

F. E. FRANCIS.  
TAPE MOISTENER.  
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910,808.

Patented Jan. 26, 1909.

Fig. 1

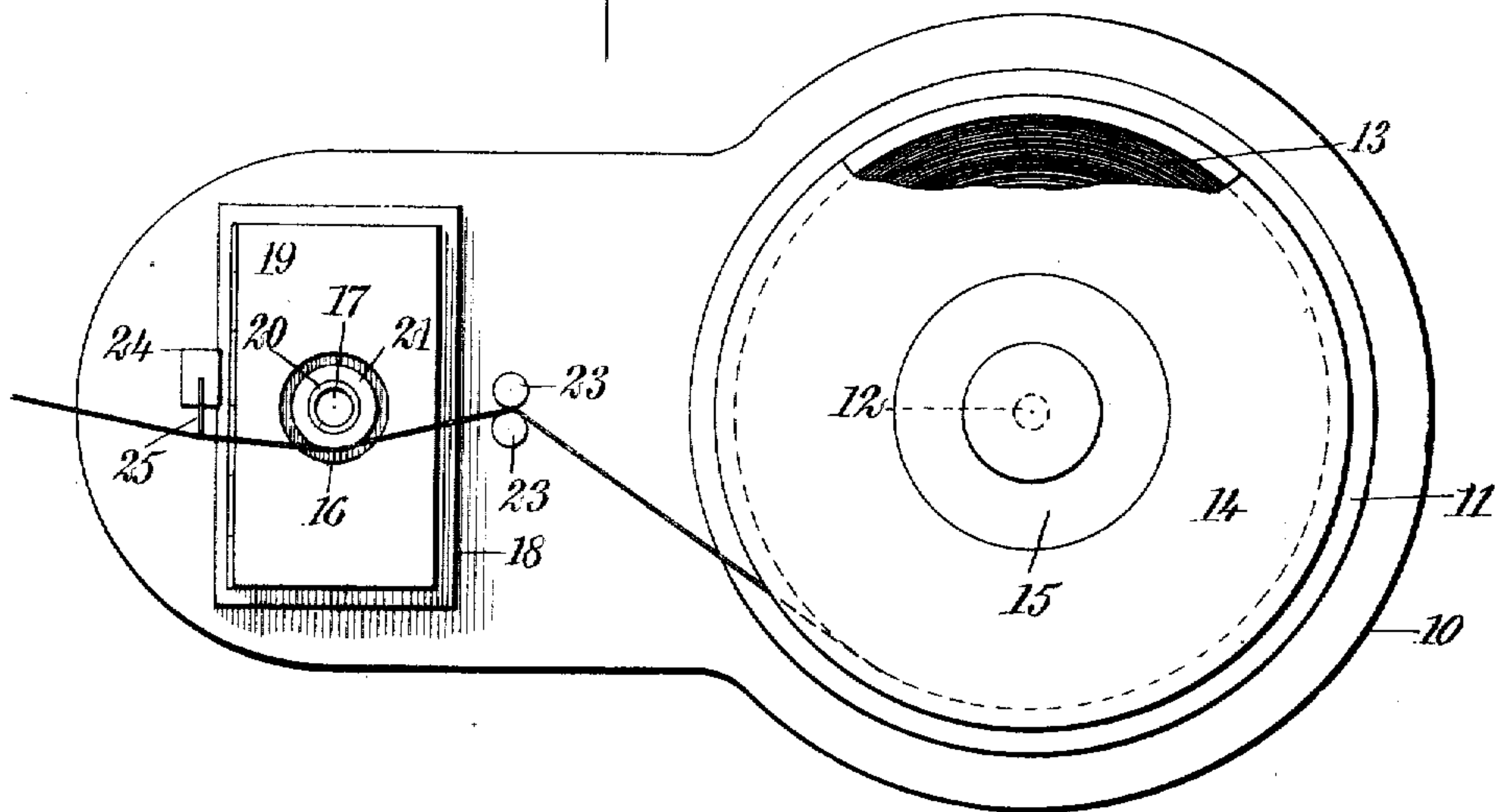


Fig. 2

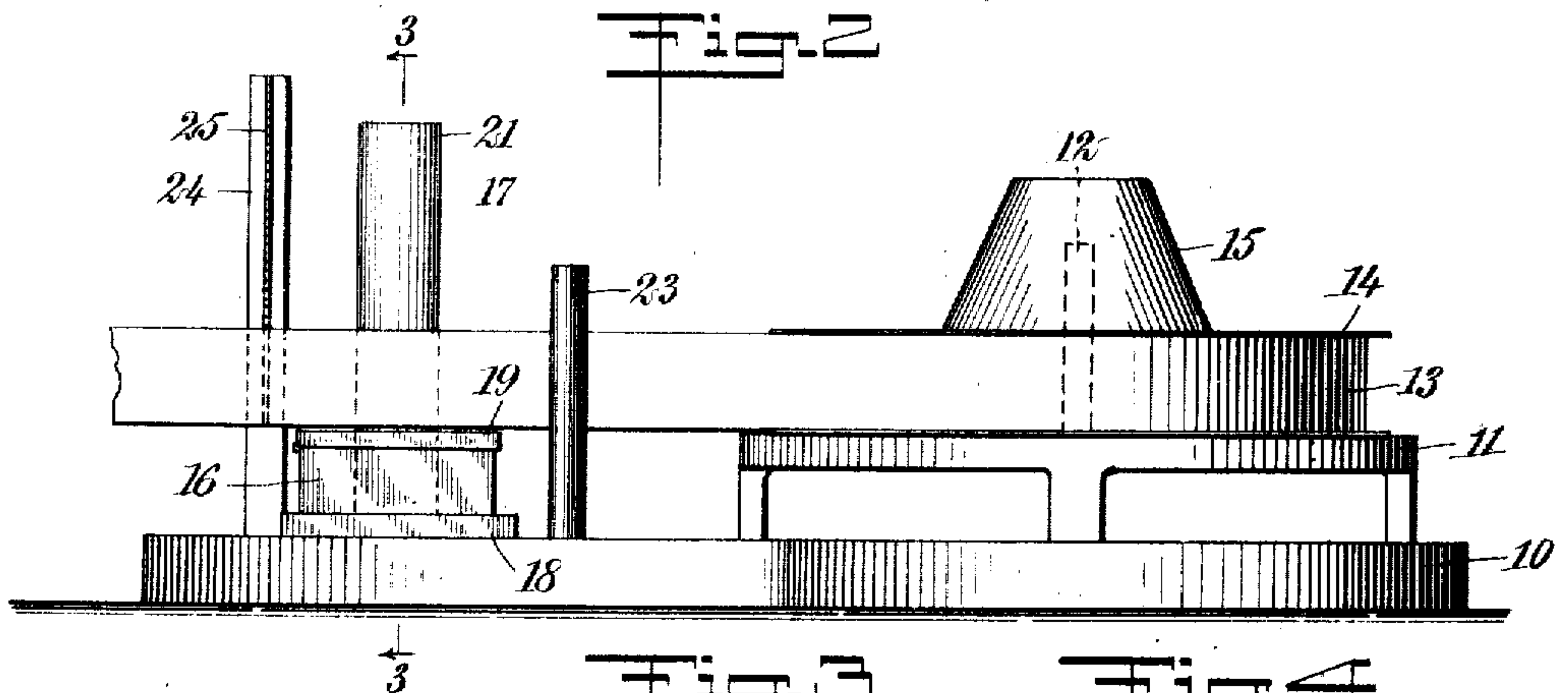


Fig. 3

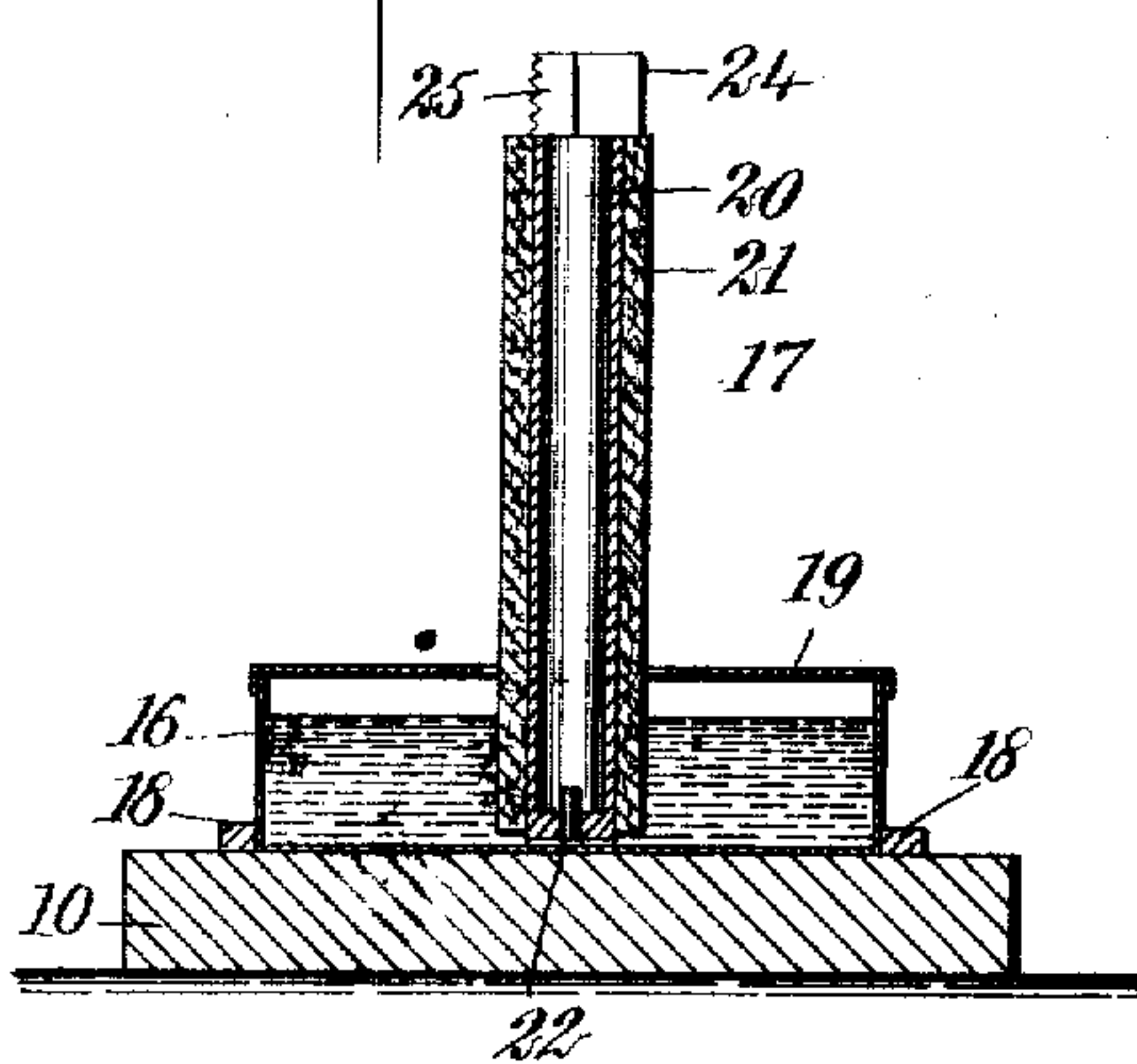
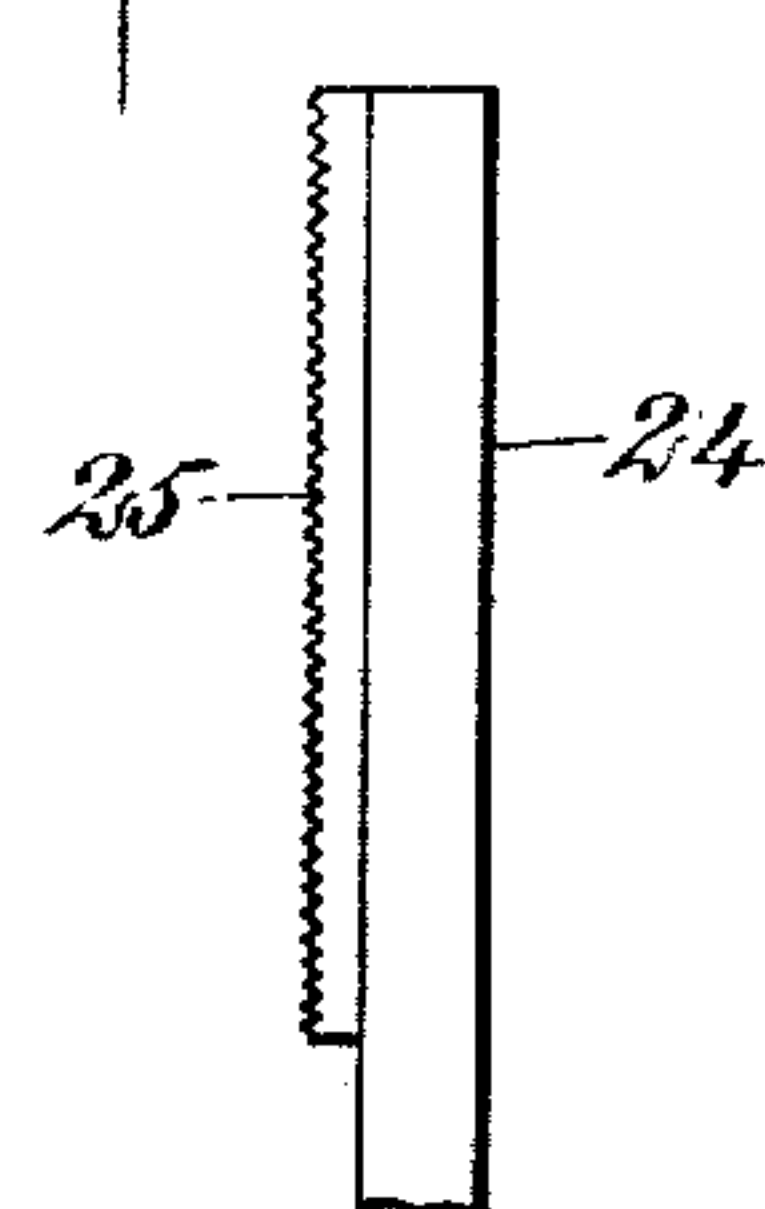


Fig. 4



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FLOYD E. FRANCIS, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## TAPE-MOISTENER.

No. 910,808.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Jan. 26, 1909.

Application filed July 15, 1908. Serial No. 443,649.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, FLOYD E. FRANCIS, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city of New York, borough of Manhattan, in the county and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Tape-Moistener, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to certain improvements in tape moisteners, and more particularly to that type of construction in which there are provided means for supporting a roll of tape, a moistening surface over which the tape may pass as it is removed from the roll, and a cutting or tearing edge by means of which the moistened portion of the tape may be separated from that remaining on the roll.

The object of my invention is primarily to simplify the construction and so mount the parts that the tape may be unrolled, moistened and torn off as rapidly as it can be used and without waste.

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, and in which—

Figure 1 is a top plan view of the moistener constructed in accordance with my invention; Fig. 2 is a side elevation thereof; Fig. 3 is a vertical section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2; and Fig. 4 is a side elevation of the cutting or tearing member.

In the specific form illustrated in the accompanying drawings, I provide a base 10, of any suitable construction and serving to support the several parts going to make up my improved device. At one end of the base I provide a standard 11, presenting a horizontal top surface and having an upwardly-extending centrally-disposed spindle 12. The spindle is adapted to extend through the center of a roll of tape 13, the weight of the latter being supported directly upon the standard 11. A suitable cover or top plate 14 is also mounted upon the spindle and rests directly upon the roll. The cover frictionally engages with the roll at the upper side and the standard frictionally engages with it at the under side, so that the roll cannot freely rotate but may turn when the operator pulls on the end of the tape. For increasing the friction of the top plate 14 on the roll, a weight 15 may, if desired, be employed and rest upon or be rigidly secured

to the cover plate at its upper surface and adjacent the center thereof.

Adjacent the opposite end of the base 10 is provided the moistener proper, which includes a suitable reservoir 16 for the moistening liquid, and a vertically-disposed moistening member 17 having its lower end mounted within the reservoir and having its upper end adapted for engagement with the tape. The reservoir is vertically removable from the base and is held against lateral movement by small cleats or flanges 18. The reservoir is provided with a cover 19, having an aperture therein through which the moistening member 17 extends. The aperture is of slightly larger size than the moistening member, so that said cover does not contact therewith. The moistening member preferably comprises a tube 20, having an outer jacket 21 of felt or other suitable absorbent material, and extending from adjacent the lower portion of the reservoir to the upper portion of the moistening member. The moistening member is mounted in any suitable manner, but, as shown, the reservoir is provided with a central stud 22, extending upwardly from the bottom thereof and into the lower end of the tube 20.

Intermediate the spindle 12 upon which the roll of tape is mounted and the moistening member, the base supports two guides 23, preferably in the form of upwardly-extending pins or rods arranged substantially parallel and spaced apart a distance substantially equal to the thickness of the tape. Upon the opposite side of the reservoir from the guides 23, I provide a cutting or tearing member 24, comprising an upwardly-extending rod or bar having its lower end mounted in the base and having inserted in one side thereof a blade 25 over which the tape may be drawn to cut, tear or sever the latter.

In the operation of my improved device, a roll of gummed tape is mounted on the spindle 12 and the end is extended through between the two guides 23. The end of the tape is drawn outwardly and kept in contact with the moistening member, which latter receives its moisture by capillary attraction from the reservoir. As fast as the tape is drawn past the moistening member, it takes up moisture therefrom and becomes ready for use. When a strip of tape of the desired length has been unwound and moistened, it is turned at a slight angle and torn across the blade 25, to cut or tear the tape. The blade is closely



adjacent the moistening member, so that the tape has to be turned to but a short angle and only a very small quantity of the tape is moistened without being used. The moistening action is identically the same, irrespective of the amount of tape on the roll, as it passes between the two stationary guides 23. The moistening member may be readily removed from the reservoir, and the reservoir may be readily removed from the base to permit of the two being cleaned.

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

15 1. A tape moistener, comprising a base, a standard mounted thereon and adapted to support a roll of tape in a substantially horizontal plane, a reservoir of substantially the same height as said standard, and a moistening member extending upwardly from said reservoir and over which the tape from said roll may pass.

25 2. A tape moistener, comprising a base, a standard mounted thereon and adapted to receive a roll of tape and having a centrally-disposed upwardly-extending spindle, a cover plate adapted to engage with the upper surface of the tape roll, and a weight upon said cover for preventing free rotation of the roll.

30 3. A tape moistener, comprising a base, means for supporting a roll of tape in a substantially horizontal plane, a reservoir de-

tachably mounted upon said base, a cover for said reservoir and having an aperture therein, and a detachable moistening member having its lower end within said reservoir and extending upwardly through said aperture.

4. A tape moistener, comprising a base, a standard mounted thereon and having an upwardly-extending spindle adapted to receive a roll of tape in a substantially horizontal plane, a weighted cover plate mounted on said spindle and adapted to engage with the upper surface of said roll, a reservoir detachably mounted upon said base and of substantially the same height as said standard and having a cover provided with an aperture therein, a moistening member detachably secured to said reservoir and extending upwardly over said aperture, two substantially parallel guides carried by said base intermediate said standard and said reservoir, and an upwardly-extending severing member having a blade adjacent said moistening member.

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

FLOYD E. FRANCIS.

Witnesses:

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