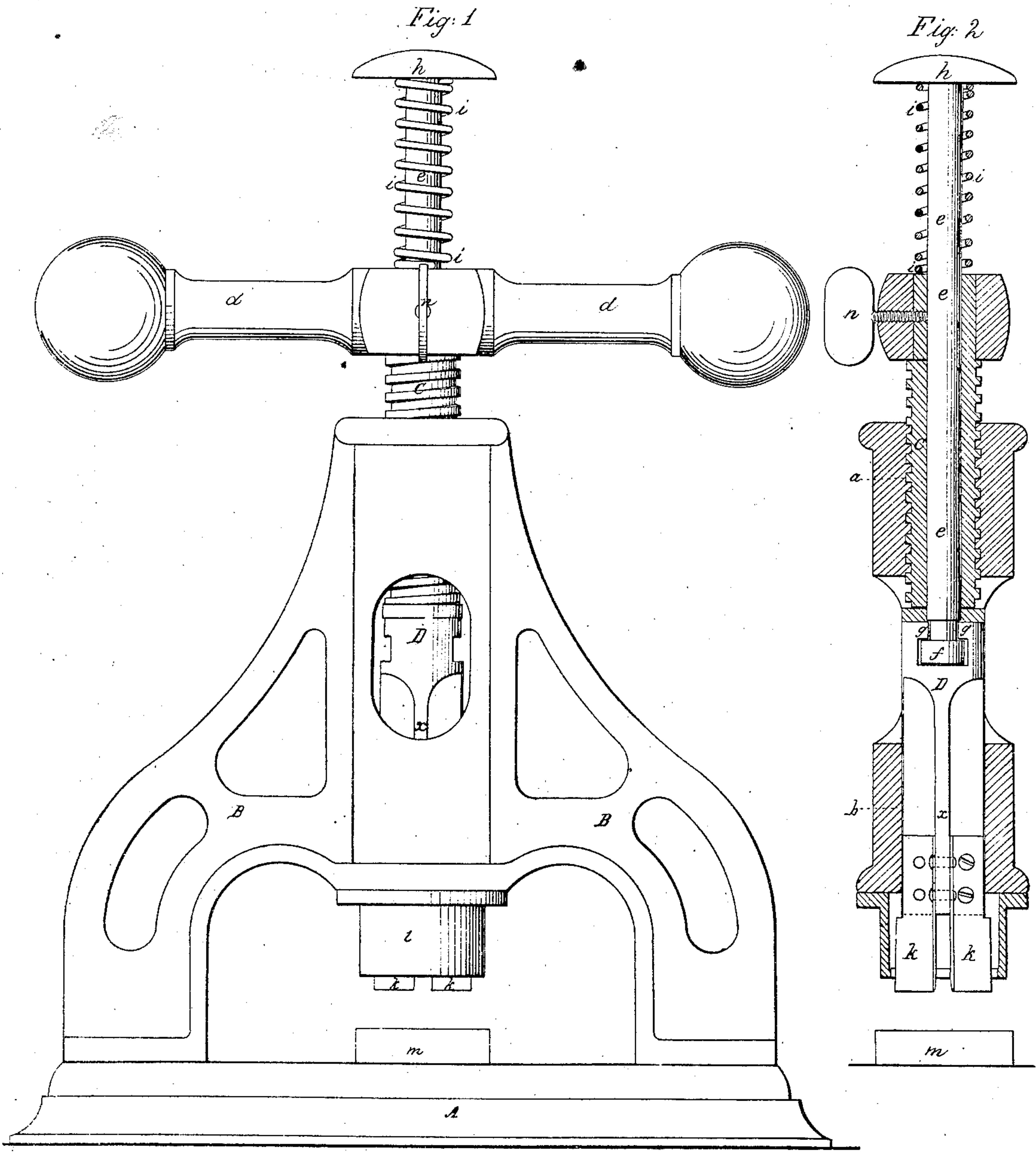


*F. Hovey*  
*Stamp Canceling Press.*  
*N<sup>o</sup> 56498.*  
*Patented Jul. 17. 1866.*



*Witnesses*  
*J. M. Combs*  
*W. L. L. L.*

*Inventor*  
*Francis Hovey*



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANCIS HOVEY, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF AND  
CHARLES H. CLAYTON, OF SAME PLACE.

## STAMP CANCELING-PRESS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 56,498, dated July 17, 1866.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, FRANCIS HOVEY, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Presses and Stamps for Canceling or other Purposes; 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 front elevation. Fig. 2 is a central vertical transverse section.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in both figures.

This invention is designed more especially for canceling checks and similar papers, but may also be used for other stamping or pressing purposes; and it consists in a novel combination of a hollow screw with the plunger, a central stem, and the frame of a percussion stamp or press, whereby the apparatus may be used either as a percussion or a screw press, according as a greater or less pressure is required—as, for instance, in canceling a greater or less number of checks.

To enable others to understand the construction and operation of my invention, I will proceed to describe it with reference to the drawings.

A is a horizontal base or bed plate, on which is formed an upright frame, B, which supports the working parts of the press. Formed vertically in the center of this frame B is a cylindrical slot, as shown at *a b* in Fig. 2. A female screw is formed in the upper part, *a*, of this slot, in which is placed a vertical hollow screw, C, at the upper end of which are two transverse handles, *d*. In the lower part, *b*, of the slot just mentioned is placed the body *x* of the plunger D, the stem or shaft *e* of which is situated within the hollow screw C, and has its lower end pivoted vertically in the upper end of the body *x* by means of a suitable socket, *f*, and nut *g*, as shown in the said figure. The upper end of this stem *e* extends upward beyond the top of the screw C, and has a knob, *h*, secured upon it. A spiral spring, *i*, is placed upon this stem *e*, between the knob *h* and the top of the screw C, and tends to force the said stem upward, so that the upper end of the body of the plunger will be brought up

to the bottom of the screw C after it has been forced downward by the hand, as will be presently explained.

Placed upon the upper end of the body *x*, and around the lower end of its stem *e*, is an annular washer, *j*, which prevents the plunger from being worn by the action of the screw.

Fixed vertically upon the lower end of the plunger D are any required number of cutters, *k*, which may be of any suitable shape.

*l* is a cylindrical casing, which is secured to the under side of the central part of the frame B, and surrounds the cutters *k* when the plunger is in a raised position, the said cutters passing down through suitable slots in the bottom of the casing *l* during the operation of the press, so that the plunger is prevented from turning around.

*m* is a block of lead or other suitable material, upon which are placed the checks or other papers to be canceled. *n* is a transverse set-screw, which is situated centrally between the handles *d*, or in the top of the screw C, and which may be so turned as to tightly press its inner end against the stem *e*, and thus prevent the said stem from moving with reference to the said screw.

When it is desired to cancel a large number of checks or other papers at one time, the set-screw *n* is turned to hold the stem *e* and screw C rigidly together, as just described, and the papers are placed upon the block *m*. The screw C is then turned, by means of its handles *d*, so as to press the plunger D downward, and thus force the cutters *k* down through the slots in the bottom of the casing *l* into and through the papers, thus canceling them. The screw C is then turned in the opposite direction, and thus raises the plunger, withdrawing the cutters from the papers back into the casing *b*.

The object of rigidly securing the stem *e* and the screw C together is to insure the proper upward movement of the plunger and consequent clearing of the cutters *k* from the papers with more certainty than if the spring *i* alone were depended upon to cause the plunger to follow the upward movement of the screw C. The stem *e*, being pivoted vertically in the body of the plunger, as hereinbefore fully explained, is enabled to turn with the screw C at the same time that it operates the body of the plunger.



When it is desired to work the apparatus as a percussion-press, as in canceling a small number of checks or papers, the set-screw *n* is turned so as to allow the stem *e* to slide freely within the screw *C*. The papers are placed upon the block *m*, underneath the cutters, and a smart blow is struck with the hand upon the knob *h*, which forces the plunger downward and drives the cutters *k* into and through the papers, in the same manner as when the screw *C* is used, as just set forth, and on releasing the knob from the pressure of the hand the spring *i* forces the plunger upward to its first posi-

tion, the washer coming in contact with the lower end of the screw *C*.

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

The hollow screw *C*, in combination with the central stem, *e*, plunger, and frame of a canceling stamp or press, substantially as herein set forth, for the purpose specified.

FRANCIS HOVEY.

Witnesses:

A. LECLERC,  
J. W. COOMBS.