

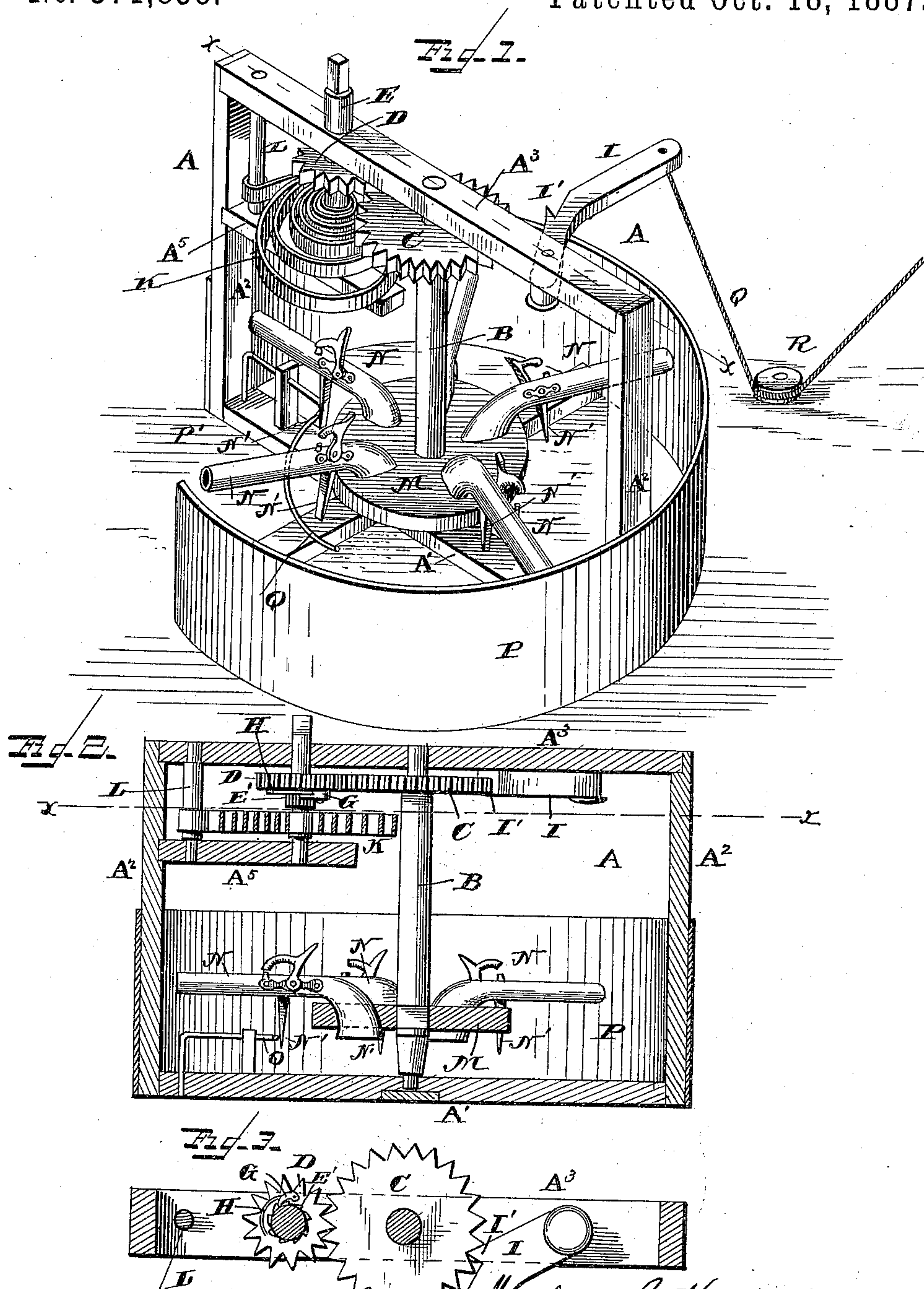
(No Model.)

M. S. HANCOCK & J. JOHNSON.

BURGLAR GUN AND ALARM.

No. 371,838.

Patented Oct. 18, 1887.



Witnesses  
F. L. Ourand  
Benj. E. Cowl

Matthew S. Hancock, Inventors  
Josiah Johnson,

By their Attorneys  
Louis Caggen & Co.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MATHEW S. HANCOCK AND JOSIAH JOHNSON, OF FRENCH LICK, INDIANA.

## BURGLAR GUN AND ALARM.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 371,838, dated October 18, 1887.

Application filed March 21, 1887. Serial No. 231,721. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, MATHEW S. HANCOCK and JOSIAH JOHNSON, both residents of French Lick, in the county of Orange and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Burglar Guns and Alarms; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of our burglar gun and alarm. Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view of the same taken on line *x x*, Fig. 1; and Fig. 3 is a sectional view taken on the plane indicated by line *y y*, Fig. 2, looking upward.

The same letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Our invention consists in an improved apparatus which, when arranged in its operative position, will, on the burglar opening the door or window which it is set to guard, automatically discharge the contents of a number of fire-arms into the body of the burglar, the noise of the discharge acting as an alarm to wake the occupants of the house and notify them that a burglarious entrance has been attempted, and our invention will be hereinafter fully described and claimed.

Referring to the several parts by letter, A indicates the frame of our invention, the same consisting of the base A', the side uprights, A<sup>2</sup>, and the connecting top cross-piece, A<sup>3</sup>.

In the center of the frame A is journaled a perpendicular shaft, B, upon which is rigidly mounted at its upper end a gear-wheel, C, the teeth of which mesh with those of a similar cog-wheel, D, which is loosely mounted on the central portion of a short auxiliary perpendicular shaft, E, the upper end of which extends through and above the top cross-piece, A<sup>3</sup>, while its lower end is journaled in a short extension, A<sup>5</sup>, at that side of the frame A; and this short shaft E is formed immediately below the loose cog-wheel D, with a series of inclined teeth, E', formed integral with it. To the lower side of the loose cog-wheel D is pivoted a pawl, G, the free end of which is pressed in by a spring, H, on the lower side of the said

wheel, so as to normally engage with the straight faces of the inclined teeth formed on the shaft E. To the opposite side of the gear-wheel C from that on which the loose cog-wheel D lies is pivoted a dog or lever, I, which is formed on one side with an inclined projection or tooth, I', which engages with the teeth of the gear-wheel C when the dog is swung in in that direction.

To the shaft E, below the teeth E', is firmly secured the inner end of a coiled spring, K, the outer end of which is secured to an upright, L, which connects the extension A<sup>5</sup> with the top piece of the main frame.

Upon the lower part of the central shaft, B, is firmly mounted a platform, M, preferably circular in form, and upon this platform are removably mounted a number of fire-arms, N, which may be five or more in number; or a less number may be employed, if desired. These fire-arms are arranged, as shown, with their triggers N' extending down outside of the outer edge of the platform on which they are mounted, for the purpose hereinafter specified.

The upper outer end of the shaft E is squared to adapt it to receive a handle or key; or it may be permanently provided with such a key; and in order to place the device in operative condition the shaft E is rotated to the right, so as to wind up the spring K, the dog or lever I having previously been swung in until its tooth or projection I' engages with the teeth of the gear-wheel C on the main shaft.

It will be seen that as the short shaft E is rotated to the right the coils of the coiled spring will be wound or tightened around it, while the teeth of the gear-wheel C, which is itself held stationary by the dog I, meshing with the teeth of the loosely-mounted cog-wheel D, will hold the said cog-wheel and prevent it from revolving with the shaft E, and as the said shaft rotates the series of inclined teeth E', formed integral with it, will slide under the end of the spring-actuated pawl G, the free end of which, engaging with the straight edge of the said teeth E', will hold the shaft E and prevent it from slipping or turning backward, and thus hold the spring in its wound or tightened position until it is released in the manner which will be now described.



The lower part of the frame is inclosed for about three-quarters of its outer extent by a metal shield or hoop, P. The upper edge extends up above the level of the fire-arms, and serves as a safety-shield to effectually protect the person winding up and adjusting the machine against the possibility of danger from a premature discharge of the fire-arms, and around the open space P' in the shield, through which the fire arms are discharged, is arranged the discharge-wire Q, which is secured at one end in the frame A, as shown, slightly eccentric with the center of the frame A, in such a manner that although the triggers of the fire-arms may pass readily past the free end of the said wire, they will, as the main shaft is rotated, be pressed against the fixed portion of the said wire, so as to be drawn or rather pressed back sufficiently far to discharge the fire-arm at the moment when its muzzle is pointing at the opening P' in the shield.

The shaft E having been rotated as above described to wind up the spring K, the dog I being pushed in to hold the gear-wheel C, and the loosely-mounted cog-wheel D stationary, and the fire-arms having been loaded, the frame A is placed in position at the door or window which it is to guard, with the opening P' in the nearly, circular shield P completely covering the said door or window, and the outer end of the lever or dog I is connected by means of a cord, Q, which we shall call the "operating-cord," to the door or window, the said cord passing over small guides or pulleys R, which are so arranged that when the door or window is opened from the outside the cord will be drawn so as to draw back the free end of the lever or dog I, thus releasing the gear-wheel C of the main shaft which carries the fire-arms, and also releasing the cog-wheel D, which, while free to turn in one direction on the shaft E, on which it is loosely mounted, is held by the spring-actuated pawl G from turning in the opposite direction without carrying the shaft E with it; or, in other words, while the shaft E can turn in one direction, to the right, without moving the cog-wheel D, it is impossible for it to turn back to the left until the said cog-wheel is released and allowed to turn with it. The cog-wheel being released by the drawing back of the dog I as the door or window is opened, the tension of the spring H as it unwinds rotates the shaft E rapidly, and the cog-wheel D, meshing with the gear-wheel C on the main shaft B, rotates the said shaft rapidly to the right, and with it the gun-platform, which the main shaft carries, and the fire-arms, which are supported on the said platform M; and it will be seen that as the muzzles of the fire arms come opposite and point through the opening P' in the shield P their triggers N' will be pressed against the discharge-wire Q, so as to discharge each of the fire-arms at the moment when its muzzle is pointing out through the shield-opening P', the guns being rapidly discharged in succession through the said

opening, which, as before stated, is arranged so as to completely cover the door or window which the device is set to guard.

From the foregoing description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, the construction, operation, and advantages of our invention will be readily understood. It will be seen that it is simple and strong in construction, and therefore not liable to break or get out of order, and that it will effectually defend the door or window at which it is mounted, and while shooting down the burglar or burglars who may seek to force an entrance, will, by the noise produced by the discharge of the fire-arms, arouse and alarm the occupants of the house and summon them to the scene.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

1. In a burglar gun or alarm, the combination, with the frame of the main shaft journaled therein, of one or more fire-arms adapted to be carried by the said shaft, the discharge-wire formed in cam shape and located in the pathway of the triggers of said fire-arms, and adapted to engage said triggers and discharge the fire-arms in their rotary movement, and means, substantially as described, for automatically rotating the said shaft, substantially as set forth.

2. In a burglar gun or alarm, the combination, with the frame of the main shaft journaled therein, having the platform, of the series of fire-arms mounted thereon, the discharge-wire formed in cam shape and located in the pathway of the triggers of said fire-arms and adapted to engage said triggers and discharge the fire-arms in their rotary movement, and means, substantially as described, for automatically rotating the said shaft, substantially in the manner and for the purpose set forth.

3. In a burglar gun or alarm, the combination, with the frame of the main shaft journaled therein, having the platform, of the series of fire-arms mounted thereon, the discharge-wire formed in cam shape and located in the pathway of the triggers of said fire-arms and adapted to engage said triggers and discharge the fire-arms in their rotary movement, means, substantially as described, for automatically rotating the shaft, and the shield having the opening opposite the discharge-wire, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

4. In a burglar gun or alarm, the combination of the frame of the main shaft journaled therein, having the gear-wheel and the platform, the short shaft having the teeth formed on it, the coiled spring, the loosely-mounted cog-wheel having the spring-actuated pawl, the dog formed with the tooth or projection and the operating-cord, the series of fire-arms mounted on the said platform, and the discharge-wire, substantially as and for the purpose herein set forth.



5. In a burglar gun or alarm, the combination of the frame of the main shaft journaled therein, having the gear-wheel and the platform, the short shaft having the teeth formed  
5 on it, the spring, the loosely-mounted cog-wheel having the spring-actuated pawl, the dog formed with the tooth or projection and the operating-cord, the series of fire-arms mounted on the said platform, the discharge-  
10 wire, and the shield having the opening oppo-

site the discharge-wire, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony that we claim the foregoing as our own we have hereunto affixed our signatures in presence of two witnesses.

MATHEW S. HANCOCK.  
JOSIAH JOHNSON.

Witnesses:

GEORGE W. TEAFORD,  
JOSEPH A. WEEKS.