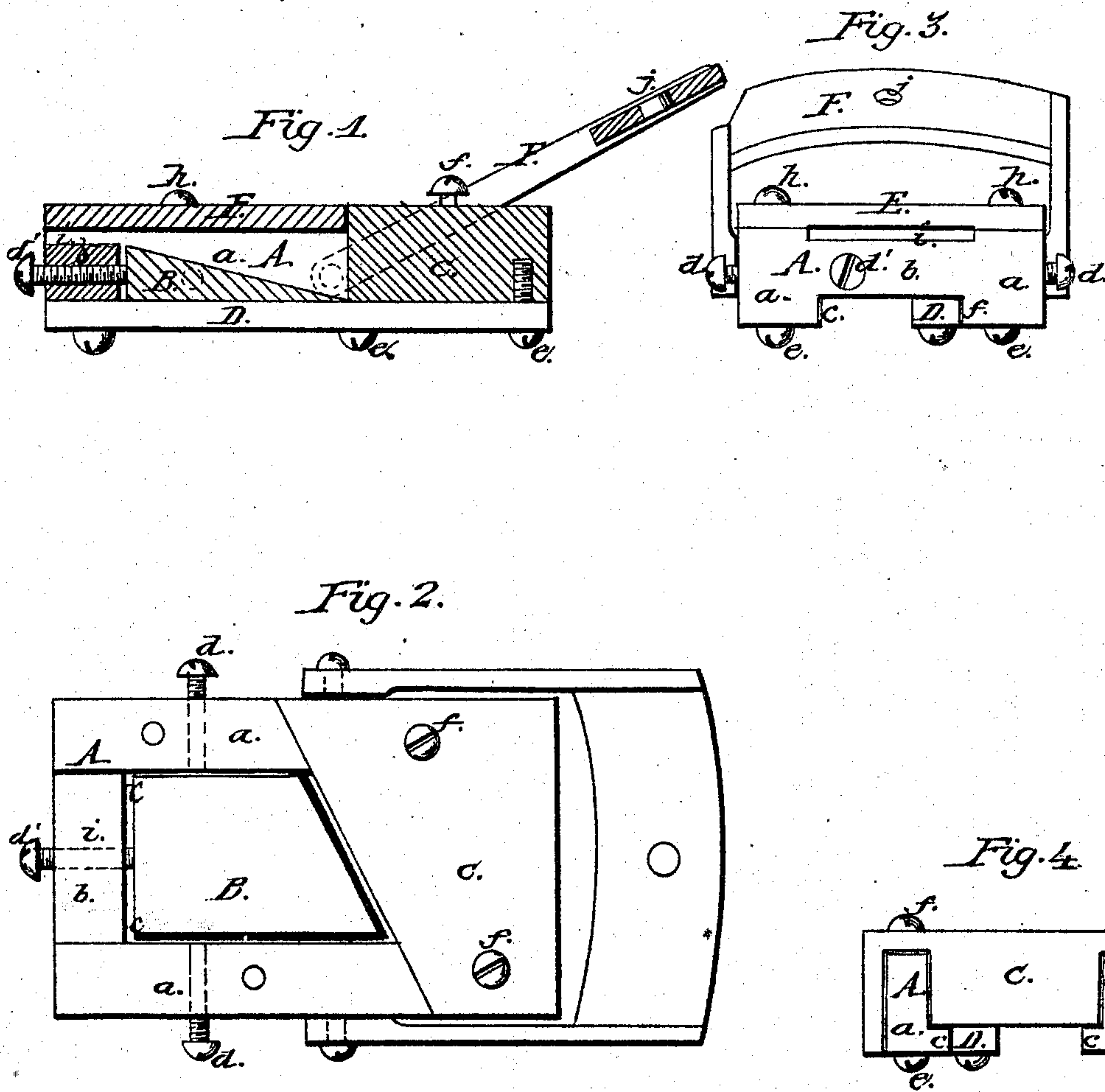


W. BAKER.
TOOL FOR RIVING SPLINTS.

No. 43,281.

Patented June 28, 1864.



Witnesses:
Henry Morris
H. L. Reed.

Inventor:
W. Baker.
Per *Wm. H. L.*
Attorneys,

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM BAKER, OF EAST TEMPLETON, MASSACHUSETTS.

IMPROVEMENT IN TOOLS FOR RIVING SPLINTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 43,281, dated June 28, 1864.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM BAKER, of East Templeton, in the county of Worcester and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and Improved Splint-Riving Tool; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents a longitudinal vertical section of my invention. Fig. 2 is a plan or top view of the same, one portion of the top plate having been removed to expose the cutter or knife. Fig. 3 is a front elevation of the same. Fig. 4 is a rear elevation of the same.

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

This invention relates to an improvement in that class of tools which are used for the purpose of making splints for baskets, chair-bottoms, and other articles.

The invention consists in the employment or use of a wedge-shaped knife with a square or oblique cutting-edge, and adjustable in a stock by a suitable set-screw or set-screws in such a manner that when the cutting edge becomes dull it can be easily sharpened and readjusted in the proper position. The sole of the tool is adjustable up or down, so that it can be set according to the thickness of the splints required, and a movable strip of wood or metal is combined with the stock, knife, and adjustable sole in such a manner that one part of the cutting-edge after the other can be brought in operation, and if one part becomes dull it can be covered up by the adjustable strip and the cutting performed by the adjoining sharp portion of the knife.

A represents the stock of my riving-tool, which may be made of cast-iron or any other suitable material, and which consists of two bars, *a*, connected at one end by a cross-bar, *b*. The longitudinal bars *a* of the stock are provided with ledges *c* near their lower edges, (see Fig. 4,) and these ledges support the knife *B*. The cross-bar *b* is made lower than the longitudinal bars *a*, so that its under surface will be flush with the upper surface of the ledges and with the under surface of the knife, as clearly shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings. The knife is made in the shape of a wedge

with an oblique cutting-edge, and it is held in place by two screws, *d'*, passing laterally through the longitudinal bars *a* of the stock. A set-screw, *d'*, bearing on the back of the knife, serves to adjust its cutting-edge to the desired position. The thickness of the splints to be produced or the quality of the cut is determined by the sole or face-plate *C*, which is fitted over the open end of the stock and made adjustable by four set-screws, *e*, which pass up through the bars *a*, and it is held in position by the screws *f*, passing through the upper part of said plate into the longitudinal bars *a*. The inner edge of the face-plate or sole is beveled off to correspond to the cutting-edge of the knife. By means of the set-screws *e* the sole of the plate *C* can be raised or lowered, and the knife cuts deeper or shallower, according to the thickness of the splints required. Said face-plate overlaps the open ends of the stock *A*, to prevent the longitudinal bars *a* from springing apart if the tool is used. The cutting-edge of the knife is two or more times as wide as the splints to be produced, and on account of its inclination the splints to be cut have a tendency to run toward that portion of said cutting-edge which is farthest in rear, and all the cutting has to be done by that portion of the knife. If said portion is dull, I attach to the under side of the cross-bar *b* and to the sole *C* a strip, *D*, of wood or metal, just wide enough to cover up the dull portion of the cutting-edge, and the next portion of the knife is brought into action. If this portion becomes dull and the width of the knife will allow it, the strip *D* is again shifted, and the next portion of the cutting-edge is brought into action until it is rendered dull throughout, when the knife has to be taken out and sharpened and then readjusted. A plate, *E*, fastened by means of screws *h* to the upper edges of the longitudinal bars *a*, protects the knife and a slot, *i*, between this plate, and the upper surface of the cross-bar *b*, allows the splints to pass out without coming in contact with the operator. The tool is drawn along by means of a yoke, *F*, which is pivoted to the outside of the stock *A*, and to which the motive power is applied by means of a hook catching in the hole *j*, or in any other suitable manner. By this hinged yoke the tool is enabled to follow the sinuosities of the wood, and splints of a uniform thickness are produced.

My knife is made in the form of a wedge, as previously explained, and I prefer a knife of the form shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings, because it is readily shaped. It leaves the splint smooth, has no tendency to roll the same up edgewise and to crush the grain of the wood. Finally, a knife of this kind will not spring or bend when used in the hardest wood, and, being very thin on its cutting-edge, it passes through the wood much easier than a knife of the ordinary shape.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The wedged-shaped knife B, with an oblique or square cutting-edge, and made adjustable in the stock A, substantially in the manner and for the purpose specified.

2. The adjustable face-plate or sole C, in combination with the stock A and knife B, constructed and operating in the manner and for the purpose substantially as herein specified.

WILLIAM BAKER.

Witnesses:

S. M. OSGOOD,
JOHN WATTS.