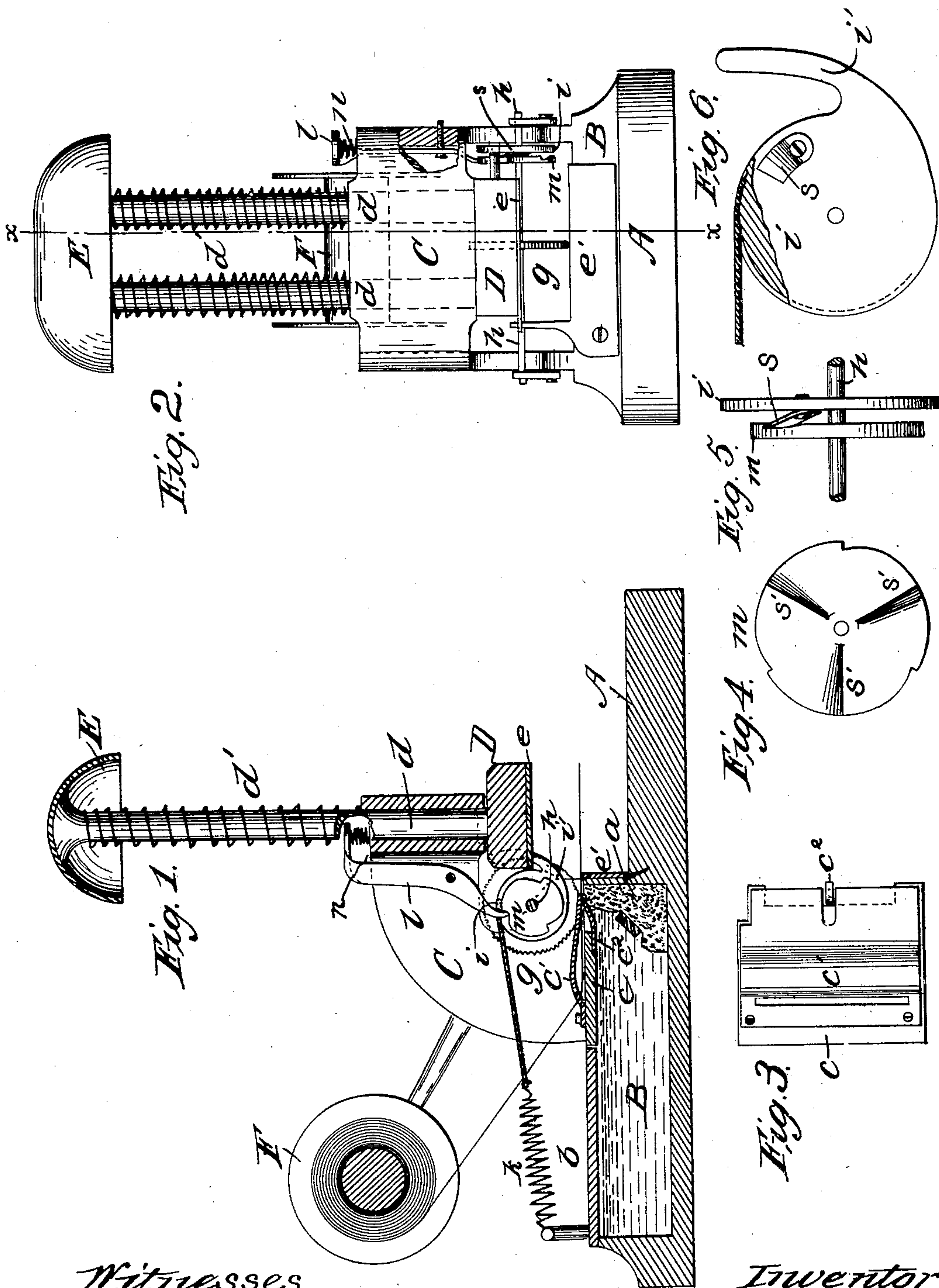


C. B. SILL.  
INSTRUMENT FOR AFFIXING STAMPS.

No. 84,223.

Patented Nov. 17, 1868.



Witnesses  
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# United States Patent Office.

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Letters Patent No. 84,223, dated November 17, 1868.

## IMPROVEMENT IN INSTRUMENTS FOR AFFIXING STAMPS.

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, C. B. SILL, of Wilkins, in the county of Allegheny, and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and improved Instrument for Affixing Revenue-Stamps; 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 part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a vertical longitudinal section, taken in the line *x x*, fig. 2.

Figure 2 is an end view of my invention.

Figure 3 is a detached view of a plate and springs for guiding the stamps.

Figure 4 is a detached side view of a ratchet-wheel device.

Figure 5 is a detached side view of the same, in connection with a pulley-device.

Figure 6 is a detached edge view of the pulley-device.

Similar letters of reference indicate like parts.

The object of this invention is the affixing of revenue-stamps upon receipts, checks, and all other papers requiring them, by means of a self-operating wetting and cutting-apparatus. It consists of a small reel or drum, on which a strip of stamps is wound, and passed to and over a wetted sponge, which moistens the gum on the stamp, to make it stick. The stamp is cut off by the action of the affixer, which is pressed down upon it, to attach it to the document placed under it.

A is a flat metal bed-plate, one end of which is made hollow, to form a box, B, in which is placed a sponge, *a*, that is fastened so that its upper surface shall be flat on the level of the top of the box, as shown in fig. 1. The box B has its top higher than the top of the other end of the bed-plate A, and is provided with a sliding cover, *b*, covering it in part, and also a guide-plate, *c*, covering the other part, and provided with flat guide-springs, *c' c'*, between which the stamp passes over the sponge *a*, as shown in red in fig. 1.

A standard-support, C, is set upon the inner end of the box B, extending from one side to the other, and projecting over the top of the bed-plate A for receiving the sliding stems *d d* of a stamp-press plate, D, attached to their lower ends.

On the upper ends of the sliding stems *d d* is a head, E, for pressing upon with the palm of the hand, to affix the stamps, and around the stems are wound spiral springs, *d' d'*, which raise the stem with the plate D after it has been pressed down upon a stamp.

A steel plate *e*, is set on the bottom of the press-plate D, and another plate, *e'*, on the back of the box B, the edges of which plates come together, and cut off the stamps, passing through guide-springs *c' c'* when the press-plate D is pushed down to affix the stamp.

A reel or drum, F, is placed over the box B, for holding a strip of stamps, as shown in red, fig. 1, from which

drum the strip of stamps passes between the guide-springs *c' c'*, to be moved forward by the operation of a feeding-apparatus, consisting of a feed-wheel, *g*, placed on the middle of a shaft, *h*, hung behind the stamp-press D, over the sponge *a*, the periphery of which wheel bears down on the strip of stamps, and moves one stamp forward under the press D, at every movement of said wheel.

On one end of the shaft *h* is set loosely an eccentric-pulley device, *i*, one side of which has a curved arm, *i'*, projecting backward in such manner that when the stamp-press D is pushed down to affix a stamp, the arm *i'* catches against it, and is pushed down with it. This movement draws upon and expands a spiral spring, *k*, while the feed-wheel *g* does not turn, but is held firm by a dog, *l*, that catches in a ratchet-wheel, *m*, placed on the shaft *h*, by the side of the device *i*. The dog *l* has a small spring, *n*, at one end, which holds it in place in the ratchet-wheel, but when the spring is closed, by pressing on the upper end of the dog, the ratchet-wheel is released, and, at the same moment, a little side-spring-pawl, *s*, on the device *i*, catches in one of several notches, *s'*, in the side of the ratchet-wheel *m*, and, as the device *i* is drawn up by the contraction of the spring *k*, the ratchet-wheel is thus turned around, carrying with it the shaft *h* and the feed-wheel *g*, the proper distance for moving one stamp forward under the press D.

Thus the operation of pushing down the press D, to affix a stamp, places the feeding-apparatus in position for moving forward another stamp, when wanted, by merely bearing upon the head of the dog *l*, and releasing it from the ratchet-wheel *m*, which is then actuated by the spiral spring *k*, to turn the feed-wheel *g*. Thus the descent of the affixer both cuts off a stamp and "sets" the feed-wheel, which remains in this condition until another stamp is required, when a pressure upon the pawl-arm *l* releases the feed-wheel, and the latter, under the influence of the spring *k*, feeds out another stamp, which, in its passage over the sponge, is properly moistened. A stroke upon the affixer-head E then severs and affixes the stamp, and also "sets" the feed-wheel ready for another occasion. Thus no stamp is fed forward over the moistened sponge until it is about to be used, in which respect the machine differs from others.

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

The combination of the cutter and affixer D, sponge *a*, a spring-feed, and the within-described devices, or their equivalents, through the medium of which the spring-feed is "set" on the downward movement of the affixer, as and for the purpose described.

C. B. SILL.

Witnesses:

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