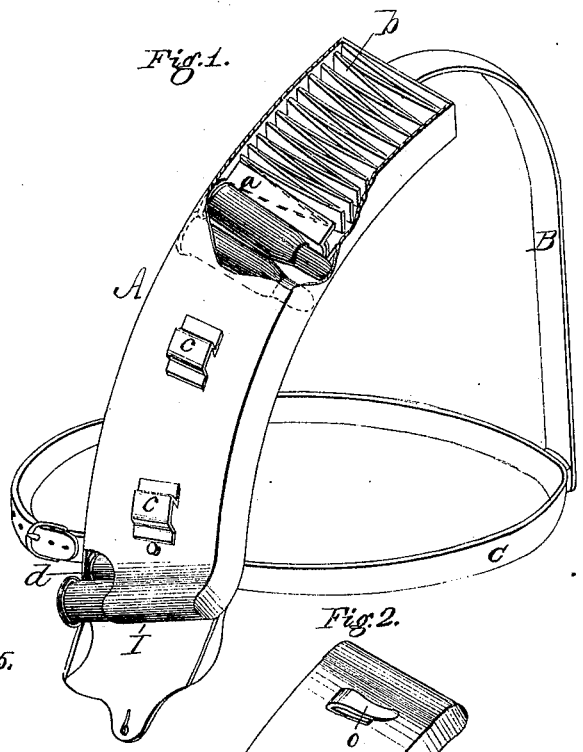


Fig. 2.

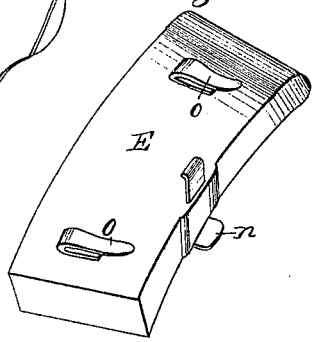


Fig. 5.

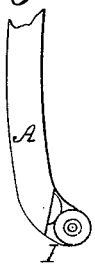


Fig. 3.

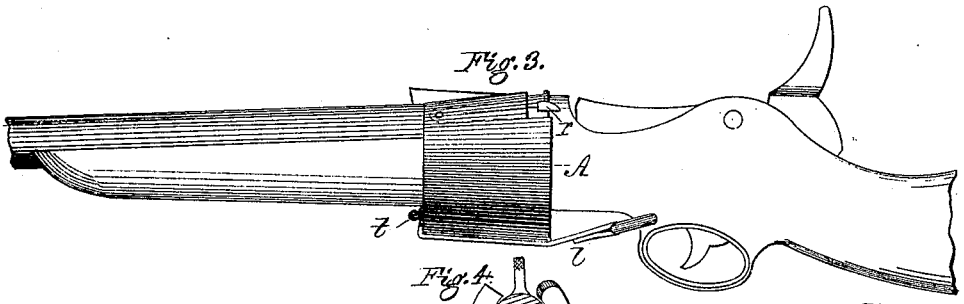
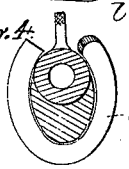


Fig. 4.



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2 Sheets--Sheet 2.

J. LEE.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES LEE, OF MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN.

IMPROVEMENT IN CARTRIDGE-BOXES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 162,481, dated April 27, 1875; application filed April 12, 1875.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES LEE, of Milwaukee, in the county of Milwaukee and State of Wisconsin, have invented certain Improvements in Cartridge-Boxes, of which the following is a specification:

My invention consists of certain improvements in cartridge-boxes, whereby the cartridges can be stored very compactly, and held in a position more convenient for loading the gun. It further consists in a supplementary cartridge-box, so constructed as to be readily attached to the main box, for supplying cartridges when the latter is exhausted; and it further consists in so constructing the cartridge-box that it can be slipped over the gun, and used in that position, all as hereinafter more fully described.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved cartridge-box, a portion being shown in section, to exhibit the spring and follower inside. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the supplemental or auxiliary box. Fig. 3 is a side elevation, and Fig. 4 a transverse section, of a gun, with the cartridge-box applied thereto; and Fig. 5 is an edge view. Fig. 6 illustrates the position in which the box is carried in action.

In constructing my improved cartridge-box I make a case, A, of metal or other suitable material, of curved or segmental form, as represented in Figs. 1 and 2, its curvature being such as to permit the flanged cartridges to lie therein side by side, with their flanges overlapping, as shown in Fig. 1. The box should be of a width a little more than equal to the length of the cartridges, so as to permit them to move freely therein, but not to let them rattle about loosely. Its thickness should be made to correspond with the size of the cartridges, so that they will lie therein in a single compact row, as represented in Fig. 1. A zig-zag spring, *b*, having a follower or block, *a*, attached to the end next to the cartridges, is inserted within the box, as also shown in Fig. 1, for the purpose of feeding the cartridges forward to the mouth in a proper position, and also to prevent them from falling over or rattling about loosely in the box. At its lower end the box A is curved or bent sidewise, as shown at I, Fig. 1, this curved portion being made slightly conical, to permit the head of the cartridges to be crowded over opposite the mouth or opening *d* at the lower left-hand corner, as shown in Fig. 1.

In filling the box the cartridges are shoved one at a time into the mouth *d*, the follower being pressed back by pressing on the cartridge previously inserted, the one last inserted always having its flange overlapping the preceding one, as shown in Fig. 1, so that when presented at the mouth it is ready to be withdrawn without obstruction. The pressure of the spring and the weight of the cartridges will prevent the one at the mouth from falling out; but I propose to pivot a piece to the lower end of the box A in such a manner that it can be shut over the mouth when desired. This may be of metal, pivoted on the edge of the box to turn up out of the way when using the box; or it may be a bent piece, hinged at the lower end, so as to shut over the mouth. When covered with leather, a flap may be made at the lower end to turn up over the mouth, and be fastened by a stud, it being allowed to hang down when the box is being used.

The box, when thus constructed, is intended to be arranged on the body of the soldier, in action, as represented in Fig. 6, it being supplied with a strap, B, at its upper end, which strap, as shown in Fig. 1, is connected at its opposite end to another strap, C, that passes around the body, and is connected to the lower end of the box A, thus securely holding the box in a slightly-diagonal position, extending from the left shoulder down over the breast, and bringing its mouth, from whence the cartridges are taken, in close proximity to the breech of the gun, thereby greatly facilitating the operation of loading the arm.

In marching, the box may be attached to the waist-belt, and thus avoid bringing any pressure on the chest of the soldier; and as a shoulder-strap is generally used, it may be attached to that, in time of action, and thus dispense with the use of the straps B C.

I make the supplemental box E, Fig. 2, in the same manner as the main box A, and on its rear face attach two hooks, *o*, to engage in loops *c*, arranged on the front face of box A, as represented in Fig. 1. I also attach to the

box E a slide, *n*, as shown in Fig. 2, with its inner end bent up to form a lip, so that after the hooks *o* are inserted in the loops *c* this slide *n* can be shoved in and made to engage with the edge of box A, thereby locking the box E securely to the box A, thus enabling the soldier to supply an additional box already filled without stopping to refill the main box A when it is exhausted. When not in use this supplemental box E can be carried attached to the waist-belt by the hooks *o*, as represented in Fig. 6. It is also obvious that the main box A or the supplemental box E can, if desired, be arranged to be carried and used on the waist-belt alone; but I prefer the plan shown, because it affords greater facility in loading.

When it is desired to apply the cartridge-box to the gun, I make it in the same general manner, but bend it so as to clasp the gun, it being slipped on over the barrel and stock from the muzzle, as shown in Figs. 3 and 4. An open space is left between the two ends, as shown in Fig. 4, so as not to interfere with the sights. When thus used, it should be made of such a size as to allow it to be shoved back to near the breech, as shown in Fig. 4, where it may be secured by a strap, *l*, attached to the rear swivel-loop, and engaging over a a small stud, *t*, on the front edge of the box A, as shown, the strap used as a sling on the gun being used for this purpose, in case there be one on the gun. When used in this manner, I omit the curved portion I, as it is not necessary to throw the heads out to one side, they being drawn straight back out of the mouth.

To prevent the cartridges from accidentally falling out when the gun is held upright, I locate a spring-catch, *r*, at the mouth in such a position as to engage over the head of the cartridge to hold it in, the outer portion of the catch *r* being beveled on its upper side, as represented in Fig. 4, to admit the ready insertion of the cartridges. When taking cartridges from the box, this catch *r* is depressed by the thumb, in the act of seizing the cartridge, and thus, while serving to hold the cartridges securely in the box, it does not interfere perceptibly with their withdrawal therefrom. With the box thus applied to a single breech-loading gun, the latter has all the advantages of a magazine-gun, without its complication or expense.

When the box A is covered with leather, as it generally will be, the loops *c* may be made to protrude through holes in the leather; or they may be dispensed with, and slits cut in the leather covering for the hooks to engage in. It is also obvious that, instead of the sliding catch *n*, a spring-catch may be substituted, if desired.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

1. A cartridge-box, consisting of the case A, curved edgewise to permit the cartridges to fit therein in a compact row, with their heads overlapping, as shown, and curved sidewise to adapt it to the person or to the gun, substantially as described.

2. The box A, having its lower end I curved laterally, and provided with the mouth or opening *d* for withdrawing the cartridges, as described.

3. The box, provided with the hooks *o* and the catch *n*, or its equivalent, for attaching it to another box or to the belt, substantially as set forth.

4. The curved box A, provided with the spring *b* for feeding forward the cartridges, and the spring-catch *r* for preventing the accidental expulsion of the same, substantially as described.

JAMES LEE.

Witnesses:
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W. W. DODGE.