

No. 814,936.

PATENTED MAR. 13, 1906.

M. R. BURROWES.
STAMP AFFIXING DEVICE.
APPLICATION FILED MAY 3, 1905.

3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

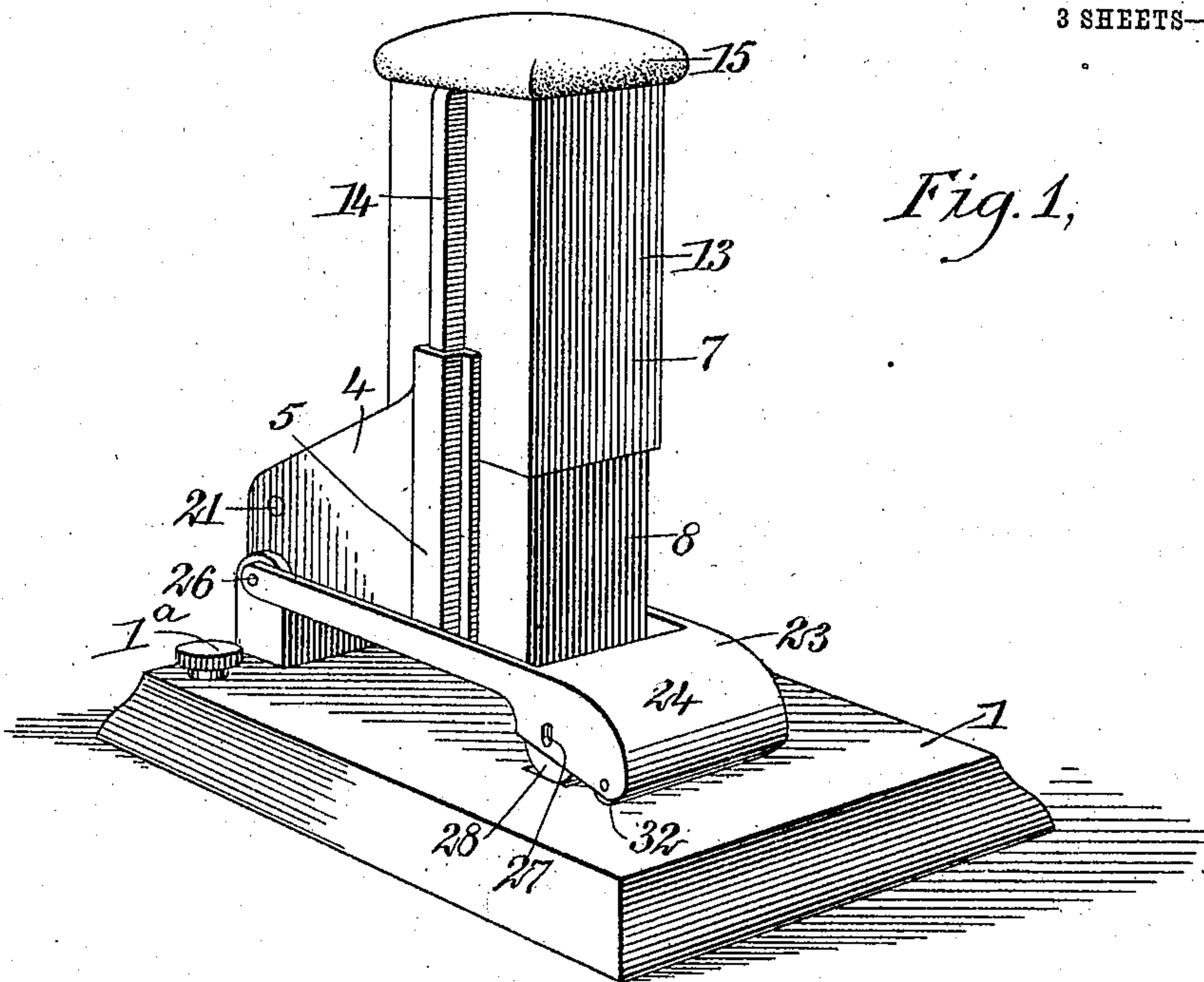


Fig. 1,

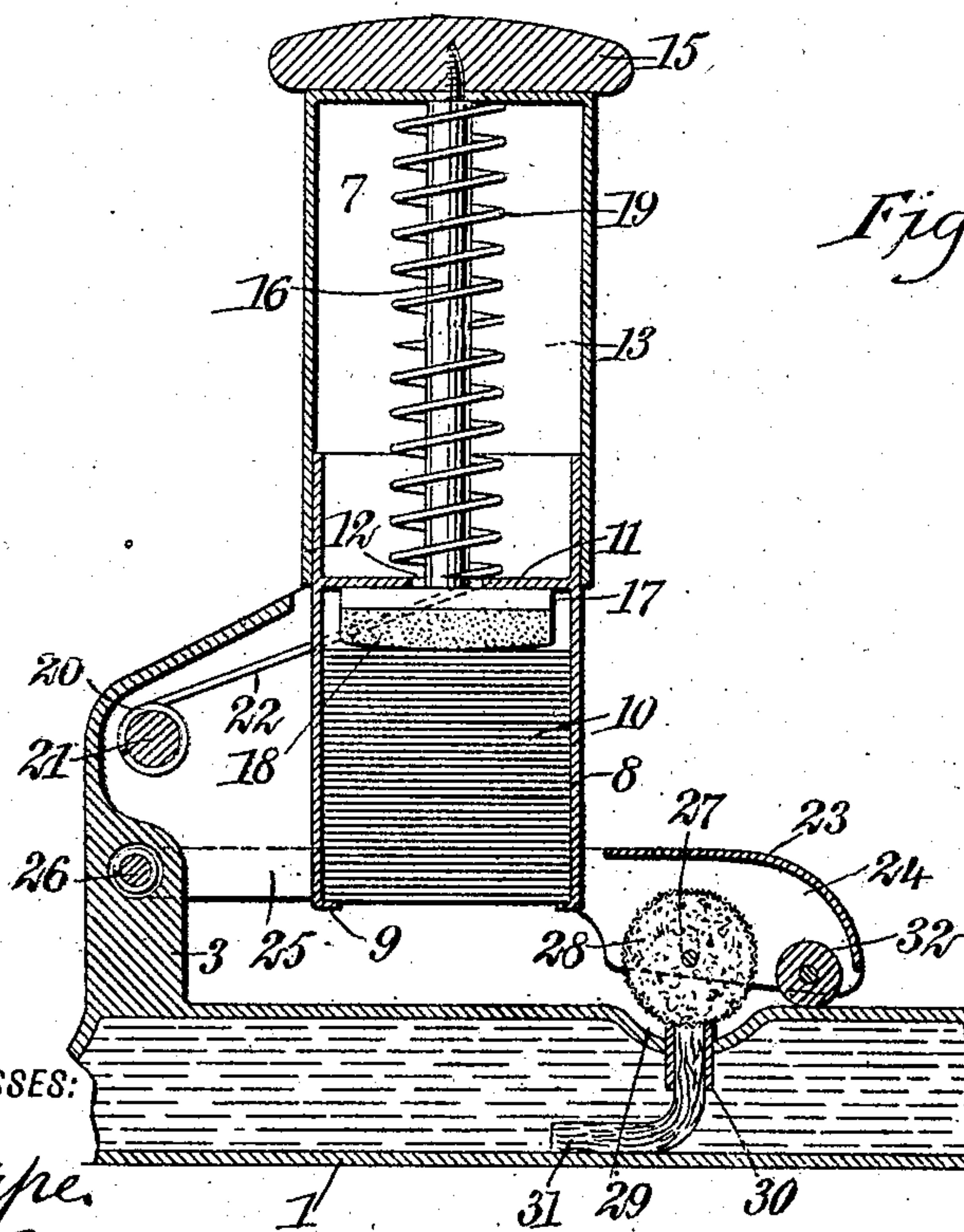


Fig. 2.

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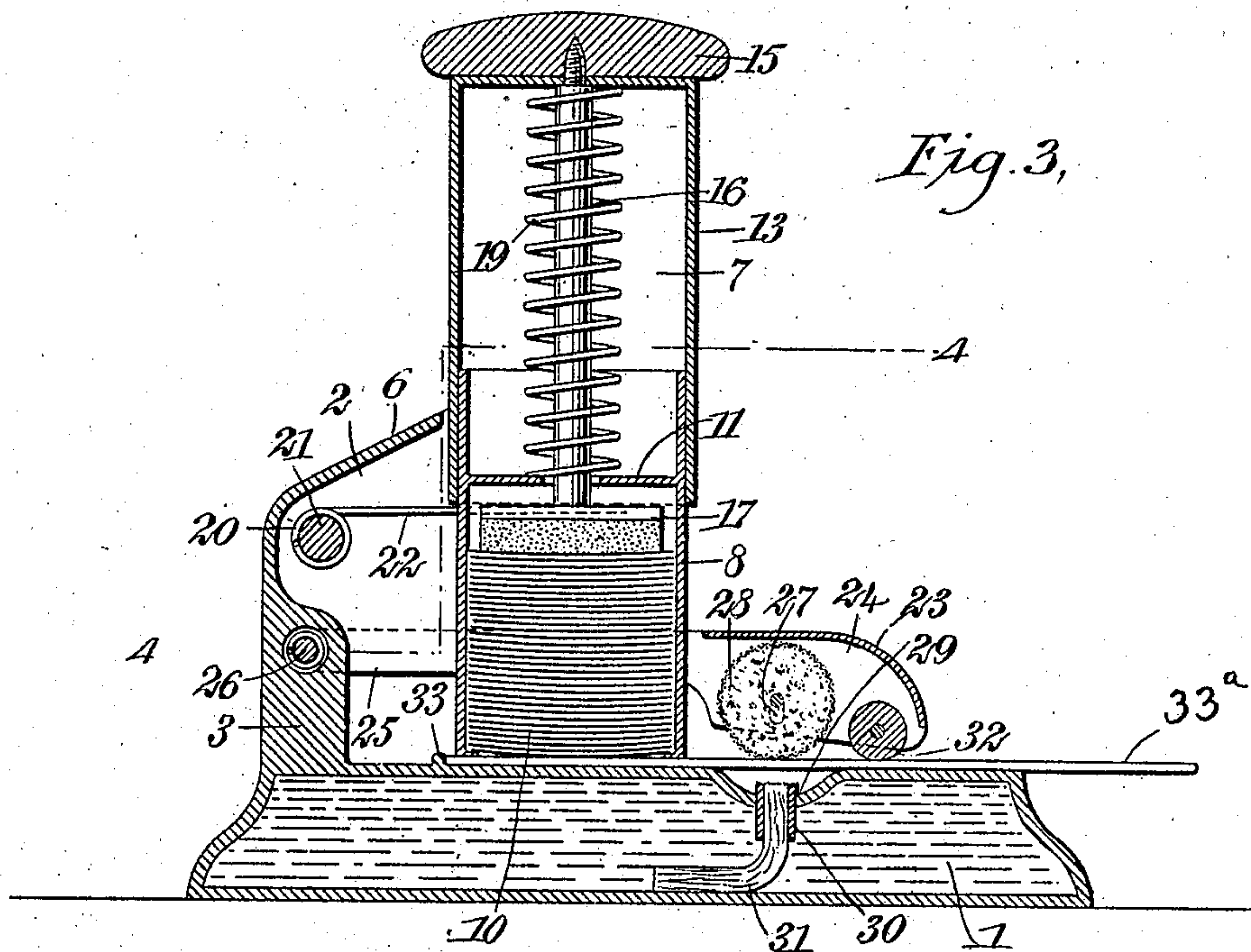
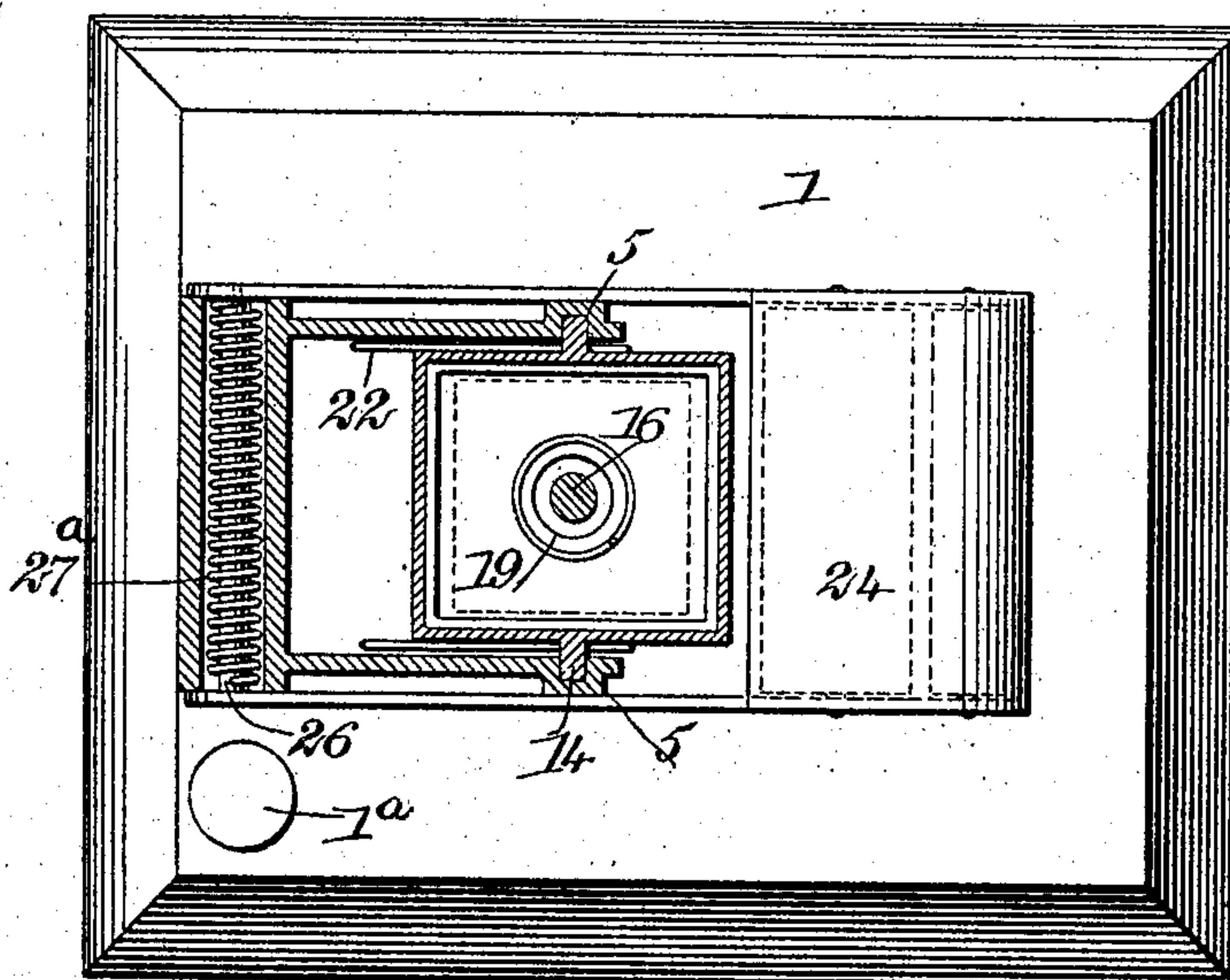


Fig. 4,



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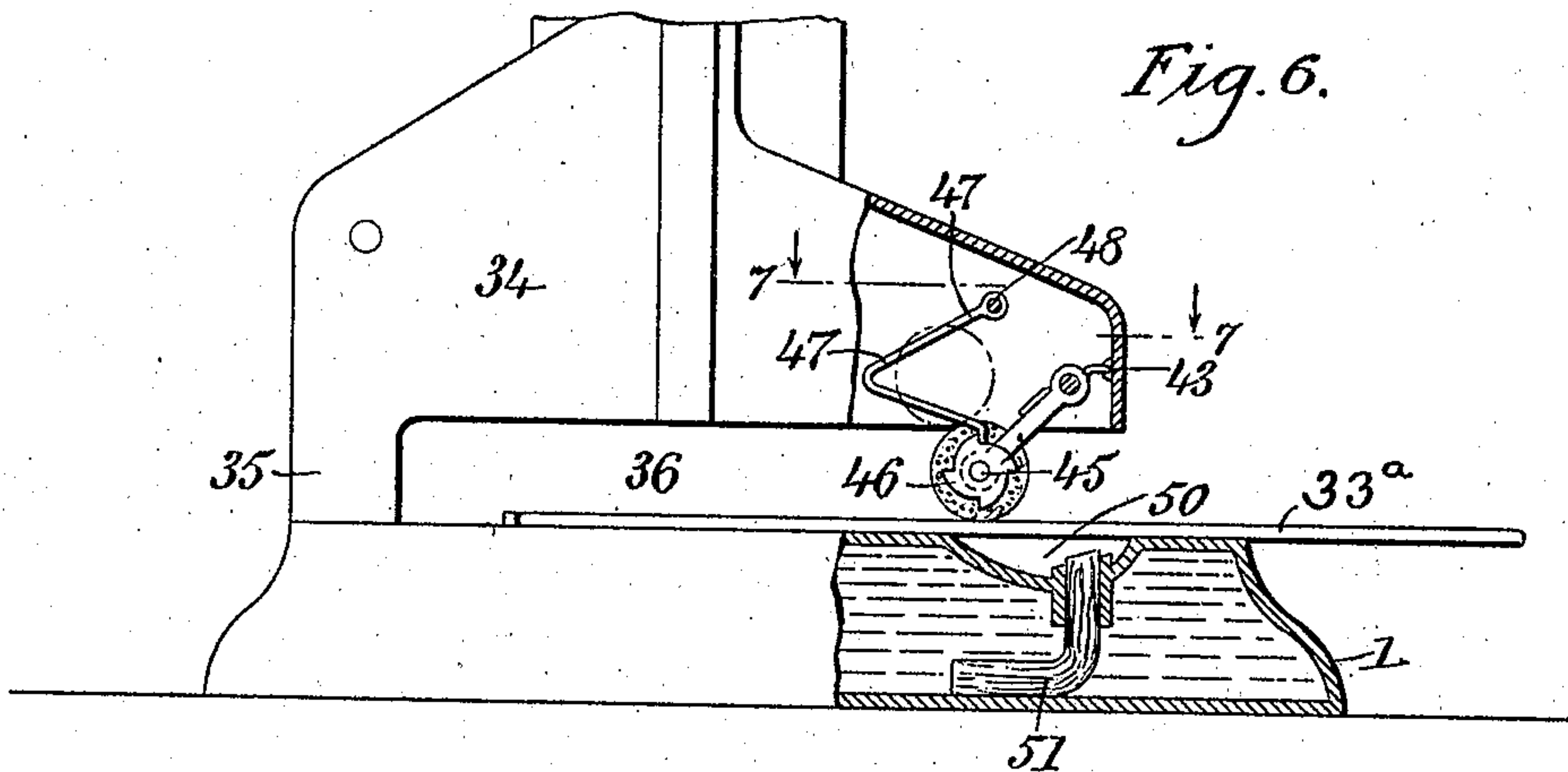
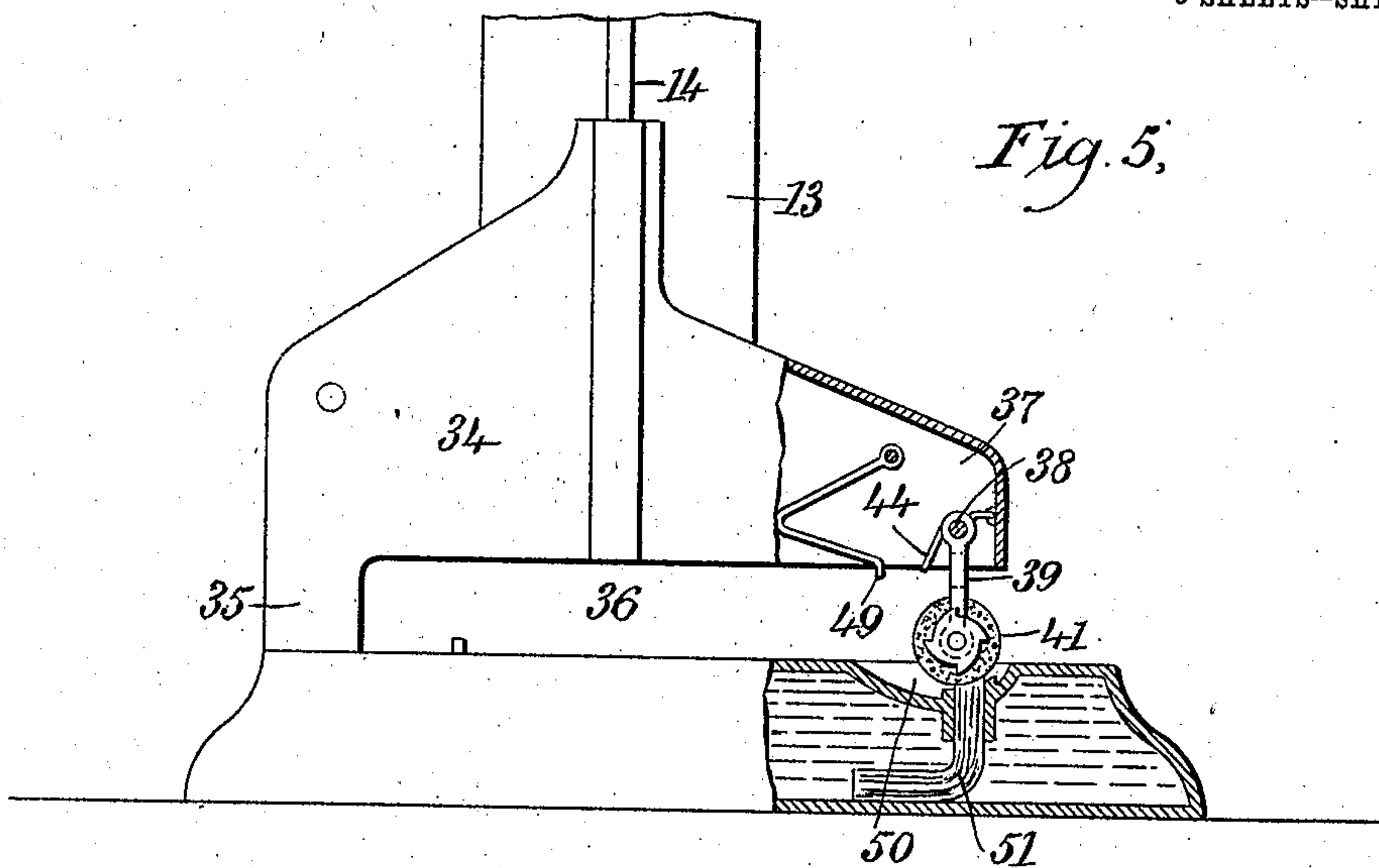
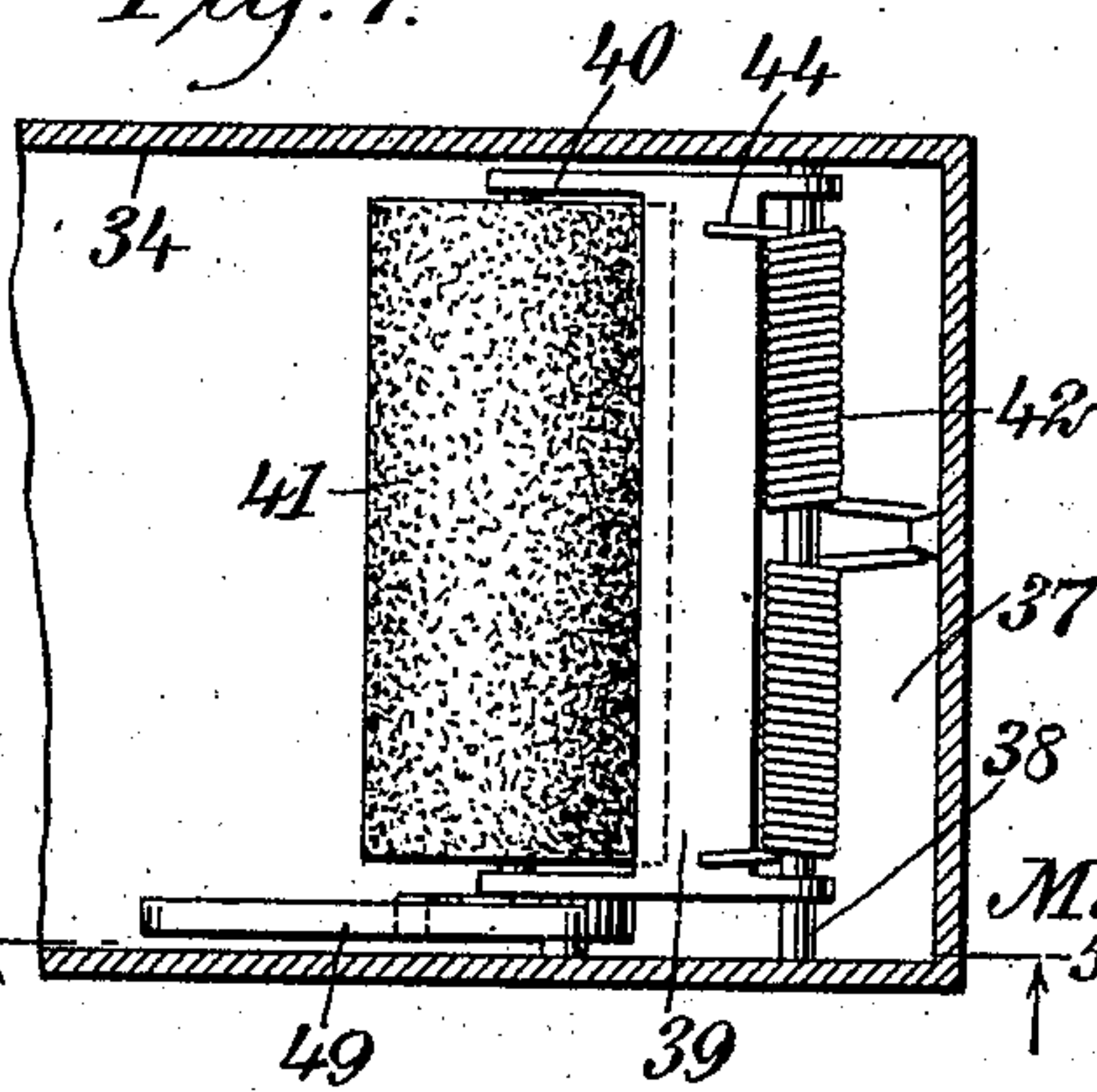


Fig. 7.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MARCUS ROBINSON BURROWES, OF SARNIA, CANADA.

STAMP-AFFIXING DEVICE.

No. 814,936.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented March 13, 1906.

Application filed May 3, 1905. Serial No. 258,680.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MARCUS ROBINSON BURROWES, a subject of the King of Great Britain and Ireland, and a resident of Sarnia, in the Province of Ontario and Dominion of Canada, have invented a new and Improved Stamp-Affixing Device, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to a device for affixing stamps or labels to envelopes or packages or similar articles.

The object of the invention is to produce a device of the class described which shall be of simple construction and which will operate to moisten the parts and apply the stamp with great rapidity and in a certain sense automatically.

The invention comprises a magazine in which the stamps or labels are contained and beneath which the envelop or other article may be thrust. As the envelop passes beneath the stamp-magazine it is moistened automatically by the moistening device, and the mechanism is then operated to affix a stamp in the required position.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 is a perspective of the device. Fig. 2 is a vertical central section, a portion of the base being represented as broken away, as will appear. In this figure the parts are represented in their normal position when at rest. Fig. 3 is a vertical section similar to Fig. 2, but representing the device in the act of applying the stamp. Fig. 4 is a section taken substantially upon the line 4 4 of Fig. 3. Fig. 5 is a side elevation and section broken away, as will appear, showing the preferred form of the moistening apparatus and representing the same as at rest. Fig. 6 is a view similar to Fig. 5, but representing the moistening device in action; and Fig. 7 is a section taken substantially at the point 7 7 of Fig. 6.

Referring more particularly to the parts, and especially to Figs. 1 to 4, the device comprises a base 1, which is formed hollow, as shown, so as to constitute a reservoir adapted to hold a moistening fluid, such as water, as indicated. Preferably at one edge of this base a casing 2 is attached, the same being formed with a substantial rear wall 3, which is preferably integral with the base, as indi-

cated. This casing 2 is formed with side cheeks or plates 4, which near their forward edges are formed into vertical guide grooves or channels 5, for a purpose which will appear more fully hereinafter. The rear wall 3 of the casing preferably inclines forwardly, as indicated at 6 in Figs. 2 and 3. Removably mounted in the guideways or grooves 5 a stamp or label magazine 7 is arranged. This magazine comprises a body 8 of substantially rectangular or box form. At its lower edge it is open, as indicated in Fig. 2, but provided with inwardly-projecting lips 9, which operate to support a plurality of stamps 10, which are placed in the magazine, as indicated, and in a manner which will appear more fully hereinafter. Near the upper portion of this body 8 it is provided with a transverse head 11, having an opening 12 therethrough at substantially its central point. The upper portion of the body 8 of the magazine is received within a bonnet 13, which bonnet is of rectangular or box-like form, as shown, and provided on its side faces with guide-tongues 14, and these guide-tongues are received in the aforesaid guide-grooves 5 of the casing. The bonnet 13 is surmounted by a suitable cap 15, upon which one's hand may rest when operating the magazine. To the upper extremity of the bonnet 13 a plunger 16 is attached, which extends vertically downward, as shown, and passes centrally through the aforesaid opening 12 in the head 11. Beneath the transverse head 11 the plunger 16 is itself provided with a head 17, to the under face whereof a pad 18 is attached, said pad being preferably formed of rubber or similar material. A helical spring 19 surrounds the plunger 16, attached at its lower extremity to the transverse head 11 and at its upper extremity to the bonnet. As indicated most clearly in Figs. 2 and 3, the opening 12 is of enlarged diameter with respect to the plunger, and this arrangement is adopted for a purpose which will appear more fully hereinafter. The bonnet 13 of the magazine is normally supported in its most elevated position by means of a coiled spring 20, the body of which is disposed about a horizontal stud 21, passing transversely of the casing below the rear wall 6. As indicated, the spring is provided at its extremities with radially-projecting arms 22, which lie adjacent to the outer face of the bonnet 13. The extremities of these arms press against

the lower extremities of the tongues 14 of the bonnet and operate to support the bonnet normally in an elevated position.

The moistening device 23 will now be described: This device comprises an apron 24, disposed at the front and above the base 1. It is provided with rearwardly-projecting arms 25, which attach to a transverse stud 26, disposed horizontally in the rear wall 3. About this stud 26 a spring 27^a is coiled, which operates to press in the apron 24 downwardly upon the base. The apron 24 comprises side cheeks or faces provided with vertically-elongated slots 27, and in these slots are mounted the extremities of the shaft of a moistening-roller 28. At a point just beneath this roller the upper surface of the base is formed with a depression or recess 29, through which there is an opening communicating with the interior of the base, said opening being preferably provided with a bushing 30, constituting a seat upon which the moistening-roller normally rests, as indicated in Fig. 2. Through the bushing 30 a wick 31 passes. In the forward portion of the apron 24 a horizontal guide-roller 32 is mounted, and this roller normally rests upon the upper face of the base, as shown in Fig. 2. The dampening-roller 28 preferably comprises a sponge or absorbent body, which is adapted to take up moisture from the wick for the purpose of moistening the envelops in a manner which will appear more fully hereinafter.

As indicated in Fig. 2, the lower extremity of the body 8 of the magazine is normally maintained at an elevation above the upper face of the base 1. When the device is to be operated, the envelop 33^a or other article which is to have a stamp or label affixed will be thrust inwardly, as indicated in Fig. 3, passing under the guide-roller 32 and operating to raise the moistening-roller 28, the movement being continued inwardly until the inner edge of the envelop comes against a nib or projection 33, constituting a stop. This inward movement of the envelop operates to moisten that portion thereof which comes in contact with the lower face of the moistening-roller. When the envelop is positioned as indicated in Fig. 3, the bonnet 13 is forced downwardly by hand. As the bonnet 13 is depressed the spring 19 is compressed and will operate to depress the body 8. As the bonnet descends the body 8 of the magazine is forced downwardly by the spring 19 until its lower extremity comes against the upper side of the envelop, as shown in Fig. 3. As soon as the body has come to rest upon the envelop a considerable pressure will be exerted on the body of stamps, and this pressure will be sufficient to affix the lowest stamp to the moistened envelop. The purpose of the opening 12 through the transverse head 11 is to permit the flow of air from the interior of the bonnet 13 into the upper portion

of the body 8 above the stamps. As this air escapes at the edges of the stamps downwardly it tends to prevent moisture working upwardly at the edges of the stamps from contact with the moist envelop. When the bonnet 13 is released, it returns automatically by the spring 20, and the body 8 is likewise returned. The lowest stamp, which has been stuck upon the envelop, will retain itself in position there, its edges slipping out easily from the retaining-lips 9. As the envelop is drawn outwardly the stamp must pass under the rollers 28 and 32, and the edges of the stamp will be pressed down in this way, so as to make them adhere closely also to the envelop.

In Figs. 5 to 7 there is illustrated a preferred construction for the moistening apparatus. In this instance the casing 34 projects from the rear wall 35, so as to form a deep throat 36, the apron 37 being formed integrally with the casing, as shown. In the forward portion of the apron a transverse stud or pin 38 is mounted horizontally, and upon this pin an arm 39 is loosely mounted. The body of this arm consists of an elongated plate, as shown, provided with lateral extensions 40 at its extremities, between which a moistening-roller 41 is rotatably mounted. Upon the pin 38 a coiled spring 42 is arranged, being attached rigidly near its central portion to the forward wall of the apron, as indicated at 43. At its extremities this spring 42 is formed with extensions 44, which project across above the upper face of the arm 39 and which may operate to constrain the arm and the roller downwardly. The roller 41 is rigidly mounted upon a shaft 45, which turns loosely in the extensions 40, as will be readily understood. At one extremity this shaft projects and has rigidly attached thereto a ratchet-wheel 46. To the side face of the apron 37 at a point substantially above the position of the roller, as indicated in Fig. 6, a detent-pawl 47 is mounted, the same consisting substantially of a V-shaped resilient member rigidly attached at 48 and having a downwardly-projecting tip 49. As indicated in Fig. 5, the extensions 44 of the spring 42 normally project in an inclined position just to the rear of the arm 39, and the said arm normally depends vertically, as shown. Just beneath the roller when occupying this position a depression 50 is formed in the upper face of the base, near one side of which an opening is provided into which a wick 51 projects, as in the form described. Upon this wick the roller 41 normally rests, and the roller being, as before, of absorbent material it takes up the water, as will be readily understood. With this form I dispense with the guide-roller. The envelop will be introduced by pressing its edge against the forward face of the roller, and this will operate to rotate the roller upwardly and rearwardly,

as indicated in Fig. 6. When this occurs, one of the teeth of the ratchet-wheel 46 will engage with the tip 49 of the spring 47 in such a manner as to lock the roller against rotation. In this way the efficiency of the roller as a moistener is much increased, as it rubs the faces of the envelop like a brush as it passes beneath.

It will be observed that as the roller hangs vertically, as in Fig. 5, no substantial resistance to the passage of the envelop is afforded until the arm engages the extensions 44 of the spring. When this occurs, however, a slight resistance is presented, which is advantageous in subjecting the roller to a desirable pressure as it moistens the envelop.

While the device is intended especially for affixing stamps to envelops, the width of the throat 36 will permit thicker objects, such as packages, to be treated in the machine, and in Fig. 6 the roller is represented in its most elevated position in dotted outline.

In loading the magazine the entire magazine will be lifted out of the casing and turned upside down, so as to enable the stamps to be inserted. It is of course understood that the stamps are all placed so that their gummed faces are downward when the magazine is set up in operation.

The supply of water in the reservoir will be replenished through an opening normally closed by a removable cap 1^a.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. In a device of the class described, in combination, a moistening-roller normally occupying a depressed position, means for feeding moisture to said roller, means for locking said roller against rotation by a displacement thereof, and a magazine for stamps or labels.

2. In a device of the class described, in combination, a base, a moistening-roller normally occupying a depressed position, a ratchet-

wheel carried by said roller, a member having a fixed point of support and adapted to engage said ratchet-wheel when the same is elevated, means for feeding a moistening fluid to said roller when in said depressed position, and a stamp-attaching magazine beyond said roller.

3. In a device of the class described, in combination, a casing, an arm pivoted thereto, a moistening-roller carried by said arm, a spring adapted to engage said arm when moved upwardly, means for locking said roller against rotation when moved upwardly, and a stamp-affixing magazine beyond said roller.

4. In a device of the class described, in combination, a base constituting a reservoir and having a depression in the upper face thereof, a casing, an arm pivoted to said casing, a moistening-roller carried by said arm and normally resting in said depression, a spring adapted to engage said arm when moved upwardly, a ratchet-wheel rigid with said roller, a second spring carried by said casing adapted to engage said ratchet-wheel to lock said roller, and a stamp-affixing magazine provided in said casing.

5. In a device of the class described, a magazine comprising a body having a compartment adapted to receive stamps, and a transverse head thereabove, said head having an opening therethrough, a bonnet slidably mounted on said body, and a plunger carried by said bonnet and adapted to advance the body of said stamps, said opening affording means for the escape of air from the interior of said bonnet into said stamp-compartment.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

MARCUS ROBINSON BURROWES.

Witnesses:

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