O. W. TAFT.
Bird-Cage.

No. 197,427. Patented Nov. 20, 1877.

Fig. 1.

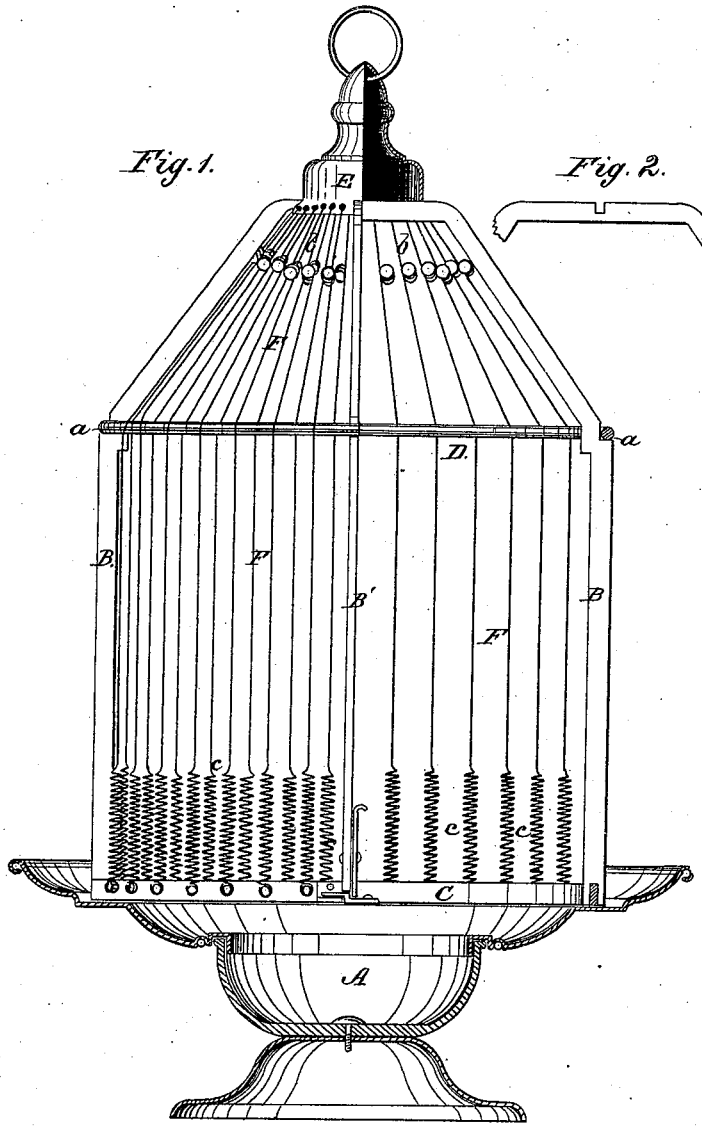


Fig. 2.

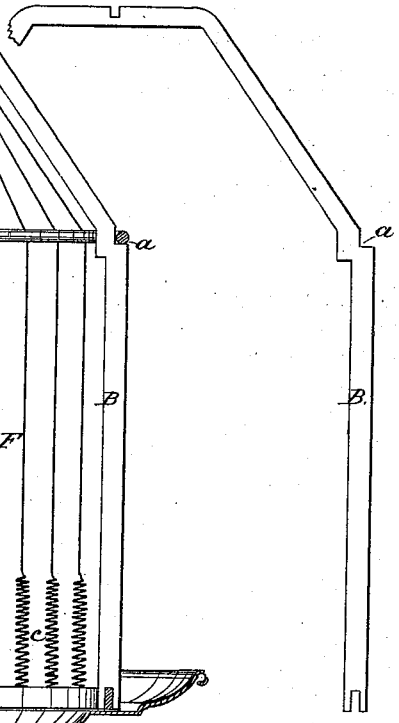
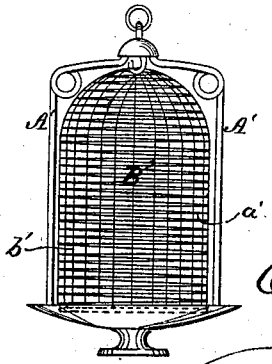


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

OWEN W. TAFT, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

IMPROVEMENT IN BIRD-CAGES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **197,427**, dated November 20, 1877; application filed November 3, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, OWEN W. TAFT, of Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Bird-Cage; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a side view of the cage with the base and one-half of the cage in vertical section. Fig. 2 is a detail of a portion of one of the standards; Fig. 3, a modification of the invention.

My invention relates to an improvement in bird-cages, designed primarily to adapt the cage to be taken to pieces and packed in a smaller compass for greater facility in transportation.

The improvement consists in a bird-cage body made in detachable parts, and arranged to be held in its complete integral form by a tension exerted, either individually or collectively, upon the several wires constituting the same.

In practicing my invention numerous modifications of the same may be made, all tending to the same result; but, by way of illustration, I will now proceed to describe those examples to which I have given preference.

Referring to the accompanying drawing, A represents any ordinary stand or base of a bird-cage, to which the cage-body constituting my invention is removably attached by hooks and lugs, keys, springs, or other suitable fastening devices.

B B B^1 B^1 are sets of vertical standards, of which there may be two sets, as shown, or more, if desired. Each pair of standards, as B B, is made in one piece, extending upward upon one side from the base-plate, thence across the conical top, and down on the other side, each pair being cut or mortised at the point where it crosses the other to make a better connection. These standards are slotted at their lower ends to form forks, which forks stand upon and embrace a substantial base-ring, C. At the bend of the standard, also between the vertical and inclined roof portions, shoulders *a* are formed, upon which shoulders, and embracing the standards, a stiff ring, D, is arranged. Now, these standards B B^1 and the rings C and D have no rigid nor permanent connection with each other. To hold them together, as well as form the cage-body, I arrange upon the apex of the cage a cap-piece, E, which rests upon the crossed upper bends of the standards; and to this cap-piece I attach the series of vertical tension-wires F. These wires have a few convolutions or coils, *b*, formed in their inclined portions, and after being distended over the ring D, upon which they are held in place by notches, they extend vertically downward, and terminate each in a spiral coil, *c*, whose lower ends are separately attached to the base-ring C by pins, hooks, or perforations. In fastening these wires, then, it will be seen that they are each first hooked into the holes of the cap-piece, and then strained and fastened to the ring C below, or fastened below, and then strained and hooked into the cap-piece. The function of these wires F, then, is double, one being to close in and form the cage-body, and the other to exert a tension which holds the ring D and standards B B^1 securely between the cap-piece E and the base-ring C, and the whole rigidly together, to form a complete bird-cage body, without special fastenings for the wires, and one in which the several parts may be quickly separated and packed, or put together and adjusted.

In the example thus described it will be seen that each wire exerts a separate and individual tension, which not only acts to hold the cage-body together, but prevents each and every wire from ever becoming bent or misplaced, the elasticity or spring of each wire allowing it to yield to pressure or blows, and afterward assume its former position.

In some examples of my detachable or folding tension bird-cage I may desire to employ the tension, not individually in each wire, as just described, but collectively on all the wires; and in such case I may employ the form shown in Fig. 3, in which A′ A′ are standards, having a cap-piece carrying a hook at the top, and B^2 is a collapsible cage-body, which is elevated and secured to the hook of the standards, and the tension is then exerted collectively upon the wires by the springing of the standards, or by a set-screw. Said cage-body may, in this case, be made in various forms—as, for

instance, it may be constructed of a single continuous conical spiral wire, a', having vertical flexible chains, links, or cords b'; or it may be formed of a series of concentric hoops or rings, held together by flexible connections after the manner of a hoop-skirt, the bottom of the cage-body B^2 being attached to a ring, as shown in dotted lines, corresponding to ring C of Fig. 1, and secured to the base in a similar or equivalent manner.

In either of these cases it will be seen that the cage-body is arranged to collapse integrally, and the tension to be exerted collectively upon all parts, while in that first described the separate tension requires the parts to be separately removed and folded or "knocked down."

Many other examples of my invention might be suggested, all of which embody the idea of a detachable folding or knock-down bird-cage body, which is held up in its completed form only by a tension exerted upon its parts, the merit of which is found in the fact that it provides a secure means of holding together its parts without rigid fastenings, and in a manner to permit their ready separability, and also allows the wires to be made much lighter and more delicate than those which depend upon their own thickness for their rigidity.

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

1. A bird-cage body made in detachable parts, and arranged to be held in its complete integral form by a tension exerted upon its wires, substantially as and for the purpose described.

2. The combination of the shouldered standards B B^1, the notched ring D, the cap-piece E, the base-ring C, and the tension-wires F, formed with spiral coils, and arranged to hold the parts together, substantially as described.

The above specification of my invention signed by me this 2d day of November, 1877.

OWEN W. TAFT.

Witnesses:
EDWD. W. BYRN,
CHAS. A. PETTIT.