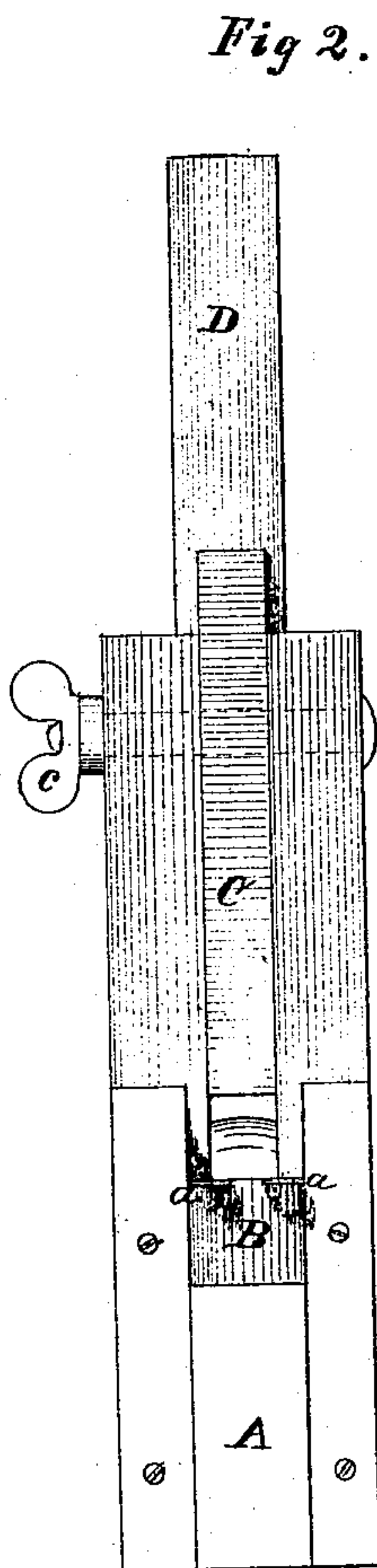
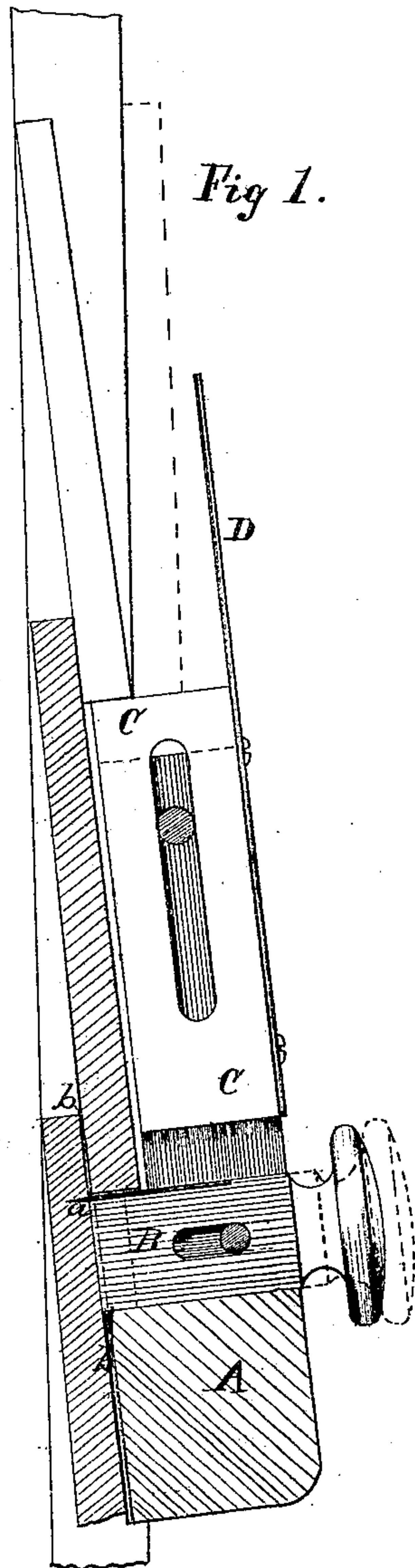


J. S. Biddlecom,

Gage.

No. 102649.

Patented May 3, 1870.



Witnesses:

J. M. Howe
H. H. Clement

Inventor:

J. S. Biddlecom
By J. M. Laughborough.

United States Patent Office.

JOAB S. BIDDLECOM, OF MACEDON, NEW YORK.

Letters Patent No. 102,649, dated May 3, 1870.

IMPROVEMENT IN CLAPBOARD-GAUGE.

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, JOAB S. BIDDLECOM, of Macedon, in the county of Wayne and State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Clapboard-Gauge and Bracket; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a sectional elevation of my invention representing it as applied to the clapboards.

Figure 2 is a rear elevation.

The object of my invention is to provide a convenient tool for carpenters' use in laying clapboards, by which their weather-face is gauged, and the board supported while being fitted.

To enable others to make and use my invention, I will describe its construction and operation.

The stock A of my clapboard-gauge is cut away upon its inner face for a portion of its length, so as to rest at its lower end against a clapboard, and admit the succeeding one in the rebate so formed, as shown in fig. 1.

One or more metallic spurs, *b*, are secured to the inner face of the stock A, projecting over the edge of the rebate, and made sufficiently thin at the end to slip under the lower edge of the nailed clapboard, as shown.

Immediately below the rebate in A, I provide a slide, B, moving in a mortise cut through A, and having secured to it longitudinally one or more spurs or blades, *a*, ground to an edge so as to enter the board easily.

This slide is operated by a knob upon its outer end, and is kept in place by means of a slot and pin, or other similar device, as shown in fig. 1.

The adjustable gauge-rest C slides in a suitable groove in the upper portion of the stock, and its adjustment is secured by a thumb-screw and nut, *e*, or other equivalent device.

The length of the rest C is such that, when at its lower adjustment, the distance between its outer end and the shoulder upon the inner face of the stock A shall not exceed the narrowest weather-face desired for a clapboard.

A guard, D, is fixed to the rest, which retains the board while being marked and fitted.

The operation of my invention is as follows:

After the two lower boards (shown in section in fig. 1) are secured, the gauge is applied by inserting the spurs *b* under the lower edge of the second board, and pushing it up to shoulder, as indicated in fig. 1. The slide B is then given a quick thrust with the hand, which forces the blades *a* into the lower board, holding the gauge securely against the building.

The gauge-rest C having been previously adjusted to the desired width of weather-face, the next board is laid upon it, as shown in outline in fig. 1, and its position thus determined.

For the purpose of marking and cutting off the clapboard, the guard D is so situated as to allow it to slip by the corner board, as shown in dotted lines in fig. 1.

Instead of the stop C, I may use a spur or arm upon the guard D, and make the latter adjustable upon the stock A.

It is desirable that the spurs *a* enter the board immediately under the edge of the next one above, whereby the mark left by the spurs will not be noticed.

A scribing-plate may also be attached to either side of the gauge, by which the board may be marked for cutting off.

I do not intend to confine myself to the precise form of the instrument herein shown, since other forms constructed of wood or metal, or both, may be adopted, operating similarly, and possessing all its advantages, as hereinbefore described.

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

The stock A, with its spurs or blades *b*, in combination with the gauge-rest C, and sliding spurs or blades *a*, constructed, arranged, and operated substantially as set forth.

J. S. BIDDLECOM.

Witnesses:

F. H. CLEMENT,
GEO. T. PARKER.