(No Model.)

J. MARKS.

WALL PAPER CUTTER.

No. 397,736. Patented Feb. 12, 1889.

Fig. 1

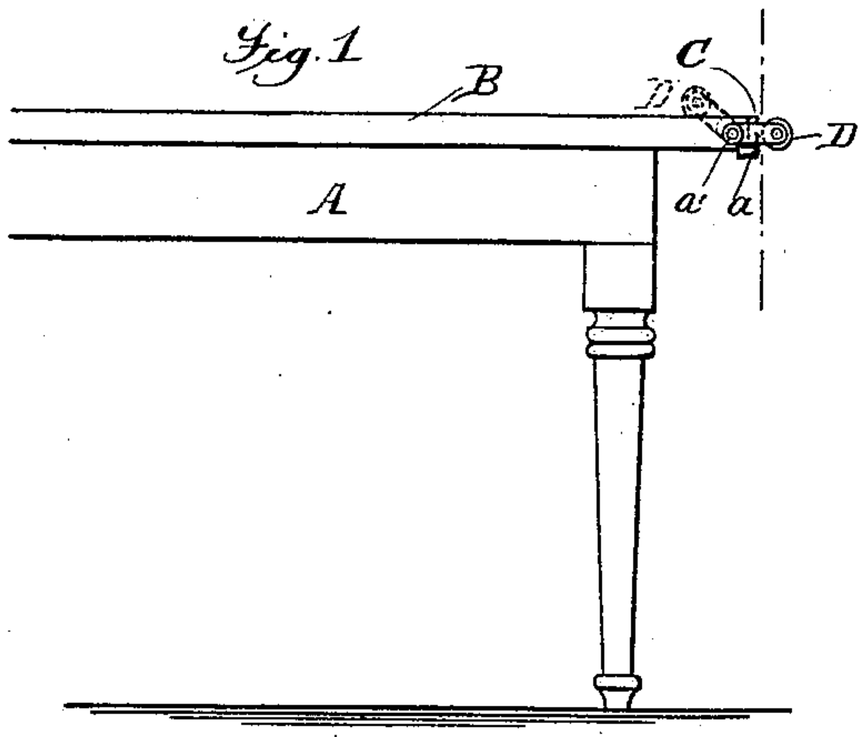


Fig. 2

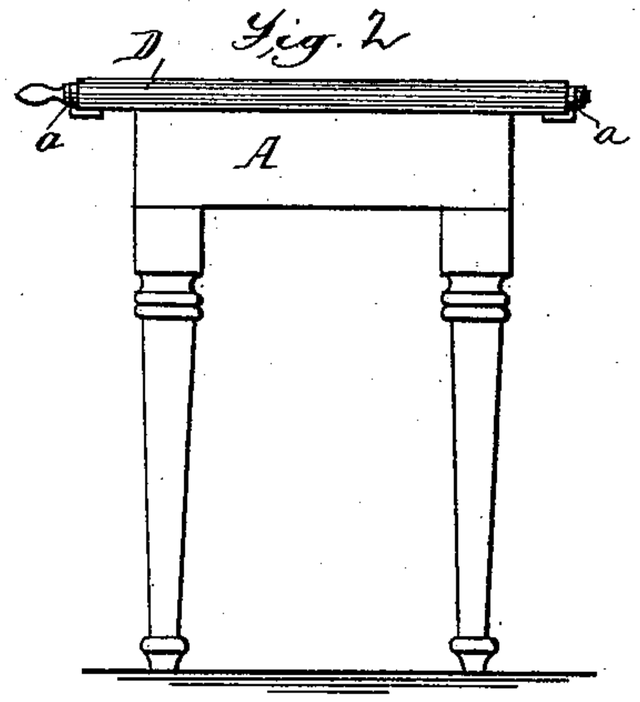


Fig. 3

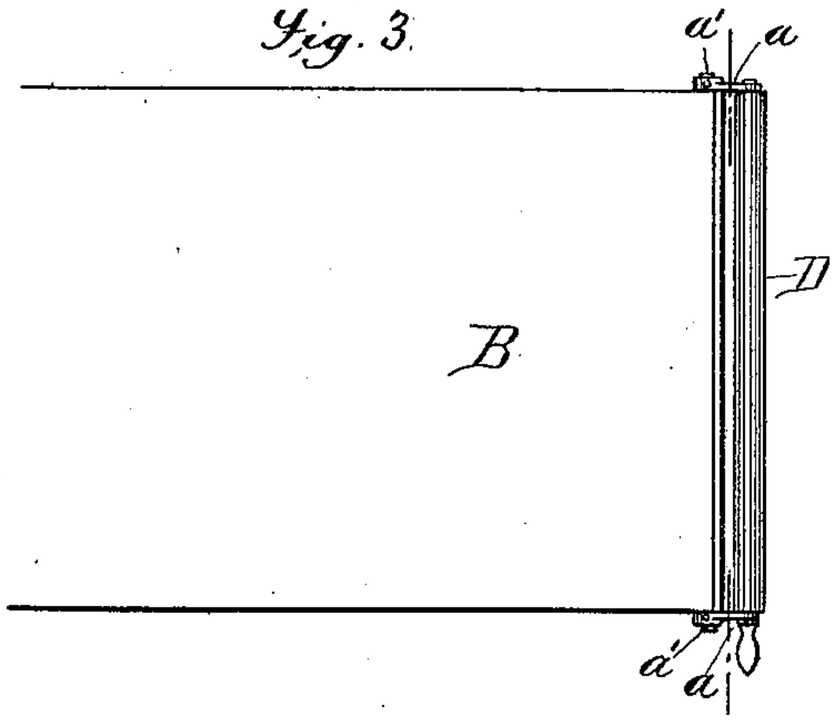


Fig. 4

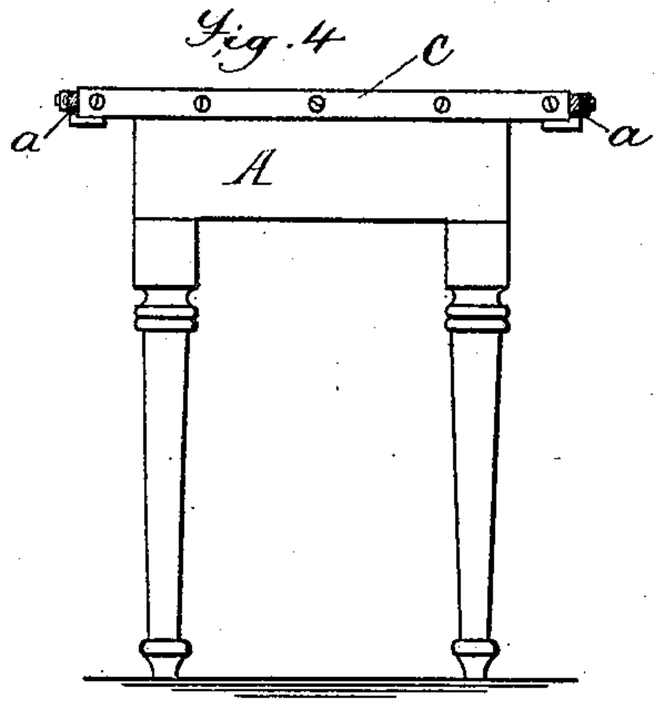


Fig. 6

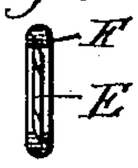


Fig. 5

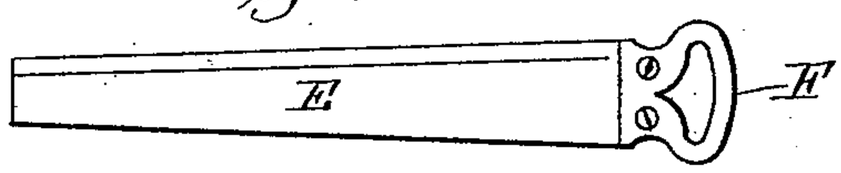
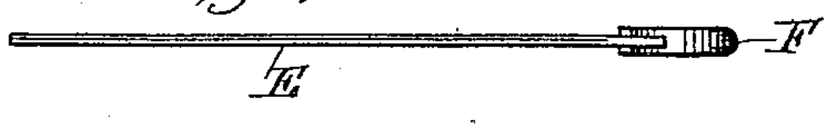


Fig. 7



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Atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES MARKS, OF BAYONNE, NEW JERSEY.

WALL-PAPER CUTTER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 397,736, dated February 12, 1889.

Application filed September 24, 1885. Serial No. 177,981. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES MARKS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Bayonne, in the county of Hudson and State of New Jersey, have invented a certain new and useful Wall-Paper Cutter, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to an improvement in wall-paper cutters which are especially adapted for cutting and trimming the edges of wall-paper; and it consists in, first, the combination of a free flexible blade provided with a handle at one end and which has each of its edges chamfered, the two chamfers being upon opposite faces or sides of the blade; second, the combination of a free flexible blade provided with a handle at one end and having straight knife-edges with a board or table provided with a fixed knife-edge, as will be more fully described hereinafter.

The object of my invention is to provide a device for cutting and trimming wall-paper, and which consists of a free flexible blade having parallel faces, and which has its opposite edges chamfered on opposite sides of the blade, so that either edge is always in position to cut, and thus do away with the heavy shears which have heretofore been used and which require skilled labor to use.

In the accompanying drawings, in the several figures of which like parts are designated by similar letters of reference, Figure 1 is a side view in elevation of a table with my attachments applied. Fig. 2 is an end view thereof; Fig. 3, a top plan view, and Fig. 4, an end view with the swinging bar omitted. Fig. 5 is a side view of the cutting-knife; Fig. 6, a cross-section, and Fig. 7 a plan view thereof.

My improvements are shown in the drawings as applied to the end of a table; but this is merely for convenience of illustration, as they may be applied to the side edges and usually will be in practice, thus extending the full length of the table. They can also be applied in the same manner to a cutting or pasteboard of the kind usually employed by paper-hangers.

A designates the table, and B its top. When a table instead of an ordinary cutting or pasteboard is employed, I shall usually use one having folding legs, so that it can be conveniently carried from place to place whenever necessary.

C designates a straight-edged strip of metal, which is applied by screws or in other suitable manner to that edge of the table or board which is used for the cutting-edge. It is usually to be applied to the side edge and extends the full length of the table or board; but it may be applied to the end, and may be of any desired length, and, if desired, more than one strip can be employed.

D designates a bar for holding the paper in place during the cutting operation. This bar is suspended at each end from one end of an arm, *a*, the other end of which is pivotally connected at *a'* to the board or table-top. When in its normal position, this bar is hung in front of that edge of the table-top or board to which the metal strip C is applied, as shown in Fig. 3, and when in use it is swung over onto the table-top or board until it rests on the paper to be cut, just back of the cutting-edge, as shown in Fig. 1. As shown in the drawings, this bar is in the shape of a roller; but it may be merely a flat strip of wood or of other shape in cross-section, if desired. Besides serving the purpose of holding the paper to be cut in place, the bar may also be used as a straight-edge.

E designates the cutting-knife, preferably having a two-edged straight blade flat on one side and beveled on the other, the bevel at one edge being on the opposite side to the bevel at the other edge, as shown in section, Fig. 6. This knife is about eighteen inches long and is fitted with an appropriate handle, F. For light papers a knife with straight cutting-edges can be used to advantage; but in most cases the beveled or sharpened edge is preferable.

The paper to be cut or trimmed is pasted and folded in the usual way, and the edge to be cut is laid over the metal strip C. The bar D is swung over onto the paper and the cutting-knife is brought down on the paper to be cut and against the strip C, the knife and the edge of the metal strip operating like a pair of shears. In this manner thin common paper can be cut with the same precision as the thick heavy flock or embossed paper, and a perfectly true straight edge be obtained in

every case. Paper cut in this way can be hung so that the edges will not be apparent even on close inspection, and good results can thus be obtained in paper-hanging without requiring any more, if as much, skill on the part of the workman as required by the old method of cutting with a pair of shears or an ordinary knife and a lath.

The old method of trimming paper before it is pasted has been discarded by nearly all good workmen, and the paper is now pasted and folded before it is cut; but the paper is cut in the same way as heretofore—viz., with the shears or knife, as stated, and in both cases the workman depends on the steadiness of his hand to make a straight clean cut, while with my improvements clean cutting is always insured, because the metal strip serves as a straight-edge and in order to cut the knife-blade must bear against it.

If desired, the bar D and the cutting-knife E may be properly lined, spaced, and numbered to serve as measuring-rules.

My improvements may also be employed for cutting light fabrics and will be found very useful for this purpose.

My attachments can be easily applied to any table or cutting-board and at a trifling expense. I propose to make the metal strips in sections of convenient size, properly punctured for screws, and the bars of different sizes, so that they can be readily attached to any table or cutting-board.

Both edges of the knife are here shown as beveled; but it will readily be seen that, so far as its coaction with the table is concerned, if the blade is provided with only one cutting-edge, it will serve the same purpose, but will not be quite so handy as the two edges, because with one edge only the handle will always have to be taken hold of in the same way so as to bring the cutting-edge into the proper position.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a paper-cutter, the combination of a free flexible blade having plane parallel faces and straight knife-edges, each knife-edge being formed by a chamfer on one face of the blade, and the two chamfers being on opposite faces of the same, with a handle at one end of the blade, substantially as described.

2. In a paper-cutter, the combination of a free flexible blade having plane parallel faces and a straight knife-edge, with a handle at the end of the blade, and a board or table provided with a fixed knife-edge, substantially as shown.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 20th day of August, A. D. 1885.

JAMES MARKS.

Witnesses:
ARTHUR C. WEBB,
ERNEST C. WEBB.