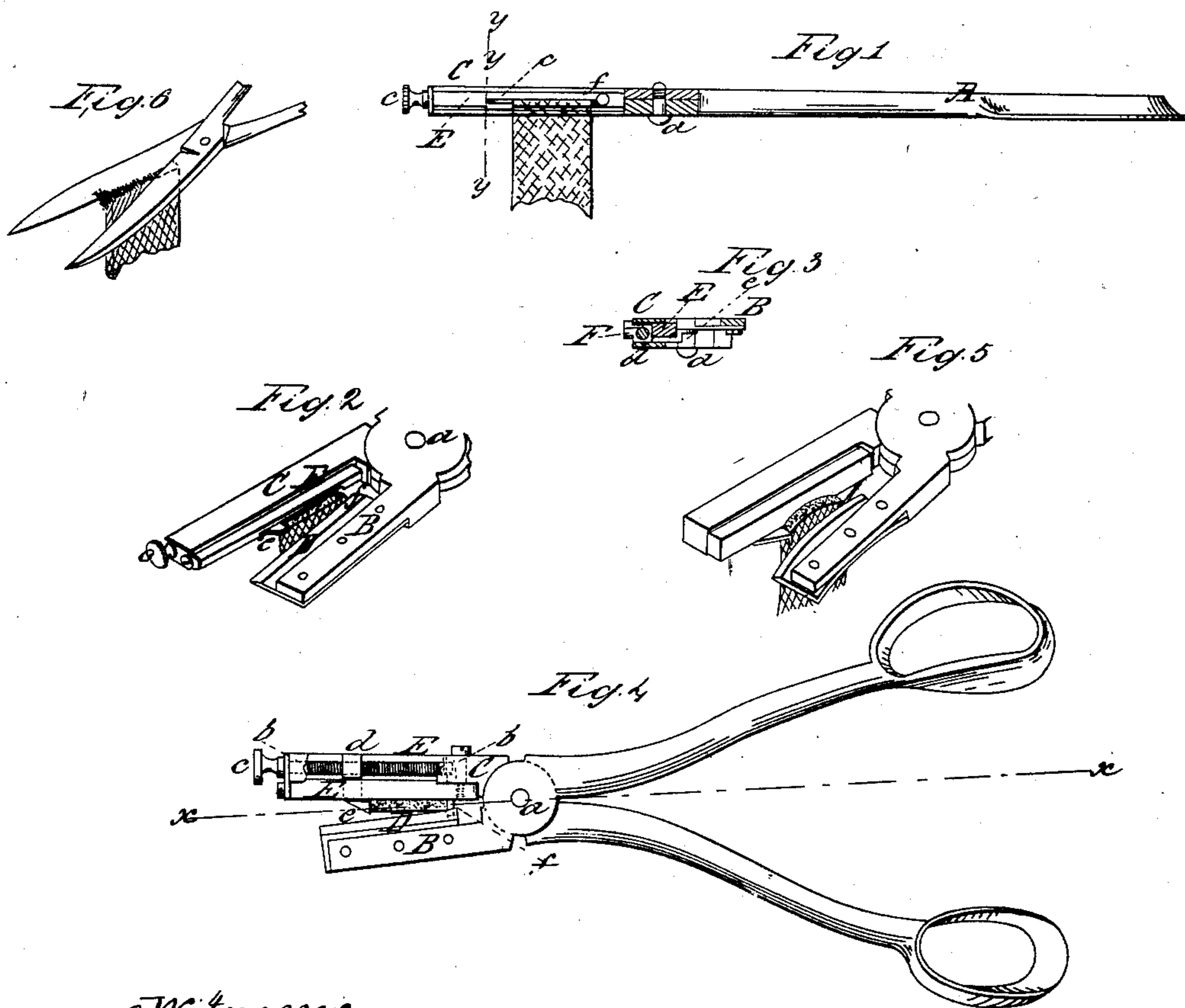


H. Halvorson,

Nick Trimmer.

N^o 24,804.

Patented July 19, 1859.



Witnesses.
George H. Hogan
William Lincoln

Inventor.
Halvor Halvorson

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HALVOR HALVORSON, OF CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS.

IMPROVED TRIMMER FOR LAMP-WICKS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 24,804, dated July 19, 1859.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HALVOR HALVORSON, of Cambridge, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and Improved Implement for Trimming Lamp-Wicks; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a longitudinal section of my invention, taken in the line *xx*, Fig. 4. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the same, the handles being omitted; Fig. 3, a transverse section of the same, taken in the line *yy*, Fig. 1; Fig. 4, a plan or top view of the same, showing the implement in use or applied to its work; Fig. 5, a perspective view of a modification of the same; Fig. 6, a perspective view of an ordinary pair of shears, shown applied to a wick in the act of trimming the same to illustrate more clearly the character of my invention.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several figures.

The object of this invention is to obtain an implement by which lamp-wicks, those termed and generally known as the "flat wick," may be trimmed so as to have their top edges perfectly parallel with the top edges of the wick-tubes, or trimmed in convex form, so as to insure an even and well-proportioned flame, and thereby obviate the elimination of smoke and unpleasant effluvia attending the uneven trimming of the wick by the ordinary scissors or shears.

The invention consists in the employment or use of gages in connection with a proper cutting device, the gages being so arranged as to retain the wick or hold it in proper position while being acted upon by the cutter or cutters, thereby effecting the desired end.

To enable those skilled in the art to fully understand and construct my invention, I will proceed to describe it.

A A represent two handles, which are connected by a fulcrum-pin *a*, the handles crossing each other at their fulcrum and having bars B C attached to them, one to each, as shown clearly in Fig. 4. To one bar B a knife or cutter D is attached, and to the other bar C a bed E of brass or other suitable soft metal, attached to serve as a bearing or

anvil to receive the knife or cutter D when forced through the wick, which also bears against said bed when being acted upon by the knife or cutter.

In the bar C a screw-rod F is placed longitudinally and allowed to turn freely in suitable bearings *b b*. This screw-rod has a small thumb-wheel *c* at its outer end, and a nut *d* is placed on said screw-rod. The nut *d* has a plate *e* attached to it, said plate being so bent or curved as to project over the face of the bed E and outward from it, as shown more particularly in Fig. 2. To the face of the bed E a pin or projection *f* is attached. The pin or projection *f* is permanently attached to the face of the bed E; but the plate *e*, it will be seen, by turning the rod F may be moved over the face of the bed E and adjusted at a greater or less distance from the pin or projection *f*, as may be desired. The pin *f* and the plate *e* occupy such a position on the bed E as to permit the knife or cutter D in closing to just clear their upper surfaces.

The device is used as follows: The implement is held in a horizontal position by the operator, and the plate *e* is so adjusted as to allow the space between the pin *f* and plate *e* to correspond with the width of the wick to be trimmed. The implement is so adjusted to the wick that the upper part of the latter fits between the plate *e* and pin *f* and against the bed E, as shown in Figs. 1, 2, and 4, the wick being represented in red. The handles A A are then forced toward each other by the hand of the operator, the bars B C of course approach each other simultaneously with the movement of the handles A A, and the knife D cuts the wick perfectly square or parallel with the top of the wick-tube, provided the implement be held perfectly horizontal. The plate *e* and pin *f* serve as gages and prevent the wick expanding under the action of the cutter D, and consequently the wick will be cut with a clean edge and right-angular corners. In using an ordinary scissors or shears (see Fig. 6) it will be seen that as the blades are forced together the wick will be expanded under the pressure or action of the cut and the wick will be left with one corner projecting out laterally. A wick thus cut will be liable to smoke and burn with a very uneven flame. The gages *e f*, it will be seen, effectually prevent such a result, as they confine the wick

at its edges and prevent it expanding under the action of the knife or cutter.

In trimming a lamp-wick with the ordinary scissors or shears the corners of the wick after the top is cut off are frequently clipped obliquely to prevent the contingency above referred to. This is a good plan and frequently remedies the evil to a certain extent not perfect by any means.

In certain cases a curved knife or cutter, may be used, as shown in Fig. 5, so that the wick may be cut with a convex edge. This may be preferable, as in many cases the wick owing to its texture and the rarefaction of the burning material in its capillaries, will be expanded and made to protrude at the corner, so as to form an uneven edge similar to that produced by a pair of scissors or shears.

From the above description it will be seen that the gist of the invention consists in the employment or use of the gages *e f* to pre-

vent the expanding of the wick under the action of the cutters, and that different cutters or knives may be used for cutting the wick, although, perhaps, the cutter and bed or anvil herein shown and described may be as convenient and operate as well as any that could be desired for the purpose.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The combination, with a knife D and bed or anvil E, or other suitable wick-cutting device, gages *e f*, constructed and arranged as shown, or in such a manner as to hold or retain the wick and prevent it expanding laterally while under the action of the cutting device, for the purpose herein set forth.

HALVOR HALVORSON.

Witnesses:

GEORGE H. FOLGER,
WILLIAM LINCOLN.