

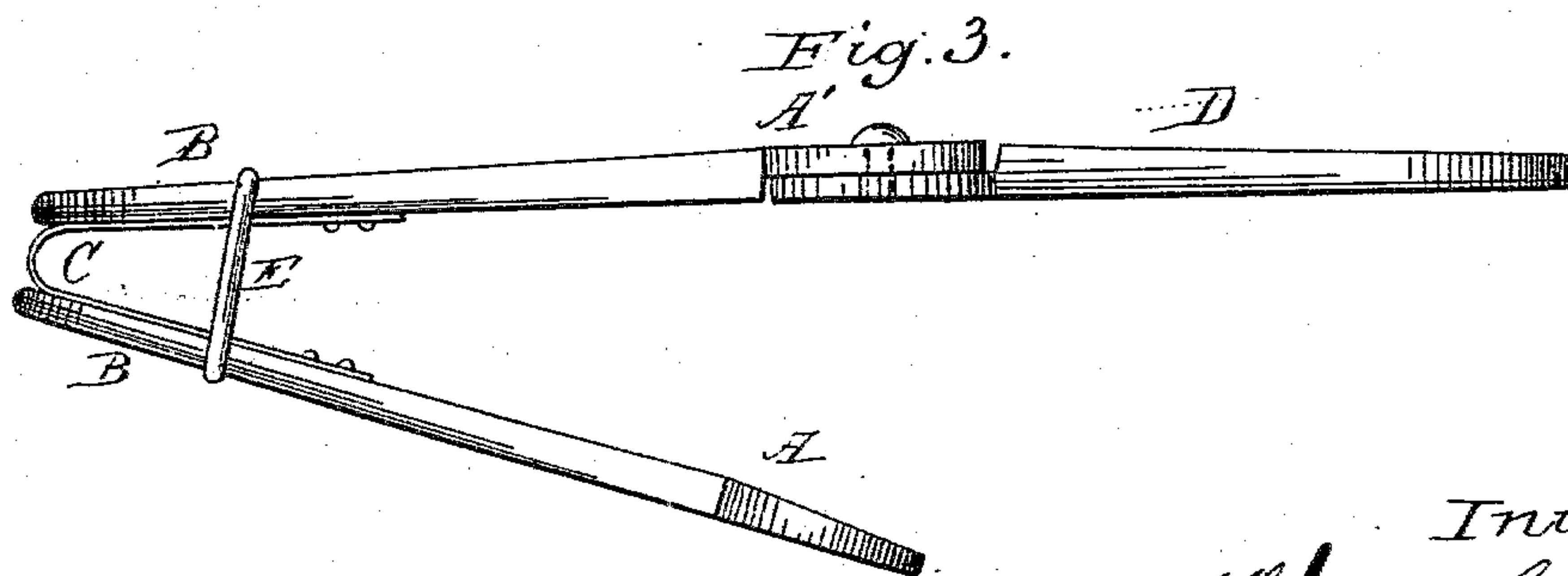
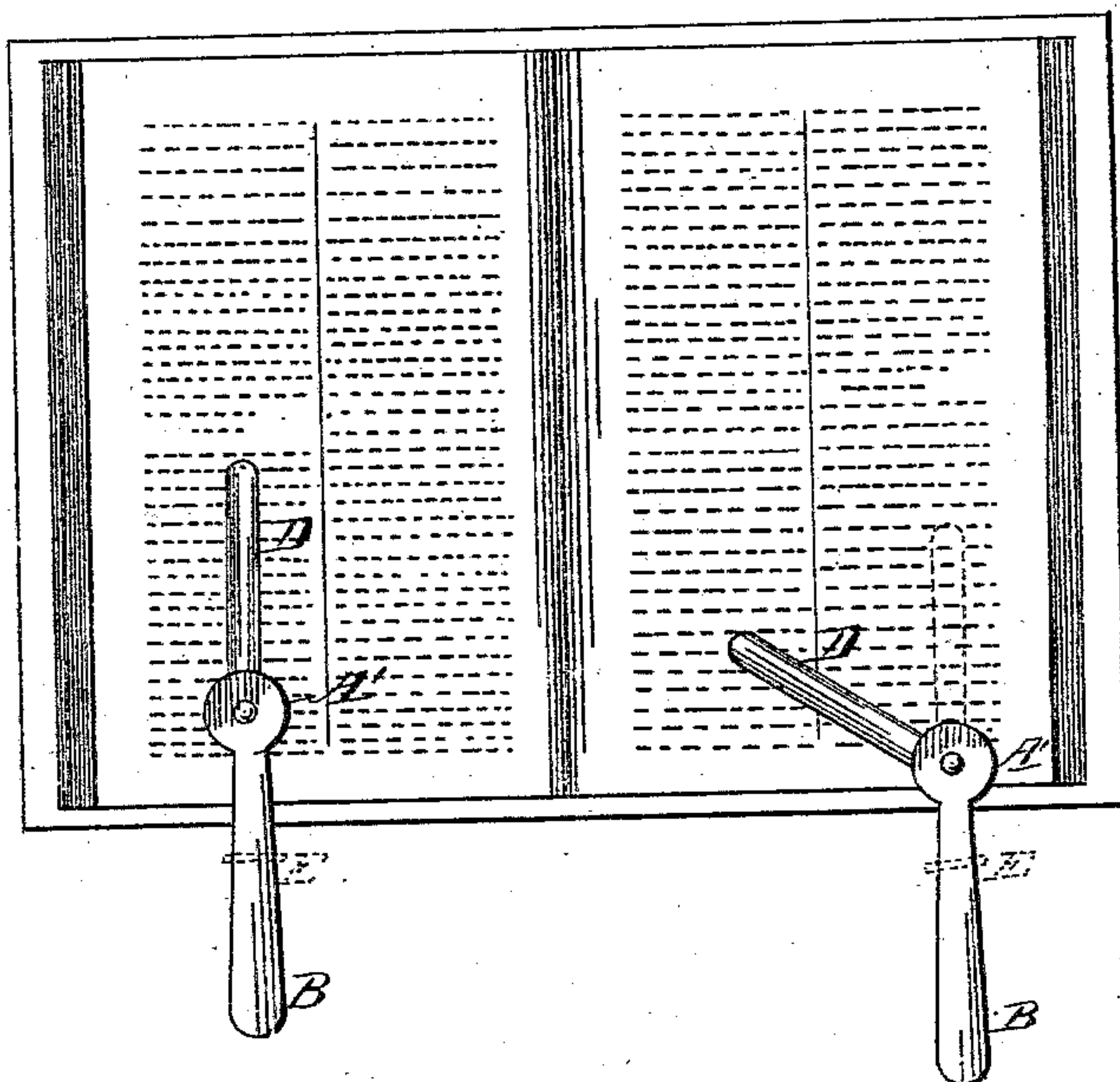
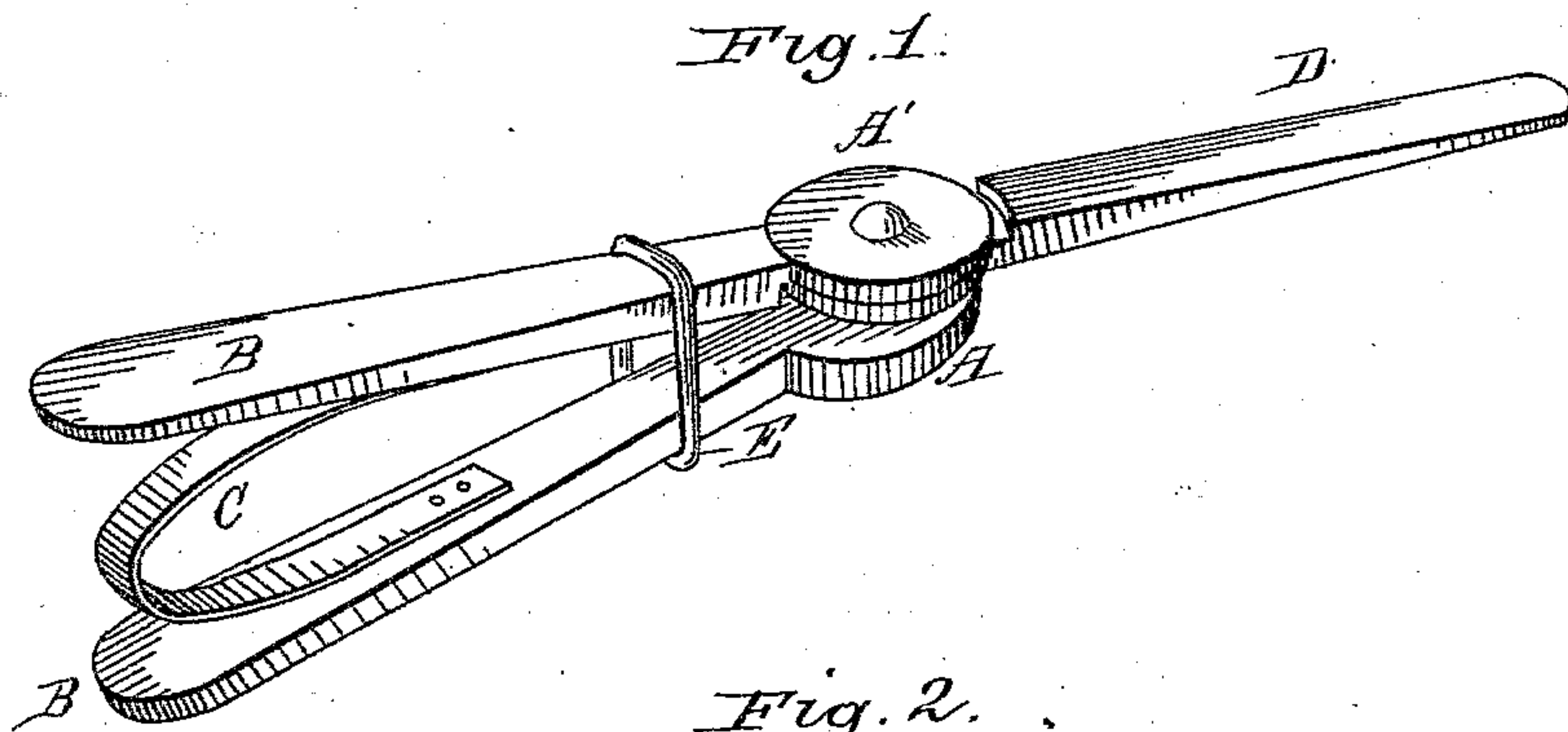
(No Model.)

T. A. CRABTREE.

BOOK HOLDER.

No. 283,576.

Patented Aug. 21, 1883.



Witnesses:

W. H. Johnson
W. H. Taylor

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS ALDIN CRABTREE, OF EAST SURRY, MAINE.

BOOK-HOLDER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 283,576, dated August 21, 1883.

Application filed April 5, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS A. CRABTREE, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at East Surry, in the county of Hancock and State of Maine, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Book-Holders; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters or figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to a device for holding down the leaves of an open book, its object being to provide a light, cheap, and handy device of this class, which shall combine with its function of holding the leaves open and down the further office of a pointer or marker, to assist the reader in following the printed lines or to designate the line or point where reading has been suspended or to which attention is desired to be directed.

The invention consists in a novel construction and combination of parts, which will be readily understood by referring to the accompanying drawings, in connection with the following particular description, and which will be definitely pointed out in the appended claim.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved book-holder. Fig. 2 is a front view of an open book having two such holders applied thereto. Fig. 3 is a side view of the device with the jaws held open.

The letters A' A designate two rigid clamping-jaws having handles or thumb and finger pieces B B extending divergently therefrom. C is V-shaped or semi-elliptic spring arranged between the handles B B, with its inner curve or concavity turned in the direction of the jaws and its opposite ends secured to the handles, respectively, intermediately of their length, so that the ends of the springs will serve as fulcrum or pivotal points, upon which the handles may turn when their outer ends are pressed toward each other for the purpose of separating the jaws, which the spring is adjusted to hold normally in contact, or, at least, close to each other.

To the inner face of one of the jaws—the jaw A' in the drawings—is pivoted one end of a finger or pointer, D, which may be swung laterally to bring its tip to any intermediate

line or point of a page, to assist the reader in "keeping the place."

The letter E indicates an elastic band embracing the two handles. This band should preferably have a tension somewhat stronger than that of the spring C, and it may be used in two capacities, one being to assist in pressing the jaws toward each other when applied to a heavy book, in which case the band will be adjusted close up to the jaws or to a point between them and the attached ends of the spring, while in its other capacity the band serves to hold the jaws apart, and in this case said band is slipped back beyond the ends of the spring and near the ends of the handles, thus overcoming the tension of the spring and holding the jaws open, so that they may be readily applied to a book.

The manner of using my invention will be readily understood by reference to Fig. 2 of the drawings. The outer ends of the handles being pressed together, and the jaws thus opened, one of said jaws is placed behind the back of the book and the jaw carrying the pointer is placed upon the front of one of the opened leaves, the pointer being adjusted as desired. One of the holders may be used on each division of the open book, as shown.

Having now described my invention and explained the manner of using the same, I wish it to be understood that I do not confine myself to the precise construction and arrangement of parts as shown in the drawings, as they may be obviously varied without departing from the principle of the invention. For instance, the spring C might be arranged with its outer or convex curve toward the jaws, and the pointer might be pivoted to the outer face of the jaw. I however prefer to turn the concavity of the spring toward the jaws, as this arrangement enables the jaws to be advanced farther up the page.

What I claim is—

In a book-holder, the two jaws having projecting handles, in combination with the intermediate spring connected to the respective jaws, as described, so as to press the jaws together, and the pointer pivoted to one of said jaws, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

THOMAS ALDIN CRABTREE.

Witnesses:

OTIS S. PLUMER,
GEO. W. COFFIN.