

(No Model.)

S. DENNIS.  
ANIMAL TRAP.

No. 354,599.

Patented Dec. 21, 1886.

Fig. 1.

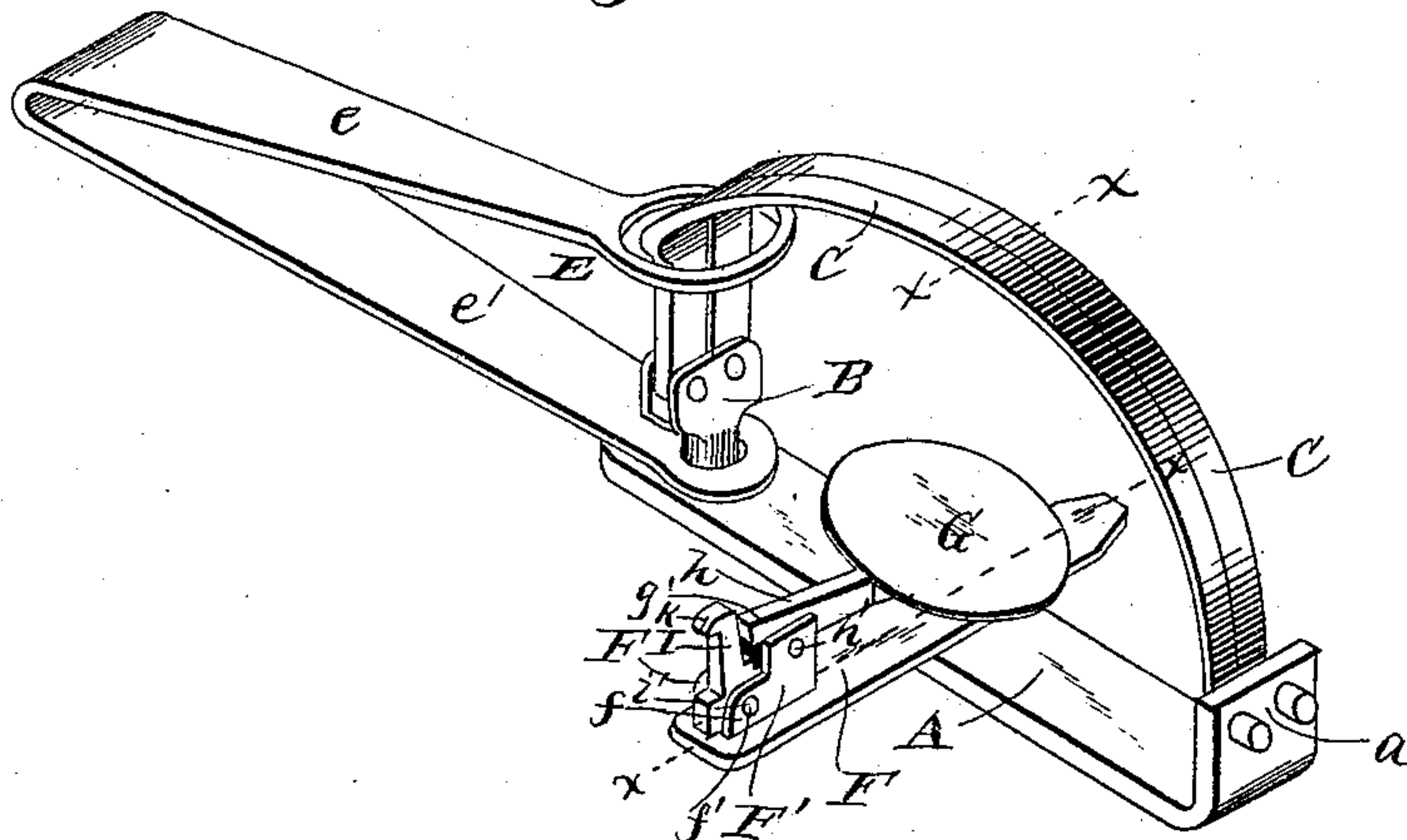


Fig. 2.

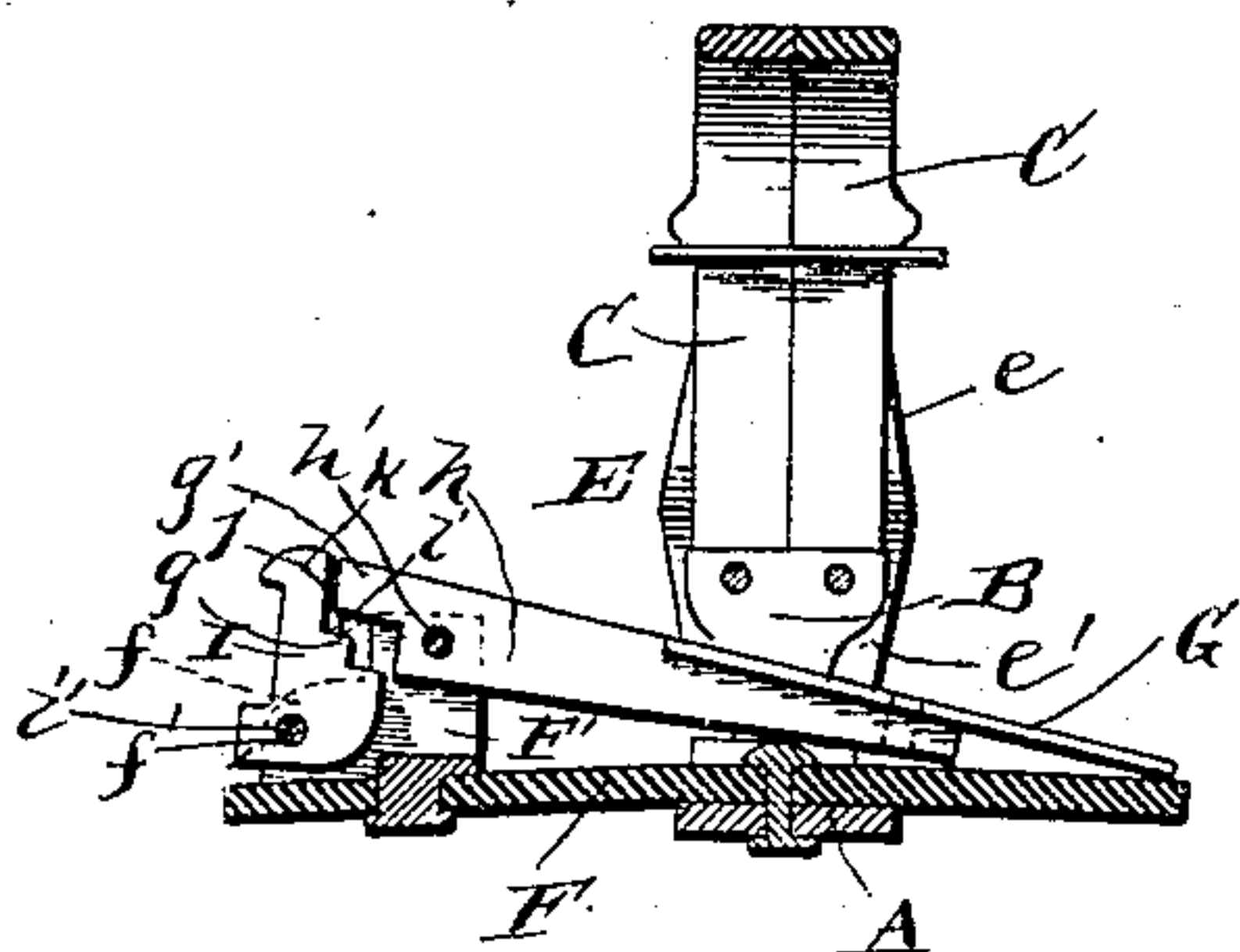


Fig. 3.

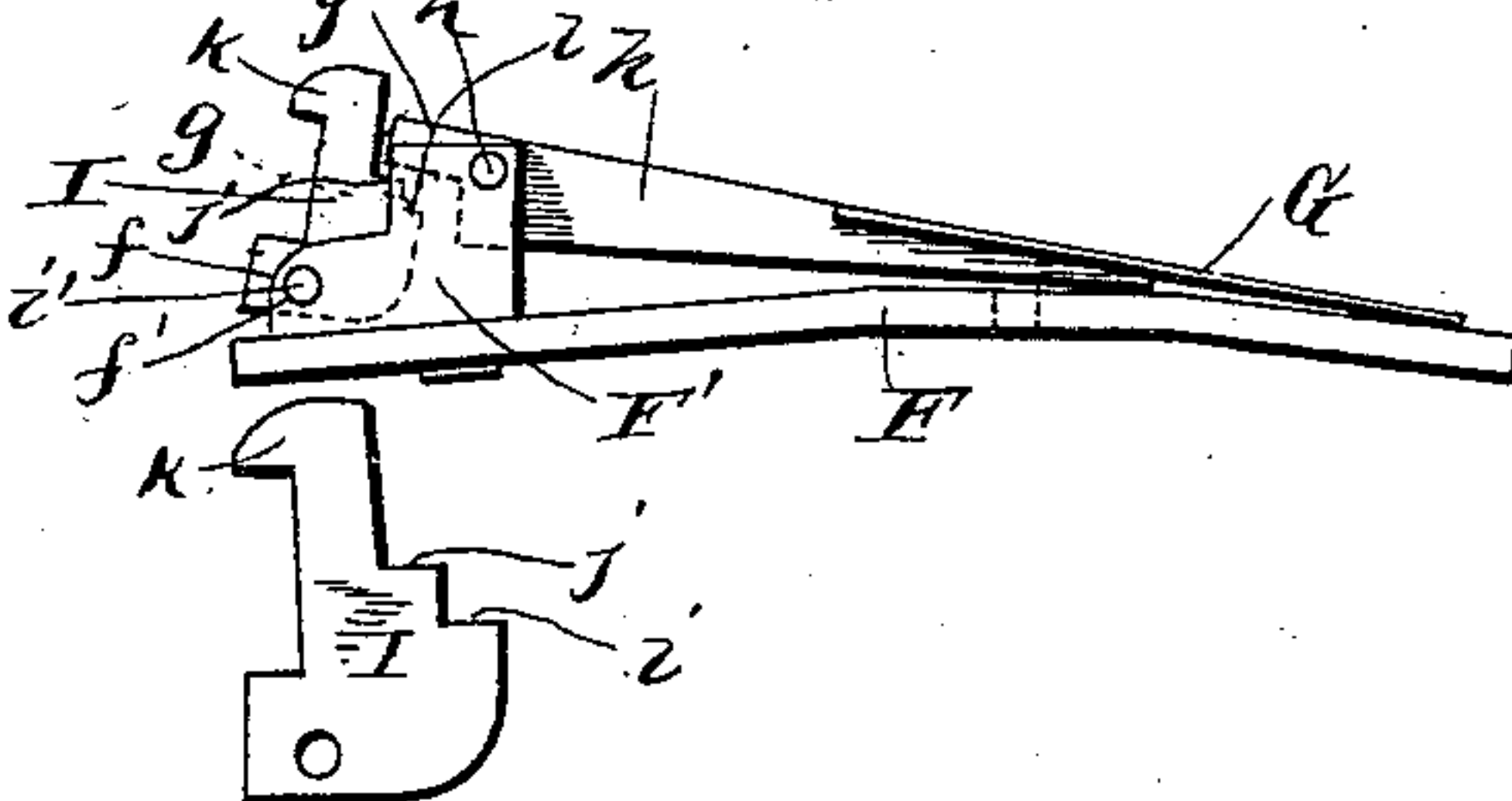
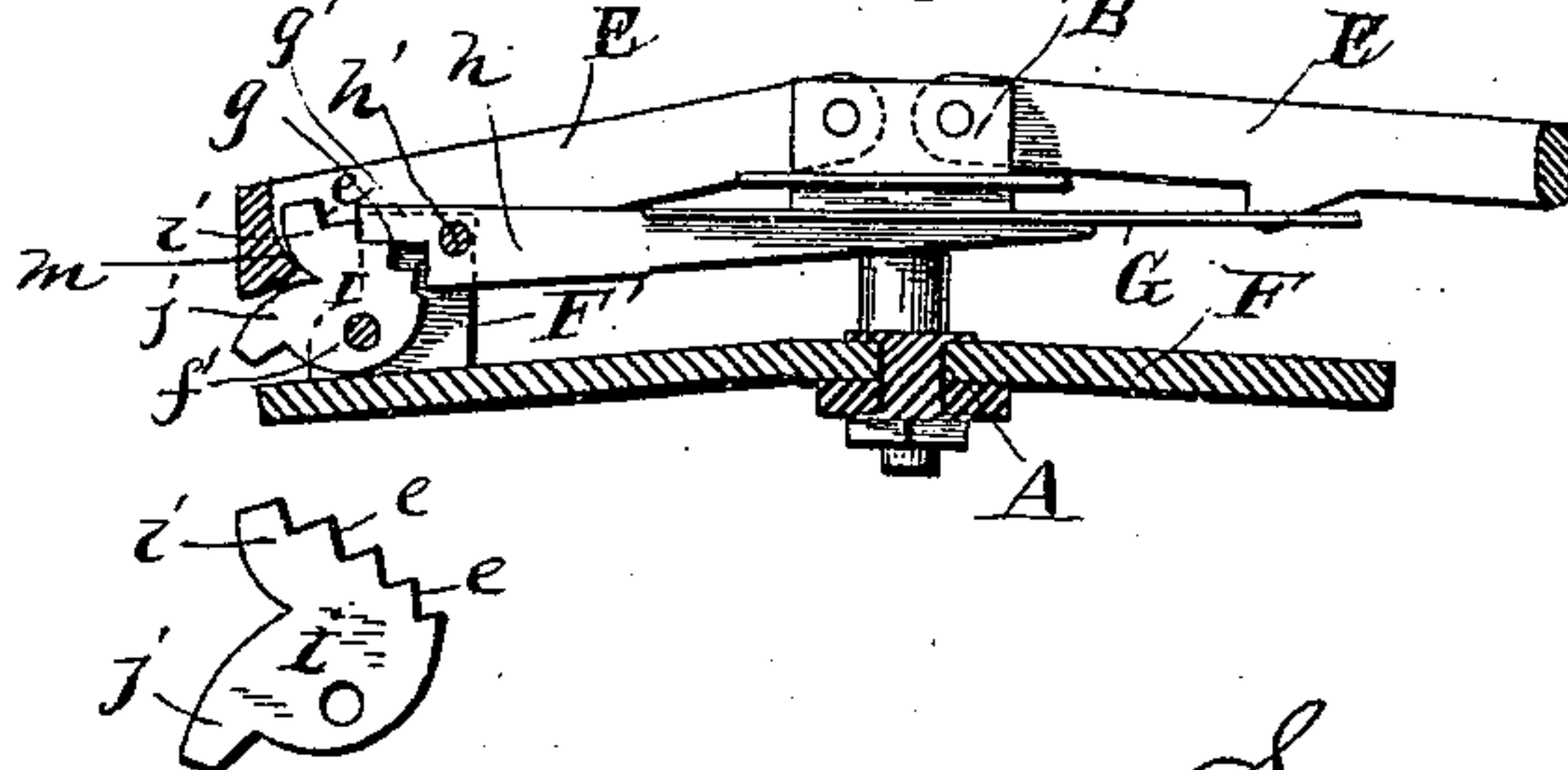


Fig. 4.



Witnesses

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## ANIMAL-TRAP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 354,599, dated December 21, 1886.

Application filed September 25, 1886. Serial No. 214,545. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, SAMUEL DENNIS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Hornellsville, in the county of Steuben and State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Animal-Traps, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in animal-traps of that class known to the art as "jaw-traps;" and it consists of the peculiar and novel construction and arrangement of the several parts for service, substantially as hereinafter fully described, and particularly pointed out in the claims.

The present invention is especially designed as an improvement upon the trap patented to me on the 25th day of August, 1885, and numbered 324,925; and the primary object of my said improvements is to combine and arrange the parts of a peculiar construction in a novel manner, so that the efficiency of the device is very materially increased and the cost of manufacturing the same is very materially reduced.

In the drawings hereto annexed, Figure 1 is a perspective view of an animal-trap embodying my present improvements. Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view thereof on the line  $xx$  of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is an enlarged detail view of the tripping mechanism; and Fig. 4 is a like view of another form of my invention.

Referring to the drawings, in which like letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures, A designates the base of my improved animal-trap, which is provided at one end with an integral flange,  $a$ , and at its opposite end with a bifurcated standard, B, which has a threaded shank that screws into a threaded aperture in the base.

C designates the jaws, which are journaled at their extremities in the flange  $a$  and standard B, and these jaws are capable of a lateral movement to separate them and set the trap. One arm,  $e$ , of a spring, E, fits over the standard, and is adapted to impinge upon the sides of the laterally-movable jaws to force the same together, and the other arm,  $e'$ , of the said spring has an enlarged opening, through which said standard also passes, thereby permanently connecting the spring to the standard and permitting the spring to swing around against the base, for the purpose of compactly folding the

parts together in storing and transporting the device.

F designates a supplemental base, which consists of a flat rectangular piece of metal which has two integral lugs,  $F'$ , near one end, which are arranged parallel with each other and separated for a short distance, and each of the said lugs has an integral lip,  $f$ , on its rear edge, through which are formed transverse openings  $f'$ , which are arranged in line with each other. This supplemental base may be cast or formed in a single piece of metal with the base A, or it may be formed separate therefrom and secured in place by rivets or screws; and the said supplemental base is arranged at right angles to the base, so that the end thereof on which the lugs  $F'$  are formed lies immediately beneath one of the jaws when the latter are separated to set the trap.

G designates the trip pan or plate, which is affixed on and carried by the inner end of an arm,  $h$ , and the outer end of this arm is arranged between the parallel lugs, a pin or shaft,  $h'$ , being passed through the lugs and arm to support the latter in place and at a suitable height above the supplemental base, while at the same time the free end of the arm is capable of a vertical movement to elevate and depress the trip pan or plate in setting and releasing the trap.

The extreme outer end of the swinging arm  $h$ , that carries the trip-pan, is provided with a notch,  $g$ , in its lower side, which forms a lip or shoulder,  $g'$ , on the upper side of the arm, and this shoulder is adapted to bear or impinge against a shoulder,  $i$ , on the trigger I, to prevent the trigger from movement when it is engaged with one of the jaws of the trap. This trigger I is disposed in a vertical position in front of the free end of the arm  $h$  and between the lips  $f$  of the lugs, and through a suitable opening in the trigger and the transverse aligned openings  $f'$  of the said lips passes a pin or shaft,  $i'$ , which pivotally supports the said trigger in place. The rear side of the trigger is provided with another shoulder,  $j$ , which is arranged above and in front of the shoulder  $i$  thereon, and this shoulder  $j$  is adapted to take or fit beneath the shoulder  $g'$  of the arm  $h$ , when the pawl drops by gravity upon being released by the arm  $h$ ,



the upper front side of the trigger being provided with a lug, *k*, which takes or fits over the upper edges of one of the jaws when the trap is set.

5 In the modification shown in Fig. 4 of the drawings I provide the trigger I with the two shoulders *i j* on its front side and, with diverging lips *l* on its rear side, and the inner edge or side of the jaw E, with which the trigger is to be connected, is provided with an integral lip, *m*, which has beveled sides, against which the diverging arms impinge to restrain the jaws against movement.

15 This being the construction of my invention, the operation is as follows: The spring-arm *e* is first depressed and the jaws moved laterally of each other, after which the lip *k* fits over the upper edge of one of the jaws, and the outer end of the arm *h* depressed to cause its shoulder *g'* to bear upon the lower shoulder, *i*, and against the shoulder *j*, to prevent the trigger from falling away from engagement with the jaw, the free end of the arm *h* and the trip pan or plate carried thereby being elevated above the sub-base. The bait is placed upon the pan, and when the animal touches the pan, in attempting to secure the bait, the former is depressed to withdraw its shoulder *g'* from contact with the trigger, which thereby drops by gravity toward the arm *h*, so that its shoulder *j* fits beneath the shoulder *g'*. The jaws are thus released from the trigger, and are forced together by the spring to clamp upon and strangle the animal.

35 It will be seen from the foregoing description, taken in connection with the drawings, that I dispense with one of the standards of the trap shown in my prior patent hereinbefore referred to, and employ only a single standard; or the parallel lugs F, for the support of both the arm *h* and the trigger, and the pivot of the arm *h*, that carries the trip pan, is brought nearer to the pivot of the trigger—about one-half of an inch in a full-sized trap as constructed by me—so that the trap is more easily sprung by the slightest touch on

the trip-pan, thereby very materially increasing the efficiency of the device.

The trap is very simple, strong, and durable in construction, effective and reliable in operation, and cheap and inexpensive of manufacture.

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

1. The combination, in an animal-trap, with the base, the jaws carried thereby, and the spring for forcing the jaws together, of a supplemental base arranged transversely across the base, the integral spaced lugs F at one end of the supplemental base and having the lips *f*, a swinging arm pivoted near one end between the lugs and carrying a trip-pan at its free end, and a trigger pivoted in the lips *f* and controlled by the arm *h*, the pivots of the arm *h* and trigger being thus arranged in close proximity and one beneath the other and supported in a single pair of lugs, substantially as described, for the purpose set forth.

2. In an animal-trap, the combination, with a base, the laterally-movable jaws carried thereby, and the spring for forcing the jaws together, of a supplemental base arranged transversely across the base and carrying a single pair of lugs near one end, a swinging arm, *h*, pivoted in the lugs and having a trip-pan at its inner end, and a shoulder, *g'*, at its outer end, and a trigger also pivoted in the lugs in rear of the arm *h*, and provided with a lip or lips on one side to engage one of the jaws, and the shoulders *i j* on its other side, which are arranged one above and in rear of the other, substantially as described, for the purpose set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

SAMUEL DENNIS.

Witnesses:

F. A. STILLMAN,  
W. W. OXX.