

Oct. 2, 1934.

J. DOLEMAN

1,975,198

COFFIN

Filed March 3, 1934

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

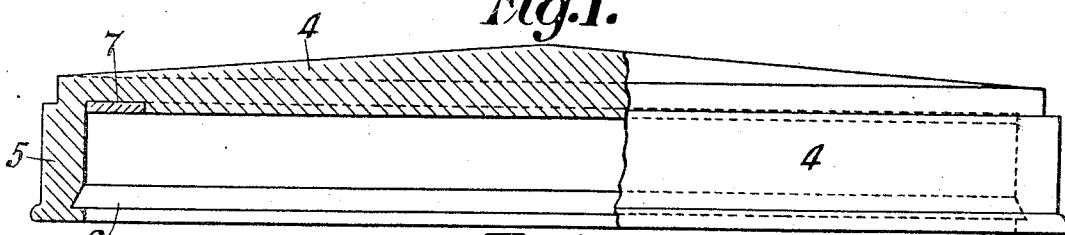


Fig. 2.

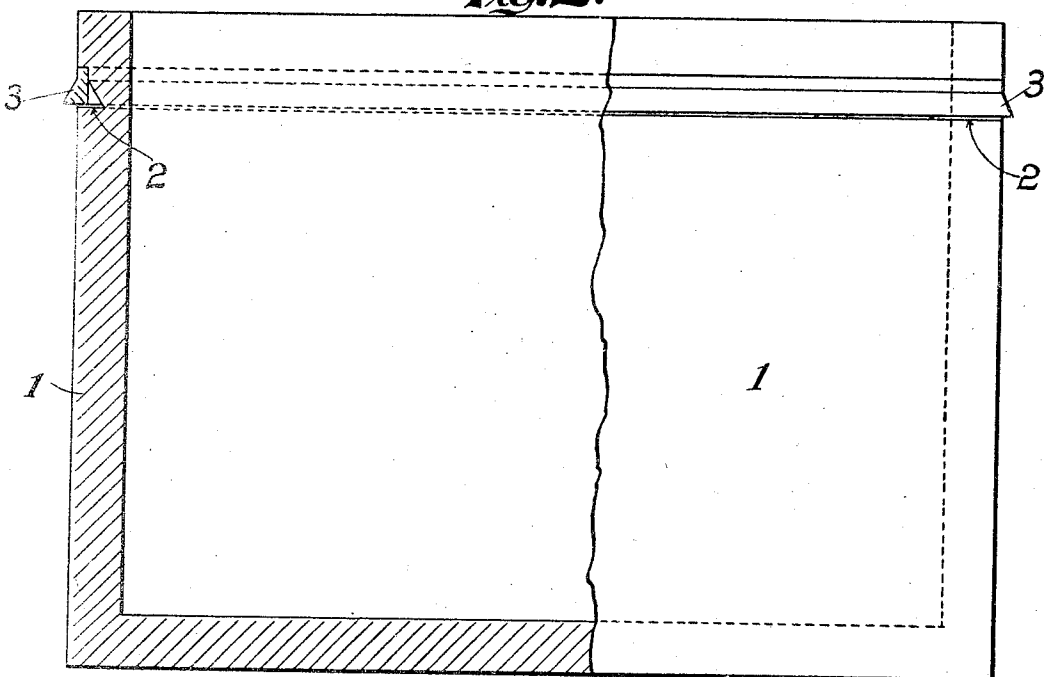


Fig. 3.

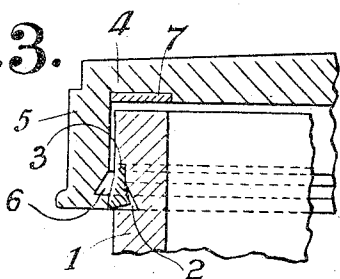


Fig. 4.

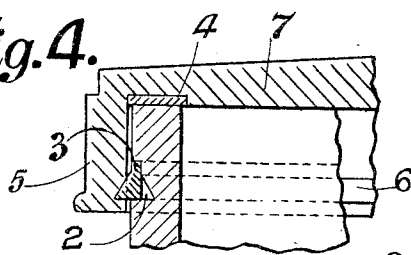


Fig. 6.

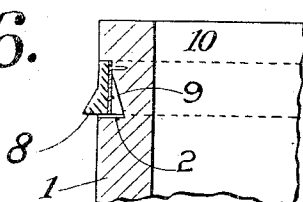
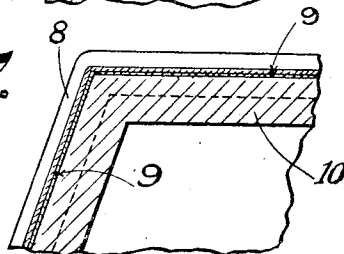


Fig. 7.



Inventor.
James Doleman.
per Ferdinand Broder Donhardt
Attorney.

Oct. 2, 1934.

J. DOLEMAN

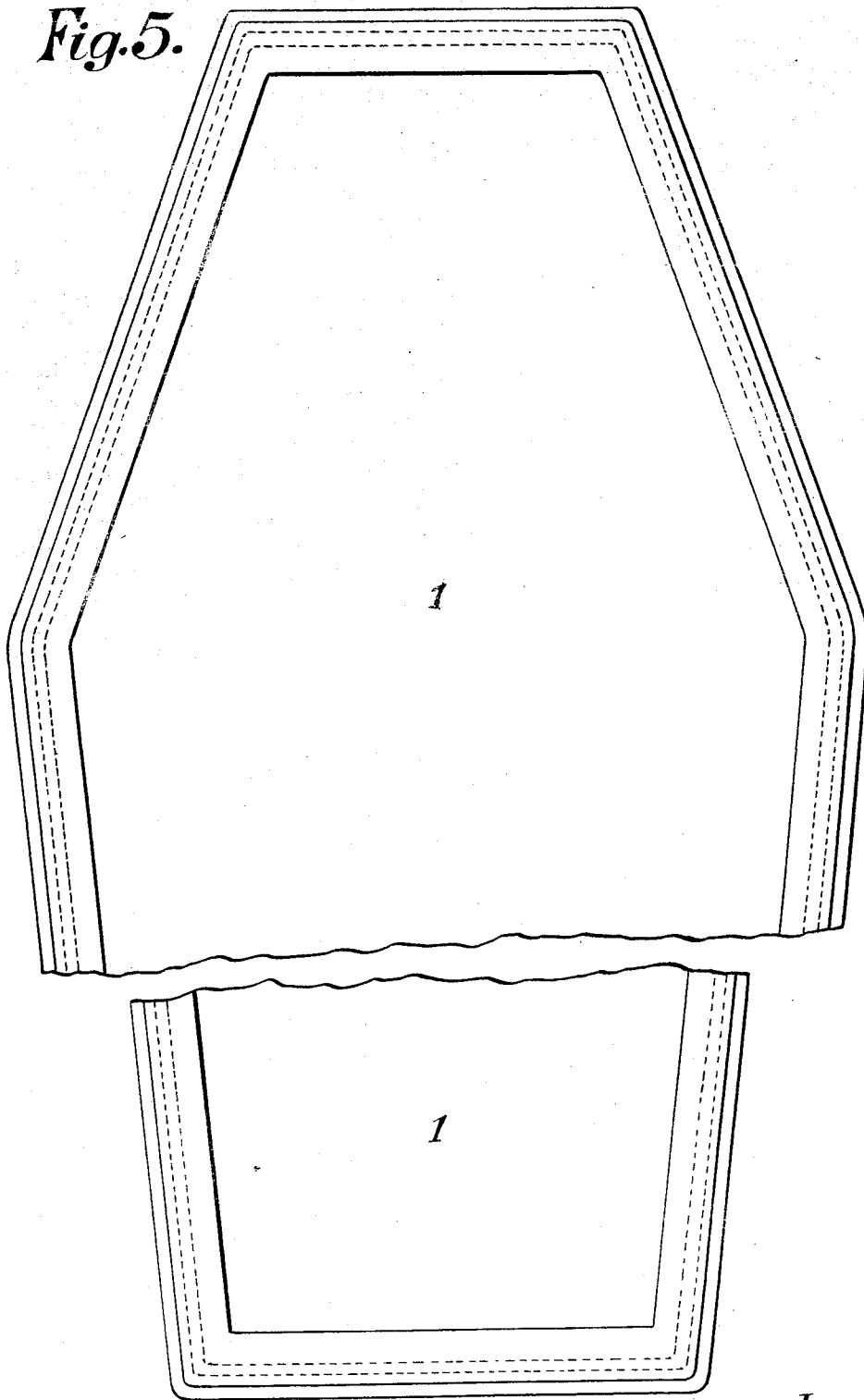
1,975,198

COFFIN

Filed March 3, 1934

2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 5.



Inventor.
James Doleman.
per Ferdinand Proster Boshardt
Attorney.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

1,975,198

COFFIN

James Doeman, Oldham, England, assignor of one-fourth to John Fletcher, Ashton-under-Lyne, one-fourth to James Beesley, and one-fourth to Stanley Street, Mossley, England

Application March 3, 1934, Serial No. 713,911
In Great Britain October 12, 1932

3 Claims. (Cl. 27-17)

This invention relates to coffins and has for its object to provide a novel construction which is cheaper to produce than hitherto and is rot-proof and leak-proof and can be closed very easily and quickly.

Previous to my invention it has been proposed in a coffin stamped out of sheet metal, for the purpose of enabling it to be hermetically sealed without the aid of screws etc., to provide the coffin body with a lap round its upper edge containing a rubber band and adapted to have a flange round the edge of the coffin lid sprung into it and press against the rubber band. It has also been proposed in tin boxes and like containers to provide a rubber gasket between the box and the lid to assist in sealing. Furthermore it has been proposed in boxes to provide securing and sealing means comprising a rubber ring alternately engaging two external grooves in the box and also engaging an internal groove in the flange of the lid when the lid is in position.

A coffin in accordance with my invention comprises a body and lid each moulded in one piece from a non-metallic substance and secured together by an automatic catch means which acts also as a sealing means.

The body and lid may be of moulded powder containing comminuted wood pulp and resin or the like for example the powder sold under the registered trade-mark "Bakelite", or other light, mouldable material.

The automatic catch means may comprise a continuous band of rubber or the like, having its lower part enlarged in cross-section and held in a groove provided in the coffin body, the groove being deepened at its lower part in cross section to accommodate the enlarged part as the coffin lid is placed on, and the lid having a flange provided with a channel for the enlarged part to spring into and thereby secure and seal the lid.

A gasket of rubber or other yielding material may be provided between the upper edge of the coffin body and the inner surface of the top of the coffin lid.

I accomplish the said object by the construction illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein—

Figure 1 is an end view, partly in section, of a coffin lid.

Figure 2 is an end view, partly in section, of a coffin body.

Figure 3 is a detached fragmentary end view, in section showing the lid partly engaged with the coffin body.

Figure 4 is a detached fragmentary end view in

section showing the lid portion completely engaged with the coffin body.

Figure 5 is a fragmentary plan view of the coffin body.

Figure 6 is a detached fragmentary end view in section of part of a coffin body and illustrates a modification.

Figure 7 is a detached fragmentary plan view in section of a part of the last named coffin body.

Referring to Figures 1 to 5 of the drawings, in the construction shown therein I mould a seamless coffin body 1 from the said powder or other light mouldable material and furnish the exterior thereof with any desired relief or intaglio decoration and with handles (not shown) by the moulding operation. Different colours of powder may be employed for different parts of the coffin body 1.

A continuous groove is moulded round the exterior of the coffin body 1 during the moulding thereof. The base 2 of the groove has a part which is parallel with the coffin body sides and a part which slants inwardly from the parallel part thus producing a deeper part.

A continuous ring 3 of resilient or soft rubber is provided and has an upper portion which fits exactly in that part of the groove where the parallel part of the base 2 is situated. The lower portion of the ring 3 has an outer surface which slants outwardly and in a downward direction. The inner face being a continuation of the surface of the said parallel part. The groove and ring 3 in cross-section are therefore shaped like a dovetail with a spread at one side only, the spread of the groove being at the opposite side to the spread of the ring 3.

The ring 3 is inserted in a stretched state in the continuous groove.

A seamless lid 4 is moulded in one piece from similar material and may also have ornamentations moulded thereon and comprise materials of different colours. The lid 4 has a deep flange 5 in which a continuous triangular channel 6 is provided interiorly. The channel 6 is adapted to register with the lower part of the ring 3 when the lid 4 is in position. A rubber gasket 7 may be provided in the lid 4 or in the upper rim of the body 1 to lie between them.

Owing to the absence of seams and the nature of the material employed it is unnecessary to line the body 1 or lid 4 with lead or the like.

When the lid 4 is placed on the body the flange 5 slides down the outside of the body 1. As the lid 4 is pressed home, the inner surface thereof forces the lower part of the ring 3 into the

deeper part of the groove in the body 1, see Figure 3, and therefore the ring 3 does not interfere with the passage of the flange 5 thereover. When the lid 4 is pressed into the fully closed position the triangular channel 6 therein registers with the lower part of the ring 3 and the said part springs outwardly to again occupy its original position, where it now engages the triangular channel 6 and holds the lid 4 tightly in the closed position, see Figure 4. The ring 3 also forms an air and liquid tight seal between the body 1 and the lid 4. It will be observed that screws for securing the lid are rendered unnecessary.

Figures 6 and 7 illustrate a modification in the form of closure ring. In these figures the continuous rubber ring 8 is mounted on spring strips 9 each extending from one corner to the next of the coffin body 10. The strips 9 are secured to the body 10 at the upper part of a continuous external groove provided in the body and of similar shape to that described with reference to the construction shown in Figures 1 to 5. The ring acts in a similar manner to the ring 3, the only difference being that the ring 3 acts entirely by its own resiliency to yield and then enter the channel in the lid whereas the ring 8 yields and then enters the said channel by virtue of the resiliency of the spring strips 9.

I claim—
 1. A self-sealing automatic catch for coffins and the like, comprising an endless element of sealing material to be seated in a groove in the outer surface of the coffin body below the upper edge, the element being laterally enlarged in its lower portion to normally project beyond the side edge of the coffin body, the groove in the body being inwardly enlarged throughout an appropriate height to permit the element to be moved inwardly to dispose the enlarged portion substantially flush with the surface of the body, the lid of the coffin being formed on its inner surface with a channel to receive the enlarged portion of the element when the groove and channel are substantially aligned, that portion of the lid below the channel serving to displace the element, in part, into the enlarged portion of the groove to permit the free edge of the lid to pass the element in the application of the lid without substantial distortion of the element.

2. An automatic self-sealing catch for coffins and the like, including an element having a lower sealing surface of endless form to seat in a groove

in the exterior wall of the coffin body below the upper edge thereof, the element having a lateral extension with a downwardly and outwardly inclined upper face designed to project beyond the surface of the coffin body when the element is within the groove, said groove being inwardly enlarged to permit bodily movement of the enlarged portion of the element inwardly of the groove to permit the enlarged portion of the element to be substantially flush with the outer surface of the coffin body adjacent the element, the lid of the coffin being formed with a channel substantially commensurate with the size and formation of the element enlargement with the channel arranged to align with the enlargement when the lid is in place, that portion of the lid below the channel serving to displace the element in the application of the lid into the enlarged portion of the groove in the application of the lid, the enlarged portion of the element moving outwardly into the channel in the lid when the channel and groove are aligned, whereby the element is seated in the groove and channel to form an interlock and bridges the space between the inner surface of the lid and the outer surface of the body to form a seal.

3. An automatically acting self-sealing catch for coffins and the like, including a sealing and locking element in endless form to seat in an endless groove in the outer surface of the coffin body below the upper edge thereof, the lower portion of the element being laterally enlarged, and means carried by the element to insure the projection of the enlargement of the element beyond the adjacent surface of the coffin body when the element is free of inward pressure, the groove being inwardly enlarged to provide a space for the movement of the enlarged portion of the element inwardly to dispose the free edge of the enlargement substantially flush with the adjacent surface of the body of the coffin, the lid of the coffin being formed with a channel on the inner surface to be aligned with the groove when the lid is applied, said channel being of a size and shape to receive the enlarged portion of the element under the pressure of the means carried by the element when the lid is in applied position, that portion of the lid below the channel serving to deflect the element against the tension of the means carried thereby into the enlarged portion of the groove during application of the lid.

JAMES DOLEMAN.

55
60
65
70
75

80
85
90
95
100
105
110
115
120
125
130
135
140
145
150