

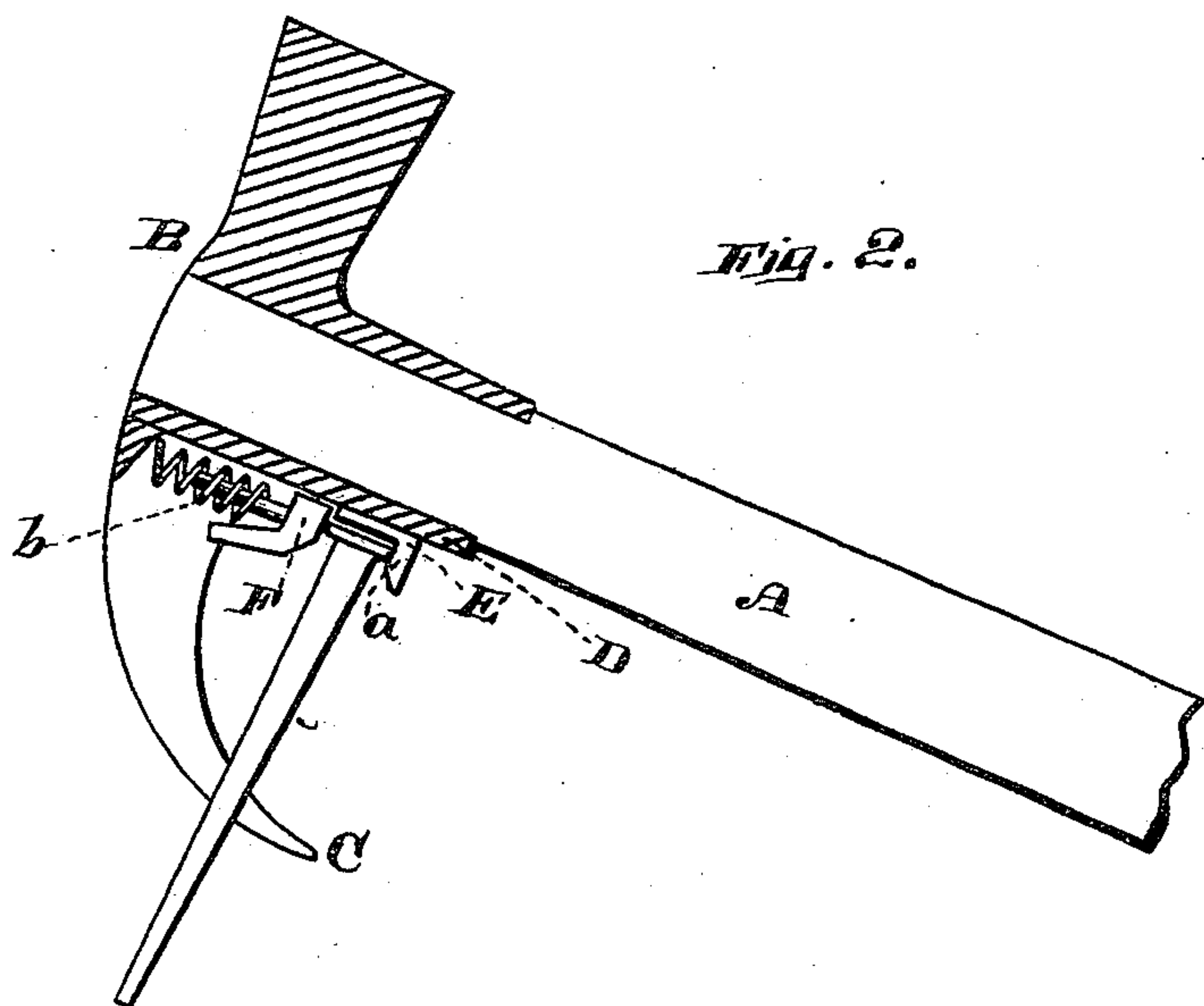
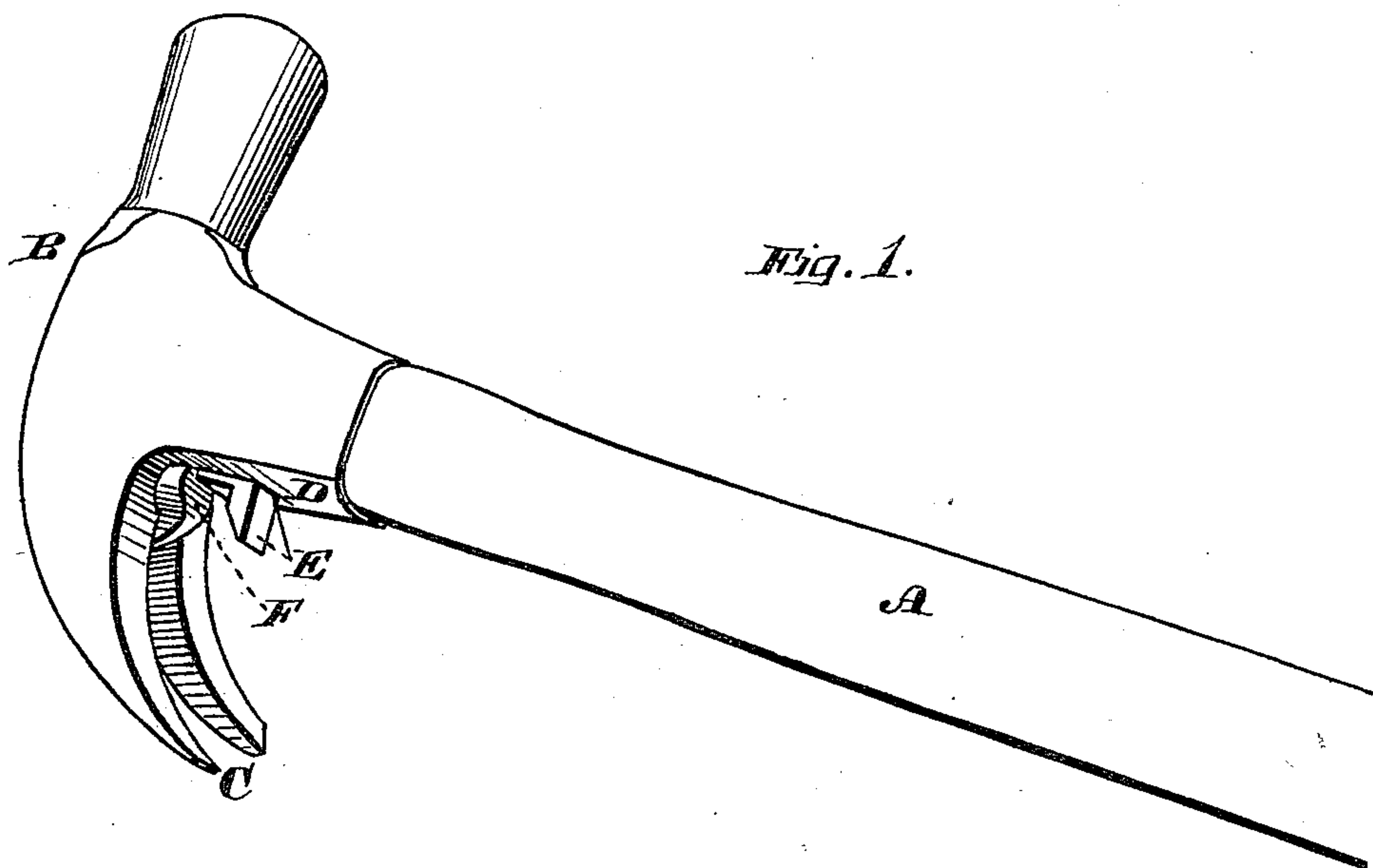
(No Model.)

H. O. HOOPER.

HAMMER.

No. 271,709.

Patented Feb. 6, 1883.



Witnesses,
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY O. HOOPER, OF FRESNO, CALIFORNIA.

HAMMER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 271,709, dated February 6, 1883.

Application filed June 26, 1882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY O. HOOPER, of Fresno, county of Fresno, State of California, have invented an Improved Nail-Hammer; and I hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof.

My invention relates to that class of hammers adapted to hold nails by their heads while being started into the material in which they are subsequently to be driven; and it consists in the details of construction, as hereinafter fully set forth, and specifically pointed out in the claim.

Referring to the accompanying drawings for a more complete explanation of my invention, Figure 1 is a perspective view, and Fig. 2 is a section.

A is the handle, and B the head, of any ordinary hammer. In the present case I have shown it as having the usual nail-drawing claws, C, of a carpenter's hammer. Upon that portion, D, which receives the handle of the hammer, and just within the base of the claw C, is fixed an angular plate, E, having one side fitted so that a nail-head will rest upon the flat portion and its edge against this side *a*. Opposite to this side is a movable spring-plate, F, which is forced toward the side *a* by its spring *b*. These two plates are so placed that the shank of a nail may be introduced between the sides of the claw C and the head pressed

in between the side *a* and the elastic plate F, where it will be held sufficiently firm to allow it to be struck into the board, lumber, or other place where it is to be put. It will then remain with sufficient firmness to allow the hammer to be detached and turned so as to finish driving the nail in the usual manner.

This device is very useful for starting nails in places which are too high to be reached by the hand, or in any place where the nail cannot be readily held with one hand and the hammer used with the other.

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

In combination with a claw-hammer head, B, the nail-holding device consisting of the fixed plate E, with a shoulder, *a*, attached to the shank in a line over the space between the claws C of the hammer, and the spring-plate sustained by a sliding rod around which is coiled a spring, *b*, within the head of the hammer, whereby the nail is steadied by resting between the claws, as described.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

HENRY O. HOOPER.

Witnesses:

S. H. NOURSE,
G. W. EMERSON.