

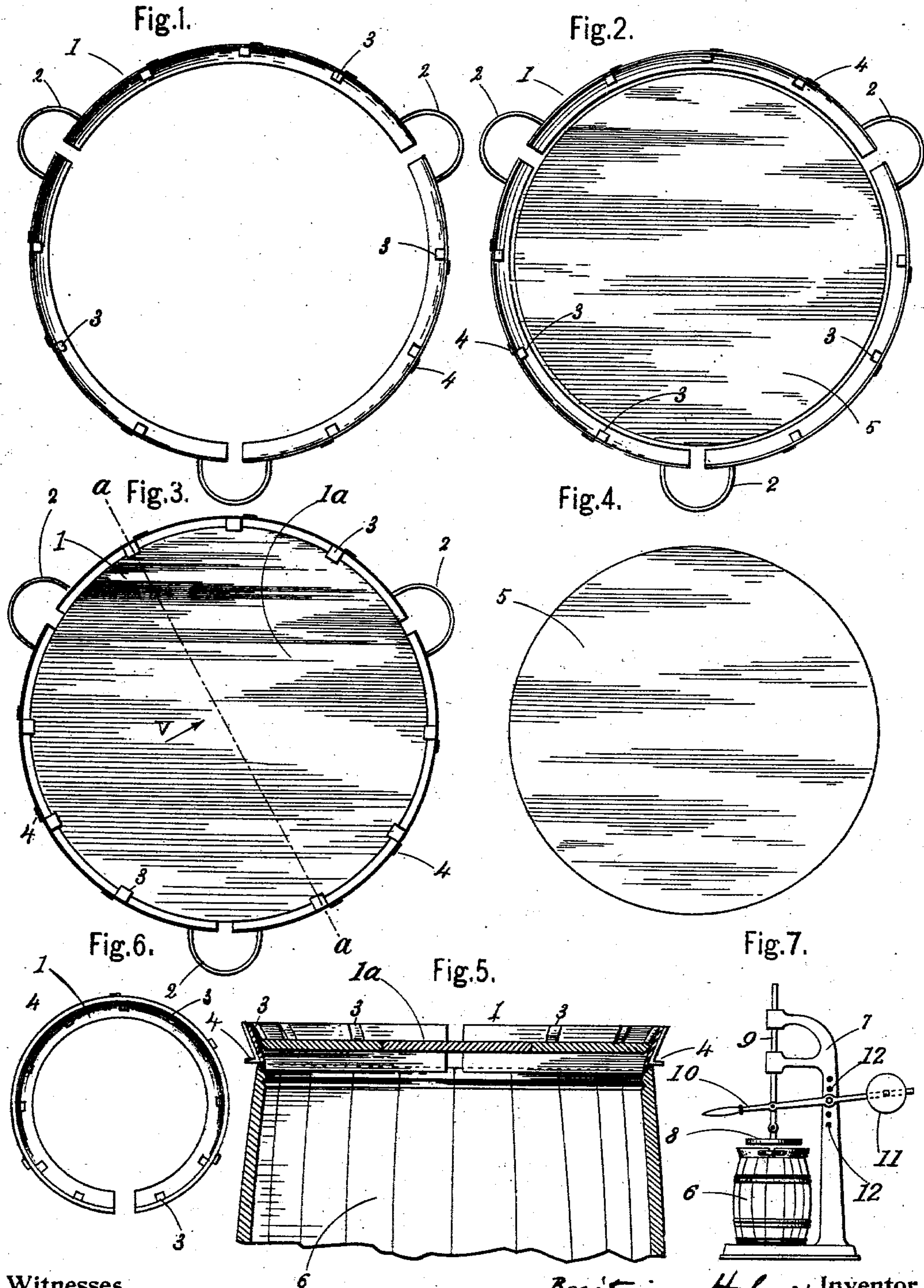
No. 629,129.

Patented July 18, 1899.

B. HOLMES.  
BARREL HEADER.

(Application filed Jan. 14, 1898.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses,

*Frederick H. Tallier*  
*E. A. Neubauer*

*Britain Holmes* Inventor.

By *James S. Sengott* Attorney.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BRITAIN HOLMES, OF BUFFALO, NEW YORK.

## BARREL-HEADER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 629,129, dated July 18, 1899.

Application filed January 14, 1898. Serial No. 666,588. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, BRITAIN HOLMES, a citizen of the United States, residing at Buffalo, in the county of Erie and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Barrel-Headers, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a novel and independent means complete in itself and not forming part of a press or frame for supporting and guiding the head of a barrel to the croze; and the object is to provide a simple, cheap, and easily-operated device which is adapted to be seated within the open mouth of the barrel and to be expanded automatically against the interior of the staves by the passage of the head, thereby circumferentially enlarging the open mouth of the barrel to afford an easy entrance for the head into the croze, spring means being employed to contract the device to its normal circumference after the passage of the head, thus allowing the staves to embrace the head immediately upon its entrance into the croze.

It also relates to certain details of construction, all of which will be fully and clearly hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 represents a top plan view of my improved barrel-head holding and guiding device. Fig. 2 represents a similar view showing the support or disk within the device preparatory to placing the several pieces composing a barrel-head in position within the same. Fig. 3 represents a top plan view of the device, showing the several parts of a barrel-head in position therein preparatory to inserting the head in the barrel. Fig. 4 represents a plan view of the disk which is preferably employed to limit the distance the barrel-head is forced into the guiding device preparatory to inserting it in a barrel-croze. Fig. 5 represents a vertical central section through the device on or about line *a a*, Fig. 3, looking in the direction of the arrow *V*, showing also a section through a portion of a barrel. Fig. 6 represents a top plan view showing a modification of the device. Fig. 7 represents a suitable machine for forcing the

barrel-head through the guiding device and into the barrel-croze, as will more clearly hereinafter appear.

Referring to the drawings in detail, in which like numerals represent like parts, 1 designates the annular expanding band or ring, which is preferably formed in three portions, having their ends joined by means of the springs 2. The springs 2, as shown, also serve as handles for placing the device upon or removing it from a barrel; but they may be formed in any style or shape desired, so long as they act to retain the ring in its normal circumference or to return it to said circumference after its expansion by the passage of a barrel-head. The ring may, however, be formed in one integral piece, substantially as shown in Fig. 6, or in two or more sections, if desired.

The ring 1 is beveled or flared inwardly from the top, thus gradually reducing its circumference from the top to the bottom, and providing means for the easy entrance of the device into the barrel-mouth and the barrel-head 1<sup>a</sup> into the device. A series of stops 3 project inwardly from the interior of the ring and are adapted to limit the upward movement of the barrel-head within the device. A series of supports 4 extend out from the periphery of the ring, the office of which is to limit the entrance of and correctly seat the device within the barrel-mouth by resting on the upper end of the barrel, substantially as shown in Fig. 5.

In placing the head within the device the device itself is first placed over a support, the disk 5, of wood or other suitable material, being the preferred form of said support, and the several portions of the head are pressed through the ring and upon said support, the support allowing the head portions to pass the stops 3 and substantially limiting any further downward movement. The device is then removed from the support, which is smaller than the ring to permit its removal, substantially as shown in Fig. 2, and seated upon the barrel, substantially as shown in Fig. 5. The flaring form of the ring allows the device to be easily inserted in the mouth of the barrel and also acts to support the head firmly within the de-



vice and with its upper edge against the lower face of the stops 3 until it is forced into the croze. The head may then be inserted in the croze of the barrel by hand or by any suitable machine.

In Fig. 7 one style of seating-machine is shown, 6 representing the barrel; 7, the frame of the machine; 8, the pressure-plate; 9, the sliding bar supporting the pressure-plate, and 10 the lever for operating the pressure-plate and its arm. The lever 10 is provided with a counterweight 11 and may have its pivot seated in any one of the several holes 12, thereby providing means for adjusting the device to different heights of barrels.

It is obvious that changes in the form, proportion, and arrangement of the device may be made without departing from the scope of my invention.

I claim as my invention—

1. An independent barrel-head holder and guider, comprising an expansible ring adapted to be seated within the mouth of the barrel and expanded against the staves to enlarge the mouth of the barrel by the passage of the barrel-head.

2. An independent barrel-head holder and guider, comprising a tapering expanding ring adapted to be seated within the mouth of the barrel and expanded against the staves to enlarge the mouth of the barrel, by the passage of the barrel-head, and spring means for returning said ring to its normal condition.

3. An independent barrel-head holder and guider, comprising an expansible ring adapted to be seated within the mouth of the barrel, and spring means for normally retaining it in an unexpanded condition, said ring adapted to be circumferentially enlarged against the staves to enlarge the barrel-mouth by the passage of the barrel-head through the same.

4. A barrel-head holder and guider, comprising an expansible ring adapted to be seated within the mouth of the barrel, means for normally retaining it in an unexpanded condition, and devices for limiting its entrance into the barrel-mouth.

5. A barrel-head holder and guider, comprising an expansible ring, provided with exterior devices for limiting its entrance into the mouth of a barrel, interior devices for preventing the upward removal of the barrel-head, and springs for returning said ring to its normal condition after its expansion by the passage of the head.

6. A barrel-head holder and guider, comprising a ring formed in two or more sections having their ends united by springs, means for limiting its entrance into the mouth of a barrel and stop devices for preventing the up-

ward movement of a head supported within the ring, as set forth.

7. A barrel-head holder and guider, comprising a ring formed in two or more sections and inwardly tapered from the top to the bottom, springs uniting the ends of said sections and also serving as handles, flanges projecting from the periphery of the sections to limit the entrance of the device within the mouth of the barrel and stops projecting from the interior of the sections to limit and prevent the upward movement of the head within the ring, as set forth.

8. In a barrel-header, the combination with suitable head-seating means, of an expansible device adapted to temporarily support a barrel-head and to be inserted in the barrel-mouth to direct the head into the croze, and to be automatically expanded by the passage of the head to enlarge the mouth of the barrel sufficiently to receive the head and spring means for returning it to its normal unexpanded condition immediately after the passage of the head to allow the barrel-mouth to contract around the head, as set forth.

9. In a barrel-header, the combination with suitable head-seating means, of an expansible device adapted to be inserted in the barrel-mouth to direct the head into the croze, and provided with stop devices for limiting its entrance into the barrel-mouth.

10. An independent barrel-head holder and guider, complete in itself and comprising an expansible ring adapted to temporarily support a barrel-head and to be seated within the mouth of the barrel, and expanded against the staves to enlarge the mouth of the barrel by the pressure of the barrel-head.

11. An independent barrel-head holder and guider, comprising an expansible ring having means for temporarily supporting a barrel-head and adapted to be seated within the mouth of the barrel, and spring means for normally retaining it in an unexpanded condition, said ring being adapted to be circumferentially enlarged against the staves to enlarge the barrel-mouth by the passage of the barrel-head through the same.

12. An independent barrel-head holder and guider, comprising a tapering expanding ring, adapted to temporarily support a barrel-head and to be seated within the mouth of the barrel and expanded against the staves to enlarge the mouth of the barrel by the passage of the barrel-head, and spring means for retaining said ring to its normal condition.

BRITAIN HOLMES.

Witnesses:

A. J. SANGSTER,  
G. A. NEUBAUER.