No. 815,809. PATENTED MAR. 20, 1906.

J. J. GHEGAN.

TELEGRAPH KEY.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 28, 1905.

Fig. 1.

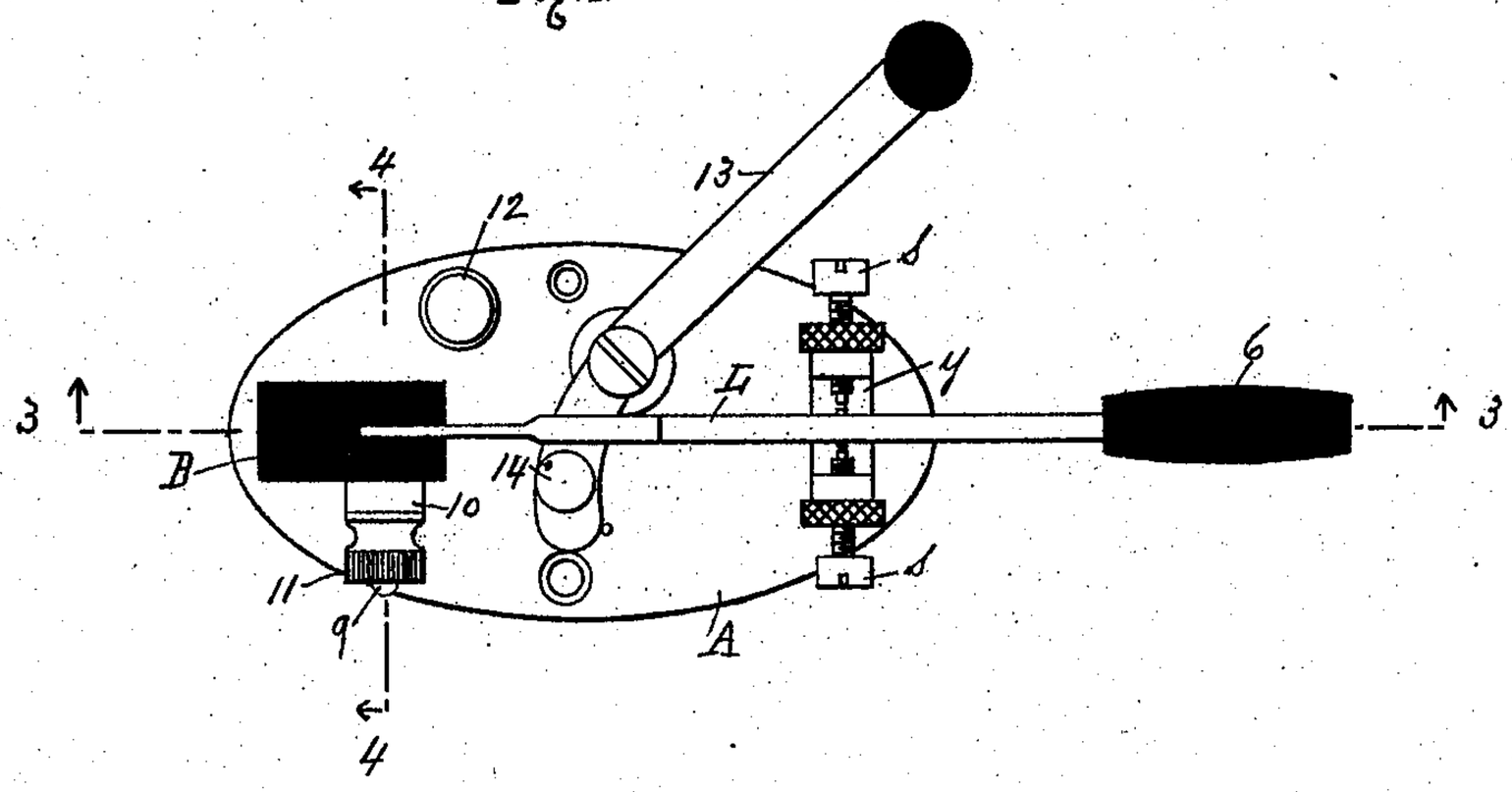


Fig. 2.

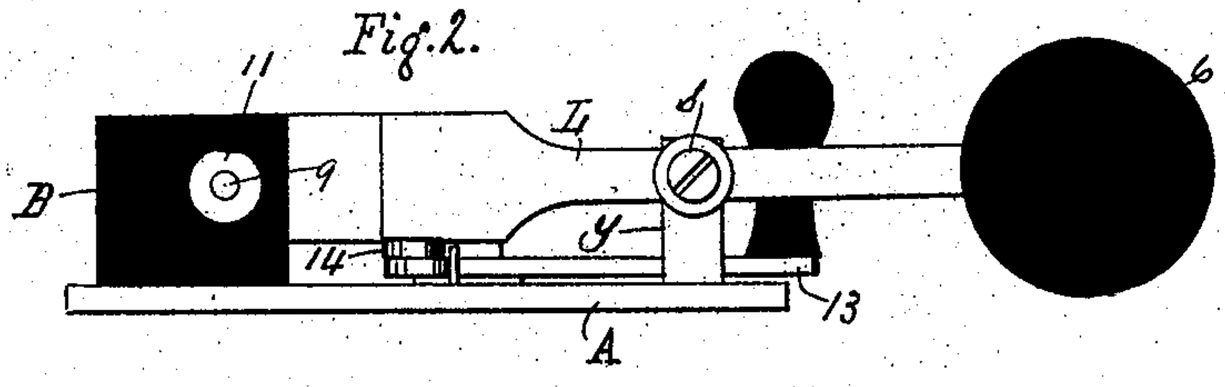


Fig. 3.

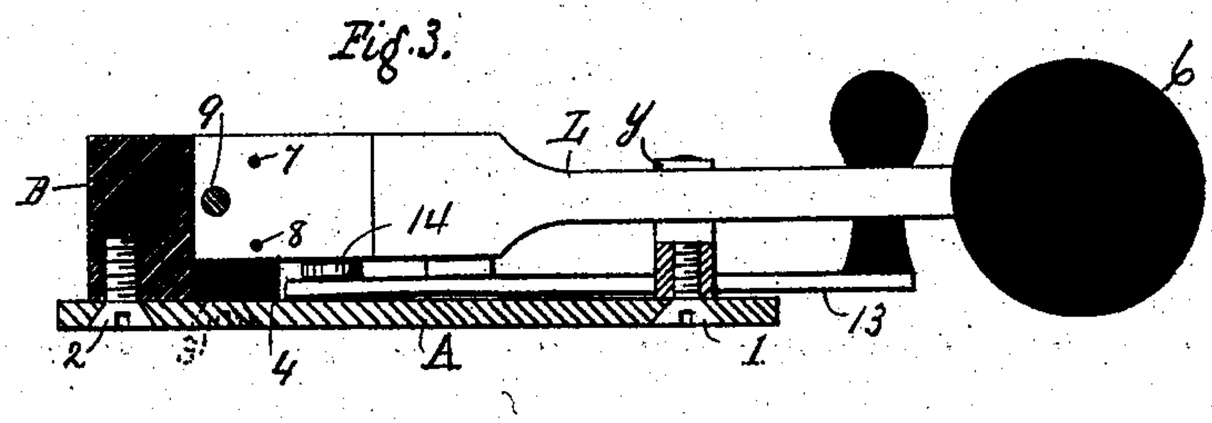
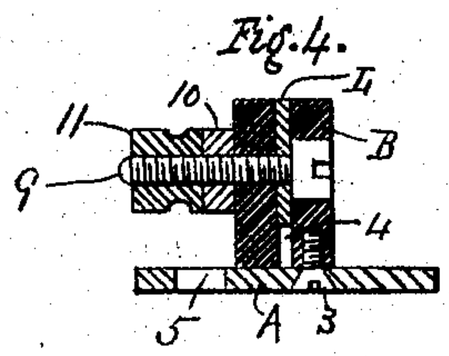


Fig. 4.



WITNESSES

F. W. Wright

Walter Abbe

INVENTOR

BY John J. Ghegan

Howson and Howson

ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN J. GHEGAN, OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY.

TELEGRAPH-KEY.

No. 815,809. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented March 20, 1906.

Application filed January 28, 1905. Serial No. 243,082.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN J. GHEGAN, a citizen of the United States of America, residing in the city of Newark, county of Essex, State of New Jersey, have invented an Improved Telegraph-Key, of which the following is a specification.

The object of this invention is to provide a cheap, efficient, and simple telegraph-key of the kind in which the lever is elastically mounted at one end and is preferably provided with a pair of contacts at the other end.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a plan view of the key of my invention in "open" position. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the same. Fig. 3 is a section on the line 3 3, Fig. 1; and Fig. 4 is a section on the line 4 4, Fig. 1.

I provide a metallic base-plate A, shown as of oval design, to one end of the surface of which I secure a yoke *y*, of metal, provided with adjustable contact-screws *s*. The yoke may be secured by a screw 1, passing upward through the base. To the other end of the plate I securely fasten a block B, preferably by a pair of screws 2 3. The block B is of any suitable insulating material, preferably of ebonite, and is slotted at one end at 4 and is drilled across its width with a hole to receive a screw 9.

The key-lever L is composed of a metallic shank having the usual knob 6 at one end, and though of an integral piece of metal it is made thin and spring-like or elastic at one end, which end may fit into the slot of the block B and be secured by rivets 7 8 passing through the block. This forms the only point of support required for the key. The key-lever L is thus mounted above the base and, as shown in the drawings, is in a plane at right angles to the base A, and is therefore adapted to be moved horizontally. A screw 9, adapted to be held in contact with the end of the lever within the block, is passed through the same and is secured by the rounded nut 10. The protruding end of the screw may have a thumb-nut 11 to act as a binding-post for the conductor to be connected to the lever L, for which conductor an opening 5 is made in the plate A. A binding-post 12 is provided for the outer conductor and is electrically and mechanically secured to the plate A.

The switch-lever 13 for closing the circuit is independent of either contact-point and may consist of a pivoted blade having an enlargement 14 of conducting material at one end so placed that upon being swung into open position it will clear the lever L entirely, while when in "closed" position it will be wedged with some pressure between the key-lever L and the metal base-plate A, and so close the circuit from the lever to the base-plate and the post 12.

I claim as my invention—

1. A telegraph-key, comprising a metallic base-plate, a spring key-lever adapted to move horizontally, mounted at one end of the plate and above it, and insulated from it, and contact-points adjacent to the key-lever.

2. A telegraph-key, comprising a metallic base-plate, a block of insulation secured thereto, a spring key-lever having an integral end mounted in said block and free of contact with the plate, and a contact-point in electrical connection with said plate.

3. A telegraph-key, comprising a metallic base-plate, a block of insulation secured thereto, a single-piece spring key-lever adapted to move horizontally, and permanently attached at one end to the block and free of contact with the plate, a contact-point in electrical connection with said base, and a pair of binding-posts, one for the key-lever and one for the base.

4. A telegraph-key, comprising a metallic base-plate, a slotted block of insulation upon it, an integral key-lever supported at one point only, comprising an unyielding portion and an elastic portion, said key-lever secured in the slot of the insulation-block in a plane at right angles to the base, and a contact in electrical connection with said base.

5. A telegraph-key, comprising a metallic base-plate, a spring key-lever mounted at one end of the plate and above it, and insulated from it, and contact-points adjacent to the key-lever, in combination with a pivoted switch-lever between the plate and key-lever and independent of either contact-point, having an enlarged end adapted to be inserted between the plate and key-lever.

6. A telegraph-key, comprising a metallic base-plate, a slotted block of insulation upon it, an integral key-lever, comprising an unyielding portion and an elastic portion, said key-lever secured in the slot of the insulated block in a plane at right angles to the base, and a contact in electrical connection with said base, in combination with a pivoted switch-lever independent of either contact-

point between the plate and key-lever, having an enlarged end adapted to be inserted between the plate and key-lever.

7. A telegraph-key, comprising a metallic base-plate, a block of insulation secured thereto, a single-piece spring key-lever adapted to move horizontally and having but one point of support.

8. A telegraph-key, comprising a metallic base-plate, a block of insulation secured thereto, a single-piece spring key-lever adapted to move horizontally, and permanently attached at one point only and to said block of insulation.

9. A telegraph-key, comprising a metallic base-plate, a block of insulation secured thereto, a single-piece spring key-lever attached to said block of insulation, said key adapted to move horizontally and free from said base.

10. A telegraph-key, comprising a metallic base-plate, a block of insulation secured thereto, and a single-piece spring key-lever attached to said block of insulation, said key having but one point of support, in combination with a switch-lever independent of either contact-point adapted to be inserted between the plate and the key-lever

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

JOHN J. GHEGAN.

Witnesses:
Jos. K. De Lacy,
W. H. Bull.