

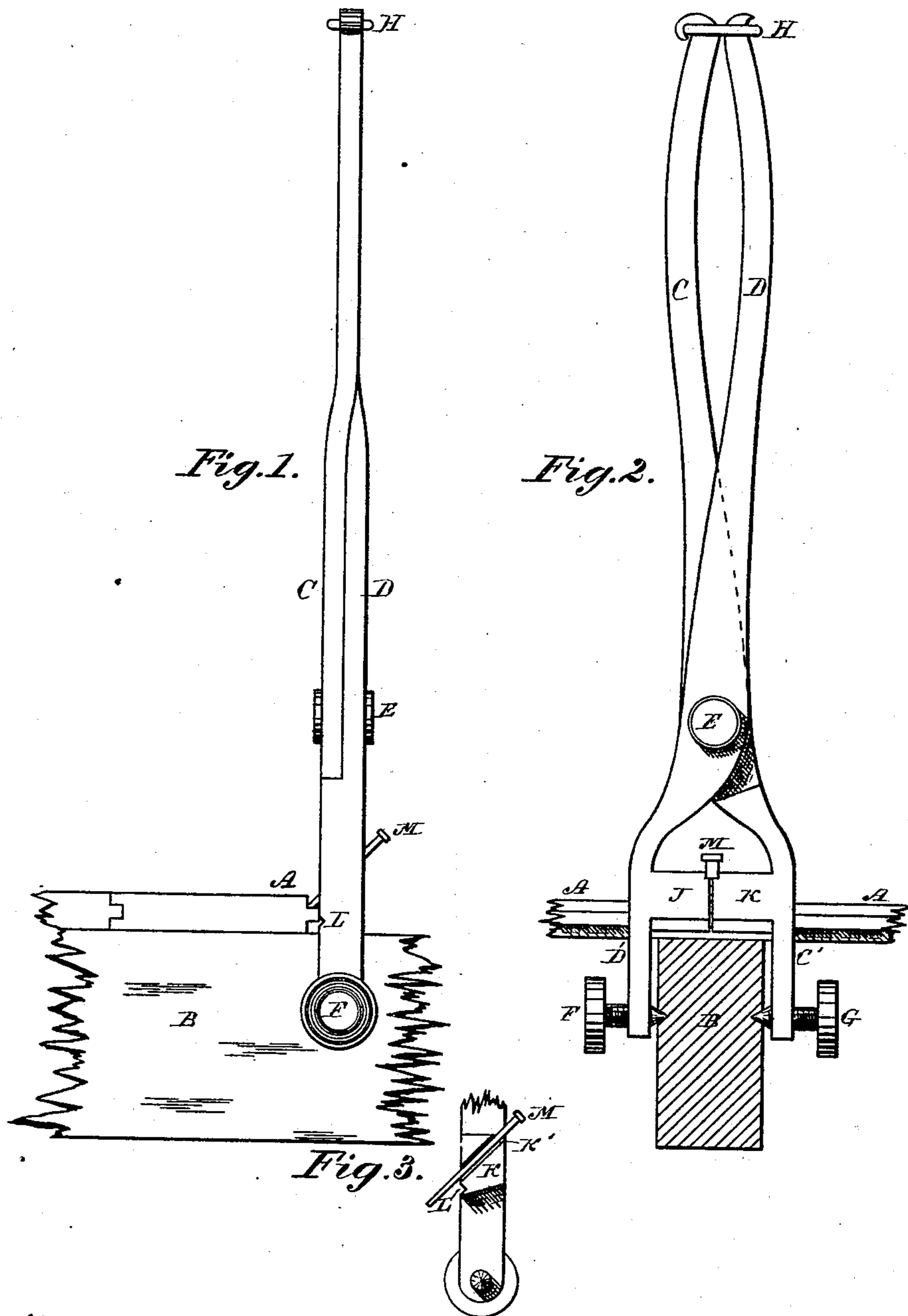
(No Model.)

H. F. & A. W. CASE.

FLOOR CLAMP.

No. 275,017.

Patented Apr. 3, 1883.



Witnesses.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY F. CASE AND A. WELLS CASE, OF SOUTH MANCHESTER, CONN.

## FLOOR-CLAMP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 275,017, dated April 3, 1882.

Application filed December 29, 1882. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, HENRY F. CASE and A. WELLS CASE, of South Manchester, in the county of Hartford and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Floor-Clamps; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, whereby a person skilled in the art can make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

Like letters in the figures indicate the same parts.

Our improvement relates to a tool or device for clamping and pressing up the boards of a floor, while it is being laid, to close the joints, and nailing it while held in this position.

The object of our invention is to provide means for performing the foregoing operation in a more rapid and efficient manner than has heretofore been done.

In the accompanying drawings, illustrating our invention, Figure 1 is a side view of our improved clamp with a floor-board pushed up and ready to be nailed. Fig. 2 is a front view of the same. Fig. 3 is a detached view of the inside of one of the arms of the clamp, showing the groove which holds the nail and fixes its proper position for securing the floor-board.

A is one of the boards of a floor while being laid.

B is one of the floor-joists to which the board A is to be nailed.

C and D are the two sides or levers of the clamp. These are pivoted together by the pin or rivet E, upon which they turn. The upper ends of these levers form the handle, and the lower ends are bent outward, so as to form two arms, C' and D', separated sufficiently to extend a short distance downward on each side of the joist.

F and G are two adjustable set-screws which turn in hollow threads at the lower ends of the arms C' and D'. Their inner ends are pointed, so as to enter the wood of the joist and form pivots upon which the whole clamp can turn. The screws F and G are also provided with suitable heads, by which they can be screwed into the joist or released.

H is a link at the top of the levers C and D for the purpose of hooking them together, and thereby retaining the points of the screws in the joist.

J and K are two studs or projections upon the inner sides of the arms C' and D', and permanently attached to them. They meet or nearly meet at their inner ends when the two arms of the levers forming the handle are brought together. The sides of the studs coming opposite the floor-board A are furnished with a groove which reaches entirely across the face of the clamp, including the arms C' and D', which serves as a gage for placing the tool, when in use, by bringing it exactly against the tongue commonly made on the edge of jointed floor-boards. This fixes the position of the clamp and determines the point where the nail enters. This groove is shown at L in the drawings. Each of the studs J and K is furnished upon its inner end with an inclined slot or channel, one of which is shown at K' in Fig. 3, for guiding the nail at the proper place and inclination to fasten down the front edge of the board A. When the two studs are brought together, as shown in Fig. 2, they form a guide into which the nail M is inserted, and then driven into the floor.

When our improved floor-clamp has been once adjusted by turning the screws F and G for a certain thickness of joist the screws do not require to be again touched. The implement is released by separating the handles, which opens likewise the lower end. It is then placed to push up and secure a floor-board by inclining its lower end slightly under the board, with the groove L opposite the tongue of the board, closing the handles firmly together, which causes the points of the screws to enter the sides of the joist; then drawing the top back so as to close up the seam between the new board and the last one laid; then inserting the nail and driving it home. The clasp H at the top of the handle can be used, if desired, to hold the two parts together; but ordinarily the grasping and pulling back of the handles holds them sufficiently to keep the points of the screws in the wood of the joist, so as to form a resisting-pivot upon which the clamp turns in pushing up the board.

What we claim as our invention is—

1. A floor-clamp composed of the levers C D, the pivot E, the adjustable screws F G, and an inclined nail-guide, all substantially as described.

2. A floor-clamp composed of the levers C D, the pivot E, the adjustable screws F G, and the studs J K, provided with grooves on their

inner ends for guiding the nail, and a groove on their faces to serve as a gage, substantially as described.

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Witnesses:

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