

(No Model.)

S. J. SPURGEON.

AUTOMATIC CIRCUIT CLOSER FOR TELEGRAPH KEYS.

No. 284,508.

Patented Sept. 4, 1883.

Fig. 1

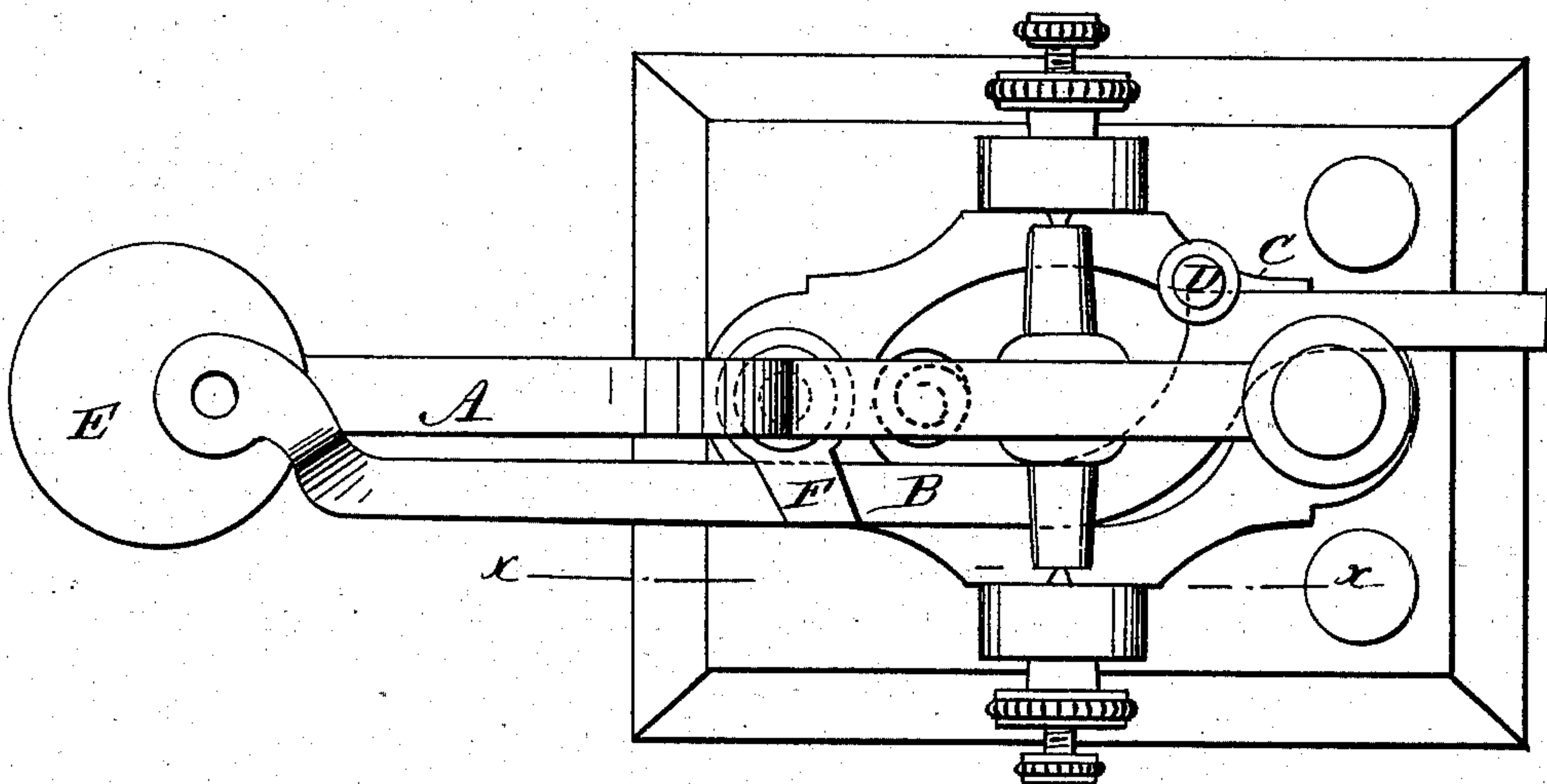


Fig. 2

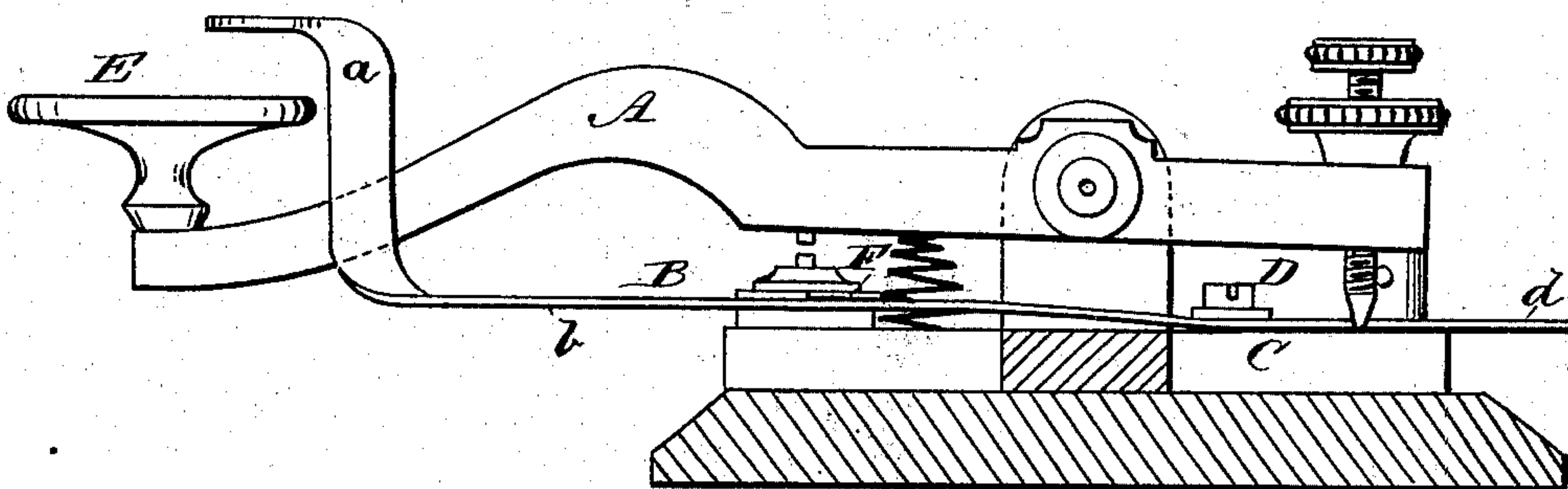
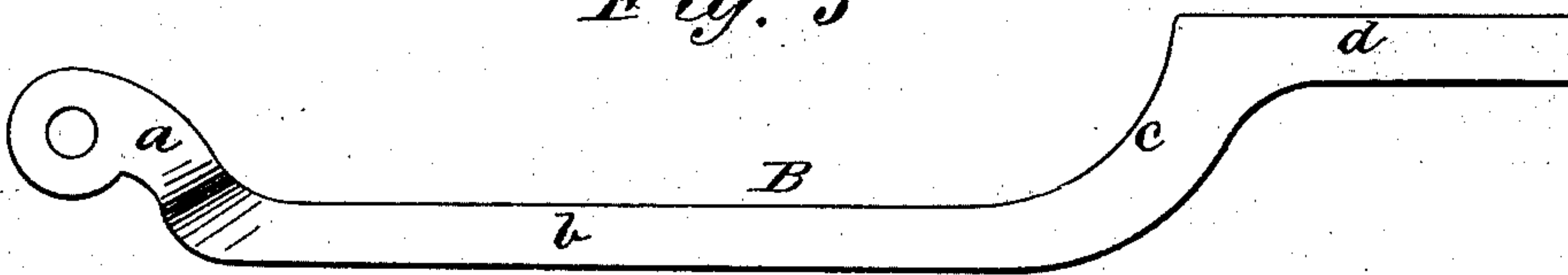


Fig. 3



WITNESSES:

C. Neveu
C. Sedgwick

INVENTOR:

S. J. Spurgeon
BY *Mum & Co*
ATTORNEYS.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL J. SPURGEON, OF LIBERTY, MISSOURI.

AUTOMATIC CIRCUIT-CLOSER FOR TELEGRAPH-KEYS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 284,508, dated September 4, 1883.

Application filed April 16, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SAMUEL J. SPURGEON, of Liberty, in the county of Clay and State of Missouri, have invented a new and Improved Automatic Circuit-Closer, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

The object of my invention is to provide a new and improved automatic circuit-closer for telegraph-keys.

10 The invention consists in a spring-lever pressed upward against a laterally-projecting hook or prong of the contact-button below the telegraph-key, thus closing the circuit. The end of the said lever is held a short distance
15 above and over the finger button-head of the key, so that when the key is depressed the said lever can be depressed to break the circuit, which is closed again automatically as soon as the lever is released.

20 Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

25 Figure 1 is a plan view of a telegraph-key provided with my improved circuit-closer. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional elevation of the same on the line *xx*, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a plan view of the circuit-closing lever.

30 The telegraph-key A is of the usual construction. A lever, B, made of elastic metal, and having the upwardly-projecting part *a*, the horizontal part *b*, having offset *c*, and the horizontal rearwardly extension *d*, is secured to the base-frame C by the screw D, and has its upper
35 end bent so that it will be about from one-fourth to three-eighths of an inch above and over the button E of the key A. The lever B passes under a laterally-projecting hook or prong, F, and is pressed against the under surface of the
40 same by the spring of the metal of which the said lever is made, or it can be pressed upward by a spring placed below it. The lever B will thus close the connection between the points D and F until the said lever is depressed, when
45 the circuit is broken at F. The circuit must

be broken between the points D and F while the operator is telegraphing, and in order to accomplish this the operator places the forefinger on the end of the lever B and presses the same down to the button E, and then grasps
50 the latter with the thumb and middle finger, and thus keeps the circuit broken while telegraphing. As soon as the lever B is released it is pressed against the hook or prong F and the circuit is closed automatically, and thus
55 the key can never be left open, and the lever B is very convenient, as the operator need not take the trouble of closing the circuit every time he stops telegraphing. The lever B can be provided with a long rear end, as shown,
60 so that it can easily be adjusted to a long or short key. That end of the lever B over the button E may be provided with a rubber tip. It can be applied on old as well as new keys.

I am aware that a circuit-closing lever pivoted to a telegraph-key and having its end encircling or resting under the knob of the key has heretofore been employed, and I therefore do not claim such invention.

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

1. As an improved article of manufacture, the circuit-closing lever B, made of elastic material, and having the upwardly-projecting part *a*, the horizontal part *b*, having offset *c*,
75 and the horizontal rearward extension *d*, substantially as shown and described.

2. The combination, with a telegraph-key, A, of the spring-lever B, fastened at D, and of the laterally-projecting hook or prong F, connected with the contact-button below the key,
80 under which prong the lever B presses, the free end of the lever B being a short distance above and over the finger-button E of the key A, substantially as herein shown and described, and
85 for the purpose set forth.

SAMUEL J. SPURGEON.

Witnesses:

CHARLES W. MOORE,
W. H. EWING.