

J. WILSON.
Burglar Alarm.

No. 66,662.

Patented July 9, 1867.

Fig. 1

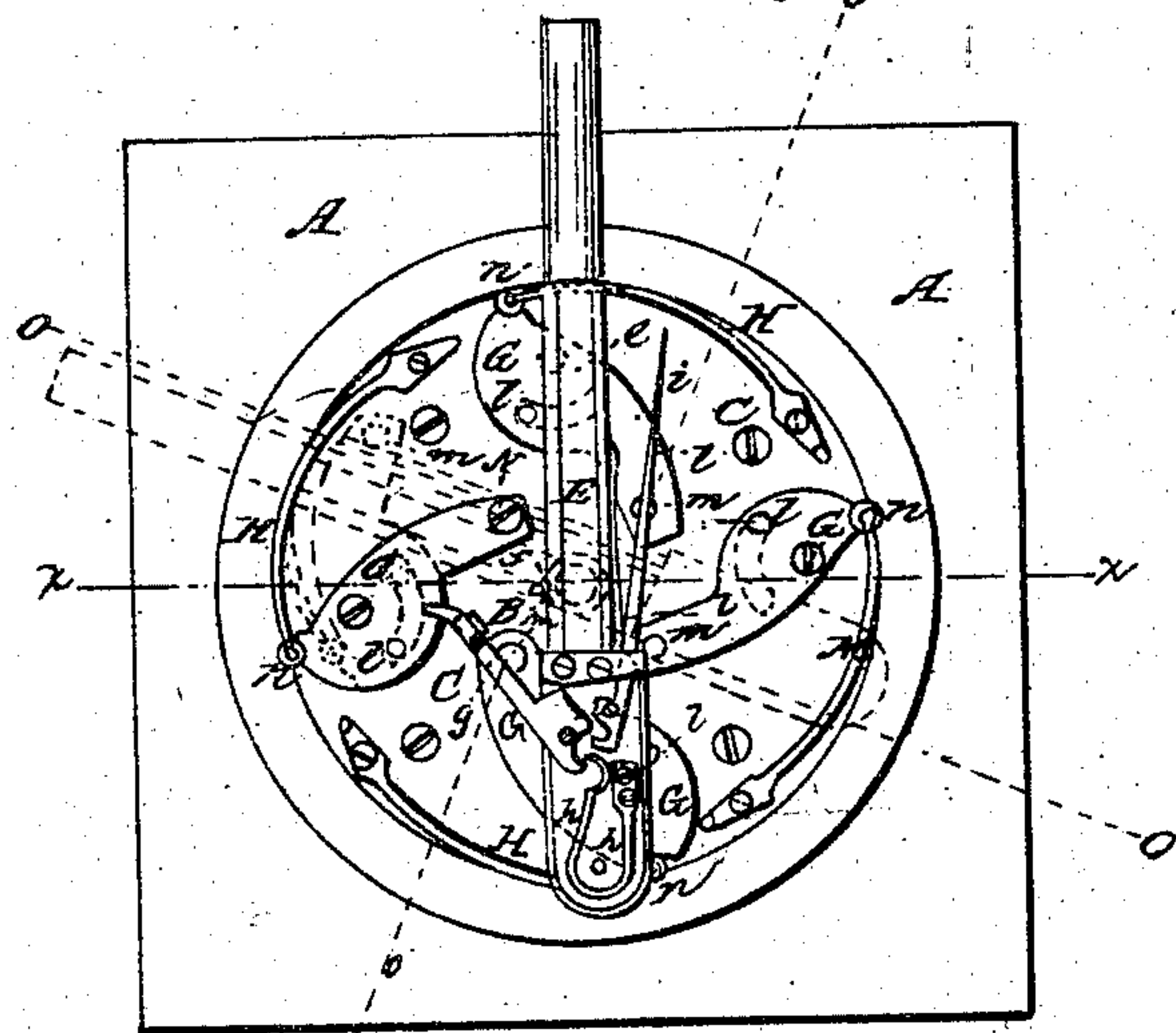


Fig. 3

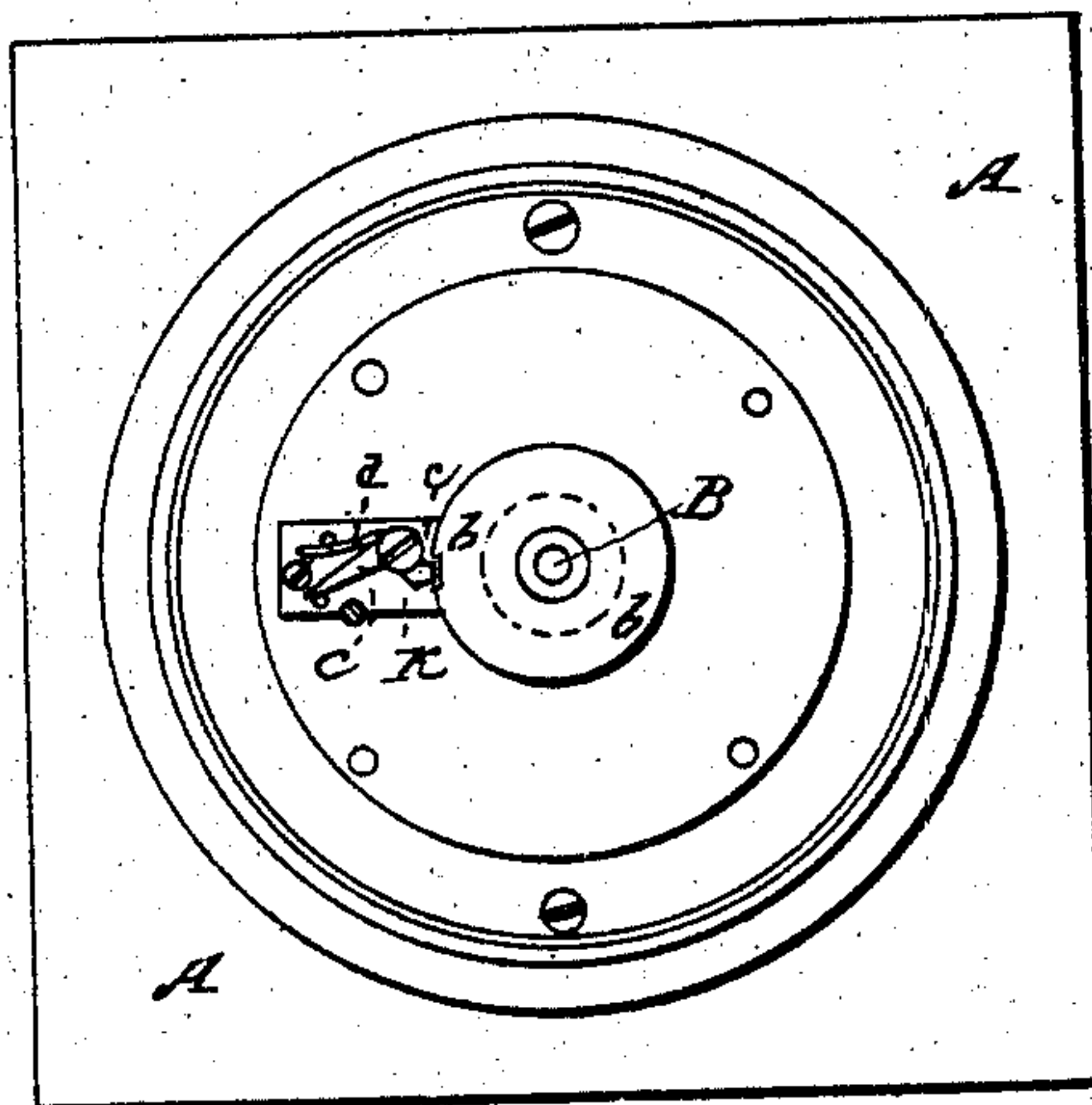


Fig. 2

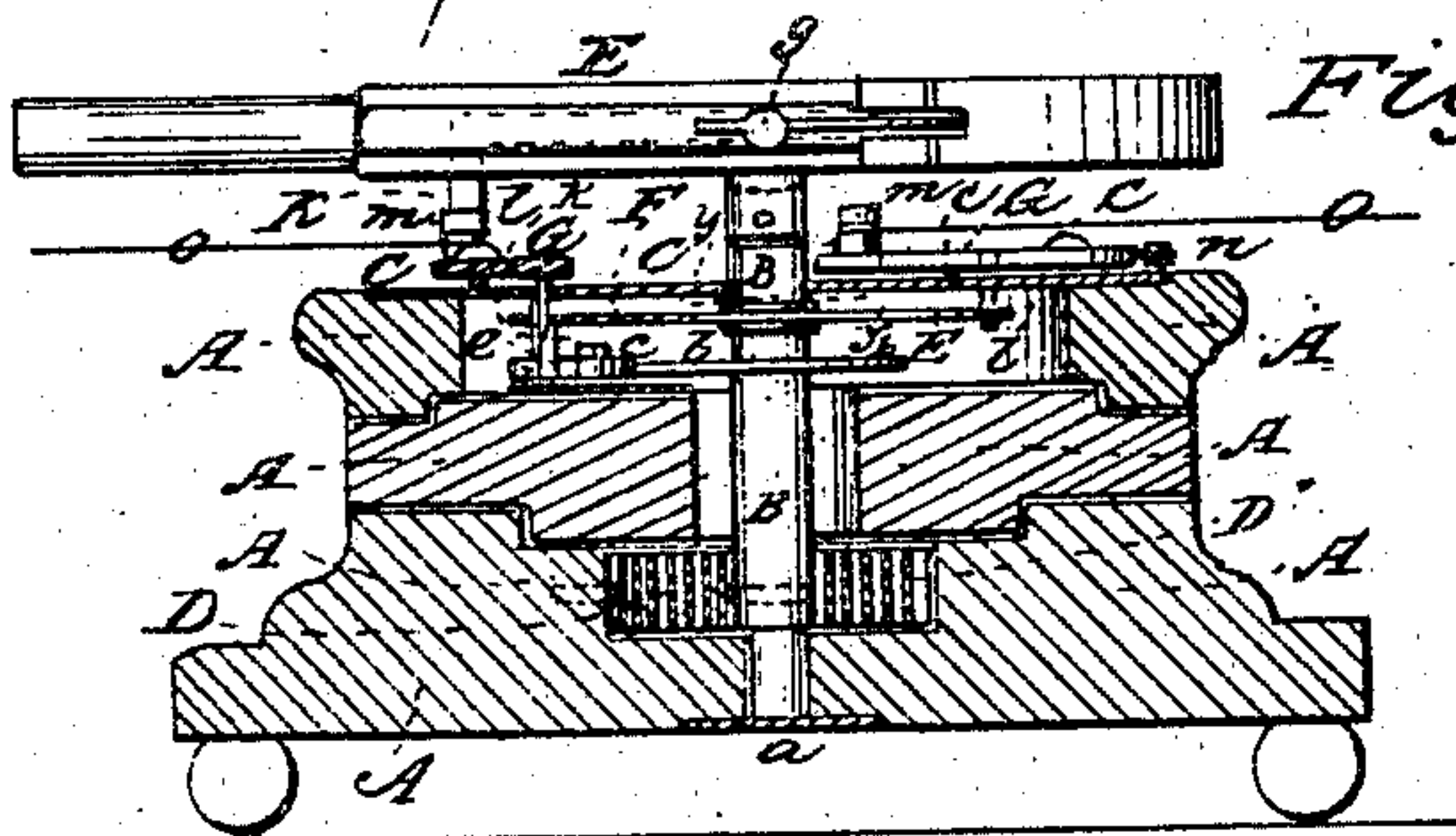
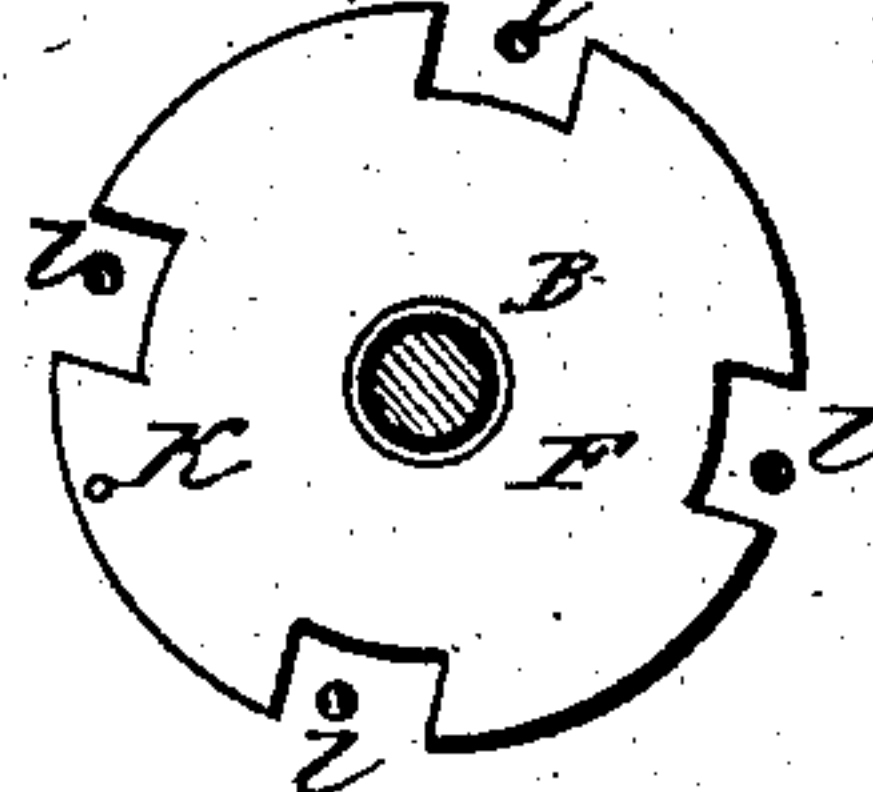


Fig. 4



Witnesses:

Thos. Sturges
Wm. Overell

Inventor

J. Wilson
Attest
J. M. Munroe
Attorney

United States Patent Office.

JOHN WILSON, OF ANDERSON COURT-HOUSE, SOUTH CAROLINA.

Letters Patent No. 66,662, dated July 9, 1867.

IMPROVED BURGLAR-ALARM GUN.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, JOHN WILSON, of Anderson Court-House, Anderson county, South Carolina, have invented a new and improved Burglar-Alarm Gun; 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 a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1, Sheet 1, is a plan or top (partly in section) view of my improved burglar-alarm gun.

Figure 2, Sheet 1, is a vertical cross-section of the same, the plane of section being indicated by the line *x x*, fig. 1.

Figure 3, Sheet 2, is a plan or top view of the catch whereby the revolving barrel is held in position.

Figure 4, Sheet 2, is a detail horizontal sectional view, the plane of section being indicated by the line *y y*, fig. 2.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

This invention relates to a burglar-alarm that consists of a swivelled horizontal gun-barrel, so arranged in a frame that the said barrel can revolve on its vertical support. Suitable stops are arranged around the barrel which are connected with wires that are spread across the room in which the apparatus stands, so that when a burglar or other party not acquainted with the arrangement of the wires comes in contact with one of the same, the stop which holds the shaft will be released and the gun will swing around and strike against a stop, and point towards the direction in which the wire is stretched. The striking against the stop will discharge the gun. Thus in whatever place the burglar may strike one of the wires, the barrel will certainly swing around and point toward that direction, and will be discharged instantaneously after the wire has been touched.

The same apparatus may be employed with advantage for other purposes, such as shooting game, etc.

A represents a wooden or other box or frame, made of the shape shown in the drawings, or of any other suitable shape, in such a manner as to be of sufficient strength, and of suitable form for supporting and holding the other parts of the mechanism. A vertical shaft, B, resting upon a step, *a*, and being held in place by a metal plate, C, is secured in the block or bed A, and is connected with a powerful clock-spring, D, which revolves the shaft in one direction, when the latter is disengaged from the stops that hold it in place. To the shaft is rigidly secured a disk or circular flange, *b*, which is provided with a notch, as shown in fig. 3. An elbow-catch, *c*, that is pivoted to the head A, is pressed by a spring, *d*, against the circumference of the disk *b* and the notch in the same, as shown in fig. 3. The shaft is thus held in place and prevented from revolving by this notched disk *b* and spring-catch *c*. On the upper end of the shaft B is firmly secured, so as to turn with the shaft, a gun, E, consisting of a barrel, *e*, nipple *f*, hammer *g*, main-spring *h*, and trigger *i*, as is clearly shown in fig. 1. A disk, F, provided with four or more notches or recesses arranged around its circumference, as shown in fig. 4, fits loosely around the shaft B, and has a pin, *k*, secured to its under side, which when it comes in contact with the outer arm of the spring-catch *c*, throws the inner end of the latter out of the notch in the disk *b*, and the shaft is then free to revolve, being moved by the spring D. On top of the plate C are pivoted four or more metal arms G, their number corresponding with that of the notches in the plate F. Each of these arms is provided with a pin, *l*, at its under surface, projecting through a slot in the plate C, (shown by dotted lines in fig. 1) and fitting into one of the notches in the disk F, as indicated in figs. 2 and 4. At its upper surface each arm G is also provided with a projecting pin, *m*, as shown. Springs H of sufficient power are arranged on top of plate C, one to each arm G, and their free ends, which may be provided with friction-rollers *n*, fit against one end of the arm G, so as to hold the latter in place when they are turned in, as shown in fig. 1.

The operation is as follows: The gun-barrel *e* is loaded with powder and balls in the usual manner, the hammer cocked, (fig. 1,) and a percussion-cap placed upon the nipple *f*. The gun E is turned so that the catch *c* is in the notch in plate *b*, as shown in fig. 3. The arms G are all turned towards the shaft B, as shown in fig. 1, and to each pin *m* is secured a wire, *o*, shown by red lines in figs. 1 and 2, which is stretched radially with the shaft B as centre. The position of the parts is then as shown in figs. 1, 3, and 4. As soon as any body strikes against one of the wires *o*, or touches the same but slightly, the arm G, to which one end of that wire is secured, is thrown back, as shown by red lines in fig. 1; thereby the pin *l* on that arm G is thrown against the side of the notch in plate F, and the latter is turned sufficient to let the pin *k* strike against the outer arm of catch *c*, and thus release the shaft. The gun E will then turn with the shaft until a projection, *p*, on the trigger *i* strikes

against the pin *m* on that arm which was moved by the wire. The concussion is sufficient to discharge the gun, which is thus pointing in the direction of the radial wire *o*, as shown by red lines in fig. 1 and in fig. 2. Thus, whichever wire is moved or touched, the gun will turn and stop when it is in line with the wire, and be discharged in that direction. The more wires are stretched, that is to say, the more arms *G* are arranged, and the more notches are provided in the disk *F*, the greater will be the accuracy with which the gun can be made self-aiming. After it has been fired it will have to be re-loaded and re-set. By simply changing the position of the apparatus the wires will be arranged altogether different in a room, and great variation in the arrangement of the wires and of the different parts in this apparatus can be made.

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

1. The arms *G G*, when pivoted, as shown, and when provided with pins *l* and *m*, in combination with the springs *H H*, all made and operating substantially as herein shown and described.
2. The gun *E*, when secured to a shaft, *B*, in combination with the disk *b* and spring-catch *c*, substantially as set forth.
3. The plate *F*, when secured loose on the shaft *B*, and when notched, as shown, and provided with a pin, *k*, in combination with the pins *l l*, on the arms *G*, all made and operating substantially as set forth.
4. The trigger *i*, when provided with a downward projection, *p*, in combination with the pins *m*, as set forth.
5. The arms *G*, when connected with the wires *o*, so that by pulling on or touching the wire the arm *G* will be moved, and will serve to revolve the gun and to direct it towards the disturbed wire and discharge the same, all as set forth.
6. An alarm-gun made and operating substantially as herein shown and described.

Witnesses:

WM. F. McNAMARA,
ALEX. F. ROBERTS.

JOHN WILSON.