

J. I. BERRY.
Packing Case.

No. 196,866.

Patented Nov. 6, 1877.

Fig. 1.

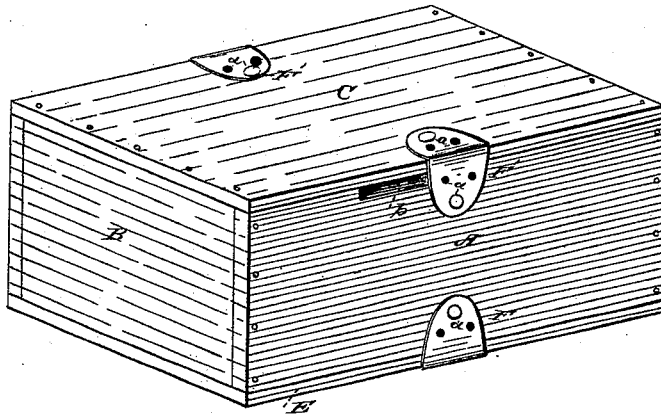
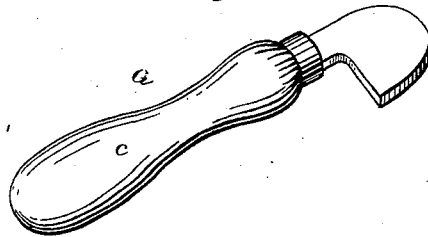


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN I. BERRY, OF WILLIAMSPORT, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN PACKING-CASES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 196,866, dated November 6, 1877; application filed October 22, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN I. BERRY, of Williamsport, in the county of Lycoming and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Packing-Cases; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

The object I have in view is the production of a packing case or box especially adapted for the transportation of oils, but capable of use for many other purposes, as, for instance, the transportation of fruit. It is essential in such boxes or cases that they be cheap, as they are generally used but once, and that they be light, in order to save expense in various ways, and that they be simple in construction, and yet strong enough to bear considerable shocks and to have secure fastening. It is also quite important that they be so constructed that they may be shipped in a knock-down condition before being nailed up.

In the shipment of mineral oils to foreign countries the requirements of trade and the regulations of insurance companies have practically restricted such shipments to oils contained in five-gallon cans, two of which are packed in a single closely-covered wooden box or case. In the foreign demand a certain weight is deducted from the entire weight of the package as tare, and it becomes, therefore, essential to have the packing case or box as light as is consistent with strength.

I secure this strength, combined with the requisite lightness, by making the cases or boxes out of veneers, turned from proper wood about one-quarter of an inch thick, for all except the end stuff, which may be about three-eighths of an inch thick; and the manner of constructing a case or box and securing the same constitutes the principal novelty of my invention.

In order that those skilled in the art may know how to make and use my packing cases or boxes, I now proceed to describe the same, having reference to the drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is an elevation, in perspective, of my box or case; Fig. 2, a view of the upsetter used in fastening the same.

In the drawings, A represents a side, B an

end, C the top, and E the bottom, of my box or case. As before explained, these parts are made of thin veneers turned from logs of wood properly flattened out and dried, and cut in rectangular forms, of the proper size to make the desired case or box, which, for oil-cans, is about nineteen inches long, nine and one-half inches wide, and fourteen inches deep, inside measurement. This box or case is put together and nailed up by putting the end pieces B within the side and bottom pieces, and nailing the same together in the usual way, which can be done readily, as the end pieces are thick enough to hold and entirely cover a nail. The sides of the box or case are too thin to either hold or properly cover a nail, and, as it is essential to have the box or case secured at some point or points between the ends of the same, I employ straps of tin or thin sheet metal F, which are secured to the side and bottom of the box or case by clout-nails *a*, which are driven through from the outside, and riveted on the inside in any suitable way.

The cover or top C, of course, cannot be put on until the case is packed, and then it is nailed at the ends to the end pieces, and secured at some point between the ends by the straps F' F', made like the strap F F, and previously fastened and riveted to the side pieces. The straps F' F' on each side of the box are readily secured to the side of the box before the cover is put on. In order, however, to rivet the clout-nails through the cover or top of the box or case, I cut slots *b b*, or cut away the cover itself, so as to permit the introduction of a peculiar flat steel upsetter or clincher, G, made hook-shaped, as shown in the drawing, and having a proper handle, *c*. This clincher or upsetter G is introduced through one of the slots *b*, and held in proper position, so that the clout-nails going through the top or cover are properly upset or clinched.

It will be understood that a sufficient number of these straps F F' may be used in all cases; but four will be found sufficient for an oil-can-packing case of the size now used.

It will be apparent that, by this mode of fastening, boxes or cases made of very thin stuff may be used without danger of having nails at the sides protruding either upon the inside of the box, where their ends might be

destructive, or upon the outside, where they would be annoying.

It is also evident that my invention may be applied to boxes or cases, or even crates, for the transportation of various articles, without any material change.

This top or cover, it may be mentioned here, may be readily raised upon one side by cutting off the heads of the nails which secure the strap upon the top or cover on that side, and drawing the nails at the ends. The cover may then be raised upon one side, like the cover of a chest, the strap upon the other side serving as a hinge. The cover may be wholly removed by drawing the nails at the ends, and cutting off the heads of the nails which secure the straps on each side.

It will be found convenient, for the purposes of removal, to have several openings in that part of the strap which comes upon the top or cover.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new therein, and my own invention, is—

1. The method, substantially as described, of securing the covers of packing boxes or cases to the boxes by straps of tin secured, first to the sides of the box or case before the packages are placed therein, and then by bending the strap over upon the cover, and securing the same thereon by nailing from the outside and clinching, at the same time, by a clincher inserted from the outside, as set forth.

2. The packing box or case constructed of thin veneers, and having the cover secured thereon by means of straps F' nailed from the outside, and adapted to be clinched upon the inside, after the box is packed and the cover is in position, by means of a proper clincher inserted from the outside, substantially as described.

This specification signed and witnessed this 21st day of September, 1877.

JOHN I. BERRY.

Witnesses:

L. W. SEELY,
R. N. DYER.