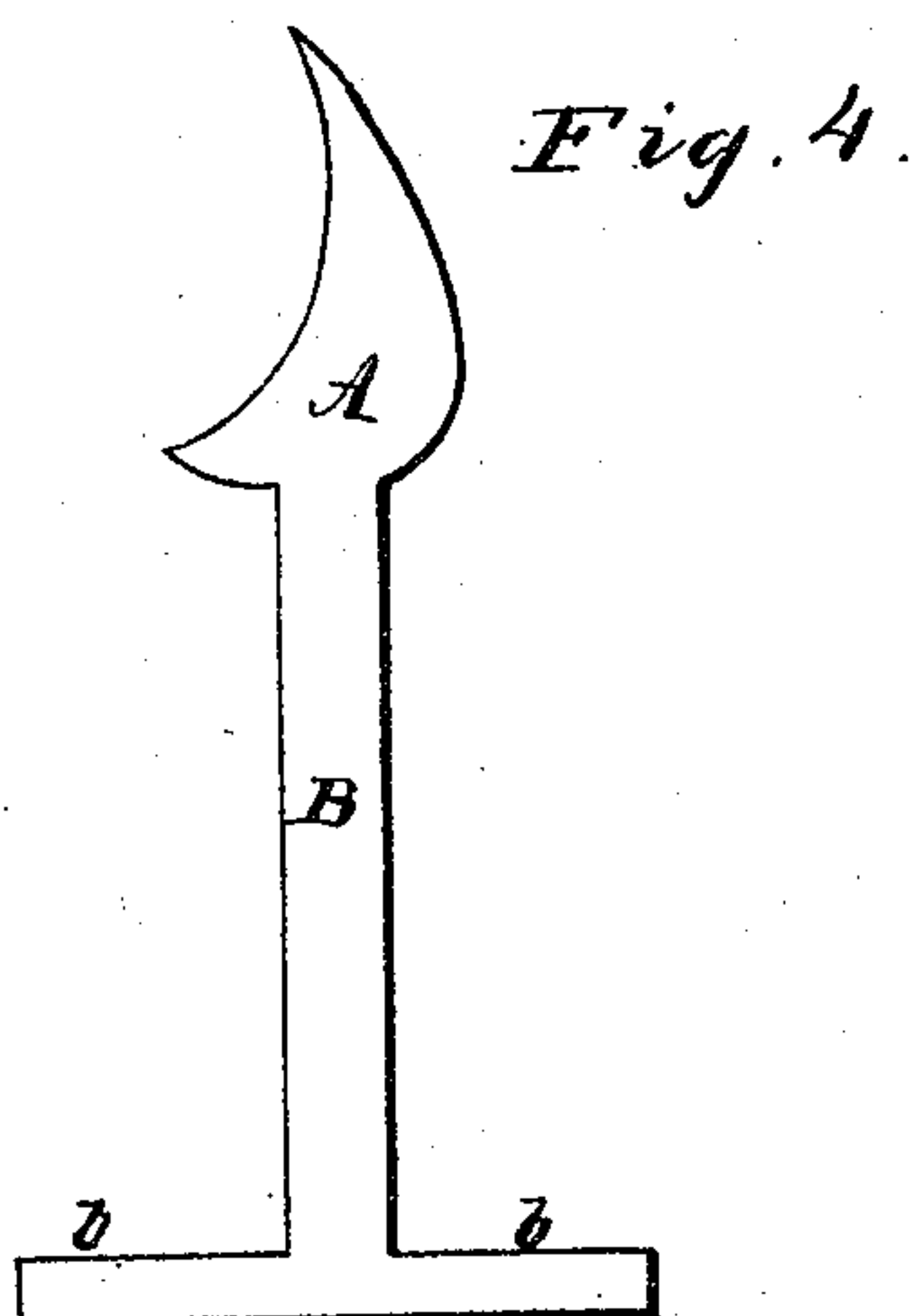


R. WRIGHT.
PENCIL SHARPENER.

No. 46,289.

Patented Feb. 7, 1865.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RUFUS WRIGHT, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

PENCIL-SHARPENER.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 46,289, dated February 7, 1865.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RUFUS WRIGHT, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Pencil-Sharpeners; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of my improved pencil-sharpener in position to exhibit the spiral cutter hereinafter spoken of. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the same in a different position, showing the angular filing-groove. Fig. 3 is an end elevation. Fig. 4 is a view illustrative of the process of construction.

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

The object of this invention is to produce a pencil sharpener in which the cutter is adapted to cut all round or at all points on the part being sharpened at once or at the same time, and to cut or shave in a keen and smooth manner, while tending to retain the pencil in a central position during the sharpening operation, all as will be hereinafter fully explained.

The following description will enable others skilled in the art to which my invention appertains to fully understand and use the same.

In the accompanying drawings, A represents a hollow spiral cutter, tapering in conformity with the contour or shape which is given to the end of the pencil in sharpening. B is a bow or guard, which affords a hold for the finger and thumb, protects the cutter in case the instrument should be accidentally dropped, and prevents it from injuring the pocket or other repository in which the sharpener may be carried about. *b b* are strips or arms encircling the larger end of the cutter A, and connecting the ends of the bow B. When the pencil to be sharpened is fairly inserted into the cutter A, the cutting-edges of the latter act upon the part to be sharpened at all points on its periphery at once; or, in

other words, while one part of the cutter is cutting or shaving at one side another part is at work on the other side, and the cutter, thus operating, serves to retain the axis of the pencil in line with that of itself. The cutting-edge, being spiral, shaves obliquely to the axis of the pencil and toward the point simultaneously, and as the pencil always maintains a central position, there is no danger of splintering or cutting into the wood at one side, which is of frequent occurrence in the use of sharpeners which have oblique cutters only, such cutters permitting the pencil to assume a position at a slight angle with the cutter, and rendering it troublesome to keep the centers of the two in line. In one side of the bow-guard B is a serrated or file groove, *b'*, of an angular form, in which the lead may be pointed.

A pencil sharpener of the above construction is simple and cheap, and the entire instrument may be constructed of one piece of suitable metal, as demonstrated by Fig. 4. A piece of steel of the form shown in this figure may be cut out with a die and the part A bent spirally, and then the parts B and *b*, in the form represented in Figs. 1 and 3, by any adequate mechanism, after which the loose ends of the arms *b* may be soldered or otherwise secured to the guard B.

Having thus described my invention, the following is what I claim as new therein and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. The spiral and tapering cutter A, constructed in the manner and employed for the purpose herein specified.
2. The guard B, formed in one piece with the cutter A and employed to protect the same and as a protection from the same, as set forth.
3. In combination with a guard B, constructed as herein described, the angular groove *b'*, for pointing the lead.

RUFUS WRIGHT.

Witnesses:

OCTAVIUS KNIGHT,
GEORGE ROBERTS.