

June 12, 1923.

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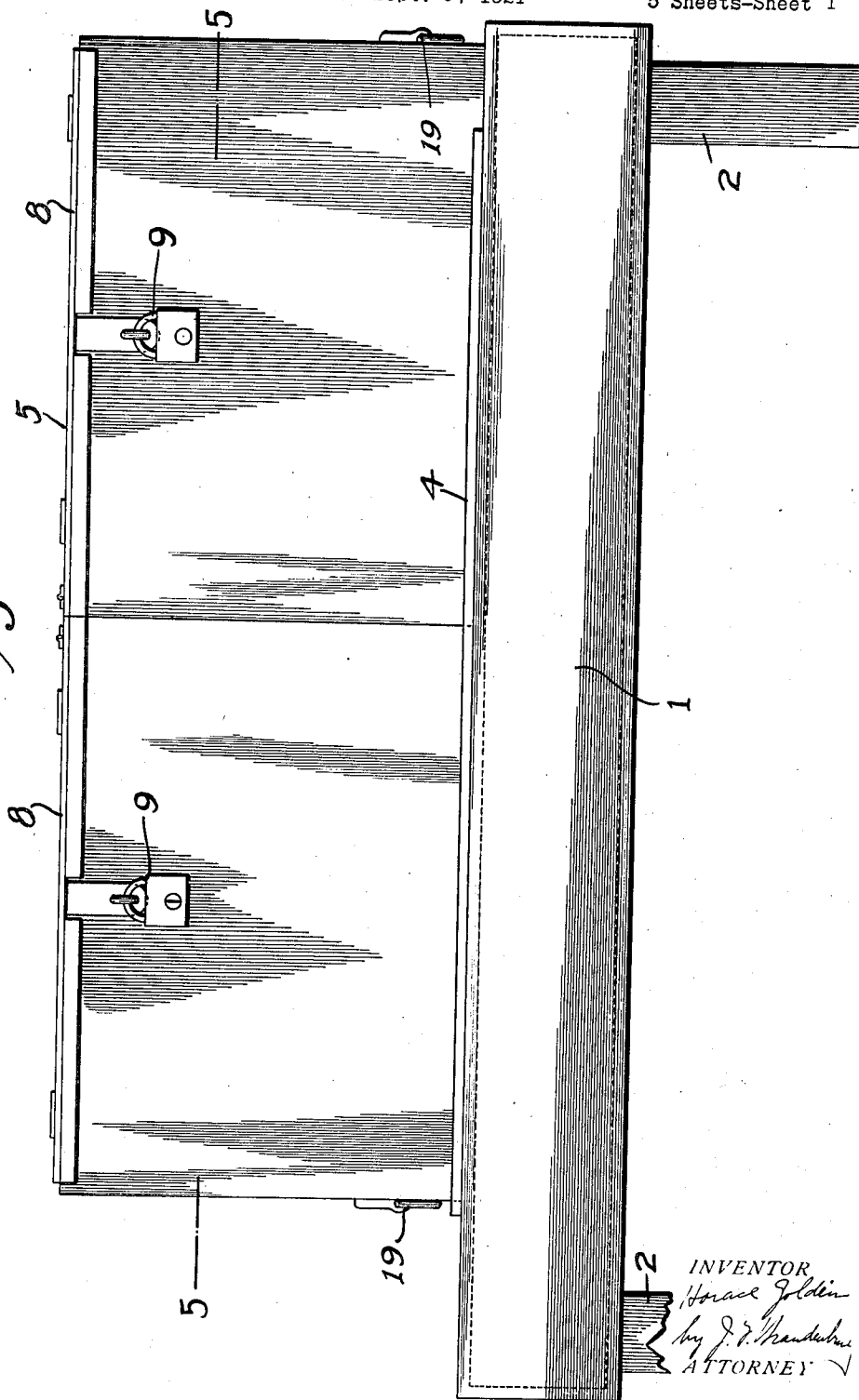
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ILLUSION DEVICE

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Fig. 1.



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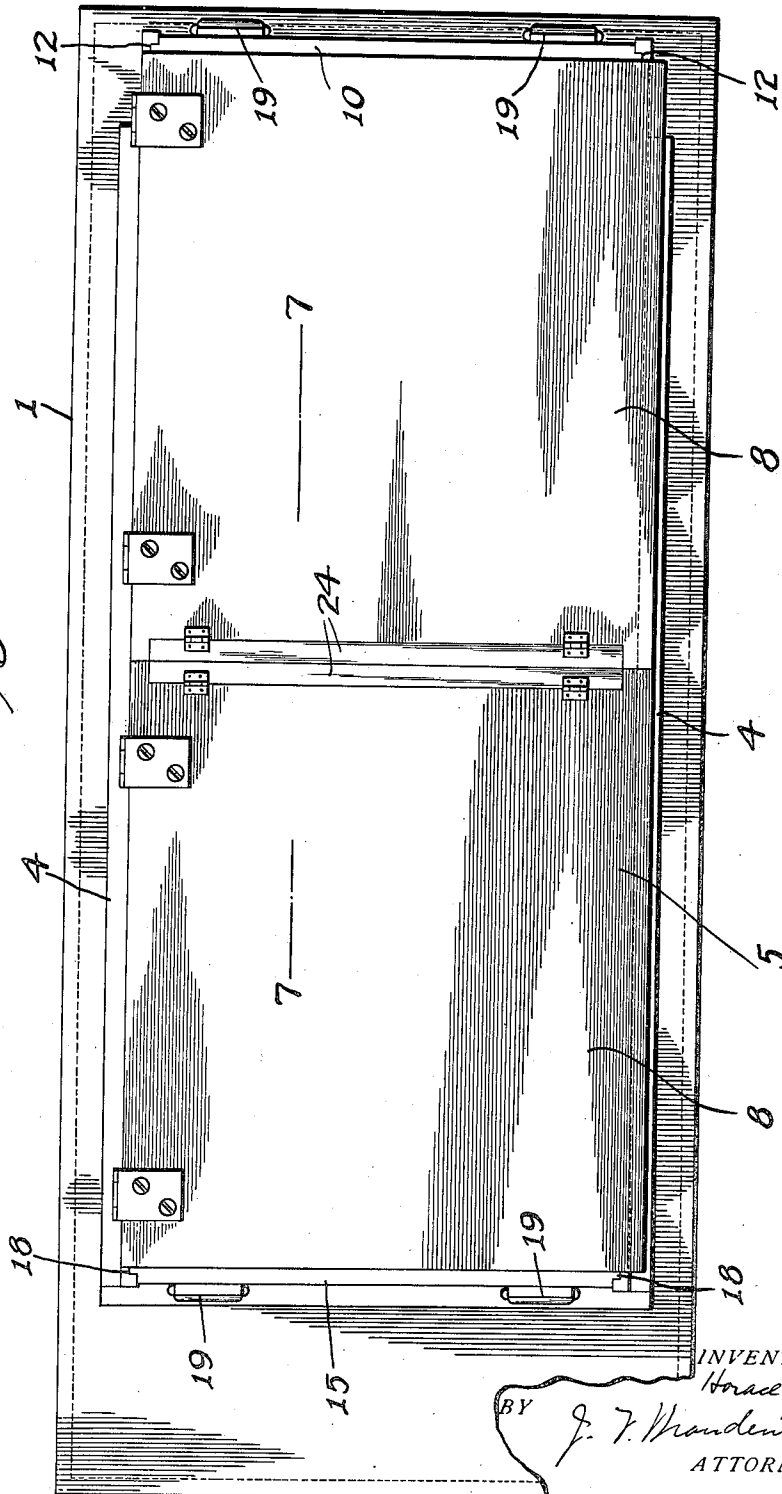
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Fig. 2.



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Fig. 3.

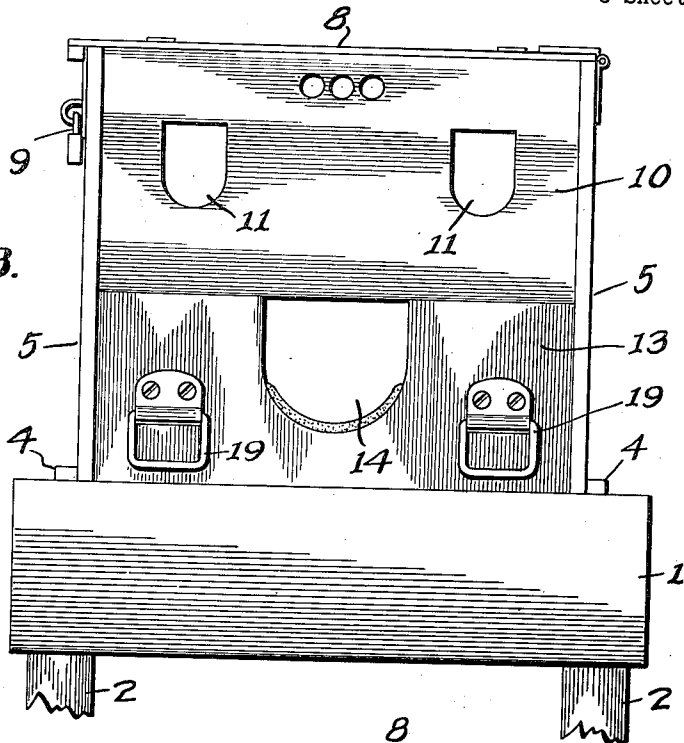
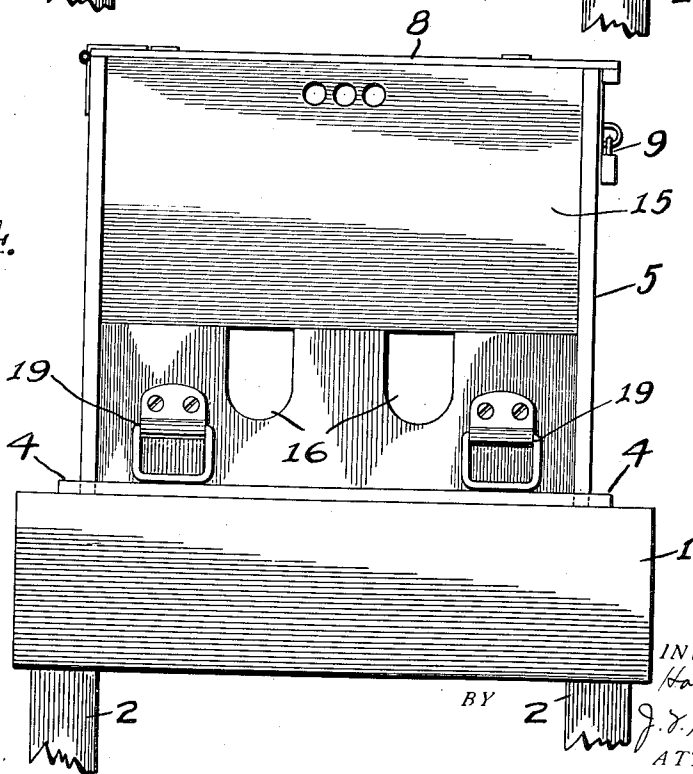


Fig. 4.



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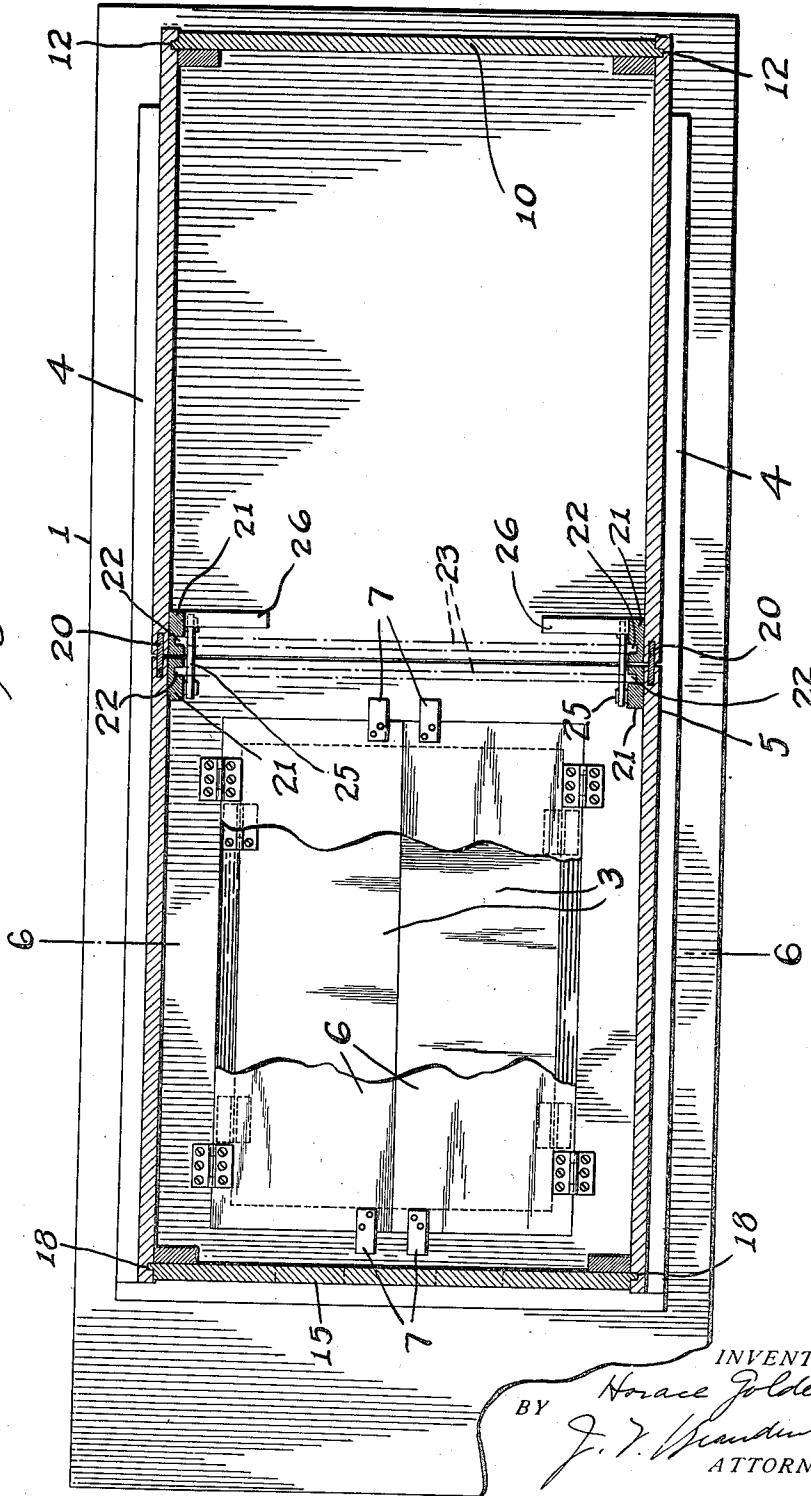
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Fig. 5.



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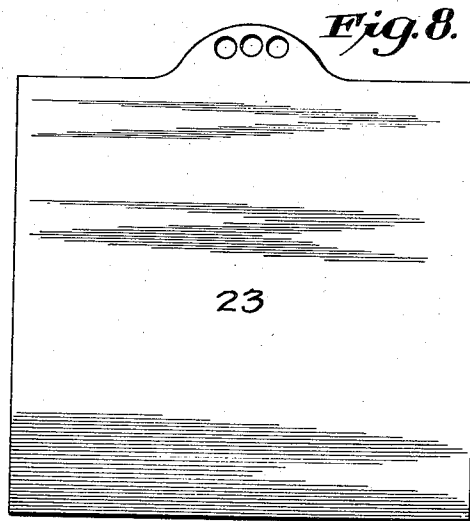
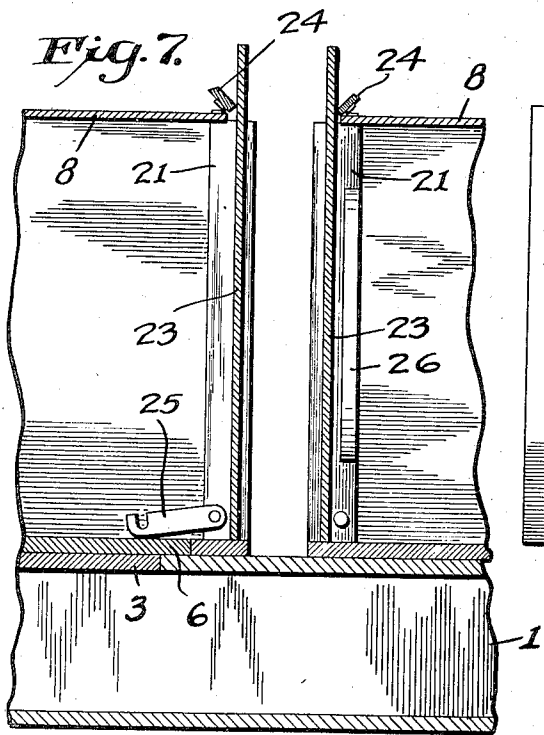
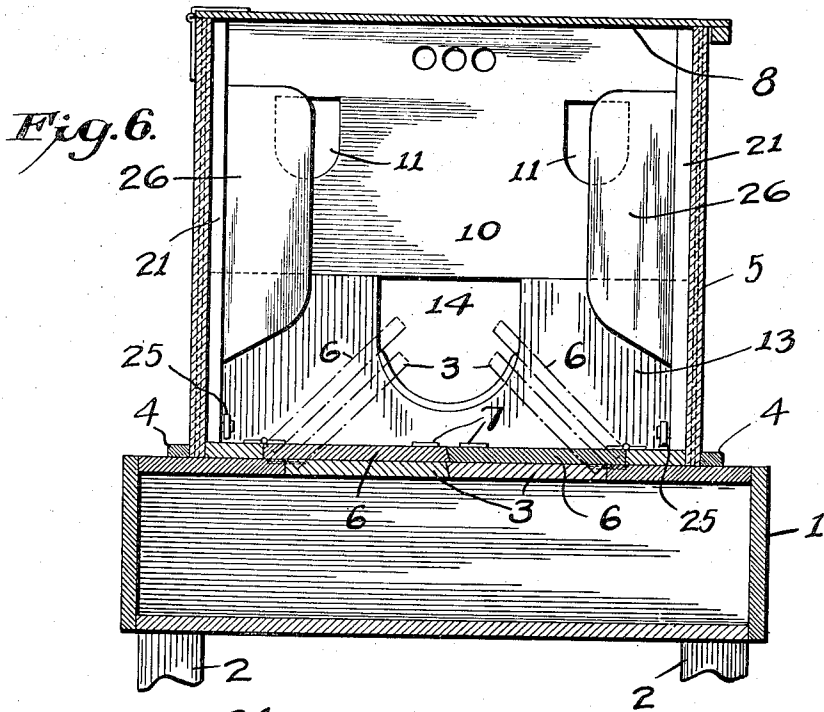
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HORACE GOLDIN, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

ILLUSION DEVICE.

Application filed September 9, 1921. Serial No. 499,431.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HORACE GOLDIN, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of New York city, in the county and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Illusion Device, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to a means for performing an illusion on a stage or elsewhere. Specifically, the invention is an apparatus in the form of a box whereby a person or object can be placed within and the container cut substantially in half, giving the effect to the audience of cutting the person or object in half.

In the drawings, forming a part hereof:

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of the device;

Fig. 2 is a top plan view;

Fig. 3 is an end elevation looking from the right;

Fig. 4 is an end elevation looking from the left;

Fig. 5 is a sectional plan view taken on the line 5—5 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 6 is a vertical cross-sectional view, taken on the line 6—6 of Fig. 5;

Fig. 7 is a detail sectional view, taken on the line 7—7 of Fig. 2, showing the container sawed in half and pulled apart; and

Fig. 8 is an elevation of a panel.

The reference numeral 1 indicates an oblong box or compartment made as shallow as possible to give the effect of a table. The box is provided with legs 2, and with a pair of hinged doors 3 (Figs 5 and 6) in its top toward one end. Secured upon the top are strips 4, which act as guides for keeping the comparatively deep upper box 5 in position.

The upper box 5 is oblong and deep, and is provided with a pair of hinged doors 6 in its bottom, said doors being directly over the doors 3 in the lower box, and both sets of doors being hinged to swing upward into the interior of the box 5. Stops 7 projecting from the doors prevent them from sagging. The top of the box 5 is formed by two hinged lids 8, each covering substantially half the interior, and preferably hinged at one of the long sides, which will be termed the back. Locks 9 in front fasten these lids closed.

Each of the ends of the upper box has sliding panels. Referring to the right-hand end, the panel 10, as shown in Fig. 3, occupies approximately the upper half of this

end, and has apertures 11 for the arms of the person placed in the upper box to project through. This panel has a sliding tongue and groove connection 12 with the sides of the box, permitting it to be readily moved upward. The lower or fixed part 13 of this end has a larger opening 14 for the neck.

The opposite end of the box, as seen in Fig. 4, is constructed in the same manner, except that the panel 15 may be somewhat deeper and lacks the openings 11, while a pair of apertures 16 are provided in the lower fixed panel 17 for the feet of the person in the box, to project through. A similar tongue and groove arrangement 18 is provided for readily sliding the movable panel into or out of place.

Each end of the box has on its fixed part a pair of handles 19 for lifting.

In order to prevent actually sawing the box 5 in two each time the device is used, this box is made in two halves, separating transversely, and where the front and rear sides of the two sections abut each other pockets are formed by grooves in the abutting or proximate ends for slipping in two tongues 20, preferably in the form of a wooden strip. It is these bridging strips which are actually severed in the operation of sawing the box in half. After the box has been sawed in two it may be desirable to separate the sections. Uprights 21, having grooves 22, are provided inside upon the proximate portions of the front and rear walls, for the reception of vertically sliding panels 23, to conceal the interior of the box when separated. In order that these panels 23 may be readily inserted, there are small hinged doors 24 in the covers 8, which when opened give access to the grooves 22.

Catches 25 are located near the bottom of the sections for connecting them together, so that the upper box may be raised bodily by the handles 19.

In the right-hand section, secured to the uprights 21, adjacent the plane of separation, are inward extensions 26 which act as foot rests for the person within the box.

In the operation of the device, preparatory to the exhibition, a person is concealed in the lower box 1. The covers 8 are thrown open and the panels 10 and 15 removed. A second person may now be lowered in the box in sight of the audience, his or her head projecting from the opening 14 and his feet from the openings 16. As part of the stage

business, the demonstrator may pretend to hypnotize this person before lowering him into the upper box, explaining to the audience that nothing that may happen to him can hurt him in this condition. The panel 10 is then slid down into position and the person's arms put through the openings 11; and, for better effect, they may be held out by an assistant to the operator performing the trick. The panel 15 is also inserted, and the covers 8 are closed and locked by the locks 9. As soon as the covers 8 are lowered, the person in the upper box, while that end of the box is away from the audience, draws his feet from the openings 16, back onto the foot rests 26, so that this person is entirely in the right-hand box section. The first person concealed in the lower box then pushes his feet through the two sets of doors 3 and 6 and puts them in the place of those of the first person. Prior to this substitution the upper box can be lifted in its entirety, with the second person therein, to make it appear that there is no deception.

The box 5 is then cut in half, that is, the insert strips 20 are cut, and the presumption is that the person whom the audience saw placed in the box, has met a like fate. The small doors 24 may now be raised and the panels 23 slid down in their grooves 22, ostensibly to conceal the bloody sight. The box may then be separated, as shown in Fig. 7, and for effect the operator can walk through the space between the two halves.

If the box has been separated in this manner, the half which was withdrawn is pushed back into juxtaposition with the other, and the panels 23 are removed. Then, while the attention of the audience is not upon the end of the box where the feet are projecting, the person in the box below removes his feet through the trap doors, whereupon the person drawn up in the right half of the box above stretches out his legs and puts his feet through the openings. The change can be concealed, if desired, by carelessly placing one of the panels 23 in a leaning position against the front of the box-so as to project beyond the end.

The climax of the trick is reached when the top covers are lifted, the end slides are pulled out, and the person is lifted in the original posture from the box, whole and sound, to be restored to consciousness, apparently, by appropriate performance on the part of the demonstrator.

Preparatory to the operator sawing through the box, the person in the upper box, or the person in the lower box if the other person cannot use his hands, releases the catches 25.

Numerous changes may be made in the structure and in the procedure without departing from the spirit of the invention. In some cases another form of screen for the

person below might be substituted for the lower box. Further, with clever manipulation, the lower box might be dispensed with and a pair of false legs used instead of the person concealed in said lower box.

In the claims the term "extremities" is used in a sense to include the portions of the person placed within that project at opposite ends of the box, including, specifically, the heads and hands at one end and the feet at the other end.

What I claim as new is:

1. An illusion device comprising a long and deep box container specially designed for the herein described illusion of sawing the box and a person therein in half, the box being long and deep and having a top lid permitting a person to be placed in the box in an extended position, and the remote ends of the box being constructed to accommodate the extremities of the occupant so that they project in view of the audience, the body itself being concealed, and the box being further so designed that the occupant can pull his feet into the box and draw his legs up into the other half of the interior, the box being further provided with a suitable entrance through which another pair of feet can be introduced and projected outward through the foot openings in the box end, the relations being such that the saw can then pass transversely without harm.

2. An illusion device of the kind described comprising a box in which a person can be placed in an extended position, having openings in the ends through which the extremities are to project, and adapted to permit the person to draw himself up in one-half of the box while another pair of feet is substituted in the openings in the other end, the box comprising two half sections, with inserts at the junction of the walls through which to saw in order to make it appear that the box and the person have been cut in half.

3. An illusion device of the kind described comprising a box in which a person can be placed in an extended position, the end walls of the box having openings through which the extremities are to project and comprising upper and lower sections, the upper sections being vertically removable and replaceable slides, the box being adapted to permit the person to draw himself up in one-half of the box while another pair of feet is substituted in the openings at the other end, so that the box may then be sawed through making it appear that the person has been cut in half.

4. An illusion device of the kind described comprising a box in which a person can be placed in an extended position, having openings in the ends through which the extremities are to project, and adapted to permit the person to draw himself up in one-

half of the box while another pair of feet is substituted in the openings in the other end, whereby upon sawing through the box it will be made to appear that the person has been cut in half, in combination with panels adapted to be inserted to close the open ends of the two parts of the box to conceal the interior when the parts are separated.

5 5. An illusion device of the kind described comprising a box in which a person can be placed in an extended position, having openings in the ends through which the extremities are to project, and adapted to permit the person to draw himself up in one-half of the box while another pair of feet is substituted in the openings in the other end, whereby upon sawing through the box it will be made to appear that the person has been cut in half, the box comprising two sections, with inserts bridging the junction of the walls, through which to saw, in combination with interior fastenings for fastening the two sections of the box together so that it may be lifted bodily.

6. An illusion device of the kind described comprising a box in which a person can be placed in an extended position and deep enough to permit the person to draw himself up in one half of the box, the box having openings and slides in the ends to accommodate the extremities, a top cover, and a bottom door through which a pair of feet can be introduced from below and inserted through the foot openings, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

7. An illusion device of the kind described comprising a box in which a person can be placed in an extended position and deep enough to permit the person to draw himself up in one-half of the box and having openings in the ends through which the extremities may project, the box being constituted of two sections, each having a hinged top cover, and inserts bridging the junctions of the sides, through which to saw.

8. An illusion device of the kind described comprising a box in which a person can be placed in an extended position and deep

enough to permit the person to draw himself up in one-half of the box and having openings in the ends through which the extremities may project, the box being constituted of two sections, each having a hinged top cover and one having a bottom door, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

9. An illusion device of the kind described comprising a comparatively deep box in which a person can be placed in an extended position, the box having openings in the ends through which the extremities are to project and a bottom opening toward the foot end, in combination with a screen for a person below, whereby the person below can put his legs up into one-half of the box and through the foot openings when the other person draws himself up into the other half of the box, permitting the box to be severed in order to create the illusion that the person within has been cut in half.

10. An illusion device of the kind described comprising a comparatively deep box in which a person can be placed in an extended position, the box having openings in the ends through which the extremities are to project and a bottom opening toward the foot end, in combination with a shallow lower box which is adapted to conceal another person, said lower box having a trap door in its top, permitting the person in the lower box to substitute his feet for those of the person in the upper box.

11. An illusion device as set forth in claim 10, further characterized by the guides on the lower box for the upper box.

12. An illusion device of the character described, comprising a comparatively deep upper box resting on a shallow lower box, the upper box being adapted to receive a person in an extended position with the extremities projecting through openings in the ends, and the lower box being adapted to conceal another person, the two boxes having substantially registering trap-doors permitting the person in the lower box to substitute his feet for those of the person in the upper box, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

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