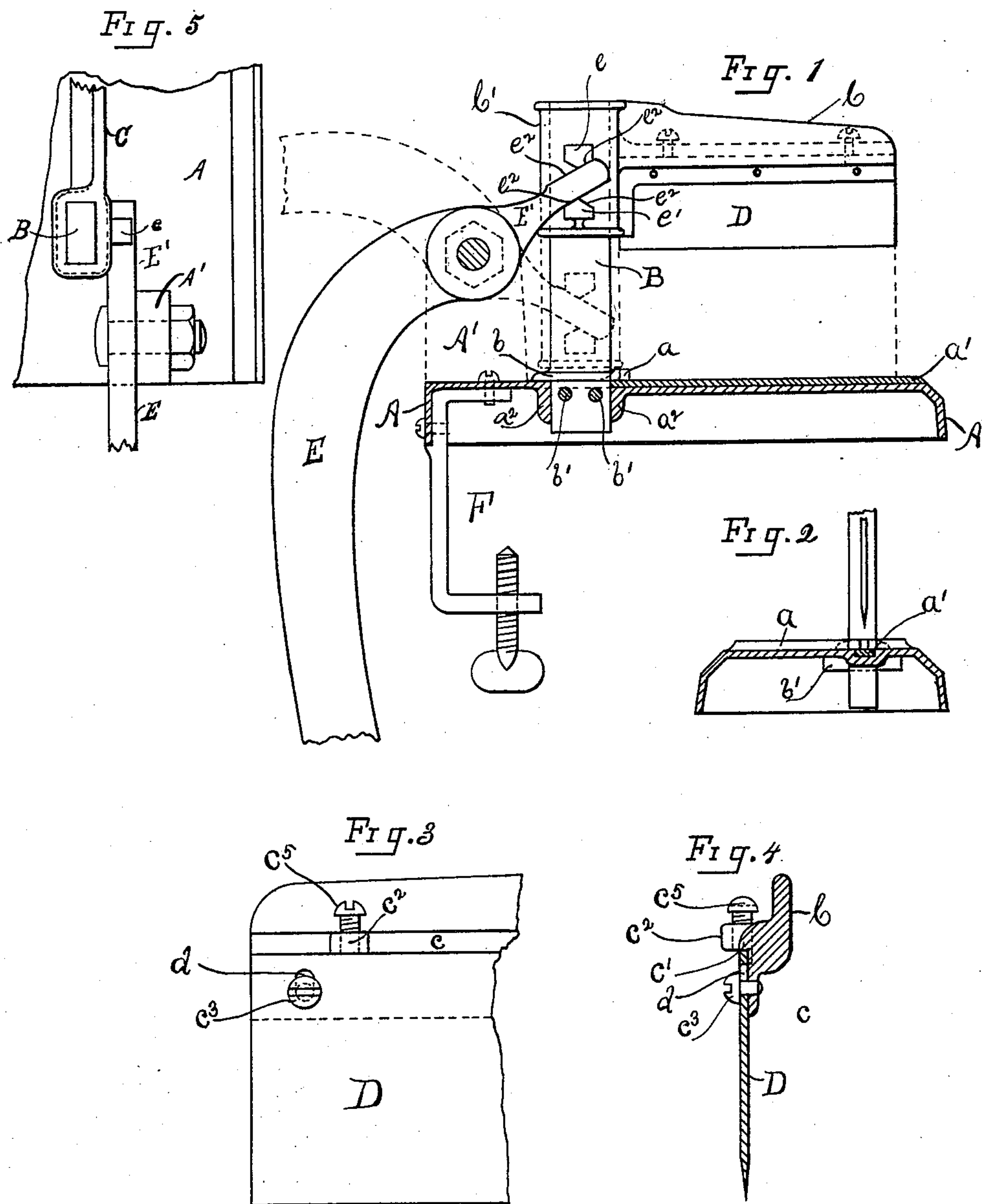


(No Model.)

G. H. EARNEST.
TOBACCO CUTTER.

No. 436,096.

Patented Sept. 9, 1890.



WITNESSES

D. H. Graham
J. Edwards

INVENTOR

George H. Earnest
By *Samuel H. [Signature]*

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE H. EARNEST, OF SPRINGFIELD, OHIO, ASSIGNOR OF TWO-THIRDS
TO AUGUST HIBSCHMAN AND CHARLES W. MORRIS, OF SAME PLACE.

TOBACCO-CUTTER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 436,096, dated September 9, 1890.

Application filed April 7, 1890. Serial No. 346,844. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE H. EARNEST, a citizen of the United States, residing at Springfield, in the county of Clark and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Tobacco-Cutters, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in tobacco-cutters, the object of my invention being to provide a tobacco-cutter of simple and novel construction, the cutting-knife of which shall be entirely free and exposed at one end, leaving an open jaw or mouth into which the tobacco may be inserted while cutting.

My invention consists in the various constructions, and combinations of parts herein-after described, and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation of a device embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a transverse section of a portion of the same. Fig. 3 is a detailed view, enlarged, showing a portion of the knife and the manner of fastening and adjusting the same. Fig. 4 is a sectional view of the same. Fig. 5 is a partial plan view of some of the parts in detail.

Like parts are represented by similar letters of reference throughout the several views.

In the drawings, A A represents the base, which is preferably cast of metal, hollow or recessed on its under side, and provided with an upwardly-extending lug A', a transverse guiding-strip *a*, and a longitudinal depression or recess *a'*.

Projecting upwardly from the base A, and preferably made separable therefrom and connected thereto is a vertical supporting and guiding bar B. This guiding-bar B may, if desired, be cast or formed integral with the base A A, though, as before stated, it is preferably made separate therefrom and adapted to fit into an opening or socket in said base between projecting flanges *a*² *a*² on the under side of said base, the said bar being provided with a projecting flange *b*, adapted to rest against said base, the said bar being held firmly in position by keys or pins *b'* *b'*, driven through said bar and against the web or bottom of said base, as shown.

C is the knife-supporting arm, which is

formed at one end with a box or sleeve C', adapted to surround the bar B and reciprocate thereon. This arm C is provided with a downwardly-projecting wing or flange *c*, a laterally-projecting shoulder *c'*, and laterally-projecting lugs *c*², joining said flange or shoulder *c'*. The knife D is secured to the projecting flange *c* by small fastening-screws *c*³, which pass through slotted openings *d* in said knife.

Extending downwardly through the projecting lugs *c*², and adapted to bear against the top edge of the knife D, are adjusting-screws *c*⁵.

Pivoted to the lug A' is the handle E, which is preferably curved outwardly and downwardly, as shown in Fig. 1, and is provided with a forwardly-projecting extension E', which is arranged at the side of and in close proximity to the sleeve C'.

On the sleeve C' are two projecting lugs *e* and *e'*, one of said lugs being arranged on one side of the projection E' and the other lug on the other side. Each of these lugs on the side next to the projection E' is provided with beveled faces *e*² *e*², adapted as the lever is moved in either direction to come in contact with the said projection E' on the opposite sides thereof. It will be seen now, that as the lever E is moved to the position indicated in dotted lines the knife D will be forced downwardly against the base A A, the arm C sliding on the guiding-bar B. By the peculiar arrangement of the lugs *e* and *e'* the lever E will be stopped in either direction by the projection E' coming against the beveled faces of the said lugs, as shown in one position in Fig. 1, and indicated in dotted lines in the other position.

In the recess *a'*, which is immediately under the knife D, I place a strip of soft material—such as leather, wood, or, if desired, soft metal—against which the knife is adapted to descend.

A table-clamp F is provided on the under side of the base A, by means of which the device may be secured to a table or counter in convenient position for operation, the lever E extending downwardly at the side of said counter.

In the operation of the device the tobacco

to be cut is placed under the knife D, across the recess a' , with the side resting against the strip a . The open mouth or jaw formed by supporting the knife at one end only permits the tobacco to be inserted readily in position from the front or either side. When in position, the lever E is raised, as indicated by dotted lines, the knife is forced downwardly and the tobacco severed.

In using the cutter the operator stands at the rear of the device and can see at once the exact position of the tobacco with reference to the knife, so that the plug may be severed at any point with accuracy and ease. It should be noted that the knife D is fastened to the knife-arm C, against the downwardly-projecting flange c , with the top edge thereof resting in contact with or immediately under the flange or shoulder c' , the adjusting-screws c^5 bearing against the top of said knife, which, together with the slotted openings D, furnish the means for adjusting said knife, as desired, to bring the cutting edge in line with the top of the base or cutting-block. The fastening screws furnish the means for securing the knife in any desired position of adjustment, while the adjusting-screws bearing against the top of the knife hold said knife firmly against the thrust of the cut.

It is obvious that modifications of the device may be readily employed. The handle, instead of being arranged so that an upward movement produces a downward movement of the knife, may be connected to said knife so that the opposite will be accomplished—*i.e.*, a downward movement of the handle will produce a downward movement of the knife in a well-known manner—the connections being modified to accomplish this result.

Other mechanical changes may be employed without departing from the spirit of my invention. I do not therefore limit myself to the exact constructions set forth; but I claim as my invention—

1. The combination, with the base, of the lever pivoted thereon, a reciprocating knife-arm and a guide therefor, the inclined engaging-lugs on said arm, and an extended portion on said lever running between said lugs, the said lugs being so arranged as to form a stop for said lever in either direction and at the same time furnish means for operating said arm by a movement of said lever, substantially as specified.

2. The combination, with a base and a vertical guiding and supporting bar thereon, of a reciprocating knife-arm having a sleeve embracing said bar provided with lugs, a supporting-lug on said base, a lever pivoted to said supporting-lug, said lever being curved outwardly and downwardly, as described, an extended portion on said lever engaging the lugs on said sleeve adapted to be engaged by said extended portion, and stop-faces on said lugs adapted to come in contact with said extended portion on opposite sides thereof when the knife-arm is moved to the limit in either direction, substantially as specified.

3. The combination, with a reciprocating knife-arm provided with lugs and having a bearing on a vertical guiding and supporting bar, of a knife adjustably secured to said knife-arm, a reciprocating lever pivoted to the same base which supports said guiding-bar, said lever having an extended portion adapted to engage with the lugs on said knife-arm to produce a downward movement of the same by an upward movement of said lever, and stop-faces on said lugs to limit the movement of said handle in either direction, substantially as specified.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 2d day of April, A. D. 1890.

GEORGE H. EARNEST.

Witnesses:

D. F. GRAHAM,
C. I. WELCH.