(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

# H. HOWARD.

## HAND STAMP.

No. 449,076. Patented Mar. 24, 1891.

Fig. 1.

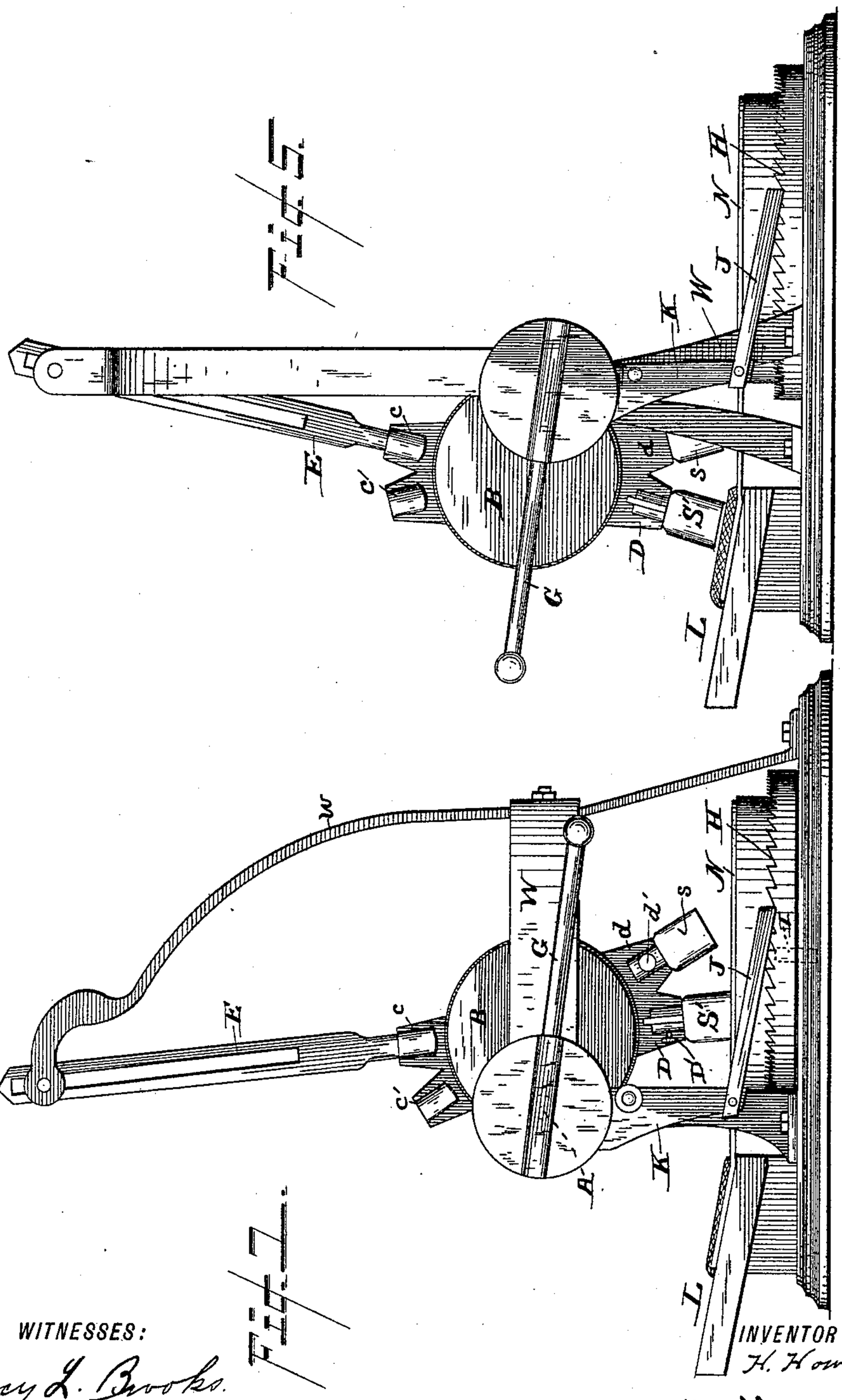


Fig. 2.




WITNESSES:

Percy L. Brooks.

C. W. Scull & Co.

INVENTOR

H. Howard

BY M. Alexander

his

ATTORNEY.

(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

# H. HOWARD.

## HAND STAMP.

No. 449,076. Patented Mar. 24, 1891.

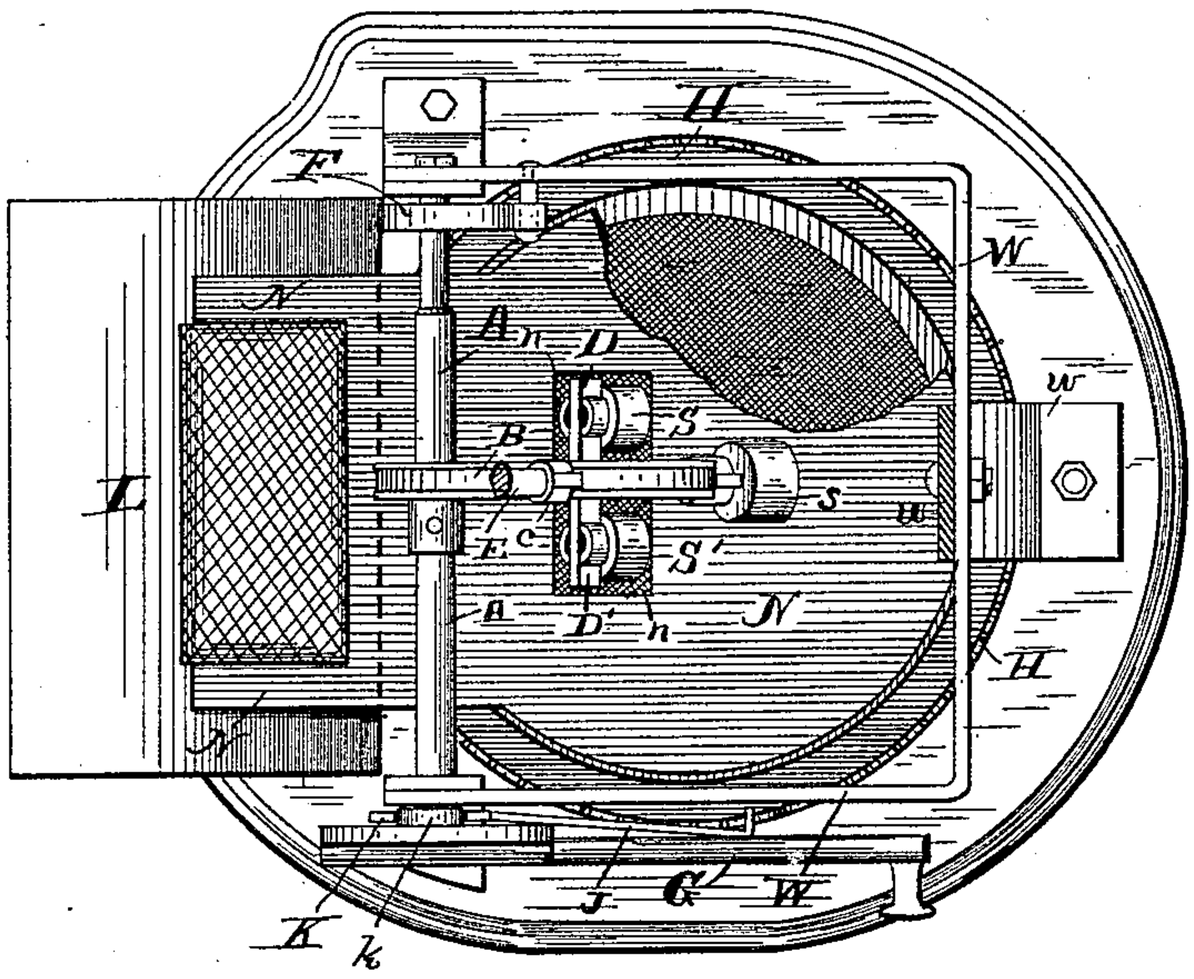


Fig. 2.

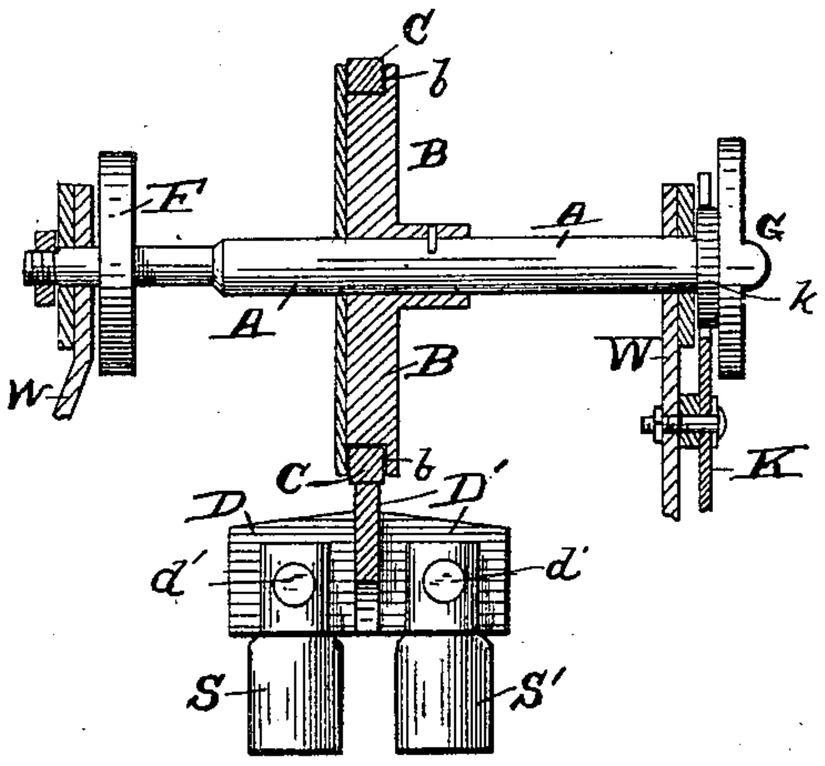


Fig. 3.

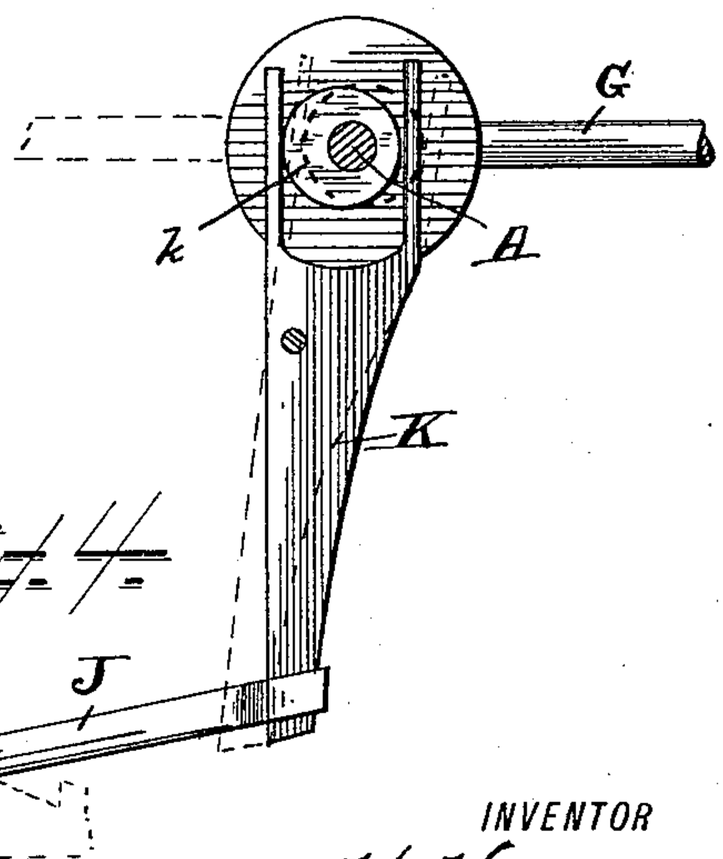


Fig. 4.

WITNESSES:

Percy L. Brooks

C. W. Seville.

INVENTOR

H. Howard.

BY T. A. Alexander

his

ATTORNEY.

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY HOWARD, OF BROOKEVILLE, MARYLAND, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO THOMSON H. ALEXANDER, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

## HAND-STAMP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 449,076, dated March 24, 1891.

Application filed July 17, 1890. Serial No. 359,051. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HENRY HOWARD, of Brookeville, in the county of Montgomery and State of Maryland, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Hand-Stamps; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a side view of my improved printing-stamp for marking or canceling purposes. Fig. 2 is a plan view partly broken. Fig. 3 is a transverse vertical sectional view through the cam-shaft and connected parts. Fig. 4 is a detail. Fig. 5 is a modification as to form of frame.

This invention is an improved hand or power stamp or machine for simultaneously printing upon a letter or postal-card the name of place of mailing and date and canceling the stamps, or for any other purpose to which ordinary hand-printing stamps are employed; and its objects are to provide a partly-automatic stamp-block holder whereon a number of stamp-blocks may be mounted and which may be quickly shifted to print from either of such blocks; to removably secure such stamp-blocks to the holder and to accurately and positively guide the stamp-block and reciprocate it from the inking-pad to the point where the impression is made, and to automatically return the holder and stamp-block to inking position and out of the way; and to these ends the invention consists, essentially, in an oscillatory stamp-block holder mounted upon a rotatable cam by which the holder is lifted and reciprocated back and forth, and in other novel details of construction and combination of parts hereinafter fully set forth and claimed.

Referring to the drawings, letter A designates a revoluble shaft journaled horizontally in proper bearings in side pieces of a frame W of any suitable construction.

B designates a cam-disk secured eccentrically to said shaft and having a peripheral channel *b*, in which is fitted loosely an annulus C, forming part of the stamp-block holder, to the upper side of which are secured vertical socket-pieces *c c'*, that are arranged radially in relation to the axis of the disk and annulus, but two socket-pieces being shown in drawings. To the lower side of annulus C are attached socket-pieces D *d*, respectively, diametrically opposite sockets *c c'*. Piece D has two sockets D', attached to laterally-projecting pieces, while piece *d* has but a single socket. These are all provided with set-screws *d'* or with other devices for engaging the shanks of stamp-blocks S S' *s*.

E designates an oscillating guide-rod that is suspended from and guided by a pin *e*, attached to an upstanding arm *w* of the main frame, which rises above and curves toward shaft A. The upper end of rod E is slotted to engage the pin freely and allow the rod to oscillate transversely above the shaft and to reciprocate vertically. The lower end of the rod is adapted to engage in either of the socket-pieces *c c'*.

Below the stamp-holder and to the inside of shaft A is an inking-pad, with which the lowermost stamp-block attached to the holder is adapted to contact and receive the necessary supply of ink. When the guide-rod E is engaged with either of sockets *c' c'*, it brings such socket normally into vertical position, and consequently the stamp-blocks attached to the lower socket-piece diametrically opposite that engaged by rod E will be lowermost and contact with the ink-pad. The disk is so mounted on the shaft that when the stamp-block is on the pad a line drawn between the block and pin *e* will about intersect the center or axis of the disk, and the parts will stand to the inner side of shaft A within the frame. If now shaft A be rotated to throw the disk upward and outward, it will lift the stamp-holder and move it outwardly to the position indicated in the drawings in Fig. 5. Rod E prevents the holder turning with the disk, but permits it to move the stamp-block from the ink-pad to the point where the impression is to be made, the stamp-block traveling through a nearly semicircular arc, first rising from the pad until it reaches a point beneath rod A, and then descending into or toward the impression plate

or table. The half-revolution of shaft A is about all that is necessary in taking an impression from the stamp. When the shaft is released it is turned back into normal position by springs, preferably as by the convolute spring F, which is coiled around one end of the shaft and is connected thereto and to the frame, so that it is tensioned when the shaft is rotated forwardly and automatically returns the shaft to first position, thereby bringing the stamp-block back into contact with the pad. For post-offices the double socket-piece is useful, as the canceling-stamp block can be attached to one socket and the time-stamp block to the other and impressions taken from both at a single operation.

If it is desirable to shift the holder to print from another stamp-block, the rod E is disengaged from the socket-piece and the holder turned on the disk until the socket-piece diametrically opposite the stamp desired to be used is uppermost. Rod E is engaged therewith and the machine is ready for operation, as described. This shifting of stamps can be obviously done with ease and rapidity. The stamp-blocks being removably secured to the stamp-holder, they can be readily removed or interchanged or replaced by others, as desired.

Shaft A is operated to produce the impression by any suitable means, as shown. There is a crank-arm G attached to one end thereof. If desired, a disk or pulley might be secured to the end of the shaft and a cord run over the same to a treadle to be operated by foot, or instead of securing the crank direct to the shaft a pinion might be placed on its end and engaged by an oscillating segment or other gear attached to the frame and adapted when depressed slightly to cause a proper rotation of the shaft. The rod E might pass through a vertical slot in the arm *w* instead of being attached, as shown, or otherwise arranged, provided it was allowed an oscillatory and reciprocating movement, as described.

The inking-pad is preferably mounted in a circular dish H, that is centered on a pin or pivot I, and this dish has an upstanding peripheral toothed flange, which is engaged by a reciprocating dog J, pivoted to the lower end of an oscillating lever K, pivoted on a pin at one side of the frame below shaft A, and having its upper end engaged by a cam *k* on said shaft, by which lever K is rocked when shaft A is rotated and dog J reciprocated, so as to gradually rotate the ink-pad.

In front of shaft A and below the stamp-holder is a table or bed L, upon which the matter being stamped is laid to receive an impression. This table may be supported on springs, if desired, so that if the packages are unusually thick they can be depressed to permit the stamp to make a clean impression thereon, and preferably the ink-pad is covered with a stationary plate N, provided with an opening *n* at the proper point just large enough to admit the stamp-blocks from which impressions are to be taken to contact with the ink-pad, while the main body of the pad is protected from dust.

Any number of socket-pieces may be arranged on the holder that is desirable and which its size will admit of. In the practical operation and construction of the stamp the guide-rod might be arranged at any angle to the base and radial to the disk, and the positions of the socket-pieces in relation to each other would be changed accordingly without affecting the functions of the rod, which are simply to prevent rotation of the annulus on the disk and to shift the position of the annulus in relation to the disk. The holder being operated by a cam-disk, as described, in making an impression will force the stamp-block down directly and with a force varied only by the power applied to rotate shaft A, so that a clear impression will be produced.

Having described my invention, I claim—

1. In a stamping-machine, a revoluble shaft, a stamp-pad, and an ink-pad all lying in substantially parallel planes, in combination with an eccentrically-mounted stamp so arranged that the revolution of the shaft causes the stamp to impinge both upon the inking-pad and the stamp-pad, substantially as specified.

2. In a stamping-machine, the combination of a revoluble shaft, a stamp eccentrically mounted thereon, and a guide-rod so arranged that when the shaft is revolved the stamp will impinge upon the inking-pad and stamping-pad, substantially as specified.

3. In a stamping-machine, a revoluble shaft carrying two or more eccentrically-mounted socket-pieces, to which different stamps may be attached, substantially as described.

4. In a stamping-machine, the combination of a revoluble shaft, a stamp eccentrically mounted thereon at right angles thereto, and an inking-pad and mechanism whereby when the shaft is revolved to operate the stamp the inking-pad is simultaneously revolved, so that the stamp impinges upon different portions of its surface at each movement, substantially as described.

5. In a stamping-machine, the combination of a rotatable shaft and an ink-pad with a stamp eccentrically mounted on said shaft and standing at right angles thereto and operated by the rotation thereof so as to alternately contact with the pad and make an impression, and a guide for said stamp, substantially as described.

6. In a stamping-machine, the combination of a horizontal rotatable shaft and horizontal ink-pad, with a stamp-holder eccentrically mounted on said shaft and moving in a vertical plane, and a guide therefor, substantially as set forth.

7. In a stamping-machine, the combination of a revoluble shaft, ink-pad and stamp-pad lying in substantially parallel planes with a stamp-holder eccentrically mounted on said shaft and operated thereby so as to alternately contact the stamp with the stamp-pad

and ink-pad, said stamp moving and lying in a plane at right angles to those of the shaft and pads, and a guide for said holder, substantially as and for the purpose described.

8. The combination of the revoluble shaft and a disk eccentrically mounted thereon with a stamp-holder consisting of an annulus and socket-pieces attached thereto, suspended on said disk, and operated thereby, substantially as specified.

9. The combination of the revoluble shaft, the stamp-holder consisting of an annulus and diametrically-opposite socket-pieces attached thereto, and the eccentric for operating said holder, with the movable rod for guiding said holder, substantially as set forth.

10. The combination of the revoluble shaft, a disk eccentrically mounted thereon, and a stamp-holder comprising an annulus, suspended on said disk, and socket-pieces attached to said annulus, with a guide-rod adapted to engage one of the socket-pieces, substantially as and for the purpose described.

11. The combination of a stamp-holder having diametrically-opposite socket-pieces, substantially as set forth, with a guide-rod therefor engaging an upper socket-piece, and the supporting and operating devices for said holder, as and for the purpose set forth.

12. The combination of the stamp-holder having diametrically-opposite socket-pieces adapted to be respectively engaged by a guide-rod and to retain the stamp-blocks with the shaft and eccentric-disk for sustaining and swinging said holder and the guide-rod, all substantially as specified.

13. The combination of the spring-controlled shaft, the stamp-holder having diametrically-opposite socket-pieces, and the reciprocating and oscillating guide-rod therefor, with the devices for operating said shaft, substantially as set forth.

14. The combination of the shaft, the disk eccentrically mounted thereon, and the stamp-holder connected to and operated by said disk, consisting of an annulus having radial socket-pieces attached thereto, for the purpose and substantially as described.

15. The combination of the shaft, the disk eccentrically attached thereto, and the stamp-holder comprising an annulus, and socket-pieces attached thereto, suspended from and operated by said disk, with the ink-pad and impression-table, substantially as specified.

16. The combination of the shaft, the disk thereon, and the annulus having diametrically-opposite socket-pieces with the movable guide-rod, the ink-pad, and impression-table, all substantially as specified.

17. The combination of the spring-controlled shaft, a disk eccentrically mounted thereon, an annulus surrounding said disk and having socket-pieces attached to its periphery to receive the stamp-blocks, with the ink-pad dish, the devices for revolving the same from the shaft, and the devices for imparting rotatory movements to the shaft, substantially as described.

18. The combination of the spring-controlled shaft, a disk eccentrically mounted thereon, a stamp-holder consisting of an annulus mounted on said disk and having radially-projecting diametrically-opposite socket-pieces attached to its periphery, the guide-rod adapted to engage an upper socket-piece, an ink-pad, and an impression-table, all substantially as and for the purpose specified.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

H. HOWARD.

Witnesses:
JOS. S. MOORE,
TARLTON B. STABLER.