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A.D. 1867, 4th MARCH. N<sup>o</sup> 603.

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Needle Cases.

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**LETTERS PATENT** to James William Lewis, of Birmingham, in the County of Warwick, Die Sinker, and George Archbold, of Handsworth, in the County of Stafford, Rouge Manufacturer, for the Invention of "**IMPROVEMENTS IN NEEDLE CASES.**"

Sealed the 23rd August 1867, and dated the 4th March 1867.

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**PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION** left by the said James William Lewis and George Archbold at the Office of the Commissioners of Patents, with their Petition, on the 4th March 1867.

We, **JAMES WILLIAM LEWIS**, of Birmingham, in the County of Warwick, Die Sinker, and **GEORGE ARCHBOLD**, of Handsworth, in the County of Stafford, Rouge Manufacturer, do hereby declare the nature of the said Invention for "**IMPROVEMENTS IN NEEDLE CASES,**" to be as follows:—

Our Invention consists in constructing and arranging the parts of needle cases in the manner herein-after described, whereby needles of different sorts or sizes are compactly stored while ready access to them is obtained. We make a series of flat cases of sheet metal of a size proper to receive the ordinary packets of needles; the said flat cases have a semicircular piece cut from their top open ends for facilitating the introduction and removal of the packets of needles, and near the middle of one side of each of the said cases an elliptical opening may be cut for the purpose of exhibiting the numbers on the packets of needles; the said flat cases of sheet metal are hinged together

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at their sides, and close and fold upon one another in a manner similar to that in which folding lockets and maps fold or close; a plate of metal is hinged to each end of the series of hinged flat cases; these plates, when the series of cases are folded, constitute covers or flaps which cover and protect the flat cases; clasps on one of the said flaps or covers engage with the ends of the 5 other flap or cover and secure the needle case in its folded condition and prevent the falling out of the needles; these flaps or covers may be made ornamental. On disengaging the clasps the series of hinged flat cases may be opened out so as to display the series of packets in the said cases.

**SPECIFICATION** in pursuance of the conditions of the Letters Patent, filed 10 by the said James William Lewis and George Archbold in the Great Seal Patent Office on the 27th August 1867.

**TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME**, we, JAMES WILLIAM LEWIS, of Birmingham, in the County of Warwick, Die Sinker, and GEORGE ARCHBOLD, of Handsworth, in the County of Stafford, Rouge Manu- 15 facturer, send greeting.

**WHEREAS** Her most Excellent Majesty Queen Victoria, by Her Letters Patent, bearing date the Fourth day of March, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven, in the thirtieth year of Her reign, did, for Herself, Her heirs and successors, give and grant unto us, the 20 said James William Lewis and George Archbold, Her special licence that we, the said James William Lewis and George Archbold, our executors, administrators, and assigns, or such others as we, the said James William Lewis and George Archbold, our executors, administrators, and assigns, should 25 at any time agree with, and no others, from time to time and at all times thereafter during the term therein expressed, should and lawfully might make, use, exercise, and vend, within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Channel Islands, and Isle of Man, an Invention for "**IMPROVEMENTS IN NEEDLE CASES,**" upon the condition (amongst others) that we, the said James William Lewis and George Archbold, our executors or administrators, by an 30 instrument in writing under our or their hands and seals, or under the hand and seal of one of us or them, should particularly describe and ascertain the nature of the said Invention, and in what manner the same was to be performed, and cause the same to be filed in the Great Seal Patent Office within six calendar months next and immediately after the date of the said 35 Letters Patent.

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NOW KNOW YE, that I, the said James William Lewis, on behalf of myself and the said George Archbold, do hereby declare the nature of the said Invention, and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement thereof,  
5 that is to say:—

Our Invention consists in constructing and arranging the parts of needle cases in the manner herein-after described, whereby needles of different sorts or sizes are compactly stored while ready access to them is obtained. We make a series of flat cases of sheet metal of a size proper to receive the  
10 ordinary packets of needles; the said flat cases have a semicircular piece cut from their top open ends for facilitating the introduction and removal of the packets of needles, and near the middle of one side of each of the said cases an elliptical opening may be cut for the purpose of exhibiting the numbers on the packets of needles; the said flat cases of sheet metal are hinged together  
15 at their sides, and close and fold upon one another in a manner similar to that in which folding lockets and maps fold or close; a plate of metal is hinged to each end of the series of hinged flat cases; these plates, when the series of cases are folded, constitute covers or flaps which cover and protect the flat cases; clasps on one of the said flaps or covers engage with the ends of the  
20 other flap or cover and secure the needle case in its folded condition; and prevent the falling out of the needles; these flaps or covers may be made ornamental. On disengaging the clasps the series of hinged flat cases may be opened out so as to display the series of packets in the said cases.

Having explained the nature of our Invention we will proceed to describe,  
25 with reference to the accompanying Drawing, the manner in which the same is to be performed.

Figure 1 represents in elevation a compound needle case constructed according to our Invention, and Figure 2 is an edge view of the same, the said needle case being open; Figure 3 is a side elevation, and Figure 4 a  
30 front elevation of the said case after it has been folded up and fastened, as herein-after described; Figures 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 are portions of the needle case. The same letters of reference are employed to indicate the same parts in each Figure of the Drawing.

The said needle case consists of a series of flat cases of sheet metal marked *a*,  
35 the said cases being constructed in the manner herein-after explained. In the cases *a* the ordinary packets of needles *b*, *b*<sup>2</sup>, are placed; a semicircular opening *c* is made near the top open end of each case for facilitating the introduction of the packets of needles into or removing them from the said cases *a*, and an elliptical opening may also be made in the front of each of the

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cases *a*; as indicated in dotted lines in Figure 1, for the purpose of exhibiting the numbers on the packets of needles, or the numbers or sizes of the needles of the packets placed in the cases may be marked outside the cases *a*. The series of flat cases *a* are hinged together at their longer sides, in the manner herein-  
after explained, so that they are capable of closing and folding upon one 5  
another in the manner represented in Figure 3. Each of the flat cases *a* is made of two plates of sheet metal represented in side elevation and end elevation in Figures 5 and 6. The plate *d*, Figure 5, consists of a shallow trough made by bending up the sides and bottom of the plate at right angles to the other part, the said trough-like plate having a series of eyes or joint 10  
pieces on its longer sides, and the other plate, Figure 6, consists of a flat plate also having a series of eyes or joint pieces on its longer sides. The two plates *d*, *e*, being placed upon one another in the manner represented in end elevation in Figure 7, one of the flat cases *a* is formed having on its opposite 15  
sides a series of eyes or joint pieces. By engaging or fitting together the eyes or joint pieces of the respective flat cases *a*, and passing pins or axes through the said eyes or joint pieces the said cases are jointed together, the said pins or axes also securing together the two plates of which each case is composed. In order to ensure the folding flat of the series of cases upon one another they 20  
are so jointed together that every alternate case is not in the same line or plane as those on either side of it, as will be understood by an examination of Figure 2. By jointing the cases *a* together in this way, when the said cases are folded up, the hollow side of one case folds upon or engages with the projecting side of that next it, so that no spaces are left between the said folded cases, and great compactness is thereby secured. To the end cases of the 25  
series plates *f*, *g*, are hinged, the said plates *f*, *g*, when the cases *a* are folded upon one another constituting covers or flaps, as represented in Figure 4, which cover and protect the folded flat cases. The flaps or covers *f*, *g*, are shown separately in Figures 8 and 9; to the end plate or cover *f* clasps *h*, *h*, are hinged, and in the top and bottom of the other end plate or cover *f* slots 30  
or piercings *i*, *i*, are made. Figure 10 represents a separate view of one of the clasps *h* and the blank from which it is made. After the flat cases *a* have been folded upon one another, by then engaging the hooks *h*<sup>2</sup> of the cover *f* with the slots or piercings *i*, *i*, of the cover *g* the compound needle case is secured in its folded condition, and the top and bottom of the case are at the 35  
same time closed, as represented in Figure 3; the packets of needles are thus prevented from falling out of their cases. When it is wished to gain access to the needles in the compound case the clasps *h*, *h*, of the cover *f* are disengaged from the cover *g*, when the series of flat cases *a* may be opened

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out so as to display the series of packets in the said cases, and one or other of the said packets may be drawn from its case in the manner illustrated in Figure 1, and access obtained to the needles.

When the size of the packets of needles to be held in the flat cases *a* is 5 less than that of the case, as in the packet marked *b*<sup>s</sup>, in Figure 1, we insert in the cases filling up pieces made of cardboard or other rigid material. A filling-up piece of the kind we employ is represented in Figure 11, and is indicated in dotted lines in Figure 1. The end covers or flaps *f*, *g*, and the flat cases *a* may be ornamented by stamping or chasing, or in any other desired 10 way, and the said parts may be made of any metal or alloy capable of being cut out and stamped, or raised in dies, or fashioned by hand.

We do not limit ourselves to any particular number of flat cases hinged or jointed together to form the compound needle case.

Having now described the nature of our Invention, and the manner in 15 which the same is to be performed, we wish it to be understood that we do not limit ourselves to the precise details herein described, as the same may be varied without departing from the nature of our Invention; but we claim as our Invention the improvements in needle cases, herein-before described and illustrated in the accompanying Drawing, that is to say, making compound 20 needle cases of a series of flat cases of sheet metal, open at top and hinged or jointed together so as to be capable of being opened out or displayed, or closed or folded upon one another and fastened together, substantially as described and illustrated.

In witness whereof, I, the said James William Lewis, have hereunto set 25 my hand and seal, this Twenty-sixth day of August, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven.

JAMES WILLIAM LEWIS. (L.S.)

Witness,

RICHARD SKERRETT,

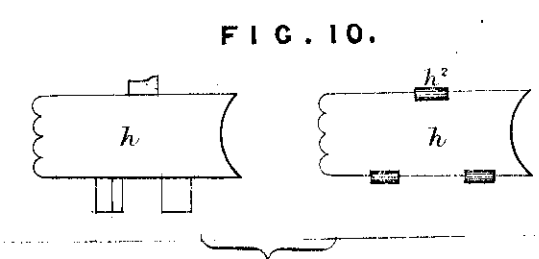
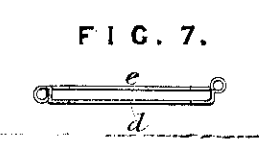
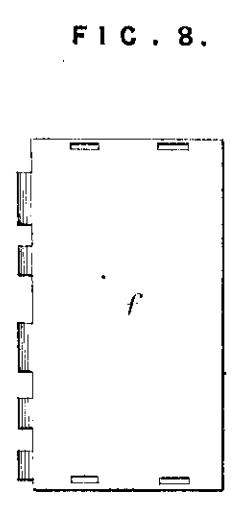
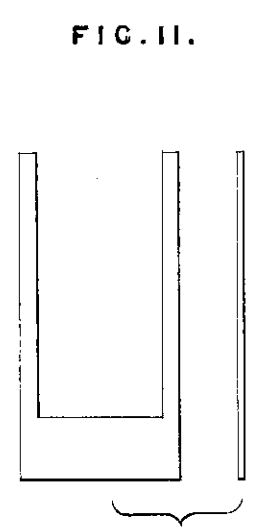
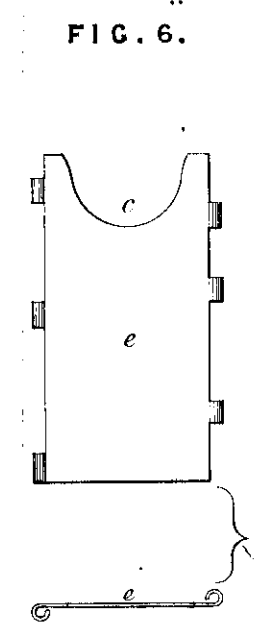
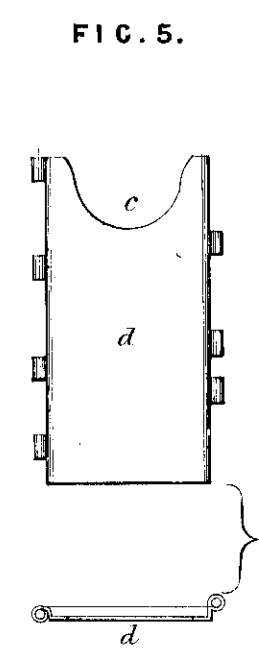
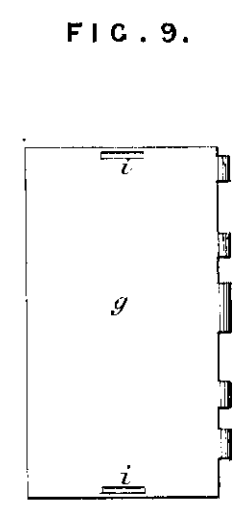
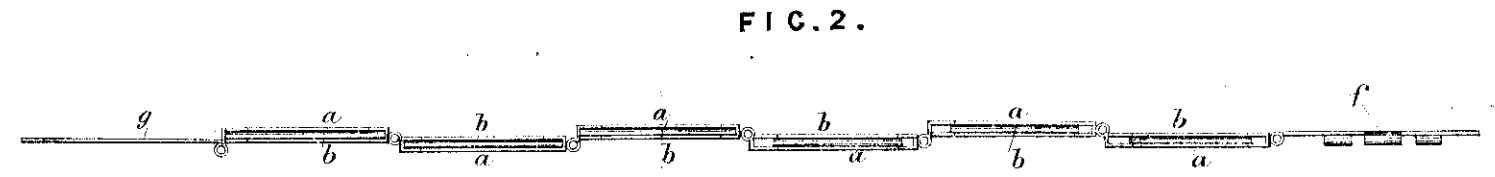
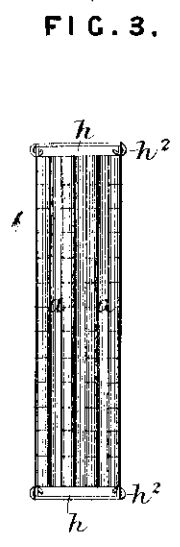
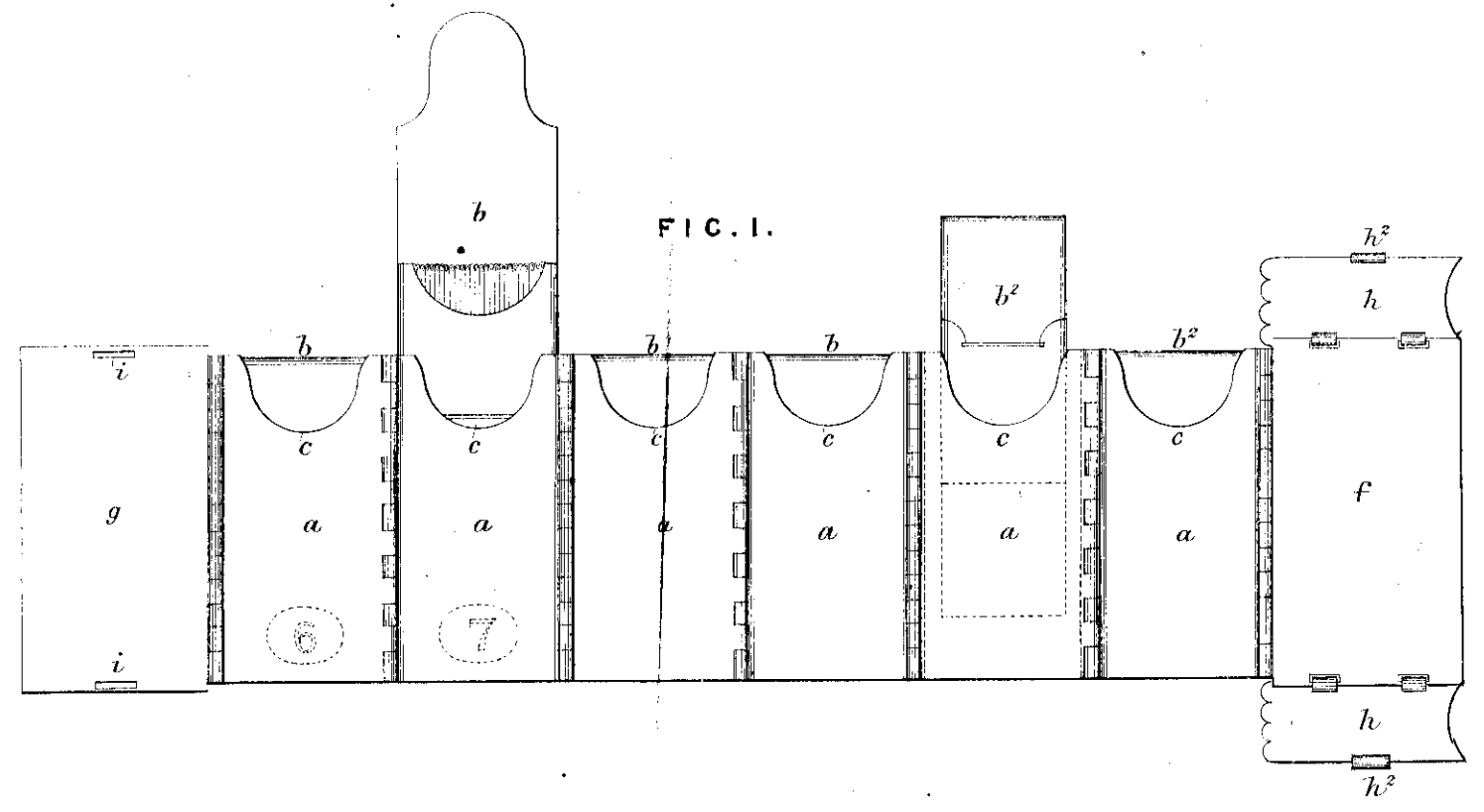
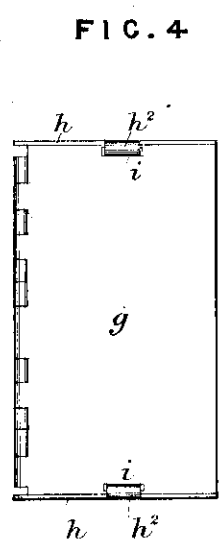
30 Clerk to George Shaw,  
Birmingham.

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LONDON:

Printed by GEORGE EDWARD EYRE and WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,  
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty. 1867.

A.D. 1867. MAR. 4. N<sup>o</sup> 603.  
LEWIS & ARCHIBOLD'S SPECIFICATION.



The filed drawing is partly colored.

Drawn on Stone by Malby & Sons.