(No Model.)

W. DELAIN.

APPARATUS FOR MAKING WOVEN WIRE FENCE.

No. 426,493. Patented Apr. 29, 1890.

Fig. 1

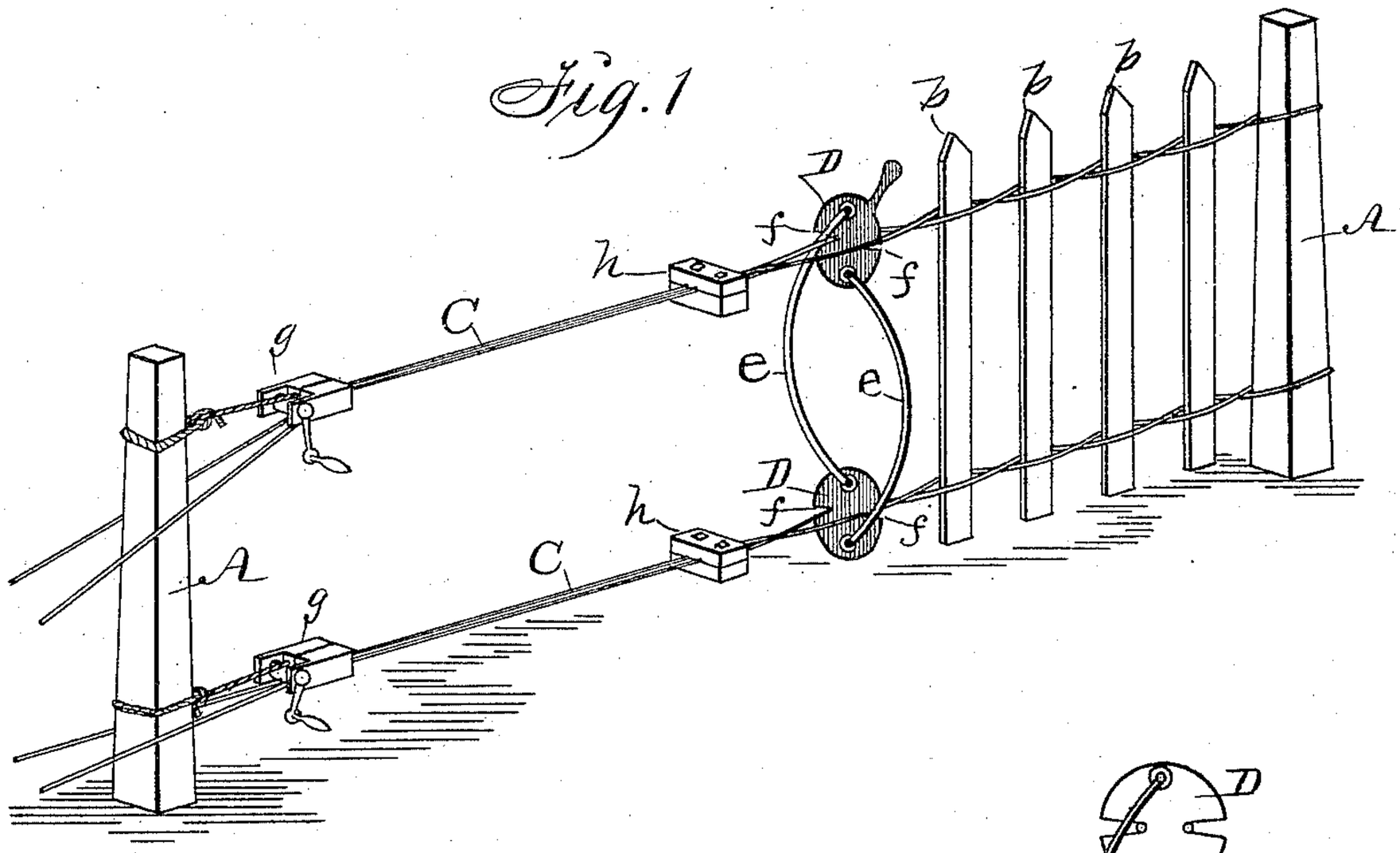


Fig. 2

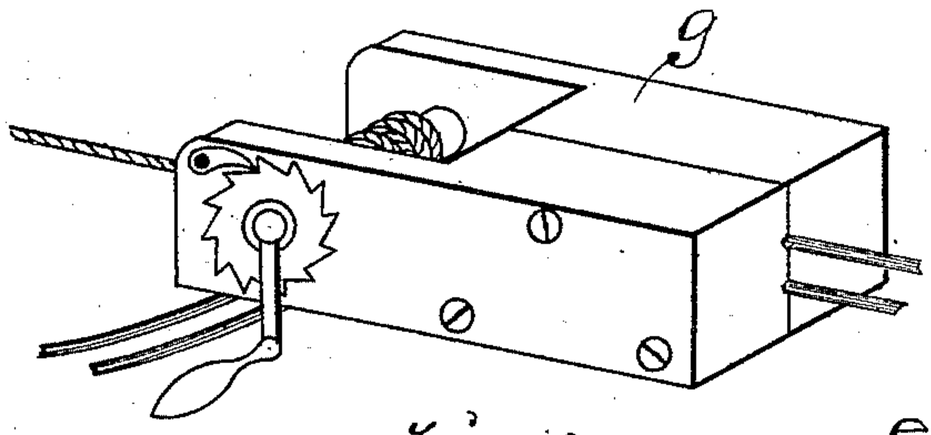


Fig. 3

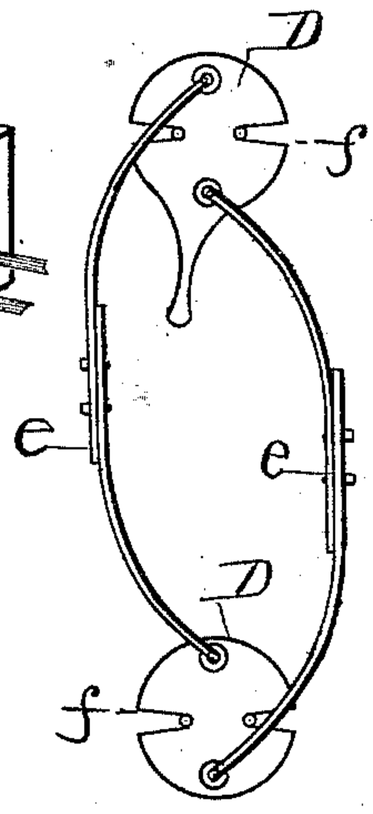


Fig. 4

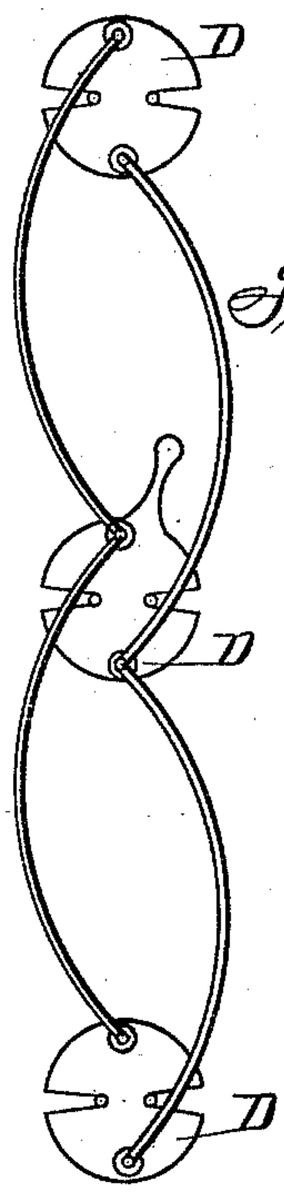
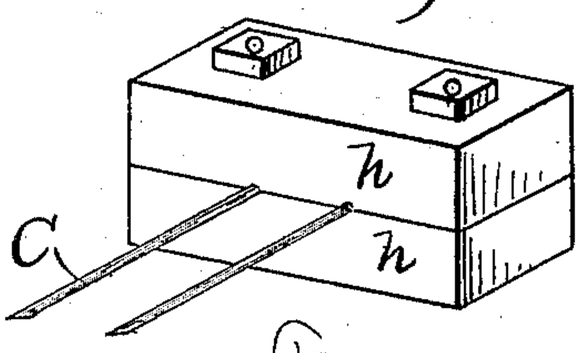


Fig. 5



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM DELAIN, OF EARLHAM, IOWA.

APPARATUS FOR MAKING WOVEN WIRE FENCE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 426,493, dated April 29, 1890.

Application filed October 5, 1889. Serial No. 326,133. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM DELAIN, a citizen of the United States of America, and a resident of Earlham, in the county of Madison and State of Iowa, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Apparatus for Weaving Fences, of which the following is a specification.

This invention has relation to improvements in apparatus for constructing fences wherein pickets are supported by two or more wires, and has for its object to provide a means whereby two or more strands of wire may be simultaneously woven about a picket, so as to give support to said pickets, as hereinafter described, pointed out in the claims, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 shows a perspective view of my device as used in the construction of a picket fence. Fig. 2 represents an enlarged detail view of my wire-stretching device. Fig. 3 shows a detail of the wire-weaving device; and Fig. 4 is a modification thereof, whereby three strands may be simultaneously woven; and Fig. 5 shows a detail view of the guide-blocks.

A A represent two fence-posts, between which the pickets *b b* are to be supported.

C C are two picket-supports, each comprising two wires, which are adapted to be woven about the pickets *b b*.

D D are the weaving-disks, which are connected by means of the curved adjustable connecting-rods *e e*, which are movably fixed to the disks, one extending from the upper end of the upper disk to the upper end of the lower disk, while the other extends from the lower end of one to the lower end of the other, as shown in Figs. 1 and 3. These disks are of any suitable material, and are each provided with the slots *f f*, which radiate from two points near the center of the disk and are adapted to contain the wires, as shown.

Near the periphery of the disks and at an angle of ninety degrees from the slots *f f*—that is, in a plane at right angles to the plane of the slots—are pivoted the ends of the curved arms *e e*. These arms are preferably of iron, and may be of one piece only, as shown in Fig. 1, or comprise two parts adjustably connected, as shown in Fig. 3.

The upper disk is provided with a handle, by means of which the disks are operated.

Ordinarily in constructing fence I simply use two supports, comprising two wires each. These wires are fixed to the starting-post—one on each side—by any suitable means, and one wire of each strand is placed into the slots of the weaving-disks, within the arms *e e*, as shown in Fig. 1, the other two being placed within the slots outside the arms. The wires are then carried to the tension-reels *g g*, of which two are employed, which are connected to one of the fence-posts or any other suitable support in line with the posts. These reels comprise two mating blocks, which are connected by means of adjusting-screws, and are provided with projections which form a support for a suitable drum, that is provided on one side with a crank, ratchet, and pawl.

To the drum is fixed a suitable cord, by means of which the reel is connected to the posts.

The wires to be used in supporting the pickets are clamped between the mating blocks, and by means of the reels are drawn taut.

Mounted upon the wires are the wooden guide-blocks *h h*, held together by suitable screws, which keep the wires in proper position.

The operation of my device is as follows: The wires having been properly fixed to the post, they are placed one within each of the slots of the weaving-disks, then between the guide-blocks *h h*, and finally being clamped between the mating blocks of the reels, as shown in Fig. 1. The wires are then drawn taut by means of the reels, and the weaving-disks brought into one of their extreme positions, by means of which the wires are crossed. The disks rotate in like direction and revolve upon the wires, and thus simultaneously cross and recross the wires, as illustrated in Fig. 1. When the wires have been crossed, a picket is placed between the crossed portion of the wires, and the weaving-disks by the handle are turned into their other extreme position, which again crosses the wire,

but in the opposite direction, and thus clamps or incloses the picket. Another picket is now inserted, and in this way the operation is continued. As the wires are twisted together between the pickets their tension is maintained by the blocks *g*, through which they are drawn by the operation of weaving in the pickets.

The distance between the pickets is regulated and determined by the distance between the starting-post and the disks.

By the means of the adjustable bars *e e* (shown in Fig. 3) the distance between the wires may be regulated.

In Fig. 4 I show a modification wherewith three strands may be simultaneously woven.

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

1. The combination of two slotted weaving-disks, each adapted to hold two wires, said disks being pivotally connected by means of adjustable connecting-rods, the upper disk being provided with a handle, by means of which said disks are operated, in combination with a suitable tension device, all arranged and adapted to work substantially as described.

2. In an apparatus for weaving the wires in fences, the weaving-disks D D, provided with the slots *f f*, and movably connected by means of the adjustable connecting-rods *e e*, in combination with a tension device comprising the reels *g g*, adapted to work in combination with the weaving-disks, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. A device for weaving picket fences, composed of disks having open slots extending from their circumferences toward their centers in the same plane, and connected by means of rigid curved arms pivotally connected with the disks at points near their circumferences and in planes that extend at right angles to the slots, and a handle extending outward from the edge of one of the disks, to operate in the manner set forth.

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