R. TRAUTMANN.

SPOOL SHOW BOX.

No. 190,099. Patented April 24, 1877.

Fig: 1

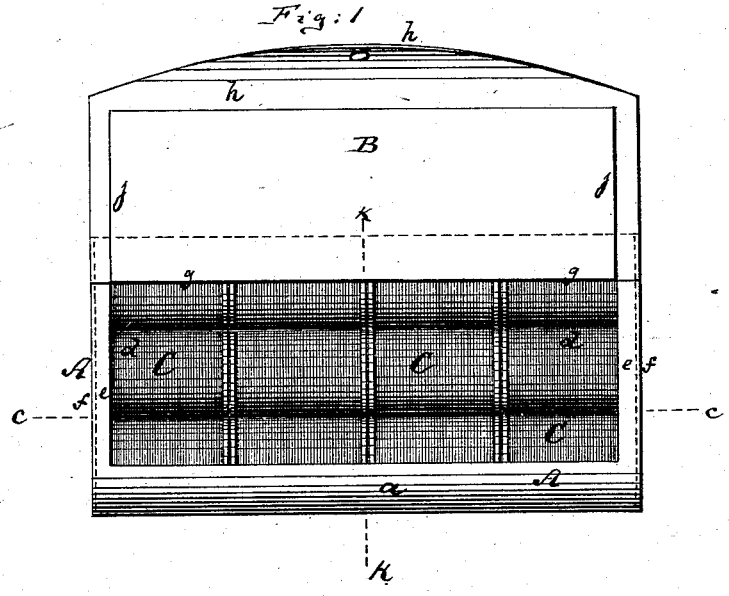


Fig: 2

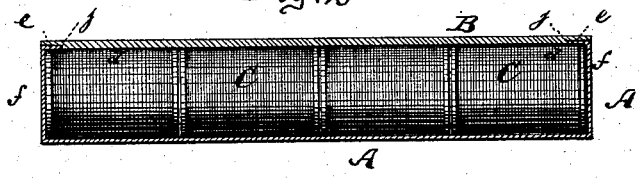
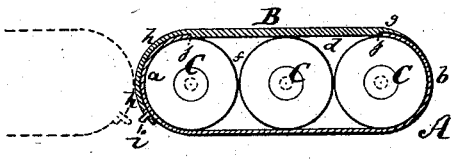


Fig: 3



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

RALPH TRAUTMANN, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF AND GEORGE J. BROWNE, OF SAME PLACE.

IMPROVEMENT IN SPOOL SHOW-BOXES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **190,099**, dated April 24, 1877; application filed March 12, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RALPH TRAUTMANN, of New York city, in the county and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Spool-Cotton Box, of which the following is a specification:

This invention has for its object to produce a box for economically and properly packing a series of spools containing cotton or other thread or yarn; and consists, first, in forming the box with inwardly-projecting ledges, which contract the opening and serve to hold the spools in place without preventing their convenient removal; secondly, in combining, with a box having semi-cylindrical front and back, a lid which has a curved lap that extends downward to partly overlap the lower part of the curved front; and, thirdly, in applying a catch to the lower part of such curved lid, all as hereinafter more clearly pointed out.

In the accompanying drawing, Figure 1 represents a top view of my improved spool-cotton box, showing its lid thrown open. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section of the box on the plane of the line *c c*, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a cross-section of the same on the plane of the line *k k*, Fig. 1.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

The letter A represents the body of the box; B, its lid or cover. The box is intended to hold twelve spools, C C, of equal size, preferably in three rows, four spools in each row, as indicated in Fig. 1. The body of the box is of a height equaling in its interior the diameter of the spools of an inner length equaling the length of four spools, and three times as wide as it is high. Its front *a* and back *b* are of semi-cylindrical form, as clearly shown in Fig. 3, to fit the outer rows of spools C, and avoid waste of material in the box and hold the spools snugly in place. The box has an opening, *d*, on top for the insertion and removal of the spools, but this opening is contracted lengthwise by overhanging ledges *e e*, which project inwardly from the ends *f f* of the box. As to width, the opening is also less extensive than the full width of the box, owing to the rounded form of the back and front of the box. Thus it is that when the box is filled all but two of the twelve spools will be partly covered by the body of the box, as the three spools at each end of the box are partly beneath the ledges *e e*, and the four spools in front and the four at the back partly covered by the upward curves of the front *a* and back *b*, all as clearly indicated in Fig. 1 and in the other figures.

By thus confining the spools beneath the ledges *e* and parts *a b*, they are properly retained within the box, and not as liable to roll out, even if the lid be opened and the box tilted, the two uncovered spools being retained sufficiently by the frictional contact with the six spools adjoining them. The lid B is jointed at *g* to the upper edge of the back *b*, and has a curved front lap, *h*, in front for lapping over and beyond the middle of the front *a*. A suitable catch, *i*, applied to the front *a* beneath the middle of its height, may be used to lock the lid in manner indicated in Fig. 3. By placing the catch *i* under the middle of the front it is prevented from projecting into contact with a box that may be placed close to the box described, as indicated by dotted lines in Fig. 3, and I thus have a box which can be closely packed with other boxes, and without danger of injuring one another by any projecting parts of the catches thereon.

The body of the lid B is depressed in line with the opening *d* to form a downwardly-projecting part, *j*, as indicated in Figs. 2 and 3. This depressed part *j* enters between the ledges *e e*, and between the edges of the front *a* and back *b*, coming into close contact with said edges and ledges, as shown, and produces thus a joint sufficiently tight to prevent dust from reaching the spools when the lid is closed. Spool-cotton has heretofore been packed by the dozen spools in paper wrappers, which the retail dealer had to tear in case he wished to expose the contents for inspection, or for selling a few of the spools. The spools remaining in the torn wrapper were thereupon freely exposed to dust and injury, and the wrapper presented, moreover, an unsightly appearance. But my improved box can be freely opened to allow the inspection or partial removal of its contents, and will, when reclosed, properly protect the remaining contents, and never change its shape. The box may be made of

pasteboard or other suitable material. The projection *j* may be formed on the cover by embossing it, in which case a similar depression will appear on the top of the lid.

I claim as my invention—

1. The box A, made with semi-cylindrical front and back *a b*, and with inwardly-projecting ledges *e e* at the ends, to partly cover its contents, substantially as herein shown and described.

2. The combination of the box A, having semi-cylindrical front and back, with the lid B, having the curved front lap *h*, substantially as herein shown and described.

3. The combination of the box A, having semi-cylindrical front and back, with the lid B having curved front lap *h*, and with the catch *i*, which is attached to the lower part of the curved front, substantially as herein shown and described.

The foregoing description of my invention signed by me this 2d day of March, 1877.

RALPH TRAUTMANN.

Witnesses :
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