

James Webb, Jr.

117582

Impr'd Trimming Jack.

Fig. 1.

PATENTED AUG 1 1871

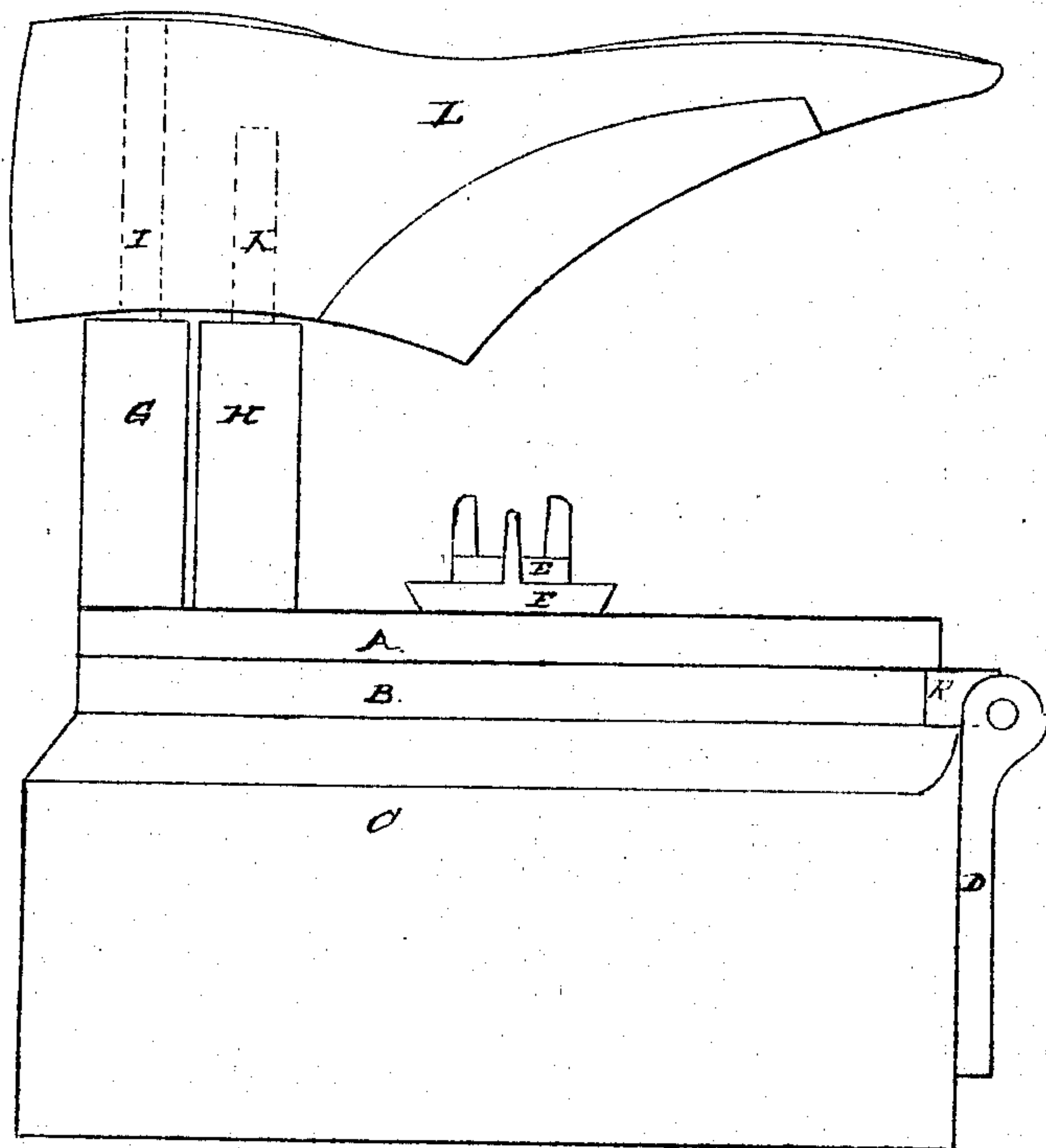
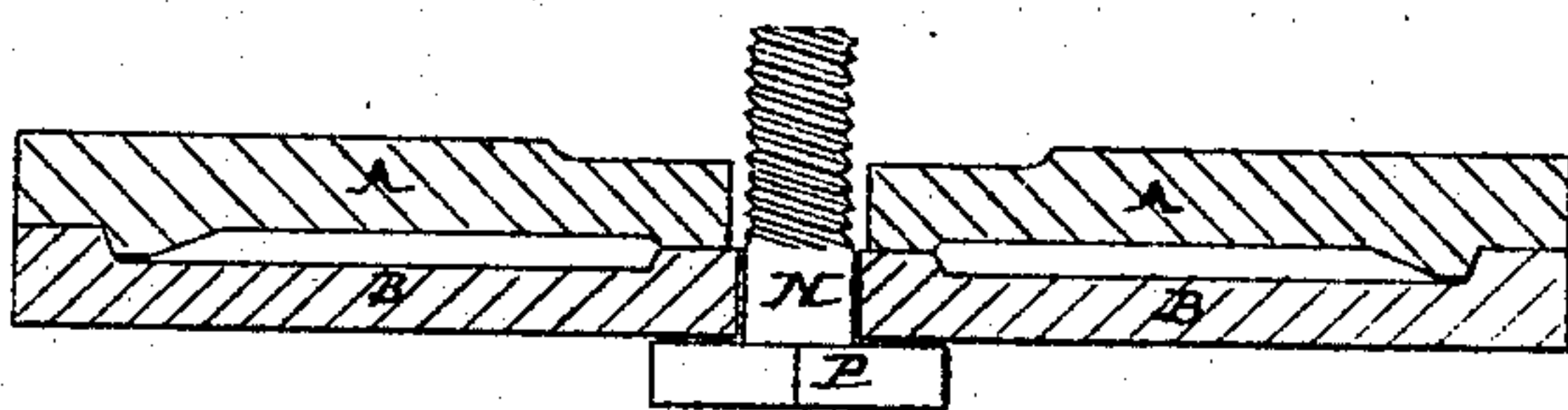


Fig. 2.



Witnesses:  
George E. Bird  
Chas. E. Horner

Inventor  
James Webb Jr.  
Per Wm. H. Clifford atty

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES WEBB, JR., OF PORTLAND, MAINE.

## IMPROVEMENT IN TRIMMING-JACKS FOR SHOES AND BOOTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 117,582, dated August 1, 1871.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JAMES WEBB, JR., of the city of Portland, in the county of Cumberland and State of Maine, have invented a new and useful Improved Trimming-Jack; and I hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of my improved jack; and Fig. 2 is a detail, showing a vertical section of the plates A and B.

Same letters show same parts.

Hitherto trimming-jacks or head-blocks have been more or less complicated in construction and in use inconvenient. Various devices, and some of them complicated and expensive, have been made use of to give the requisite stiffness to the last. In my invention it has been my object to eliminate the disadvantages common to the jacks now in use, and to produce a jack not only more simple and inexpensive but more convenient.

The following description will serve to explain its construction: A and B are two circular plates of the same diameter. The lower surface of B and the upper surface of the plate A are plain save a circular central depression in A. (See Fig. 2.) Both these plates have a central aperture to receive the screw-bolt N. The inner surfaces of these plates (see Fig. 2) have bearings at the center and edges, those at the edges having shoulders to prevent any lateral or sliding motion of the plates. The plate B has an ear, R, to which is attached the hinge D, which is in turn attached to the wooden block C. To the upper surface of the plate A, which is held down upon the other plate B by thumb-screws, (see E and F, Fig. 1,) are firmly attached the upright standards G and H. These standards may be placed at a greater or lesser distance apart; but I prefer that the distance between them should not be greater than one inch, and in practice prefer to place them as near as or even nearer than is shown in the drawing. The centers of the plate A and the standard should be on the same straight line. From the tops of the standards G and H project the spindles I and K, respectively. These spindles may be of the same length, or the spindle K may be shorter than the other. Suitable holes being made in the last L, it is

forced down upon the spindles and thus held in position. Greater firmness may be imparted to the last by carrying the spindles up to the bottom of the last, threading their ends, and securing them by nuts.

In all other jacks than mine but one standard and spindle has been used, and to obtain the requisite stiffness a support has been placed beneath the toe of the last, upon which the last has been pressed down by means of a thumb-screw, controlling the plate A, a spring-coil, or some equivalent device. The disadvantages of this construction must be obvious.

In attaching the old form of jack to the block or standard upon which it is placed it always is necessary to cut out large portions of the block and sometimes to add a bracket or other piece of wood to one of the sides. The only particulars in which a circular last must be altered to accommodate my jack is in slightly flattening one side to receive the hinge D, and in making a slight depression at the center of the top to receive the head P of the bolt N.

Without, then, adverting to other and minor distinctions, I will mention the following advantages which I claim for my jack: First, from the absence of the support for the toe, no movement of the last, and no previous or subsequent adjustment of any of the parts, is necessary, when putting on or removing a shoe. Second, all parts of the upper leather of the boot or shoe can be reached by the tool of the workman. Third, from the simplicity of its construction it is much cheaper than any other jack. Fourth, it is more easily and cheaply attached to its post or standard.

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

1. The combination of the last L, standards G and H, spindles I and K, and the plate A, as herein set forth, for the purpose described.

2. The arrangement of the last L, the standards G and H with their spindles I and K, the plates A and B, thumb-screws E and F, and hinge D, as described, for the purposes set forth.

Portland, Maine, May 31, 1871.

JAMES WEBB, JR.

Witnesses:

WM. HENRY CLIFFORD,  
GEORGE E. BIRD.