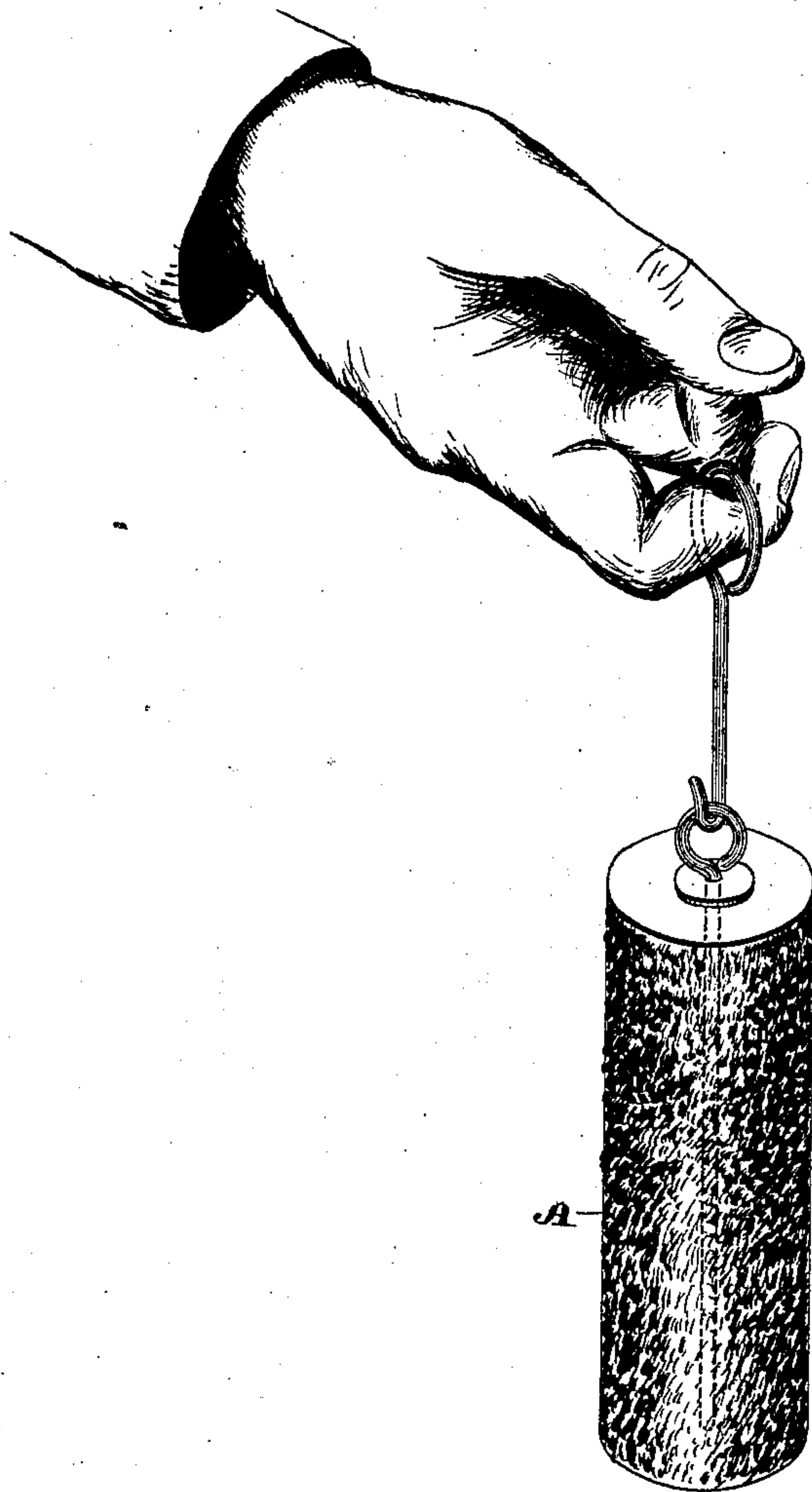


(No Model.)

B. B. JENKINS.
ABSORBENT FOR FIRE KINDLERS.

No. 472,540.

Patented Apr. 12, 1892.



Witnesses.

Lewis P. Abell.

A. B. Monkhouse.

Inventor.

B. B. Jenkins.

by
Fetherstonhaugh & Co
Attys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BENJAMIN BARNARD JENKINS, OF BARRIE, CANADA.

ABSORBENT FOR FIRE-KINDLERS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 472,540, dated April 12, 1892.

Application filed May 11, 1891. Serial No. 392,365. (No specimens.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN BARNARD JENKINS, mechanic, of the town of Barrie, in the county of Simcoe, in the Province of Ontario, Canada, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fire - Kindlers, of which the following is a specification.

The object of the invention is to design a fire-kindler of such a substance as will soak up and retain a sufficient quantity of an igniting-fluid to light the fire, and yet when the fluid is lighted will be indestructible during the process of combustion, thereby enabling the kindler to be used again and again; and it consists, essentially, of a cylindrical or other suitably-formed block, preferably made of asbestos, clay, borax, and glue in the proportions and in the manner hereinafter described, and having secured in it a ring or hook, by which it may be lifted and placed in position in the stove or igniting-fluid.

The figure is a perspective view of my kindler with the lifter applied thereto.

A is the kindler-block, which is preferably made up of the following ingredients, which, by weight, consist of: asbestos, fifty parts; clay, thirty-five parts; borax, ten parts, and glue five parts. These parts are mixed together, the glue being first dissolved, so as to form a stiff paste. A quantity of this mixture sufficient to form one lighter is taken and roughly formed into shape, and a piece of wire is placed in the center with the ring projecting sufficiently to enable the kindler to be lifted. The whole is now pressed in a mold suitably constructed for the purpose, so as to completely eject the surplus water, and thereby form a solid mass. This is then left to dry

or harden, or is preferably baked over a fire, and then my kindler is complete. The block A may be cylindrical or in any other suitable form, the peculiar capillary attractive property of the asbestos tending to soak up the oil with great rapidity and then retain it. In fact, I find in practice that a few seconds only are required to soak up a sufficient quantity to light a fire.

Although I preferably use the ingredients in the proportions specified above, it will be understood that a less quantity of clay may be used or either the borax or glue left out. I find from experience, however, that the ingredients and proportions specified above give the best result and produce a fire-kindler most economical in its use of the igniting-fluid and practically indestructible from abrasion or any other cause. The purpose of the glue is to make the asbestos and clay adhere to each other when the composition is subjected to pressure and afterward left to dry and until it is heated sufficiently to run the whole mass together. The borax serves as a flux and causes the clay and asbestos to adhere or run together when heat is applied, only sufficient being used for this purpose and not enough to glaze the surface of the kindler.

What I claim as my invention is—

A composition of matter for a fire-kindler, consisting of asbestos, clay, borax, and glue, in substantially the proportions specified.

BENJAMIN BARNARD JENKINS.

Witnesses:

J. G. LAWSON,
CHAS. T. STEWARD.