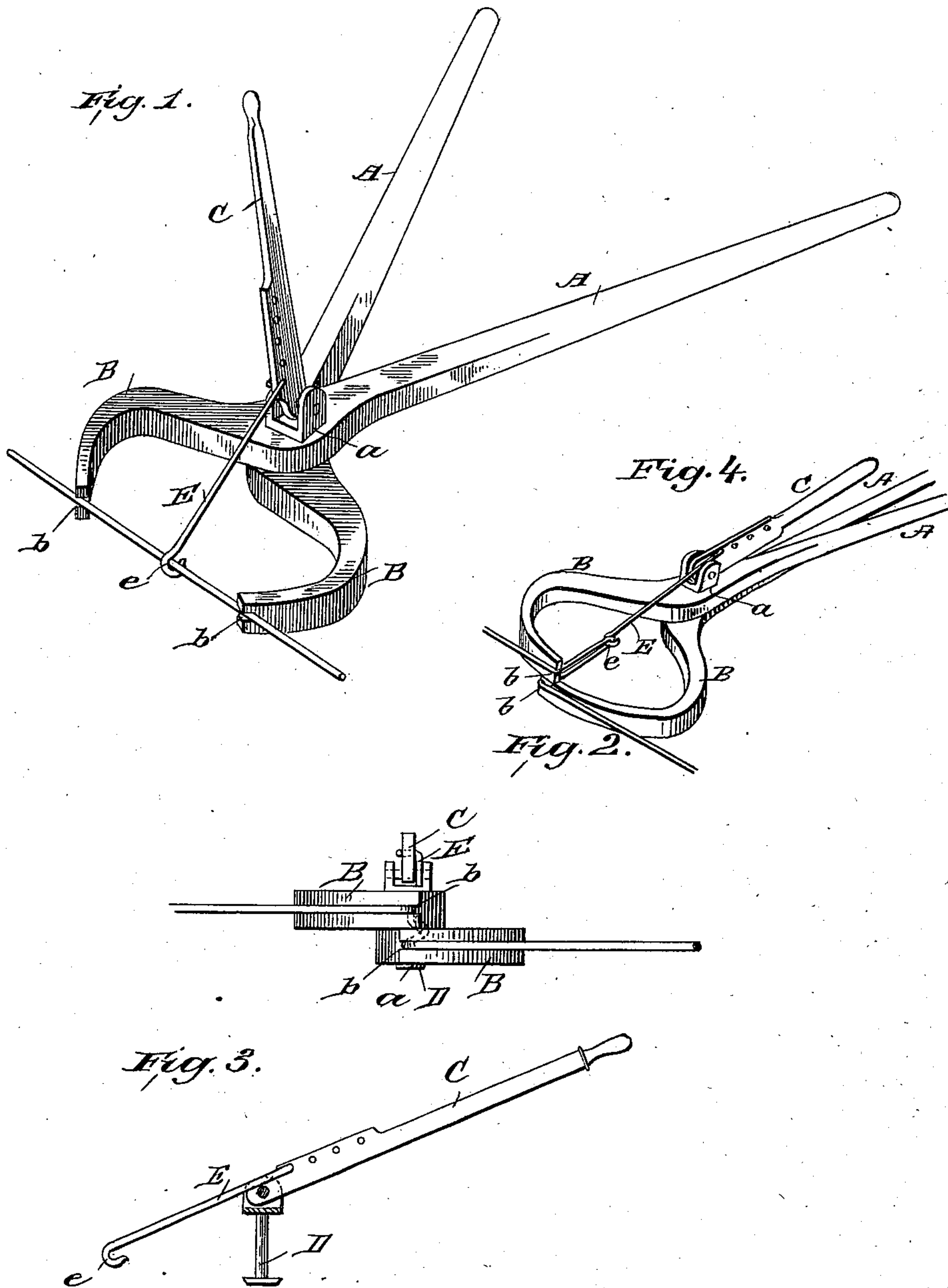


(No Model.)

J. W. WEAR.
WIRE TIGHTENER.

No. 376,695.

Patented Jan. 17, 1888.



WITNESSES:

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INVENTOR:

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ATTORNEYS.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN W. WEAR, OF ELDORADO SPRINGS, MISSOURI.

WIRE-TIGHTENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 376,695, dated January 17, 1888.

Application filed August 24, 1887. Serial No. 247,787. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN W. WEAR, of Eldorado Springs, in the county of Cedar and State of Missouri, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Wire-Tighteners, of which the following is a specification.

This invention is an improved wire-tightener intended to tighten fence and other wires, and is adapted for tightening up the wires of fences and other structures already built, as well as for use in the building of such structures; and the invention consists in certain improved constructions and novel combinations of parts, as will be hereinafter described, and pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved wire-tightener as in use. Fig. 2 is a front view thereof. Fig. 3 is a detail view of the straining-lever and the pivot-pin with bearings therefor, and Fig. 4 illustrates the operation of the invention.

The tongs A A are pivoted together at *a*, and have their jaws B provided in their ends with notches *b*, forming guides for the wire to be stretched. These jaws, it will be seen, are so arranged that they may be moved alongside of each other, the ends having the guides extending past each other, it may be to the position shown in Fig. 2. When so adjusted in the operation of the invention, the jaws will brace each other when the tongs are rotated to twist the slack of the wire, as will be described hereinafter. A straining-lever, C, is pivoted to the tongs. By preference the bearings for this lever are provided on the pivot-pin or bolt D of the tongs, as shown. This construction is preferred; but manifestly the bearings for the lever might be provided in numerous other ways without departing from some of the broad principles of my invention. The lever is connected with the wire to be strained by a rod or chain connection, E, having at one end a hook, *e*, to facilitate connection with the said wire.

The lever C is provided with a number of holes at different points, in order that the connection E may be united therewith at different distances from its center, in order that more or less strain can be exerted, as may be desired.

In use the jaws are placed against a wire

and the lever connected with such wire, when by operating the lever the slack of wire may be taken up. Then by closing the tongs and rotating the same the wire may be twisted to secure the slack.

The invention is simple, efficient, and will be found very convenient in use.

I do not in this application seek to cover, broadly, the combination, with the tongs, of a looper thereon to engage the wire at a point intermediate of the edges of the jaws of the tongs, and form a loop or bend for the jaws to grasp and twist, as such subject-matter is claimed in a separate application for patent filed by me January 22, 1887, Serial No. 225,171.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new is—

1. A wire-tightener comprising a pair of tongs having their jaws movable alongside of and past each other when the tongs are closed and constructed to guide the wire when the tongs are open, whereby the wire may be drawn between said jaws to form a loop or bend when the tongs are open and such tongs may be closed and rotated to twist and secure such loop or bend, substantially as set forth.

2. A wire-tightener comprising a pair of tongs having their jaws provided with guides for the wire, a lever pivotally supported on said tongs, and a connection for joining said lever with the wire to be stretched, substantially as set forth.

3. The improved wire-tightener herein described, consisting of the tongs having their jaws movable alongside of and past each other and provided with guides for the wire to be stretched, the lever supported in bearings on said tongs, and the connection for joining said lever with the wire to be stretched, all substantially as and for the purposes specified.

4. In a wire stretcher, the tongs, the pivot-pin thereof having bearings for the lever, the lever, and connections between said lever and the wire to be stretched, substantially as set forth.

JOHN W. WEAR.

Witnesses:

GEO. W. PRICHARD,
C. L. FULKERSON.