

(No Model.)

C. G. DODGE.

TAP HOLE PLUG.

No. 397,839.

Patented Feb. 12, 1889.

Fig. 1.

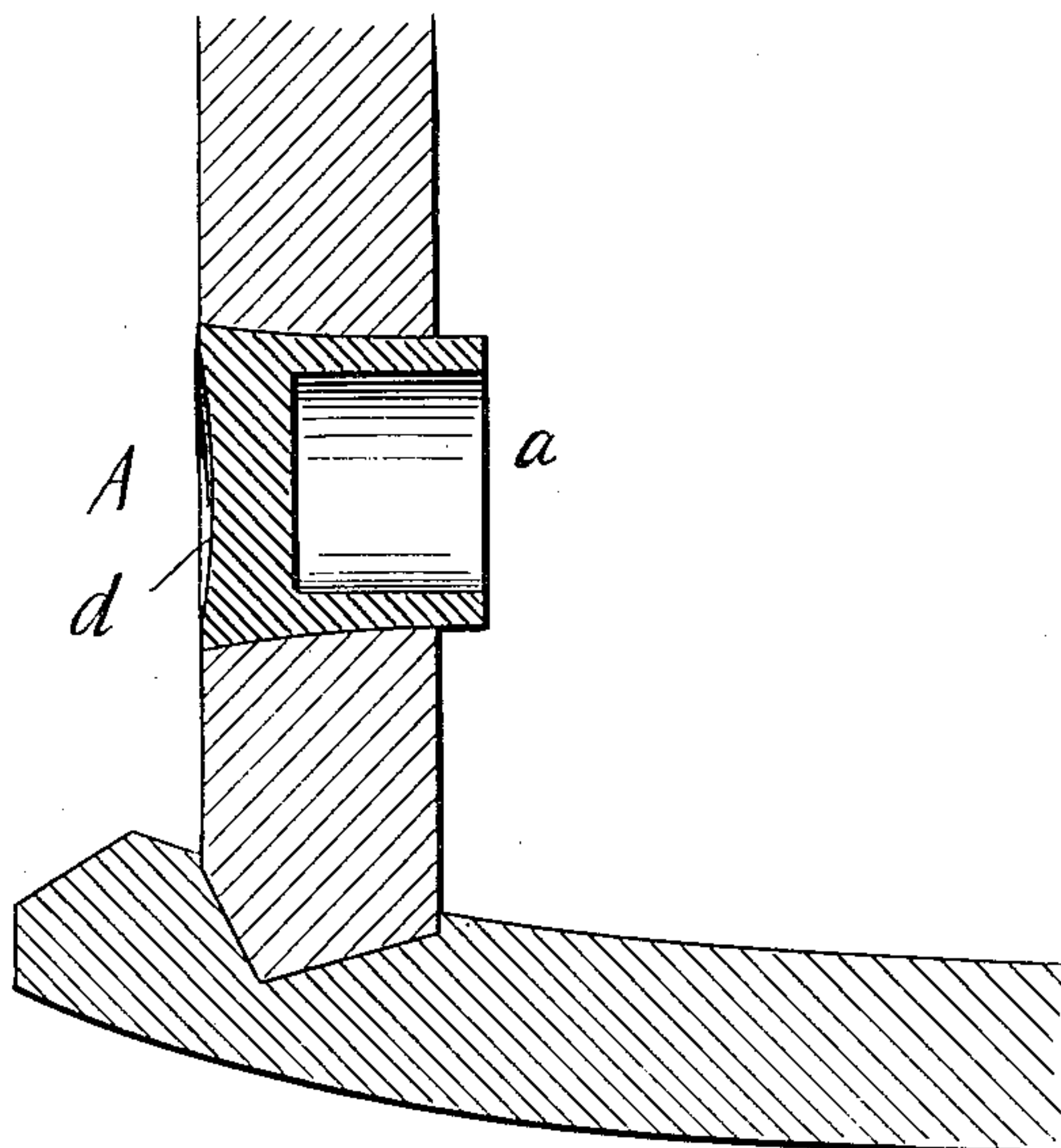


Fig. 2.

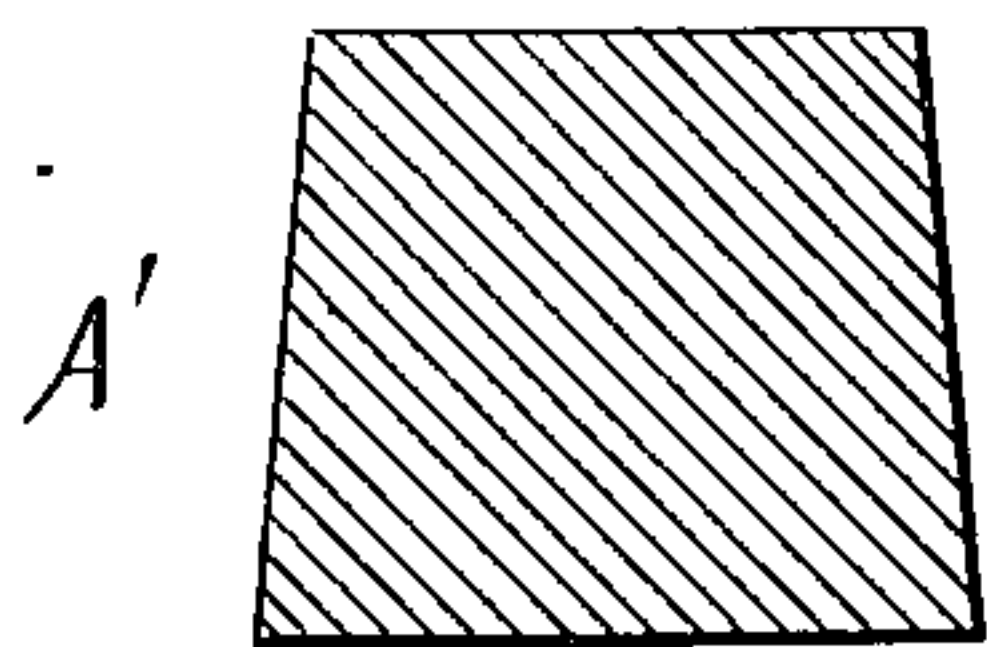


Fig. 3.

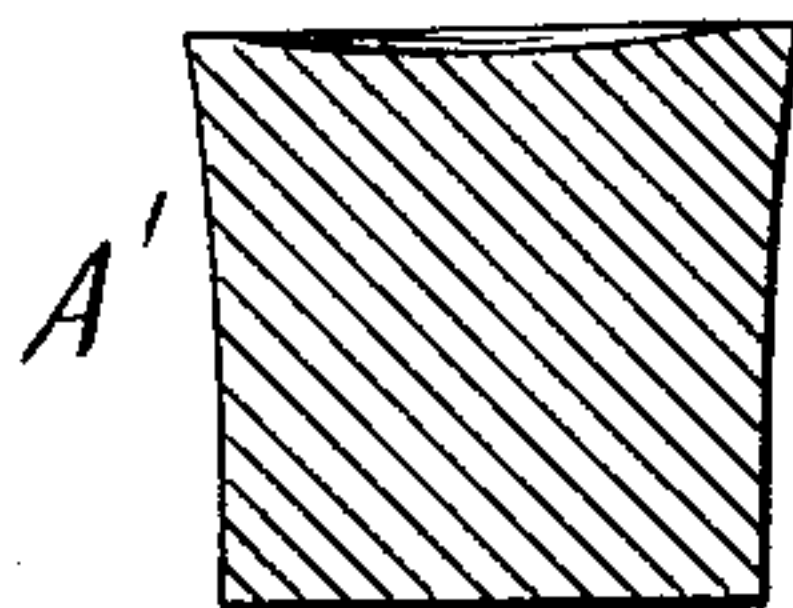


Fig. 4.

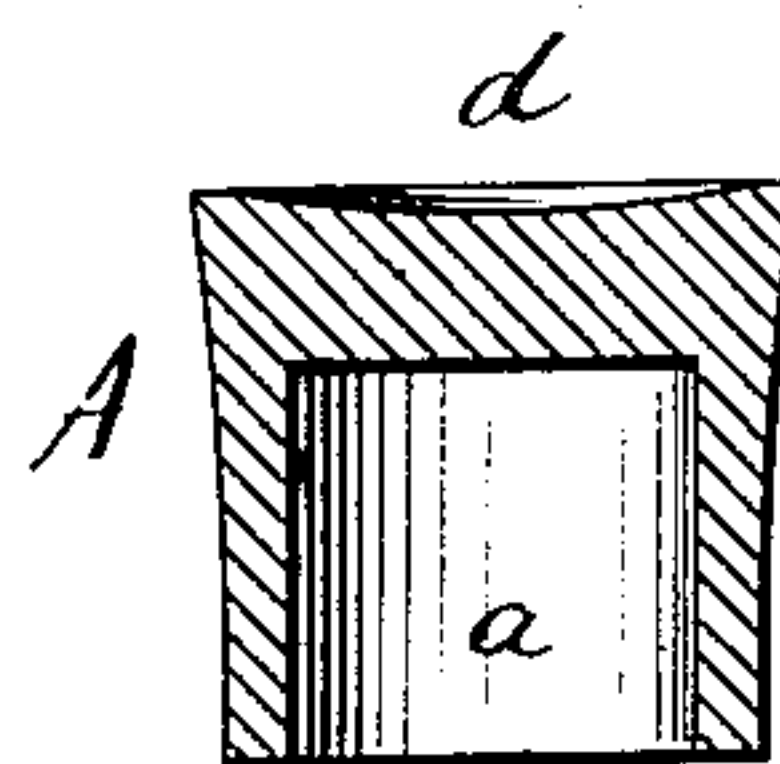
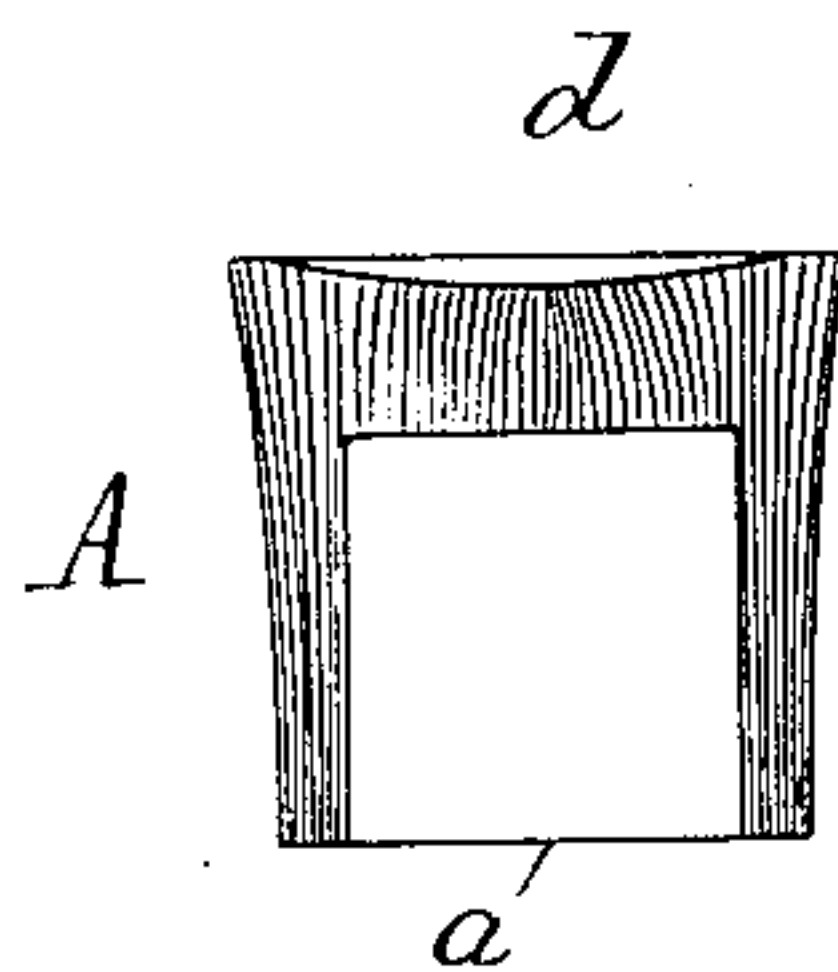


Fig. 5.



Witnesses.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHRISTOPHER G. DODGE, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNOR TO JOHN D. BROWN, OF SAME PLACE.

TAP-HOLE PLUG.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 397,839, dated February 12, 1889.

Application filed May 23, 1888. Serial No. 274,807. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHRISTOPHER G. DODGE, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Tap-Hole Plugs, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improved plug for the tap or faucet holes of kegs for beer and other liquids, to be used in place of more expensive corks heretofore in use for this purpose; and the invention consists of a tap-hole plug made of a tubular piece of wood having a compressed web at one end and compressed side walls, which latter expand by the action of the liquid in the keg when the plug is driven with its tubular end foremost into the tap or faucet hole.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents a vertical section of a portion of the head of a keg, showing my improved tap-hole plug in position in the hole of the same. Figs. 2, 3, and 4 are vertical central sections of my improved tap-hole plug, showing it in different stages of its manufacture; and Fig. 5 is a vertical section of the same, showing the structural changes produced in the same by the different compressions to which the plug is exposed.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

Referring to the drawings, A represents a tap-hole plug, which is made of wood and intended to be used in place of the corks heretofore employed for closing the tap or faucet holes of kegs and barrels. The plug A is made with a tubular portion, *a*, the side walls of which are compressed by suitable dies, while the solid web or head *d* of the plug is compressed at its middle portion, but left in its uncompressed state at its circumference. The plug A is made from a conically-tapering blank, A', which is made like a bung, in a machine for making bungs, and then placed into a suitable compressing-die, which compresses the wider portion of the blank A', so

as to make it of a smaller diameter than the head portion, as shown in Fig. 3, and the head is simultaneously compressed at its center by a suitable die, after which the end is bored out by a suitable cutter, so that a plug of the shape shown in Fig. 4 is obtained, in which the side walls as well as the middle portion of the web are compressed, while the circumference of the web remains in its uncompressed state, as indicated in Fig. 5, in which the structural changes imparted by different compressions of the plug are indicated. When the tap-hole plug is to be used, it is driven with the tubular portion foremost into the tap-hole of the keg. By the action of the liquid on the compressed side walls the same expand and produce the tight closing of the plug in the tap-hole, so that no leakage can take place. For tapping the keg the plug has to be driven into the keg by the open end of the faucet, which is readily accomplished, as the uncompressed circumference of the web of the plug gives sufficiently to permit of driving in without too great an effort. The tapping of the keg is thus rendered just as easy as with the cork plugs used for closing the tap-holes of barrels and kegs, while the plugs can be manufactured at a much lower rate than the cork plugs.

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

A tap-hole plug made of wood tubular at one end and with a solid web at the other end, the side wall of the tubular portion and the central portion of the web being compressed, while the circumferential portion of the web is left in uncompressed state, substantially as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention I have signed my name in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CHRISTOPHER G. DODGE.

Witnesses:

CARL KARP,
SIDNEY MANN.