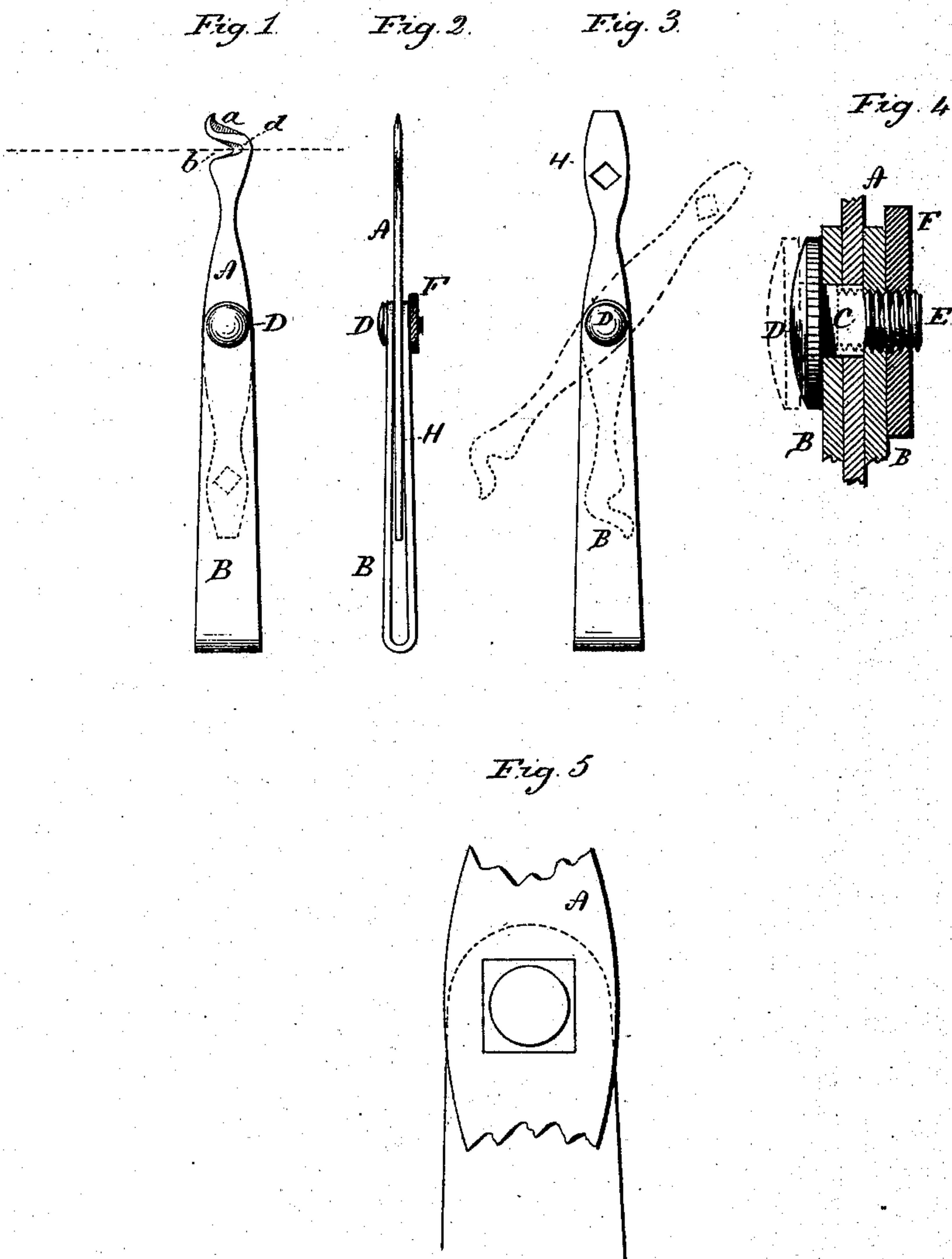


(No Model.)

J. P. LAVIGNE.  
RIPPING DEVICE.

No. 322,299.

Patented July 14, 1885.



Witnesses.  
J. H. Shumway  
Jos. C. Earle

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By Atty.  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH P. LAVIGNE, OF NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT, ASSIGNOR TO  
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## RIPPING DEVICE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 322,299, dated July 14, 1885.

Application filed March 2, 1885. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOSEPH P. LAVIGNE, of New Haven, in the county of New Haven and State of Connecticut, have invented new Improvements in Ripping-Instruments; and I do hereby declare the following, when taken in connection with accompanying drawings, and the letters of reference marked thereon, to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, and which said drawings constitute part of this specification, and represent in—

Figure 1, the implement as opened, exposing the ripping-blade for action; Fig. 2, an edge view of the same; Fig. 3, a side view showing the blade as turned to bring the ripper within the handle, and also to show the blade extended to form a screw-driver; Fig. 4, a transverse section through the pivot enlarged; Fig. 5, a side view showing the square pivot-opening in the blade and the round pivot-opening in one side of the handle, also enlarged.

This invention relates to a device for ripping stitched seams in fabrics, the object being a device which may be readily employed, and without liability of cutting the fabric; and the invention consists in the construction of the instrument as hereinafter described, and more particularly recited in the claims.

A represents the ripping-blade. It is hung in a handle, B. At its extreme outer end it is formed with a diagonal hook-shaped cutting-edge, *a*, and directly back of this cutting-edge is a transverse V-shaped notch, *b*. The apex of this notch is brought to a sharp cutting-edge, as at *d*, the edge extending forward and dying out upon the sides of the notch, as clearly seen in Fig. 1.

The edge *a* is employed to start the ripping, its hooked point and sharp edge enabling it to readily enter between the fabric so as to cut the first stitches and start the ripping. After such starting has been produced the handle is taken in the hand and the blade introduced to bring the notch *b* into the seam, the apex *d* against the threads, then pressing the blade directly forward, as indicated by the broken line, Fig. 1, the stitches are cut by the sharp edge of the apex of the notch, the sides of the blade itself forming a guard to prevent cutting-contact with the edges of the fabric being ripped.

The handle B is of sheet metal, doubled into

U shape, the two ends brought together at the pivot where the blade A is introduced between the two ends, the length of the handle being greater than the length of the blade, and so that the blade may be turned entirely within the handle between its two sides, the sides thereby forming a protector for the blade; and in order that the blade may be firmly held when turned to its out or working position the body C of the pivot is made square, and a corresponding square opening is made through one side of the handle B. Through the blade is a like opening, through which the square portion of the pivot may extend, as seen in Fig. 4, the head D of the pivot bearing against the outside of the handle. The end of the pivot extends through the other side of the handle, and is screw-threaded, as at E, and onto this screw-thread, upon the side of the handle opposite the head, a nut, F, is applied so as to clamp the two sides of the handle upon the blade, as seen in Fig. 4. As the pivot cannot turn in the handle or blade upon the pivot, owing to the square or angular shape of the body of the pivot, it follows that when thus clamped the blade is firmly held in its open position.

To close the blade, it is only necessary to unscrew the nut F until the body of the pivot may be drawn from the blade, as indicated in broken lines, Fig. 4. Then the blade may be turned into the handle, as indicated in broken lines, Fig. 3, the handle there forming a protector for the blade, and when thus turned into the handle the nut is returned to clamp the parts and hold the blade in this closed condition.

As a screw-driver is a necessary instrument to a sewing-machine, and as a ripper is also a necessary implement, it is convenient to combine the two in one. This I do by extending the blade A beyond the pivot to form a screw-driver, H, and so that either may be presented, as indicated in Figs. 1 and 3, and when so presented may be clamped and firmly held. Thus I produce a combined implement for the use of sewing-machine operators; but the extension of the blade to form the screw-driver may be omitted.

I claim—

1. A ripping-implement consisting of the blade A, terminating in the hook-shaped cut-



ting-edge *a*, and constructed with the **V**-shaped transverse notch *b*, the apex of the **V** having a cutting-edge extending onto the sides of the notch, substantially as described.

5 2. The combination of the blade **A**, terminating in the hook-shaped cutting-edge *a*, and constructed with the **V**-shaped notch *b*, the apex of the **V** having a cutting-edge extending onto the sides of the notch, with a **U**-shaped handle, **B**, between the ends of which the said blade is pivoted, and so that the blade may be turned between the two sides of the handle, substantially as described.

5 3. The herein-described implement, consisting of the ripping-blade **A**, terminating at one end in a ripper and the other end as a screw-

driver, combined with a **U**-shaped handle, the said blade hung between the sides of said handle at the open end, a pivot extending transversely through the handle and blade, the 20 body of the pivot angular-shaped through one side of the handle and the blade, and constructed with a head to bear upon one side of the handle, the opposite end of the pivot screw-threaded and provided with a nut, **F**, to bear 25 upon the side of the handle opposite the head, substantially as described.

JOSEPH P. LAVIGNE.

Witnesses:

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