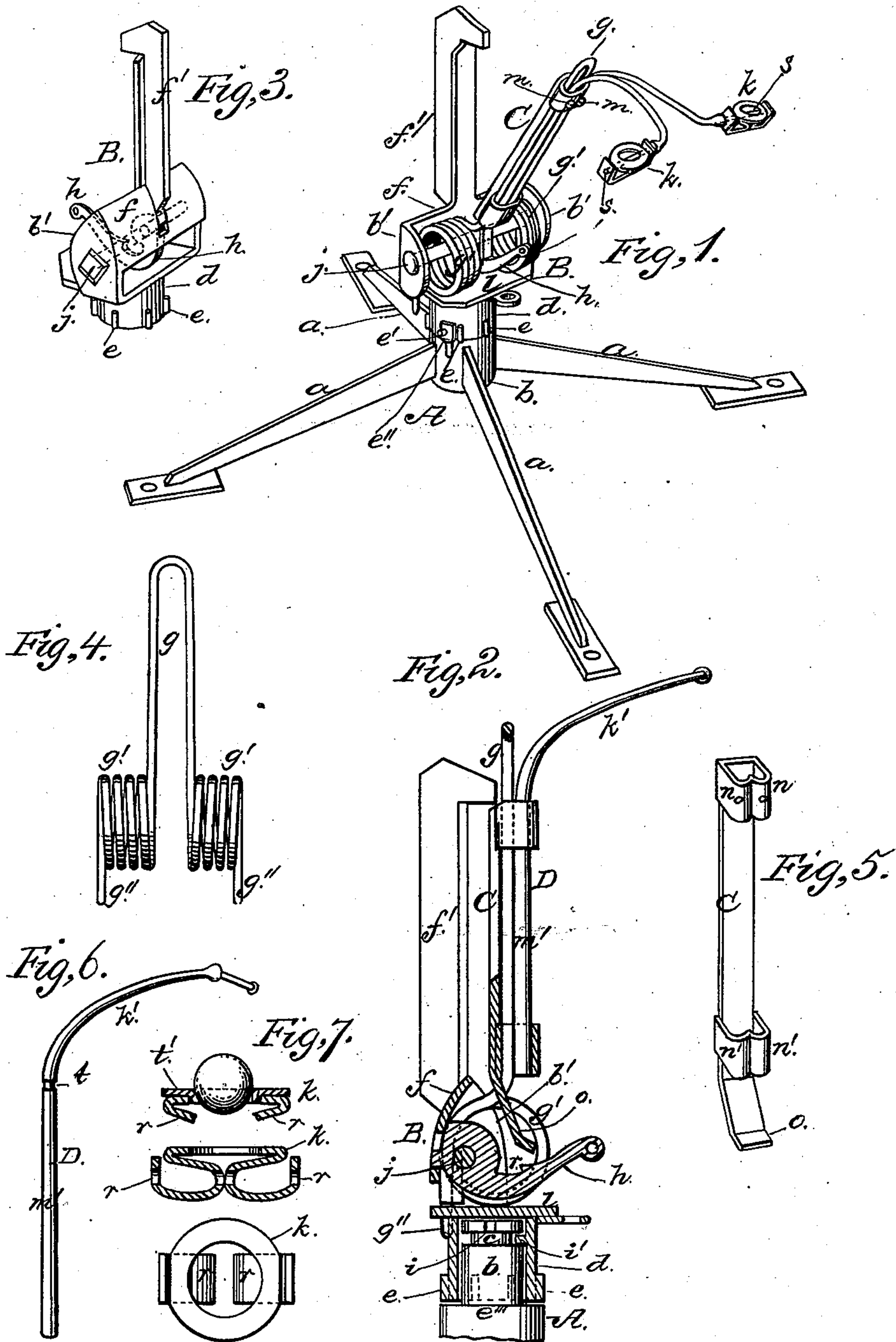


(No Model.)

B. HEMPSTEAD.
Ball-Trap.

No. 227,776.

Patented May 18, 1880.



WITNESSES

Villette Anderson.
F. J. Masi.

INVENTOR

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his ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BEALL HEMPSTEAD, OF LITTLE ROCK, ARK., ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF OF
HIS RIGHT TO JOHN P. LOVELL, OF WEYMOUTH, MASS.

BALL-TRAP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 227,776, dated May 18, 1880.

Application filed March 6, 1880. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BEALL HEMPSTEAD, of Little Rock, in the county of Pulaski and State of Arkansas, have invented a new and valuable Improvement in Ball-Traps; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a representation of a perspective view of my improved ball-trap. Fig. 2 is a vertical central section thereof; and Figs. 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 are details.

This invention has relation to improvements in ball-traps; and the nature of the invention consists in the arrangement and construction of the parts of the trap, as hereinafter fully shown and described.

In the annexed drawings, the letter A designates the base of the trap, consisting essentially of the legs *a*, having at their point of junction an upright spindle, *b*, annularly grooved near its upper end at *c*, and notched at *i*, for a purpose hereinafter set forth.

B designates an upright spring-frame, having at its lower end an annular drum, *d*, fitting snugly over the spindle and provided with a pin, *i'*, extending through its wall and engaging groove *c*. The drum *d* is provided with a number of projecting ribs or teeth, *e*, near its lower edge, with which a pin, *e'*, extending through a small lug, *e''*, on the base, is engaged when it is desired to work the machine from a stand without rotating. By winding a pull-cord around the drum and withdrawing the pin or set-screw *e'*, the spring-frame B rotates readily upon the shoulder *e''* of the base around the spindle *b*. Above the drum B is a horizontal platform, *l*, having at its ends the uprights *b'*, braced together by a plate, *f*, upon which is erected a post, *f'*.

The platform, uprights, and brace-plate constitute a recess or seat for the spring S. This is composed of an elongated U-shaped middle portion, *g*, having spiral spring-coils *g'* and arms *g''*, the part *g* being rigidly secured to the throwing-arm C, the coils *g* passed between

the uprights *b'*, and the arms *g''* inserted in perforations in the platform *l*.

The throwing-arm C extends down between the coils in a finger-like form, as shown at *o*, and is designed to engage a vertically-vibrating trigger, *h*, arranged on a transverse rod, *j*, connecting the uprights *b'*. This trigger-lever is of curved form, and its weighted end overbalances its power-arm, being, if necessary, weighted, in order that when the throwing-arm is thrust away from the stop-post *f'* the finger *o* may become engaged in a notch, *r*, in the edge of the trigger automatically.

The throwing-arm is provided near each end with bearings *n n'*, in which are seated the vertical portions *m'* of two metallic rods, D, having on their ends the ball-pockets *k*. These rods have their free ends bent out from the throwing-arm nearly horizontally, as shown in Fig. 2 at *k*, and turn independently of each other in their bearings, being adjusted in any desired position by means of a set-screw, *m*, extending through the bearings *n* and engaging a shallow groove, *t*, in the part *m'* of the rod.

The pockets *k* are of annular concave form, and are provided on their under sides with eyes *r*, by means of which they are applied upon reduced oppositely-projecting spindles *s* at the ends of rods D. The cups are provided with rubber cushions *t'*, that prevent the ball from coming in contact with the body thereof, and are adjustable independently on their respective spindles, and the rods D being adjustable in their bearings, the balls may be thrown in different directions with their trajectories of different curvatures, thus closely imitating the flight of two startled birds.

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

1. The combination, with a base, A, having spindle *b*, lug *e''*, and shoulder *e'''*, of the annular drum *d*, fitting on and revolving around said spindle, and provided with projecting lugs *e* and a removable stop-pin, *e'*, extending through lug *e''* and engaging lugs *e*, substantially as specified.

2. The combination, with the base A and the drum *d*, revolving thereon and provided with platform *l*, end uprights, *b'*, rear brace, *f*, and

stop-post f' , of a spring having the erect portion g , coils g' , and legs g'' , extending through the platform, the throwing-arm C, having finger o , and secured to part g of the spring, and
5 the gravitating trigger h , provided with notch r , and engaging the finger o automatically, substantially as specified.

3. The combination, with the spring-actuated throwing-arm C, having independent
10 bearings n n and n' n' , of the bent rods D, journaled in said bearings and provided with grooves t , the screws m , extending through bearings n into the said groove, and the journaled cups k on said rods, substantially as
15 specified.

4. The combination of the spring-actuated throwing-arm C, the rods D, independently journaled thereon, and the pockets k , pivoted or journaled on said rods, substantially as specified.

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In testimony that I claim the above I have hereunto subscribed my name in the presence of two witnesses.

BEALL HEMPSTEAD.

Witnesses:

A. BELDING,
JNO. C. BEALL.