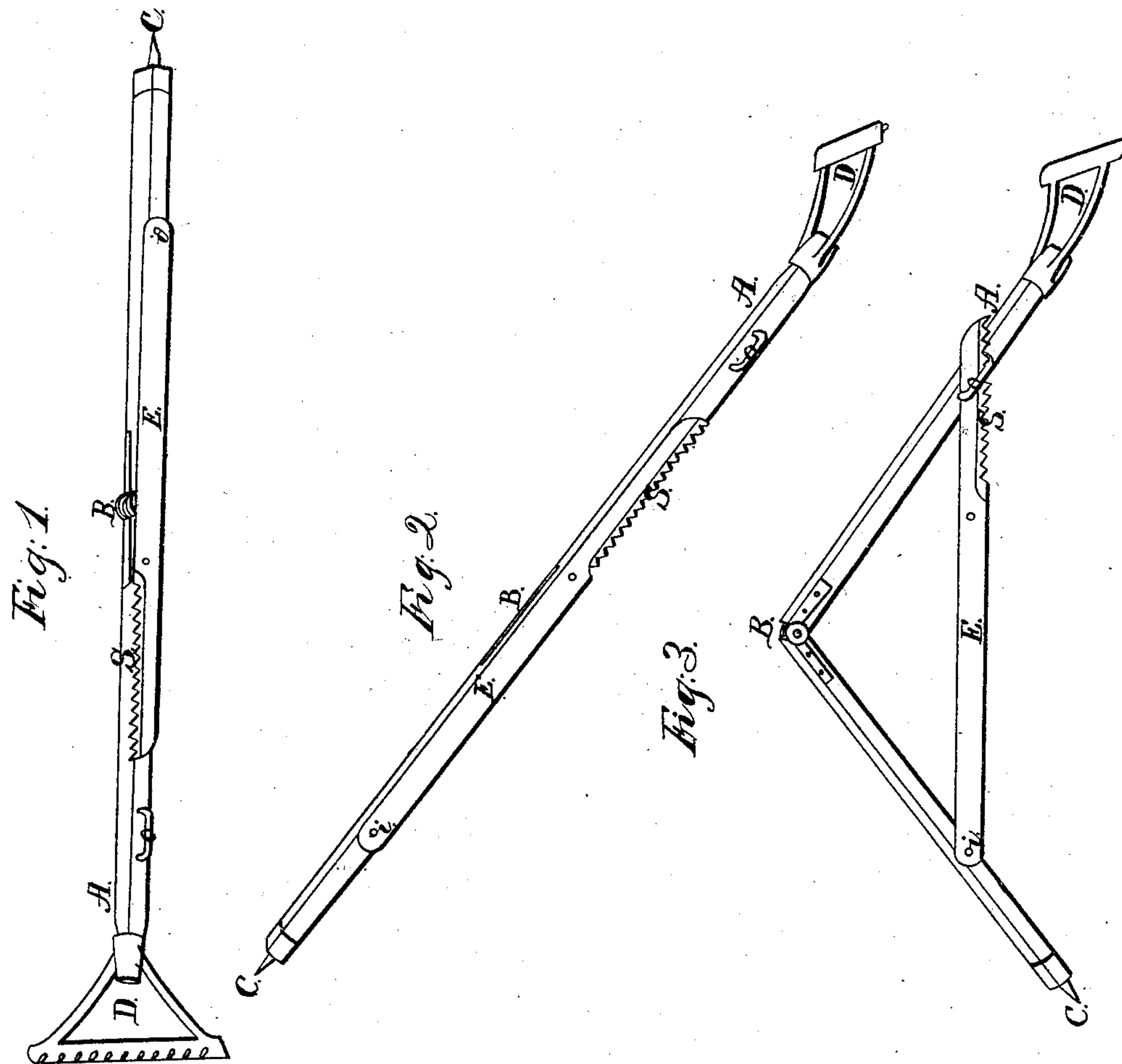


L. B. Southworth,

Carnet Stretcher,

Nº 76,355,

Patented Apr. 7, 1868.



Witnesses:

*John W. Merwin
J. C. Sullivan.*

Inventor:

L. B. Southworth

United States Patent Office.

LEVI B. SOUTHWORTH, OF DEEP RIVER, CONNECTICUT.

Letters Patent No. 76,355, dated April 7, 1868.

IMPROVED CARPET-STRETCHER.

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

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, LEVI B. SOUTHWORTH, of Deep River, in the town of Saybrook, in the county of Middlesex, in the State of Connecticut, have invented an Improvement in Carpet-Stretchers; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full 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 and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

The nature of my invention consists in providing a handle, having a joint at or near the middle, and a point, one or more, in one end. The other end of which handle is to be attached to a head, having a row or rows of teeth or points at right angles to the handle, which will engage with the carpet while the points on the opposite end of the handle are stepped in the floor and carpet, and cause the part of the carpet intervening to be stretched by a downward pressure upon the joint, and, also, in providing the handle with a brace to hold the two sections thereof in the position obtained by the pressure upon the joint.

I construct the head of my carpet-stretchers wholly of metal, or of wood and metal combined, and of any suitable length, but usually about two feet in length.

Figure 1 is a representation of a carpet-stretcher constructed according to my invention.

A cast head is represented at D, having a row of points cast into the lower side to catch upon the carpet. The points are made of short pointed pieces of wire inserted in prints in the sand made by points on the head-pattern, the metal, when poured into the mould, flowing around and securing them in the head. The head is attached, by means of a socket, to the handle A, which is made of wood, and provided with a toggle-joint near the middle, as represented at B. The end of the handle opposite the head is surrounded with a ferrule, and provided with a point, shown at C, for penetrating the floor. E represents a brace, which may be made wholly of metal, or of wood with a metal plate riveted or attached by screws on the inside of one end, and serrated on the lower edge, as represented at S. One end of this brace is pivoted to one section of the handle, as shown at i, and a staple, to receive the other or serrated end, is attached to the other section of the handle, as represented at o.

To stretch a carpet by this device, one edge of the carpet is tacked in its proper position, and the point C pressed through it into the floor so as to remain stationary. The toggle-joint is bent upward, or adjusted at any desired angle, according to the power desired, and the teeth of the head made to engage with the carpet. Thus arranged, by pressing down upon the joint, the angle between the two sections of the handle is increased, and the part of the carpet included therein stretched. In this first operation the brace E is not essential, because the operator can readily step on the carpet and hold it in position. This being done, the same operation may be repeated, or the stretcher used as it is represented by Figure 2, in the following manner: The teeth of the head are made to engage with the carpet with the handle held straight, and the brace in line with it, by the hands of the operator, who presses forward and downward upon the handle, and holds the carpet thus stretched in position by stepping upon it. This operation is repeated until the opposite edge of the carpet is reached, when the point C is again pressed through the carpet into the floor, the brace E is adjusted in the staple o, so that the serrated part will engage therewith, when the operation first described is repeated, which being done, the carpet is held for tacking, and the stretcher appears as represented by Figure 3.

With the sections of the handle constructed each three feet in length, this carpet-stretcher requires but little bending of the body to operate it, and the joint in the handle, while it affords ample power for the purpose of stretching, enables the handle to be folded for stowage.

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

The joint B, one or more points C, and brace E, in combination with the head D, as and for the purpose specified.

LEVI B. SOUTHWORTH.

Witnesses:

JOHN W. MARVIN,
F. C. SILLIMAN.