E. HOFFSTAETTER.

Hair Picker.

No. 76,451. Patented April 7, 1868.

Fig. 1.

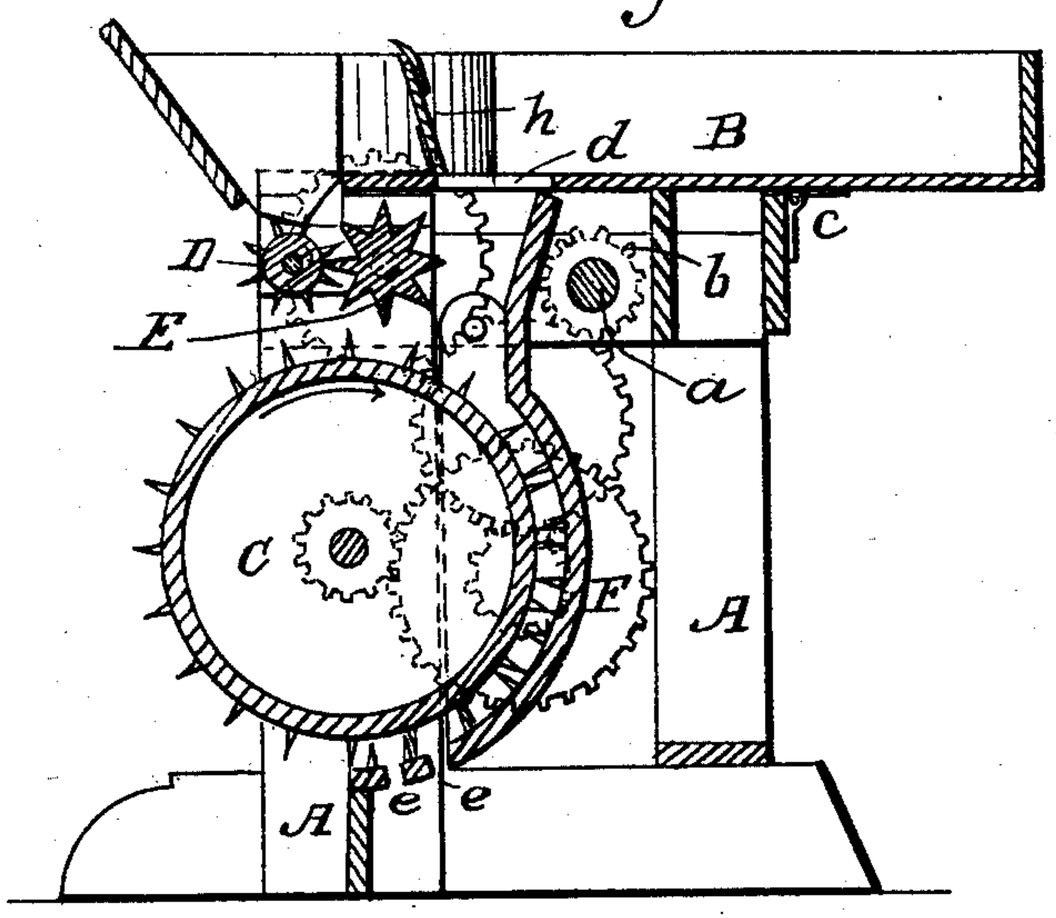
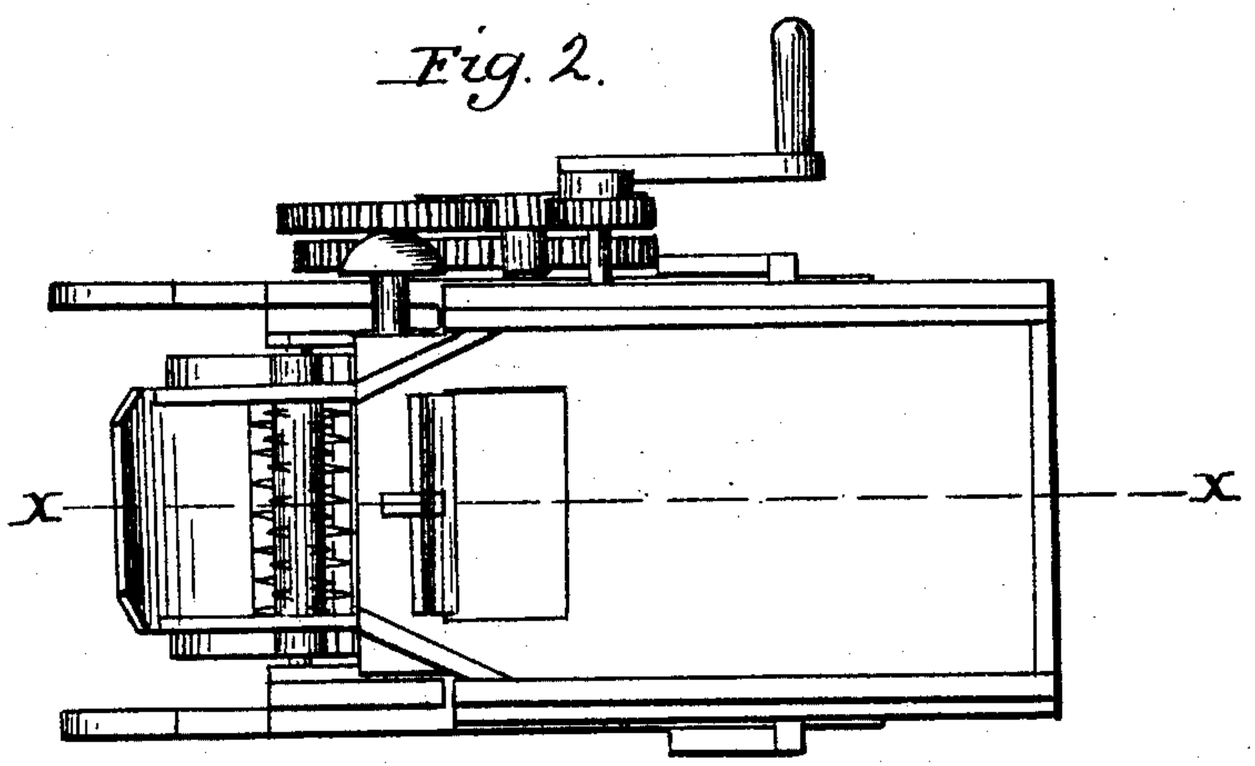


Fig. 2.



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ERNST HOFFSTAETTER, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

Letters Patent No. 76,451, *dated April* 7, 1868.

IMPROVEMENT IN MACHINE FOR PICKING HAIR.

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

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, ERNST HOFFSTAETTER, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Machine for Picking Hair; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable those skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification.

This invention relates to a new and improved machine for picking hair, and cleansing it from dust and dirt.

And the invention consists in the construction and arrangement of a picker and corrugated feeder, which operate in combination with the cylinder of the machine; and it also consists in the manner in which the hair is fed into the machine, or construction of the feed-box, as will hereinafter be more fully described.

Figure 1 represents a sectional side elevation of the machine, the section being through the line *x x* of fig. 2.

Figure 2 is a top or plan view of the machine.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

A represents the frame; B is the feed-box; C is the cylinder; D is the picker; E is the corrugated feeder, which turns the picker D. The shaft to which the power is applied is marked *a*. *b* is a small wheel on this shaft, which imparts motion to the cylinder C and feeder E, through gear-wheels and pinions, as seen in the drawing. The arrangement of the gearing is such that the cylinder C is given a very rapid revolving motion. This cylinder is provided with teeth, and it revolves in connection with the stationary bed or concave marked F, which is also provided with teeth, as seen in the drawing. This concave is formed to correspond with the circle described by the teeth of the cylinder, and the teeth in each lap by or mesh with each other.

The hair for which this machine is especially intended is curled hair, which has been used in upholstering, and, having become matted together and foul, from dust and dirt, requires picking and cleaning. As the hair itself does not wear out or decay from use, it may thus be renewed and rendered nearly or quite as valuable as new hair.

In using the machine for the purpose intended, the hair is first passed through it by being fed directly on to the cylinder, through an orifice in the feeding-box marked *d*. As the cylinder revolves in the direction of the arrow, the hair is carried through between the cylinder and the bed, and discharged from the machine, the centrifugal force of the cylinder throwing it off a number of feet from the machine, separating it from the dirt or heavier particles, which pass from the bed through the apertures *e e*, or drop to the floor nearer the cylinder. The operation is repeated by passing the hair a second time through the machine, but this time it is more evenly fed in and thoroughly picked by being fed from the feed-box, over the end, at *g*, between the picker D and the corrugated or fluted feeder E. To allow of this, the cover *h* to the orifice *d* is closed, it being represented open in the drawing, as required for the first operation. From the picker D and feeder E the hair is evenly fed on to the cylinder, and any knots or bunches of hair which may not have been thoroughly picked by the first operation are now entirely separated, and the operation is complete.

For different kinds of hair, a different picker, D, may be used, as finer and coarser, and it will be noticed that the picker is dropped into its bearings, and retains its position by its own gravity. The picker is made of wood or other suitable material, with metallic teeth, and the cylinder and concave are made of similar materials. The feed-box B is hinged to the frame, as seen at *c*, so that access may be had for oiling the journals, or other purposes. The frame and feed-box B may be made of either wood or iron, and the gear-wheels, and the arbors and shafts upon which they revolve, are arranged to give the required motion to the cylinder, feeder, and picker.

I do not confine myself to gear-wheels for giving the necessary motion to the machine, as I am aware that the same may be done by pulleys and belts.

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

The arrangement of the toothed cylinder C, corrugated feeder E, and removable picker D, with the hinged feed-box B, when the latter is provided with the springs *d h*, whereby the hair is fed either between the feeder E and picker D, to the cylinder C, or upon one side of the feeder E, to the cylinder, without coming in contact with the picker D, all constructed and operating as herein described, for the purpose specified.

ERNST HOFFSTAETTER.

Witnesses:

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