(No Model.)

H. & B. OAKES.

THREAD HOLDER AND CUTTER.

No. 467,689. Patented Jan. 26, 1892.

Fig. 1.

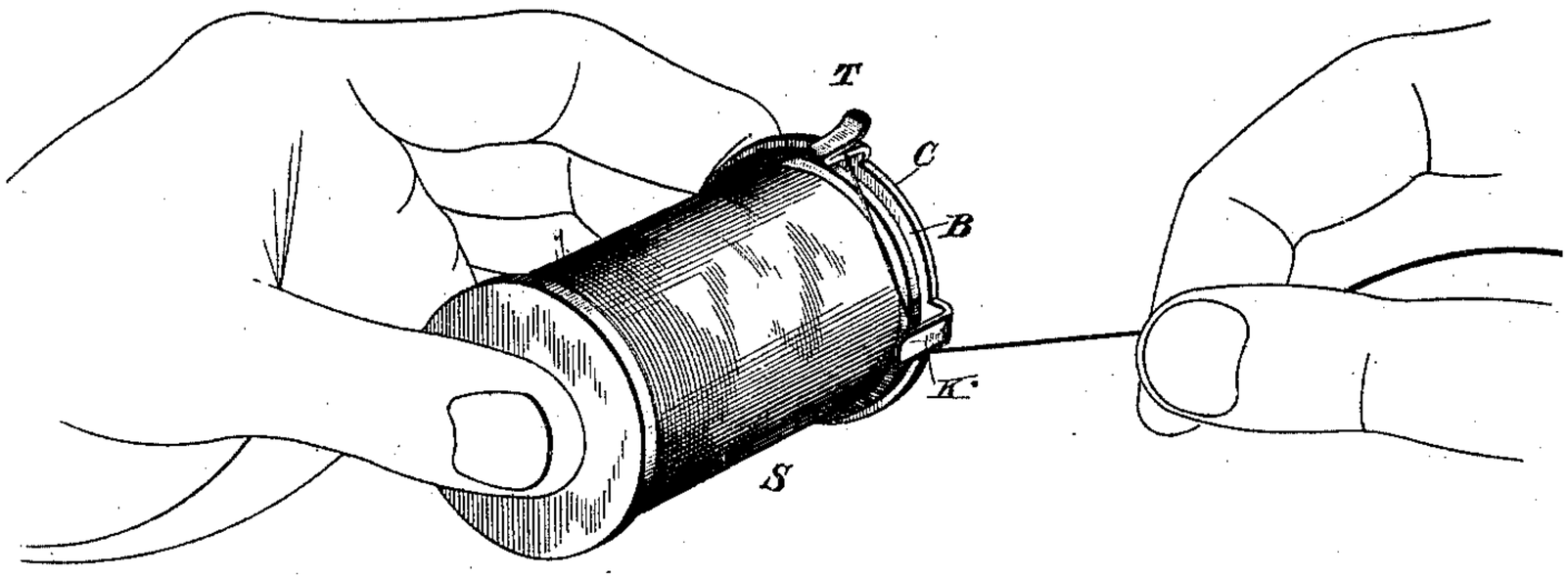


Fig. 2.

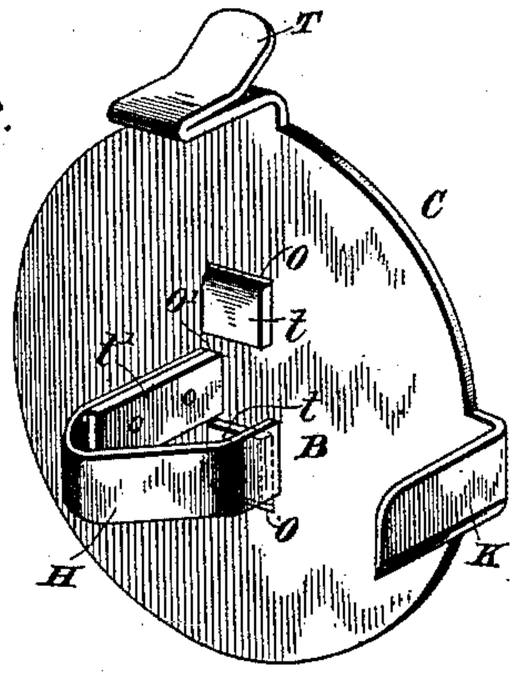


Fig. 3.

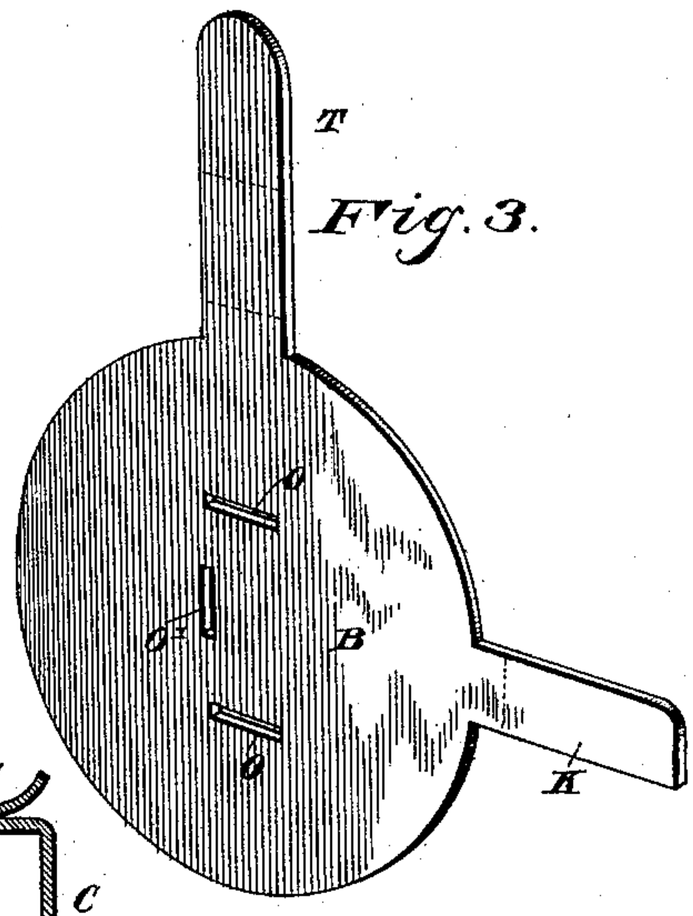


Fig. 4.

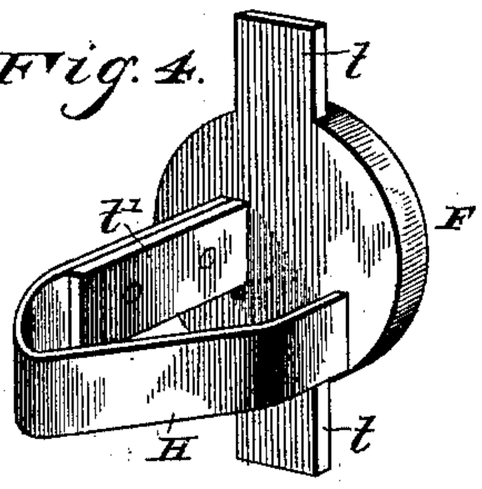
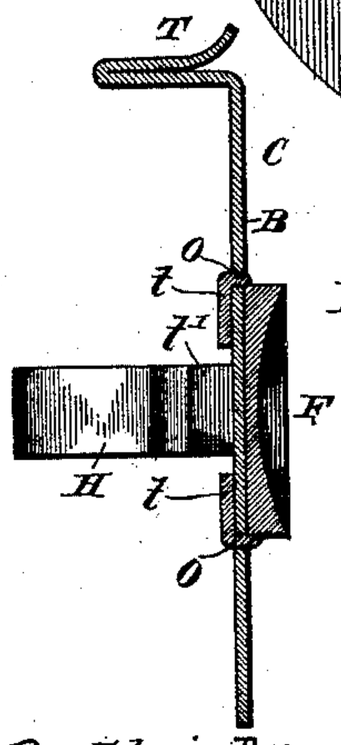


Fig. 5.



Witnesses;

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY OAKES, OF SILVER CITY, NEW MEXICO, AND BEN OAKES, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

THREAD HOLDER AND CUTTER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 467,689, dated January 26, 1892.

Application filed July 11, 1891. Serial No. 399,186. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, HENRY OAKES, of Silver City, Grant county, New Mexico, and BEN OAKES, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, both citizens of the United States, have invented a new and useful Thread-Cutter, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to that class of devices under "apparel" known as "thread-holders and cutters;" and the object of the same is to produce an improved device of this character capable of being readily attached to and detached from an ordinary spool of thread and whereby the spool may be then easily held and the thread cut.

The invention consists in the specific details of construction hereinafter more fully described and claimed, and as illustrated on the sheet of drawings, wherein—

Figure 1 is a general perspective view, showing the manner in which a spool of thread with this device applied is held in one hand while the thread is pulled across the knife with the other hand. Fig. 2 is an enlarged perspective view of the attachment alone. Fig. 3 is a similar view of the blank which comprises the body of the attachment, and Fig. 4 a similar view of the holder and finger-socket detached from the body. Fig. 5 is a vertical section through the center of the complete attachment.

Referring to the said drawings, the letter S designates a spool of thread, to which my improved cutting attachment C is adapted to be applied. The said attachment consists of a body B and a socket F, constructed and connected in the following manner: The blank from which the body B is made is best seen in Fig. 3, wherein the dotted lines represent the lines upon which the metal is to be bent. The body proper comprises a circular plate having two slits or openings O, between which is another O′ at right angles thereto, and from one edge of this plate projects the knife K, while from the edge at a point about ninety degrees distant projects a tongue T. In the finished article, as seen in Fig. 2, the knife K is bent at right angles to the plane of the body and sharpened at its lower edge, while the tongue T is also bent at right angles to the same side of the plane of the body and is then bent upon itself to form a thread-clamp. The finger-socket F is a small metallic socket having projecting rearwardly from its body three tongues *t t* and *t′*, the first two being so located that they may be passed through the openings O and bent against the back of the body to hold the socket in place, and to the tongue *t′*, which projects through the opening O′, is secured or may be formed integral therewith the holder H, which is a strip of spring metal bent as shown.

In operation the attachment C is brought into place opposite the end of the spool S, the holder H inserted in the hole in the spool, and pressure applied to the finger-socket F to push the holder into the spool. The attachment being thus removably secured to the spool, with the tongue T and the knife K passing slightly over one end of the spool, when it is desired to cut the thread the same is passed through the jaws of the tongue and drawn between them, whereby it is clamped by their springing force, and the thread is then passed under the knife and drawn across the edge of the same, whereby it is cut. That portion of the thread between the point where the cut is made and the point where it is held in the tongue may be grasped by the operator when it is desired to draw a new piece from the spool. The thread is then moved outwardly, so as to disengage it from the tongue T, and then drawn upon to cause the spool to revolve, after which the above operation is repeated. During all this time the index finger of the left hand rests in the finger-piece F and the tip of the thumb in the lower end of the hole through the spool, whereby not only is the attachment held firmly against disconnection but the spool and attachment are afforded a bearing, so that they can turn as may be necessary.

As the attachment is connected to only one end of the spool the latter may be used on sewing-machines with the attachment on the upper end thereof, and the shortness of the tongue T and the knife K will not interfere with the feeding of the thread. It is well known that dyed threads are to a certain extent poisonous and that the customary severing thereof with the teeth often produces sore

lips and tongues, as well as chipping the teeth or cracking the enamel, and before the seamstress can find her scissors she naturally bites the thread if it be too strong to break; but with the above-described device the exercise of a little self-control will soon break up this habit and my improved cutter will be found serviceable and valuable. Moreover, the thread when severed by my improved knife has a cut wherein the strands are broken at different points, because the thread is drawn across the knife-edge rather than the knife being drawn across the thread. The result is that the end can be twisted between the thumb and finger to form a very fine point, such as can be passed through the eye of a needle more easily than the end of a thread which is squarely cut off.

The device may be made in tin or light sheet metal, suitably painted, japanned, nickeled, or otherwise ornamented, and is preferably of a number of sizes, to accommodate spools of different diameters, although the holder will be of the same size in all sizes of the attachment.

What is claimed as new is—

1. The herein-described attachment for spools, the same comprising a body consisting of a circular plate having at its edge an inwardly-bent knife and a tongue bent inwardly and then outwardly upon itself, and a finger-piece secured to the center of said plate on its outer face and having a spring-holder projecting through the plate, as and for the purpose set forth.

2. The herein-described attachment for spools, the same comprising a body consisting of a circular plate having therethrough near its center parallel openings, with another opening between and at right angles to the parallel openings, and also having at its edge an inwardly-bent knife and an inwardly-bent clamping-tongue, and a socketed finger-piece having three tongues, two of them passing through said parallel openings and being bent against the back of the plate and the third passing through the remaining opening, and a strip of spring metal bent at its center and having one of its ends secured to said tongue, as and for the purpose hereinbefore set forth.

In testimony that we claim the foregoing as our own we have hereto affixed our signatures in presence of two witnesses.

HENRY OAKES.
BEN OAKES.

Witnesses to signature of Henry Oakes:
H. W. LUCAS,
WM. F. LORENS.
Witnesses to signature of Ben Oakes:
CHARLES S. LAWRENCE,
H. G. HAYES.