

(No Model.)

J. H. FONES.
CONFORMATOR FOR THUMBS.

No. 373,651.

Patented Nov. 22, 1887.

Fig. 1.

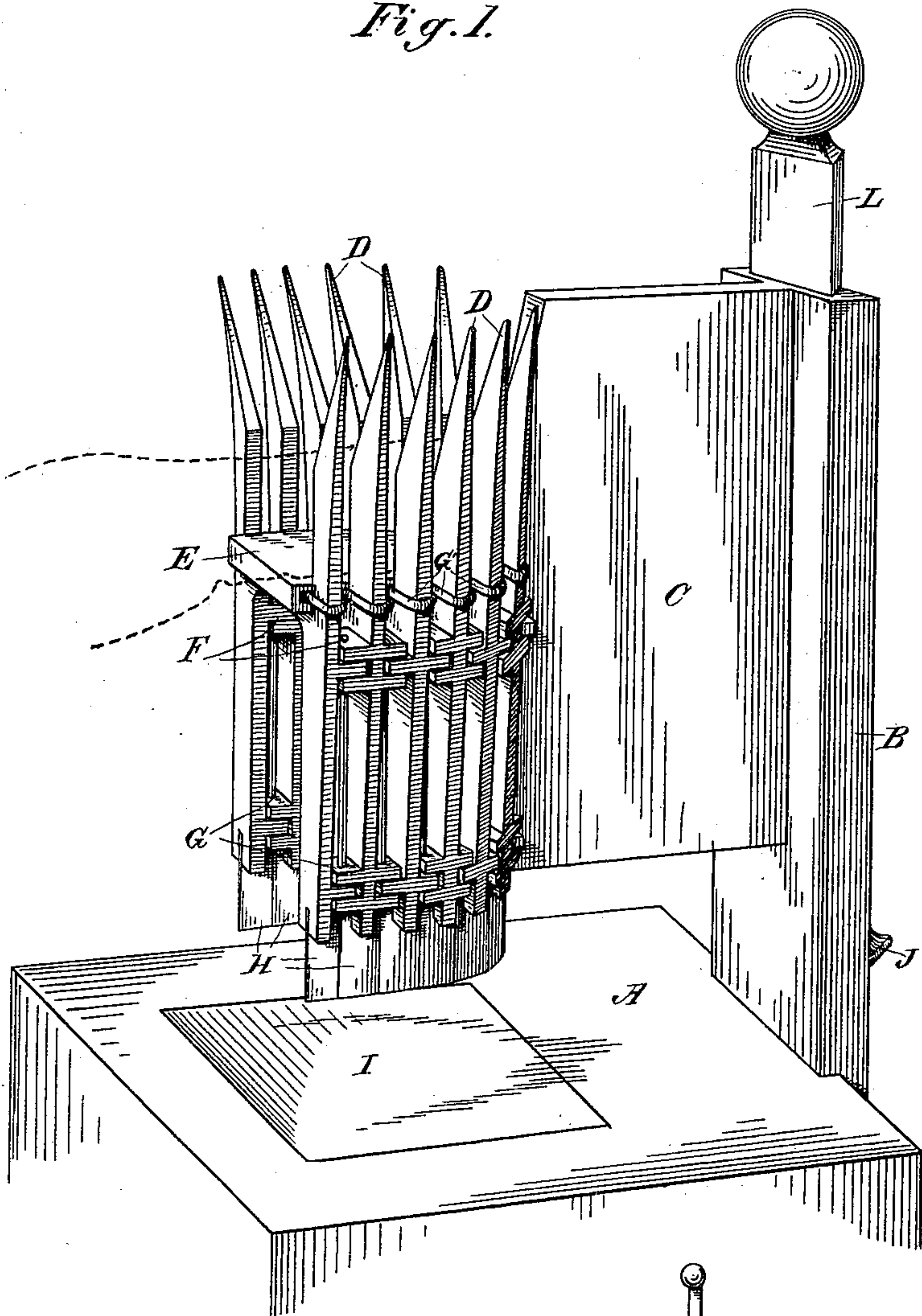
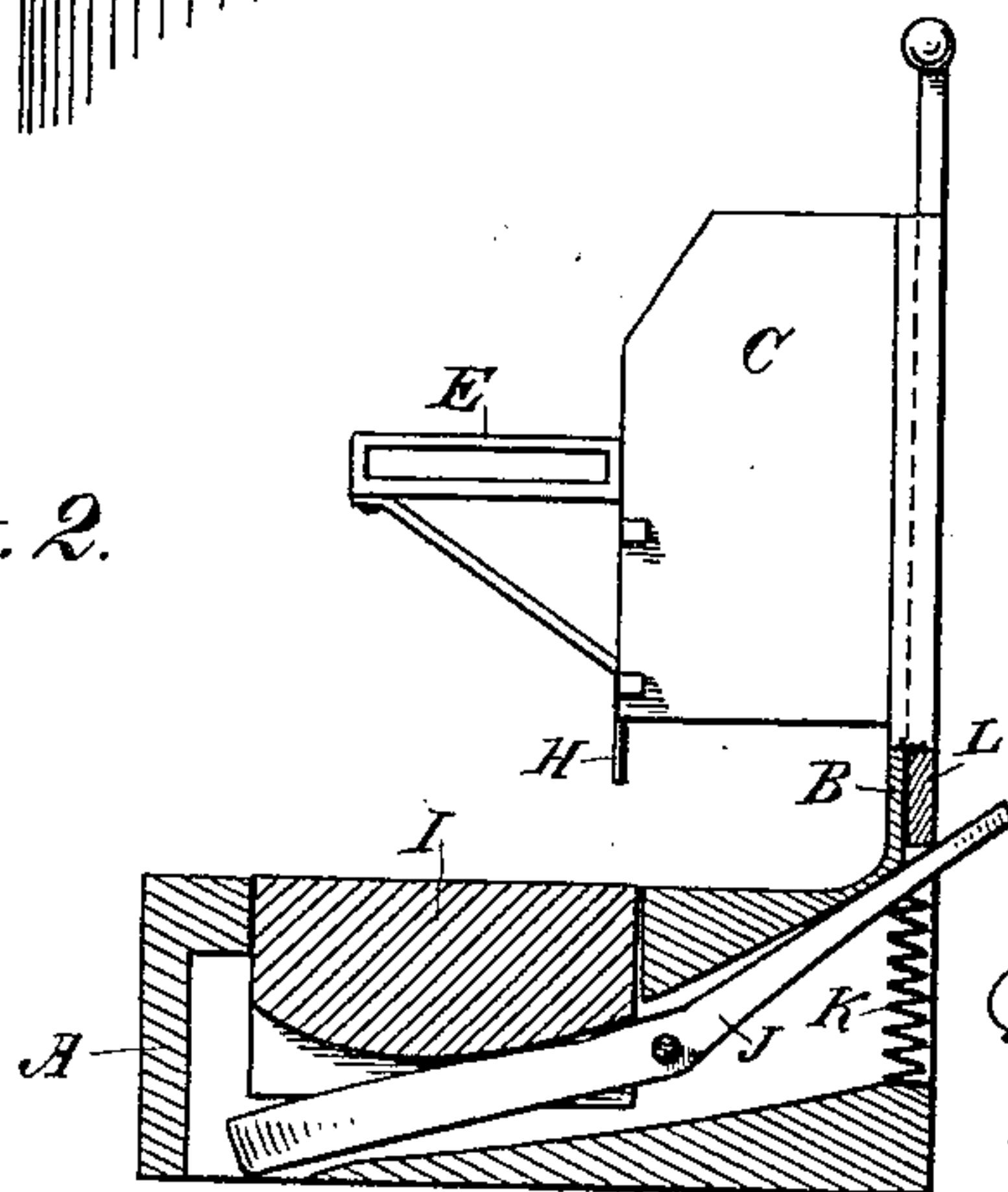


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CONFORMATOR FOR THUMBS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 373,651, dated November 22, 1887.

Application filed August 25, 1887. Serial No. 247,879. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN H. FONES, of Oakland, Alameda county, State of California, have invented an Improvement in Thumb-
5 Identity Machines; and I hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same.

My invention relates to a device for identifying persons by means of an accurate outline
10 of the thumb.

It consists of a series of vertically-arranged staves hinged together about a suitable support, and having blades corresponding with them and sharpened at the lower end. In con-
15 nection with these staves are springs by which the staves and blades are drawn toward each other, the upper ends of the staves being made flaring or diverging, so that the thumb may be introduced between them, and these elastic
20 cords will cause the staves to fit closely against the sides of the thumb and produce a perfect outline thereof.

An impression-table situated below the knives has a sheet of paper or other surface
25 upon which the outline is to be impressed or cut. This table is raised by a lever or other suitable device, so as to come in contact with the blades, and thus form the desired outline or cut upon the sheet.

Referring to the accompanying drawings for a more complete explanation of my invention, Figure 1 is a view of the device. Fig. 2 is a vertical section through the base.

A is the base, having the standard B rising
35 from one side, as shown. Projecting from this standard over the central portion of the base is a vertical plate or flange, C, to the front end of which the staves D are attached, as follows: A plate, E, projects from the front edge of the
40 plate C, this plate having the rear end made semicircular in shape, the plate extending with parallel sides a distance sufficient to allow one half (more or less) of the length of the thumb to be laid upon the plate, which is nar-
45 rower than the thumb of any person. Around this plate are arranged the vertical staves D, which are hinged together at points F and G, and their upper ends are flared outwardly, as shown, so that when the thumb is laid in be-
50 tween them they will spread apart to allow the thumb to be laid in and rest upon the

plate E. This plate has a horizontal channel or slot made through it from side to side, and elastic rubber or other springs, G', passing
55 through this channel, are attached to staves upon opposite sides, so that by their elasticity they draw the staves toward the plate E. When the thumb is introduced, the elasticity of these springs will cause the staves to press against
60 the sides and end of the thumb, thus forming a perfect outline of its shape.

From the lower ends of the staves knives or cutters H extend downward, so that their lower edges, which are sharpened, form a per-
65 fect line corresponding with any shape that may be given by the introduction of the thumb between the staves above. The cutting-edges of these blades are exactly in line with the hinge-pins by which the staves are connected
70 together, so that the edges will always remain in perfect line, whatever curves they and the staves may assume.

If desired, marking edges may be substituted for the cutters with essentially the same result.

In the central portion of the base A is a ver-
75 tically-moving table, I, which is raised upwardly by means of the lever J, projecting through the rear of the standard B, and the lever is retained in its highest position by means of the spring K, suitably connected with it or
80 placed below, as may be desired.

The standard B has a dovetailed groove or channel made in its rear portion, and a verti-
85 cally-sliding bar, L, is fitted to this channel, having a knob upon the top by which it may be pressed downward, so that its lower end, pressing upon the lever J, will raise the table I and bring it into contact with the cutting-edges of the knives upon the lower ends of the
90 staves, before described. Upon this table may be laid a sheet of paper or other substance upon which it is desired to cut, stamp, or retain the impression of the exact shape of the thumb which has been placed within the staves
95 above, and this may then be labeled and laid away for future reference.

The staves have projections or shoulders which extend below the plate E, so that when the block is brought up in violent contact with the blades for the purpose of making a cut or
100 impression the staves will be supported by these shoulders, and thus prevented from be-

ing forced out of position. It is well known that the thumbs of no two individuals are exactly alike, and in cases where it is necessary to identify persons, either criminals, immigrants, or others, it is very advantageously done by the use of this apparatus.

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

10 1. The device consisting of the hinged or jointed staves with spring or elastic connections whereby they are drawn together, a space between which the thumb may be introduced, so that the staves will take the form of the
15 thumb, in combination with knives or markers, whereby an exact impression may be taken of the form between the staves, substantially as herein described.

20 2. The vertically-arranged staves hinged together, having the knives or markers at the lower end, a plate around which the staves are arranged and upon which the thumb may be laid between said staves, in combination with
25 springs or elastic devices for drawing the staves into close contact with the thumb, substantially as herein described.

30 3. The vertically-arranged hinged staves having the upper ends made divergent, the horizontally-projecting thumb-plate around which said staves are arranged, and springs or elastic devices by which they are drawn inwardly toward each other, in combination

with the cutting knives or markers connected with the staves, so as to form a continuous line corresponding with the shape of the thumb between the staves, and the vertically-moving
35 table for impressing said outline, substantially as herein described.

4. The vertically-arranged staves having knives or markers at the lower end corresponding with the staves, the horizontal thumb-plate, and the elastic springs, in combination with the projections or lugs extending from the
40 staves from beneath the plate, so as to resist the upward thrust of the impression-table, substantially as herein described.

5. The vertically-arranged hinged staves surrounding the horizontal thumb-plate, having lugs or projections extending beneath the
50 plate, and a series of knives or markers connected with the lower end of the staves, so as to form an outline corresponding with the thumb-plates between the upper ends of the staves, in combination with the vertically-moving
55 impression block or table, the lever and actuating arm or slide, and the returning spring or weight, substantially as herein described.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

JOHN H. FONES.

Witnesses:

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H. C. LEE.