

Nov. 3, 1925.

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H. S. BECKER ET AL
TOY MAIL BAG LOADING MECHANISM

Filed Dec. 8, 1924

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

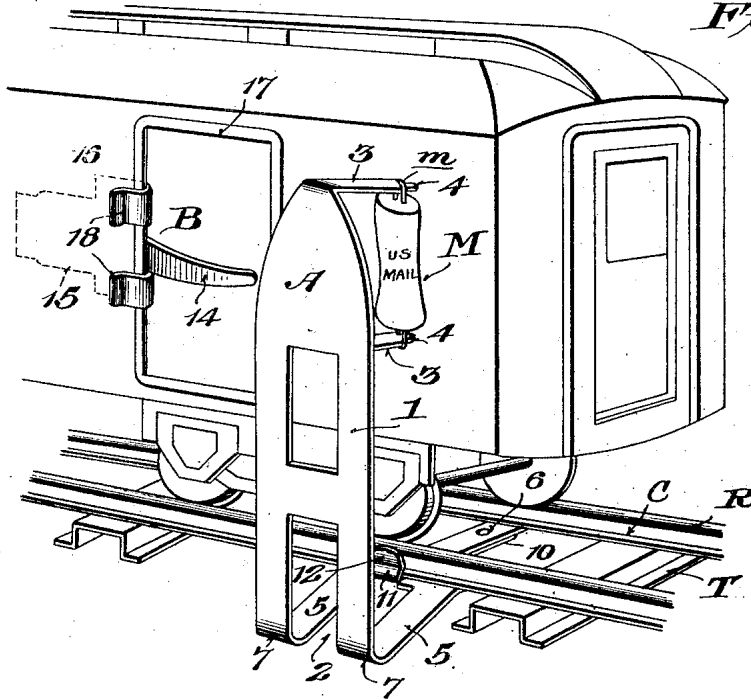
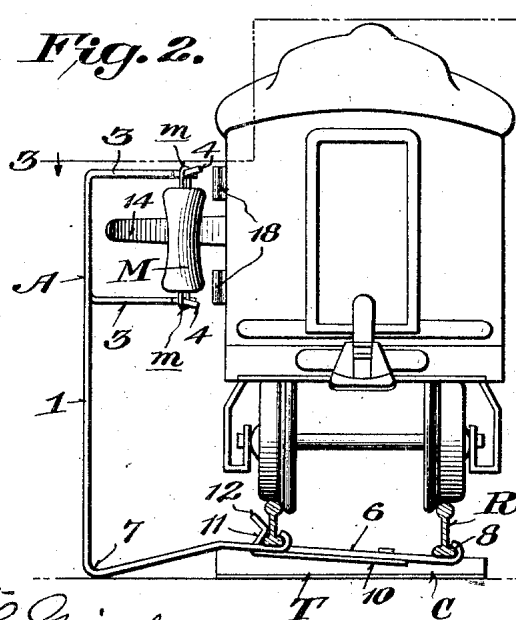


Fig. 2.



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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 3.

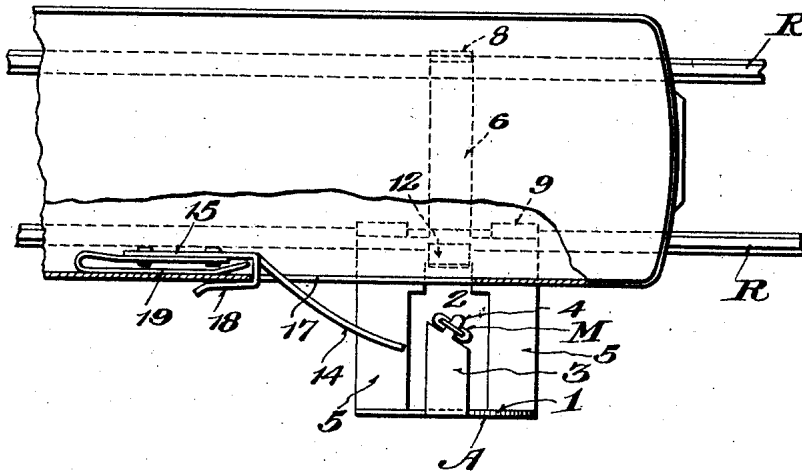


Fig. 5.

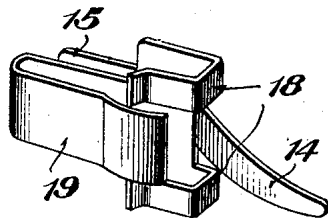


Fig. 4.

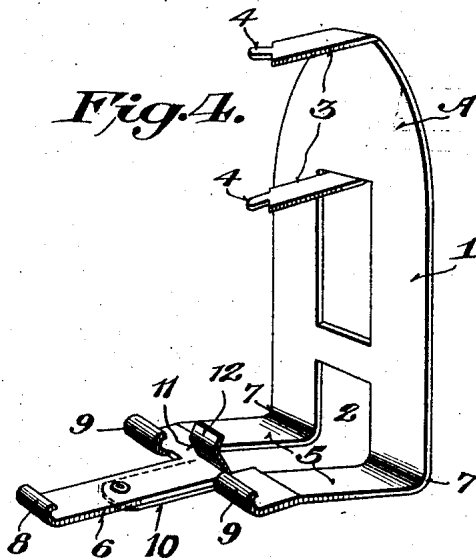
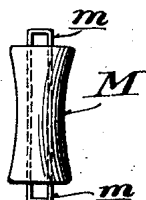


Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HARRY S. BECKER, OF RIVER FOREST, AND EARL BOISSELIER AND GUY F. SCHUMACHER, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNORS TO AMERICAN FLYER MANUFACTURING COMPANY, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, A CORPORATION OF ILLINOIS.

TOY MAIL-BAG-LOADING MECHANISM.

Application filed December 8, 1924. Serial No. 754,590.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, HARRY S. BECKER, EARL BOISSELIER, and GUY F. SCHUMACHER, citizens of the United States, residing, respectively, at River Forest and Chicago and Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Toy Mail-Bag-Loading Mechanism, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to toy railways, and more particularly to a toy mail bag loading mechanism adapted for use in connection with mechanically or electrically operated trains.

A primary object of the invention is to provide a toy device that will simulate the operation and action of automatic mail bag loading apparatus of the type usually employed in railway mail service. That is to say, the invention has in view a toy mail bag support and car-carried loading device arranged on the car in such a way that the mail bag suspended adjacent to track-way will be automatically removed from its support and thrown into the mail car in a positive and effective manner as the train passes the loading station.

A further object of the invention is to provide a device that may be readily and quickly attached to the car and to the track-way by any boy or inexperienced person, thereby providing an exceedingly practical accessory which may be used in connection with any part of the track, and which permits of using as many supports along the track as desired, thereby increasing the amusement afforded by having a number of loading stations along the track-way.

With the above and other objects in view which will more readily appear as the nature of the invention is better understood, the same consists in the novel construction, and combination of parts hereinafter more particularly referred to, illustrated and claimed.

A preferred and practical embodiment of the invention is shown in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view illustrating the application of a preferred form of the invention.

Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view of the construction shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a horizontal sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the mail bag support.

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the mail bag catcher or loader.

Fig. 6 is a detail elevation of a mail bag.

Similar reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout the several figures of the drawings.

In carrying the present invention into effect, it is proposed to provide a toy mail bag arranged to be held in position in a suitable support affixed to the track along which the train travels, and a device carried by the car and including an arm disposed in such a manner that it will engage the mail bag as the car passes it to thereby automatically remove the mail bag from its support and throw it into the car.

Accordingly, it is proposed to provide a mail bag support designated generally as A and a mail bag catching device B carried by the car, the said support A being attached to the track C, which track includes the rails R upon which the train travels and the ties T for connecting the same. In the latter connection, however, it will be understood that it is within the scope of the invention to arrange the support in such a way that it is not connected to the track, although it is preferred to use the track as a convenient means for anchoring the support so as to enable it to withstand the pulling force incident to the removal of the bag. In attaching the support A to the track, it will, of course be understood that it is immaterial what part of the track carries the same so long as it is positioned adjacent to the path of the moving trains.

In the construction shown in Fig. 1, the body of mail bag support A is preferably made of a single piece of stamped metal for economy and convenience and includes a vertical part or standard 1 and an angularly disposed clamping base designated generally as 2. At one side, this standard is provided with the spaced offset arms 3 which may be formed from the body and have a tendency to spring apart, either due to their inherent resiliency, or its equivalent, thereby frictionally to engage the end loops *m* of a mail bag M on the hooks formed at the

ends of said arms. To facilitate the removal of the mail bag M by the mail bag catcher B on the moving train, the said hooks 4 are preferably inclined at an angle to the arms, the said inclination being in the direction of movement or path of travel of the train.

The clamping base 2 is preferably disposed in a generally horizontal position, and the embodiment shown consists of the angularly disposed portions 5 and 6, the former providing a bearing foot 7 where it joins with the standard 1, thereby to take a bearing on the floor or other support for the track. This arrangement stabilizes the standard 1 and prevents twisting or rocking thereof when the mail bag is engaged by the mail bag catcher on the car. The inclined portion 6, previously referred to includes the hook-like upstanding rail engaging jaws 8 and 9, the former being adapted to engage the base flange of an outside track rail R and the latter being adapted to engage the base flange at the inner or gauge side of the opposite rail. These rail engaging jaws 8 and 9 are adapted to cooperate with a spring locking or clamping member 10 which is riveted or otherwise secured to the part 6 at one end while its opposite end is formed into a movable rail clamping jaw 11, and a finger engaging portion 12 thereby to facilitate the affixing and disengaging of the clamp to the rails of the track.

With the foregoing arrangement it will be apparent that the relatively horizontal base of the mail bag support includes a track clamp having jaws for releasably engaging the rails R of the track in such a manner that the entire mail bag support A may be placed at any point along the track-way, and also permits of using as many mail bag supports as desired with facility, and without in any way interfering with the normal track assembly.

The mail bag catching device B preferably consists of a mail bag engaging and throwing arm 14 which is carried by a suitable attaching clip 15 for securing the arm to the car wall 16 at one side of the door opening 17. This clip preferably comprises a body portion having the spaced out-turned hook portions 18 and an intermediate clamping spring 19 which is adapted to be compressed against the inside of the car when the clip is positioned as shown in Figs. 1 and 3, while the hook members 18 engage the side edge of the door opening and also the outside face of the car wall.

The mail bag engaging arm 14 is formed of spring-metal and normally projects outwardly and forwardly from one edge of the door opening 17 as clearly shown in Figs. 1 and 3. As the car or train travels along the track the arm 14 is intended to engage with a mail sack M suspended from the hooks 4—4 of the supporting arms 3. Since the

arms 3—3 are compressed by the placing of the mail sack thereon to temporarily hold or restrain the same on the hooks it will be apparent that as the car carrying the arm 14 continues its travel, the arm 14 will, after first engaging with the mail sack M, be placed under increasing tension until the accumulated strength in the resilient arm 14 is sufficient to remove the loops *m* of the mail sack from the hooks 4. When the spring does remove the sack from the support the said sack will be thrown into the car through the door opening 17 due to the snap-action of the spring-arm 14 returning to its normal position.

Obviously, the arm 14 will function in a similar manner each time it strikes a mail sack M, so that if sufficient trackage is used to permit of the placing of mail bag supports at spaced intervals throughout the track-way, the resilient mail bag engaging arm 14 will remove the mail sacks in succession, as fast as it suits the pleasure of the operator to replace the sacks on the supports.

In view of the foregoing description it is thought that it will be readily apparent that the present invention aims to provide a toy mail bag loading mechanism including a mail bag support having means for releasably holding a mail bag under tension, and which may if desired be conveniently associated with the track so that little or no experience is required to set the same up. Also, an effective and practical means for removing the mail sack from the support is provided. In the stamped metal embodiment of the invention shown in Fig. 1 a convenient and practical accessory is provided which may be fitted to any type of toy train now in use, the same being adapted for detachably engaging with the track at any point thereof. That feature not only provides for making the mail loading station at a convenient point in the track-way but also permits of the equipment being readily taken down and stored along with the rest of the apparatus, and furthermore makes the entire toy railway self sustaining.

Without further detailed description it is thought that the features and advantages of the invention will be readily understood by those skilled in the art, and it will of course be understood that changes in the form, proportion and minor details of construction, may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention or scope of the appended claims.

We claim:—

1. A toy mail bag handling apparatus for toy trains comprising a bag support adapted to be detachably fitted to a track and including spaced apart spring arms having means for engaging the ends of a bag and carried by an upright, a base upon which the upright is mounted, and means

carried by the base for engaging with a portion of the track thereby to position the mail bag at the proper location with reference to a moving train.

5 2. A toy mail bag catching and loading apparatus for toy trains comprising toy mail bag catching and loading means on a car, and a toy mail bag support, said support including an upright member having offset spring arms for engaging and supporting the bag, and a horizontal base portion having means for releasably engaging a portion of a trackway.

15 3. A toy mail bag catching and loading mechanism for mail cars of toy trains comprising toy mail bag catching and loading means carried by a car, and a toy mail bag support including a member bent into substantially angular formation to provide an upright portion and a horizontal portion, offset mail bag supporting elements carried by the upright portion, and track engaging means carried by the said horizontal portion.

25 4. A toy mail bag catching and loading device for mail cars of toy trains comprising toy mail bag catching and loading means carried by a car, and means for supporting said toy mail bag comprising a member bent to provide an upright portion and a horizontal portion, offset mail bag supporting arms carried by the upright portion, a plurality of rail engaging hook members formed in the horizontal portion, and relatively movable means cooperating with said hook portions to releasably hold the same in engagement with the rails.

40 5. A toy mail bag catching and loading apparatus for toy railway-mail cars comprising a toy mail bag support arranged at one side of a trackway on which a car travels, and a toy mail bag catching and loading clip member having resilient means for detachably engaging one edge of the doorway of said car and having an outwardly disposed spring arm for engaging a mail bag and throwing the same through the doorway into the car.

50 6. A toy mail bag catching and loading apparatus for toy railway mail cars comprising a toy mail bag support arranged at one side of a trackway on which a train travels, and a toy mail bag catching and loading device detachably carried by a doorway of said car, said device comprising a body formed with a clip portion having means for clampingly engaging the inner and outer sides of the car body at the doorway, and also having an offset spring arm for engaging a mail bag.

65 7. A toy mail bag loading mechanism for toy cars having a doorway, comprising a support for a toy mail bag, a mail bag catcher detachably carried by the car at one edge of the doorway and including a clip

having means for releasably gripping the car wall adjacent the doorway and also having a resilient arm extending across the outside of said doorway.

8. A toy mail bag loading mechanism for toy trains comprising a mail bag supporting device including a base having means for engaging with a track and a mail bag supporting member having means for releasably holding a mail bag, and a mail bag catching device carried by the car.

9. A toy mail bag loading mechanism for toy trains comprising a mail bag supporting device arranged at one side of a track, and a mail bag catching member detachably fitted to a car and including a relatively flat spring arm adapted to be placed under increasing tension as the train continues in its travel past the position of the supporting device after the arm has engaged a bag, thereby to cause the accumulated force in the spring arm to remove the bag from a support and throw it into the car.

10. A toy mail bag loading mechanism including a support for the bag including an upright part having bag supporting means, and a horizontal base part having fixed and movable clamping jaws for engaging with the rails of a track.

11. A toy mail bag loading mechanism including an upright part having bag supporting means and a horizontal base part having fixed spaced hook-like jaws for engaging opposite rails of a track, and a spring jaw for engaging one of said rails.

12. A toy mail bag loading mechanism including a support for a bag including an upright part having bag supporting means and a horizontal base part provided with fixed rail engaging abutments and manually manipulated means working in opposition to said fixed abutments to clamp the base to the rails of a track.

13. A toy mail bag loading mechanism including a mail bag support stamped from sheet metal, resilient mail bag supporting arms on said support, and means for attaching said support to a trackway.

14. A toy mail bag loading mechanism including a mail bag support including a body and a base formed from the same piece of sheet material, resilient bag supporting members formed from the body, and means on the base for detachably engaging with a portion of a trackway.

15. A toy mail bag catching and loading apparatus for toy trains comprising toy mail bag catching and loading means carried by a train, and a bag support comprising an upright member having offset bag engaging means and a horizontal base member having means for detachably engaging the rails of a track, and said means being also arranged to prevent relative twisting

movement under the impact due to the bag catching and loading apparatus removing the bag from its support.

16. A toy mail bag handling apparatus for toy trains comprising a bag support stamped from sheet metal, mail bag supporting arms formed from the body of said support, and means for erecting said support at the proper location with reference to a moving train.

17. A toy mail bag catching and loading apparatus for toy trains including a support for a bag, and means carried by said support for engaging with the rails of a toy track thereby to hold the support in op-

erative relation to a mail bag catching apparatus carried by a car traveling on the track.

18. A toy mail bag handling apparatus for toy trains comprising a bag support and track clamping means carried by the support for engaging with a portion of a track thereby to position the mail bag at the proper position with reference to a moving train.

In testimony whereof we hereunto affix our signatures.

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GUY F. SCHUMACHER.