

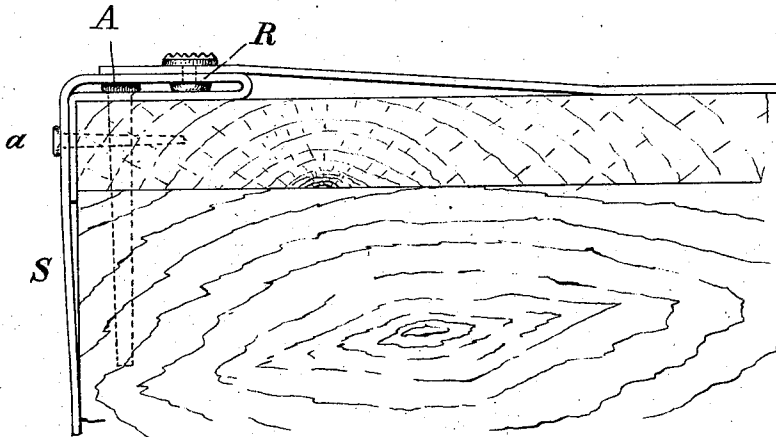
(No Model.)

F. W. BLACKER.  
SEALED BINDING STRAP.

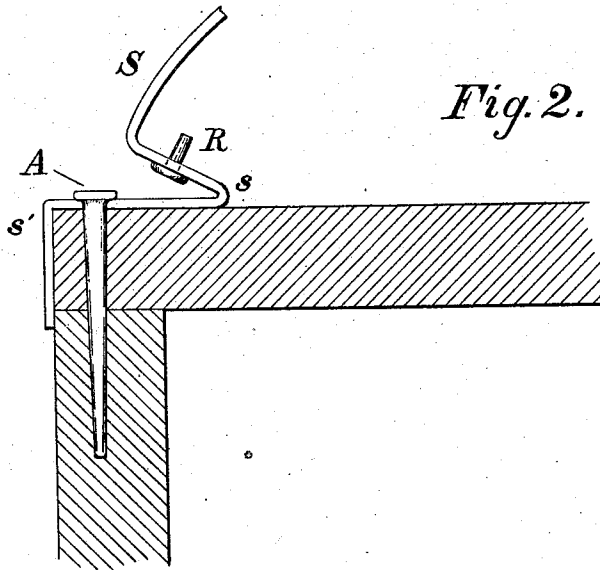
No. 291.025.

Patented Jan. 1, 1884.

*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*



WITNESSES.

*Herbert C. Hastings*  
*Lincoln Holland.*

INVENTOR.

*Francis W. Blacker*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANCIS W. BLACKER, OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS.

## SEALED BINDING-STRAP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 291,025, dated January 1, 1884.

Application filed October 18, 1883. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, FRANCIS W. BLACKER, of Worcester, Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Sealed Binding-Strap, of which the following is a specification, the annexed drawings forming a part thereof.

My invention relates to an improvement in the binding-straps commonly put around boxes and other cases of merchandise to add to their security, whereby these straps may be sealed in such a manner that they cannot be removed without the knowledge of the parties sending or receiving the articles so sealed, thus protecting inclosed goods from being tampered with or stolen while in transit.

The accompanying drawings illustrate this improvement as affixed to an ordinary packing-box, one corner of the box and a portion of the strap only being shown.

Figure 1 shows the strap in position and sealed. Fig. 2 shows the strap in process of being applied.

This process is as follows: One end of the strap S, Fig. 2, is fastened, as at *s'*, by a nail, A, or its equivalent driven into the box or case to be protected, the free end of the strap being shown bent back for this purpose. The strap is then bent back upon itself, as at *s*, a rivet, R, having been previously inserted in a hole made for the purpose. The free end is drawn around the box and lapped over the part already doubled, receiving the rivet R in a suitably-made hole, the rivet being then headed down, preferably onto a washer, as shown in Fig. 1.

In drawing the strap around the box, there is a liability of the doubled end, *s* Fig. 2, pulling up, to prevent which a nail, A, Fig. 1, is driven through the strap to receive the strain.

In order to get at the contents of a box protected by straps, it is necessary to remove them, and as ordinarily put on it is an easy matter to do this and replace them, so as not to show that they have been tampered with.

My improved strap can be removed only by destroying the rivet, or drawing the nail and slipping off the strap sidewise. The nail being near the edge of the box, the strap being wide enough to prevent pulling the nail up by its edge, and the rivet as near the nail-head as

it can be conveniently inserted, it follows that the nail cannot be withdrawn without destroying the rivet, or by so marring the strap as to show at once that it had been tampered with. So long as the rivet remains intact the nail must remain in place, and the strap can neither be unwrapped from the box nor slipped off sidewise.

From the fact that it would be a matter beyond the skill of the ordinary thief to remove the rivet and replace it with a new one without leaving tell-tale marks on the strap, the plain rivet amounts to a practical protection; but to make it complete, I impress the headed part of the rivet with the forwarder's seal or device by means of a steel punch, as indicated by the serrations in Fig. 1. In order to replace these rivets, the thief must possess a punch, and, if such duplication should exist, the forwarder can change his device as often as necessary. This arrangement of strap and the combination of the strap with a nail and plain rivet amounts to a practical protection of the contents of any case having it properly applied, and with the sealed rivet the arrangement becomes a complete preventive of petty thieving, and is capable of limiting the operations of the most expert thief to a single act by an immediate change of the sealing device, as before described.

I prefer using a soft-metal rivet to more readily obtain a large-faced head for the reception of the seal, and to more readily receive the sealing impress.

Instead of the nail a screw or any equivalent fastening may be used. The rivet may also be replaced by any device capable of fastening down the strap end and receiving a seal which must be destroyed and obliterated in order to free the strap end.

It is obvious that this device and method of protection are applicable to all kinds of cases and receptacles in which merchandise is transported, by slight modifications, and may be used with straps of various materials.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secured by Letters Patent, is—

1. A strap bent back upon itself forming a space between the two parts of the strap, in which space is inclosed the head of a nail or its equivalent, in combination with said nail

and a rivet which fastens one end of said strap to the doubled end, the whole arranged substantially as and for the purpose specified.

5 2. The method of securing and sealing binding-straps by means of a nail or its equivalent, having its head inclosed in the space formed between two parts of the strap by bending said strap back upon itself, and a rivet by which one end of the strap is fastened to the doubled  
10 end, arranged substantially as and for the purpose specified.

3. The method of sealing binding-straps by

means of a nail, having its head inclosed in the space formed between two parts of the strap by bending said strap back upon itself, and a rivet uniting the end with the doubled part of the said strap, which rivet is impressed with a sealing device, substantially as and for the purpose specified. 15

F. W. BLACKER.

Witnesses:

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EDWARD F. TOLMAN.