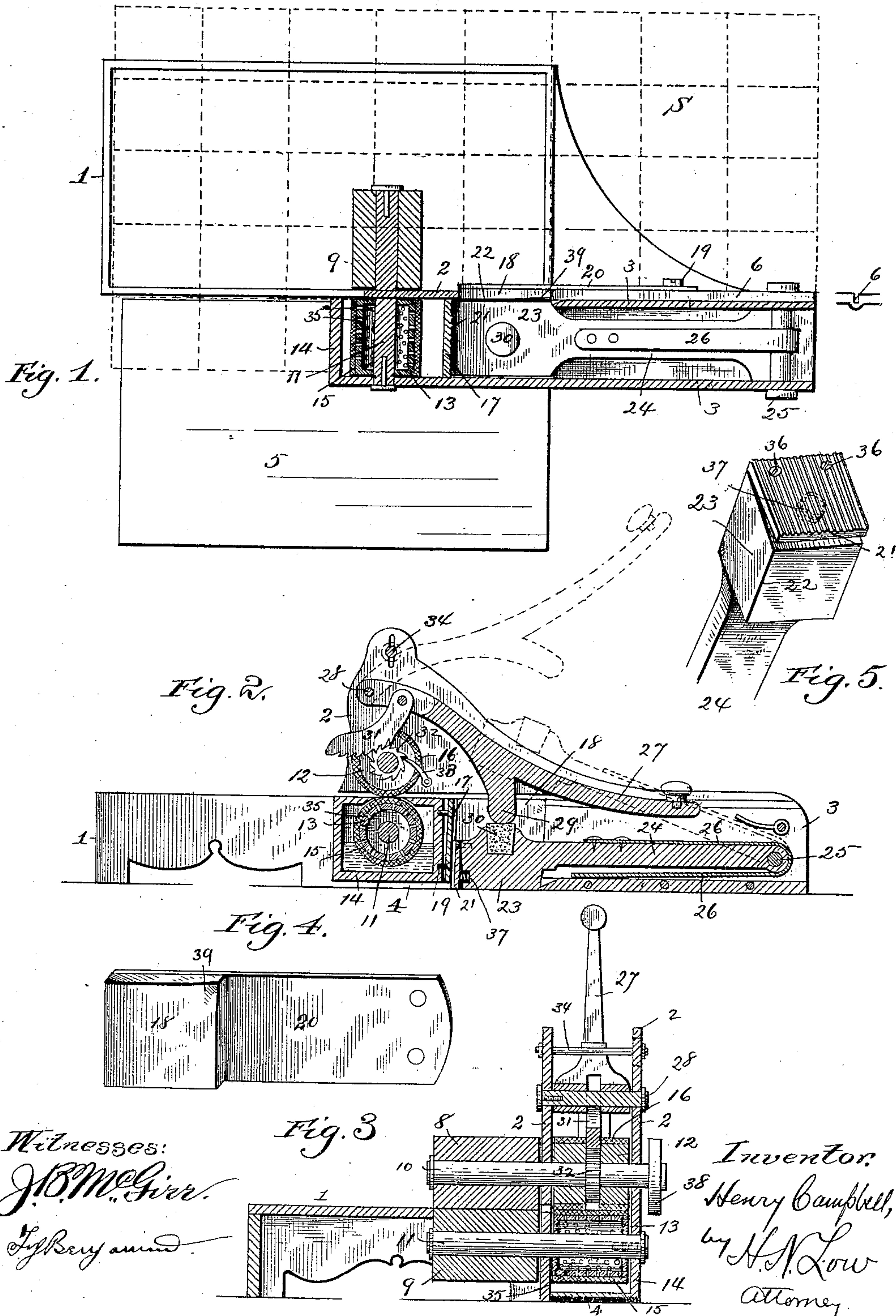


(No Model.)

H. CAMPBELL.  
DEVICE FOR AFFIXING STAMPS AND LABELS.

No. 486,430.

Patented Nov. 22, 1892.



Witnesses:

J. B. McGirr.

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Fig. 3

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY CAMPBELL, OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

## DEVICE FOR AFFIXING STAMPS AND LABELS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 486,430, dated November 22, 1892.

Application filed November 21, 1891. Serial No. 412,598. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HENRY CAMPBELL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Baltimore city, in the State of Maryland, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Devices for Affixing Stamps and Labels; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My present improvements relate to the means for feeding and moistening the stamps and to the devices for severing them from a sheet and uniting them to the envelope.

It is the object of the invention to provide a simple and inexpensive apparatus, which shall work rapidly and with convenience to the operator, and by which the stamps may be used from the sheet in which they are sold.

With these ends in view my invention consists in the parts and combinations thereof, hereinafter particularly set forth and claimed; and in order to make the same more clearly understood I have shown in the accompanying drawings means for carrying it into practical effect without, however, limiting its application to the exact construction or machine which, for the sake of illustration, I have delineated.

In said drawings, Figure 1 is a plan view, partly in section, of a stamp-affixing machine embodying my improvements. Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view of the same. Fig. 3 is a transverse section. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the lower side knife. Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the part constituting the upper side and end knives.

Referring to the drawings, 1 indicates the base of the machine, consisting of a metallic casting or other suitable material, the top of which forms a table or rest on which the sheet of stamps S being used rests and over which it is fed.

2 is an upward extension, bracket, or standard carried by the base 1 and adapted to support certain of the working parts.

3 is a lateral or horizontal extension for the same purpose. Beneath these extensions or

brackets a space is left, as indicated at 4 in Figs. 2 and 3, through which the envelopes to be stamped are passed. Such an envelope or letter is shown at 5 in Fig. 1. On the side next the table 1 a groove is formed, as indicated at 6, extending horizontally between the table and the bracket 2, along which groove the sheet of stamps is adapted to pass. Said sheet is held and fed by upper and lower feed-rolls 8 and 9, mounted on axes 10 and 11 in the bracket 2 and base 1, respectively. These rolls are adapted to engage the main portion of the stamp-sheet.

12 and 13 indicate supplemental rolls adapted to engage the row of stamps which is at the edge of the sheet and which is first used. The lower roll 13 is situated in a well or water-reservoir 14, formed with or attached to the base 1, and is covered with felt 15 or equivalent absorbent material. The stamp-sheet being fed through the machine with the gummed side down the latter will be moistened and prepared for affixing to the letter by the water carried up from the well by the absorbent material 15. It will be understood that if the well be charged with gum an ungummed sheet of stamps or labels may be used. Perforations 35] through the roll 13, which is hollow, enables the felt to be thoroughly moistened from the inner as well as from the outer side and counteracts the tendency in starting the machine to insufficiently moisten the first stamp. The upper face of the sheet is engaged and pressed upon the roll 13 by a felt or other soft facing or covering 16 carried by the roll 12.

17 18 indicate stationary cutting devices, knives, or plates secured to the base 1 or to brackets or extensions thereof by screws 19. In the construction shown the knife 17 is mounted upon the reservoir 14, which, in effect, is an extension of the base. The knives are situated at right angles to each other, or substantially so, that marked 18 being parallel with the direction of feed, and the knife 17 being crosswise thereof. The latter is adapted to sever or assist in severing the stamp to be affixed from the succeeding stamp and the former to cut the stamp from the body of the sheet. The knives are provided with suitable means for their adjustment and are spring-mounted, so as to accurately and



5 closely fit the upper knives. To this end the  
 knife 18 is carried by a spring-plate 20, which  
 tends to hold it against the corresponding  
 upper knife. One of the side knives is slightly  
 10 inclined or beveled relative to the line of feed  
 or relative to the edge of the other knife.  
 For instance, the knife 18 may be beveled, as  
 at 39, Figs. 1 and 4. The knives are thus en-  
 15 abled to give a scissors cut, the spring 20  
 keeping the edges in contact. The cross-  
 knife 17 may be similarly mounted or may be  
 rigidly fixed to the base 1. I prefer, however, to  
 make the knife 17 adjustable, its position rela-  
 20 tive to the oscillating knife being accurately  
 determined by screws 19. The adjustment of  
 the knife 18 is not so essential, this knife being  
 mounted upon a yielding plate; but its position  
 may be determined by slightly bending said  
 25 plate or by tightening or loosening the screws,  
 by which said plate is affixed to the base.  
 The upper cutting devices or knives are shown  
 at 21 22. They are carried by a presser 23  
 and may be formed in a single piece of steel in-  
 30 tegral with the presser or may be separate and  
 attached thereto. In the construction shown  
 the knife 22 is integral with the presser, and  
 the knife 21 is a separate piece fixed thereto  
 by screws 36, by which it may be adjusted  
 35 accurately to the knife 17. A spring 37 holds  
 the knife 21 against the knife 17 with a yield-  
 ing pressure. In order to insure that the  
 knives 21 17 shall not fail to completely sever  
 the stamp, I form them with corrugated or  
 40 serrated edges, as shown, the projections of  
 one knife entering the recesses of the other,  
 as seen in Fig. 1. These corrugations corre-  
 spond in number substantially with the per-  
 forations between the sheets. One of the  
 45 knives being movable toward the other in a  
 direction transverse to the horizontal plane  
 in which the knives meet it will be seen that  
 at the instant the paper is caught between the  
 serrated knives it will not be entirely unsup-  
 50 ported and free to bend down without being  
 severed. On the contrary the lower knife  
 will by the projections of its serrated edge so  
 support the sheet that, being unable to bend  
 down, the stamp will not fail to be separated.

In the construction illustrated the central  
 55 part of the upper knife-plate forms the  
 presser proper which carries down and affixes  
 the severed stamps. The presser and upper  
 cutting devices are preferably carried by a  
 lever 24, which is pivoted at 25 in the exten-  
 sion 3 and which is lifted by the spring 26.

Various devices may be employed for forc-  
 ing the lever 24 downward to perform the  
 cutting operation. I prefer to use a hand-  
 60 lever 27, pivoted at 28 in the bracket 2 and  
 having an arm 29, which engages a rubber or  
 cork buffer 30 in the presser 23 or in the  
 presser-lever.

The feed movement is effected by a pawl  
 31, pivoted to the hand-lever and held by  
 65 gravity or by spring-pressure against a ratchet-  
 wheel 32 on the shaft 10. The friction of the  
 stamp-sheet rotates the lower rolls and shaft;

but, if preferred, the upper and lower shafts  
 may be geared together. Backward move-  
 70 ment of the feeding devices is prevented by  
 the pawl 33. The length of feed will be the  
 width (or length) of an individual stamp, and  
 is regulated by the distance to which the hand-  
 lever rises. A suitable adjustable stop—such  
 as a bar 34—is employed to limit such move- 75  
 ment.

In operating the machine the letters to be  
 stamped are passed in succession by hand or  
 by any well-known or suitable feed device  
 through the space 4. As each letter reaches 80  
 the proper point with the part to which the  
 stamp is to be affixed beneath the presser the  
 hand-lever 27 is depressed. The stamp-sheet  
 is preliminarily introduced into the machine,  
 as indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 1, the first 85  
 or bottom row of stamps being placed in line  
 with the rolls 12 13. The feed devices are  
 then turned by hand—as, for instance, by a  
 thumb-nut or wheel 38 on the shaft 10—so  
 as to carry the right-hand lower stamp under 90  
 the presser and beyond the knife 17. The  
 exact preliminary position of the stamp to be  
 affixed depends upon the adjustment of the  
 feed, the ultimate requirement being that as  
 the presser descends and the upper and lower 95  
 knives meet the upper and left-hand bounda-  
 ries of the stamp shall coincide with the edges  
 of the longitudinal and cross knives, respect-  
 ively. The severed stamp is by such move-  
 100 ment of the presser, which is continued un-  
 til the face of the letter is reached, carried  
 down and affixed firmly to the envelope.

Having thus described my invention, what  
 I claim is—

1. In a stamp-affixing machine, the combi- 105  
 nation of two pairs of knives at right angles  
 to each other and adapted to sever the stamp  
 from the corner of a sheet, one pair of said  
 knives having a shear cut and the other pair  
 being serrated, substantially as set forth. 110

2. The combination, with a lever, of a stamp-  
 affixing presser and knives at right angles to  
 each other carried by and oscillating with said  
 lever and corresponding knives for the oppo-  
 115 site side of the stamp-sheet, substantially as  
 set forth.

3. In a stamp-affixing machine, the combi-  
 nation, with a presser, of a severing-knife  
 having a serrated edge and a corresponding  
 knife for the other side of the stamp-sheet, 120  
 said knives having corresponding and re-en-  
 tering serrations and one of them being mov-  
 able toward the other transversely to the  
 plane in which the serrations lie as the knives  
 meet, substantially as set forth. 125

4. The combination, with cutting and affix-  
 ing devices, of feeding and moistening rolls  
 in line with said devices and feed-rolls beyond  
 and parallel with the moistening-rolls for the  
 main portion of the stamp-sheet, substantially 130  
 as set forth.

5. The combination of the knives 17 and 18,  
 the corresponding knives 21 22, the lever 24,  
 the hand-lever 27, the feed-rolls, the ratchet



32, and the pawl 31, connected with and operated by said hand-lever, substantially as set forth.

5 6. In a machine for affixing stamps and labels, the combination of a stationary knife or cutter, a knife at right angles thereto, a spring supporting the latter knife, and an oscillating lever carrying cutters at right angles to each other and adapted to co-operate with  
10 the first-mentioned cutters to sever a stamp from a sheet, substantially as set forth.

7. The combination, with cutters at right angles to each other, of an oscillating lever having at its side a cutter and having at its end a spring-supported cutting-plate, substantially as set forth. 15

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

HENRY CAMPBELL.

Witnesses:

H. N. Low,

F. J. BENJAMIN.