

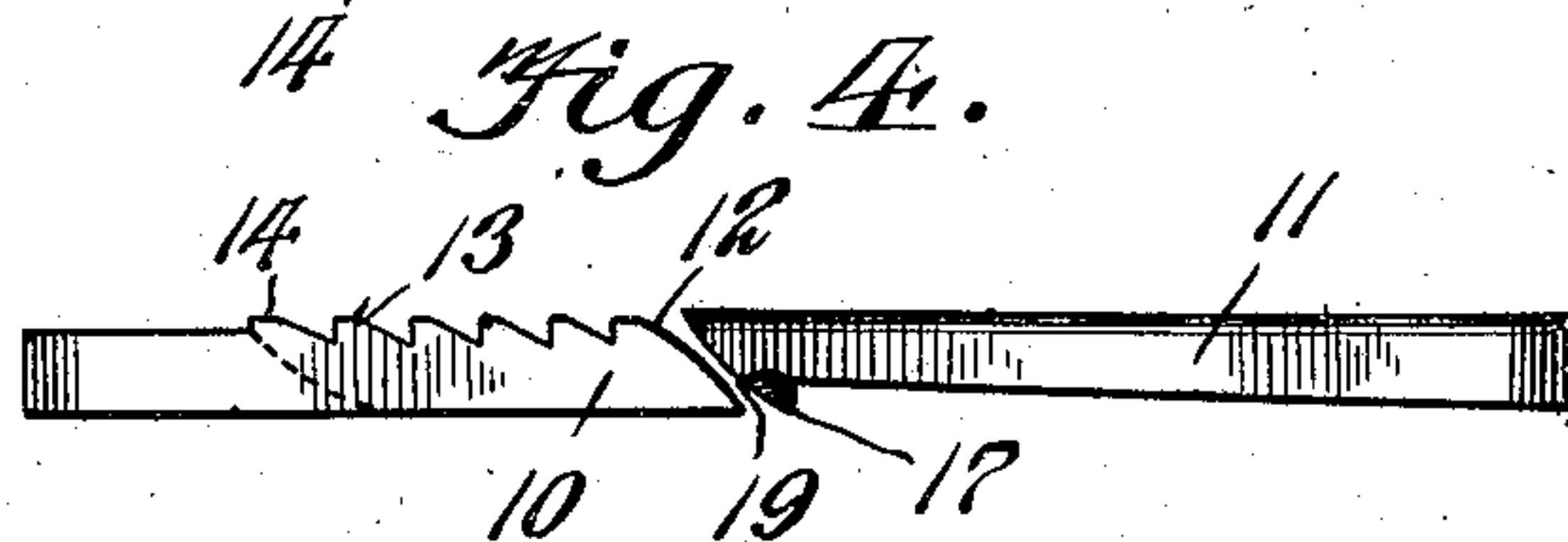
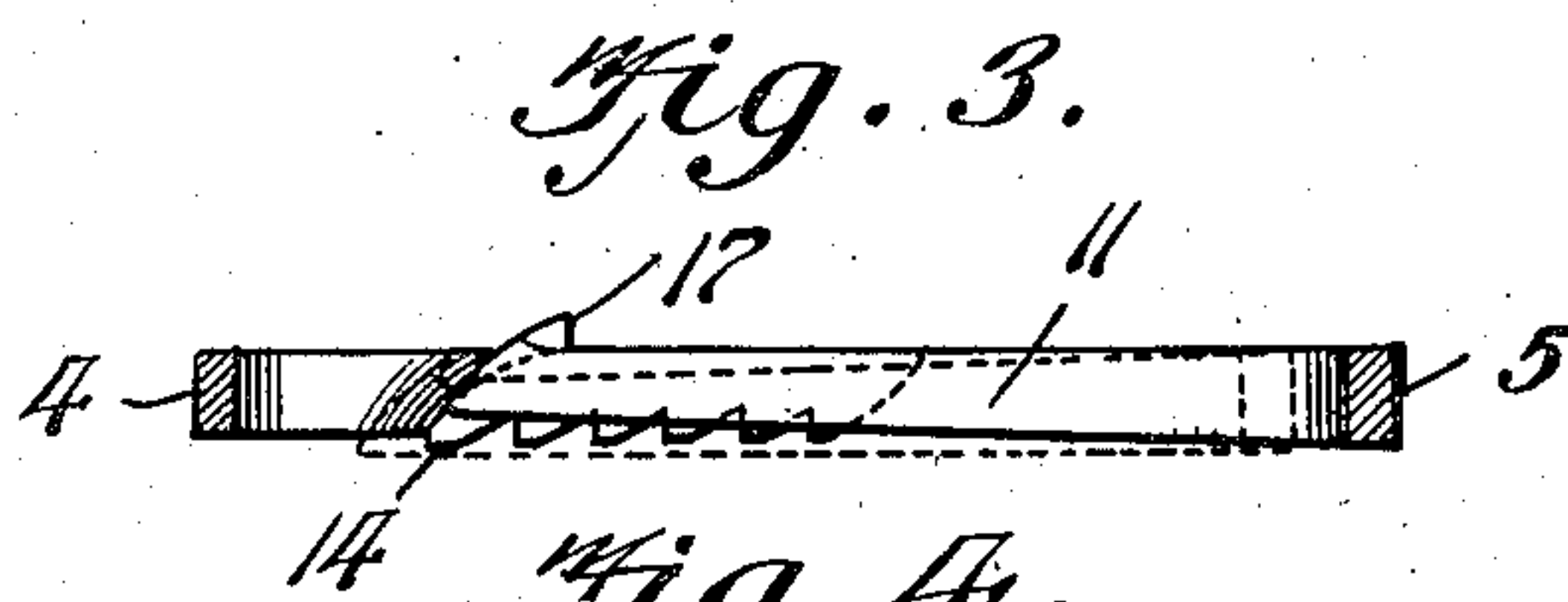
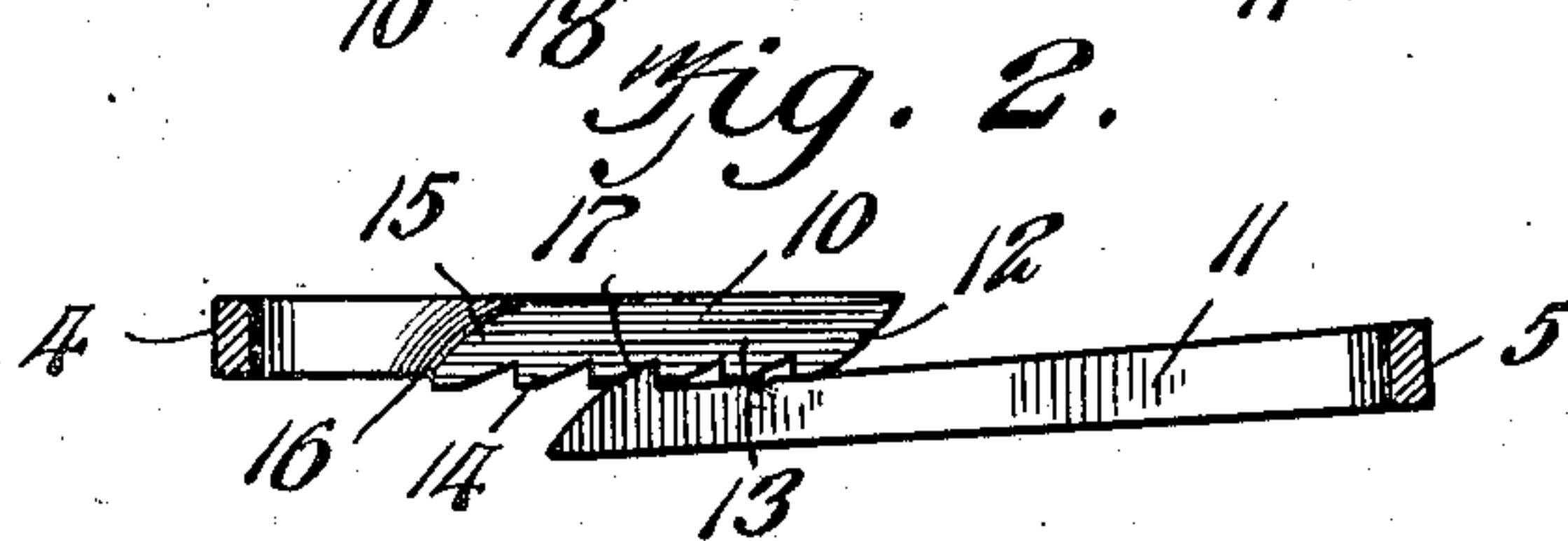
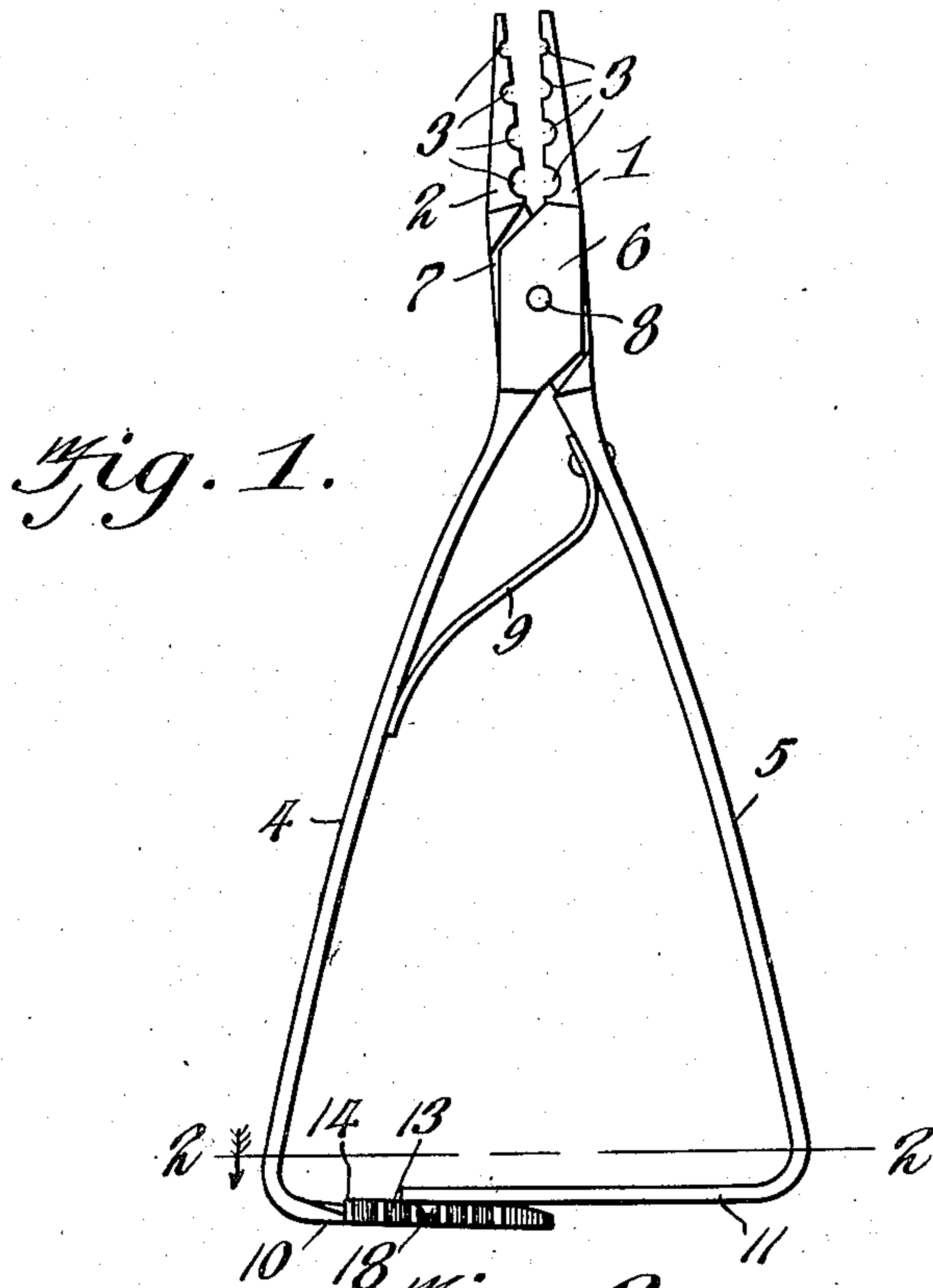
L. C. CALLAHAN & P. W. ESKRIDGE.

WIRE CONNECTOR.

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924,426.

Patented June 8, 1909.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LOUNY C. CALLAHAN AND POE W. ESKRIDGE, OF RUTHERFORDTON, NORTH CAROLINA.

WIRE-CONNECTOR.

No. 924,426.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented June 8, 1909.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, LOUNY C. CALLAHAN and POE W. ESKRIDGE, citizens of the United States of America, residing at Rutherfordton, in the county of Rutherford and State of North Carolina, have invented new and useful Improvements in Wire-Connectors, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to wire connectors, and one of the principal objects of the same is to provide simple and efficient means for connecting the terminal ends of wires and holding them in place temporarily by means of a tool which can be readily disconnected from the terminals by pressing the handles together.

Another object of the invention is to provide a convenient tool for holding the ends of wires, said tool having a ratchet device connected to the handles which will hold the jaws closed upon the ends of the wires, means being provided whereby the jaws may be released by pressing the handles together.

These and other objects may be attained by means of the construction illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which,—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a wire connector made in accordance with our invention. Fig. 2 is a horizontal section on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1, looking in the direction indicated by the arrow. Fig. 3 is a similar view, showing the positions assumed by the ratchet device in releasing the jaws of the connector. Fig. 4 is a bottom plan view of the connector when the jaws are open before the wires are clamped.

Referring to the drawing, the numeral 1 designates one of the jaws of the connector, and 2 is the other jaw thereof. These jaws are provided with semi-circular recesses 3 of different sizes, each pair of a given size being disposed in alinement, in order that wires of different sizes may be readily connected. Formed on the jaw 1 is a handle member 4, and formed upon the jaw member 2 is a handle member 5, these two members being provided with flattened portions 6, 7 connected together by a pivot pin 8. Secured to one of the handle members is a spring 9 which bears against the opposite handle member and exerts its influence to hold the jaws open.

Formed upon the ends of the handle members 4 and 5 are the inwardly bent ratchet members 10, 11. The member 10 at its outer

end is curved, as at 12; and upon one edge a series of ratchet teeth 13 is provided. The last tooth 14 in the series is provided with a curved wall 15, and adjacent to the curved wall is a curved groove 16.

The member 11 is provided at its end with an outwardly projecting nose 17, and underneath the nose is a downwardly projecting finger 18 designed to engage the teeth 13 of the member 10. The end of the member 11 is curved, as at 19, oppositely to the curvature 12 of the member 10, as shown more particularly in Fig. 4.

The operation of our invention may be briefly described as follows:—When the members 10 and 11 are in the position shown in Fig. 4 and they are brought together by pressing the members 4 and 5 one toward the other in the hand, the finger 18 will ride over the teeth 13 and engage the same, holding the jaws closed upon the ends of the wires. Whenever it is desired to release the connector from the wires, by pressing the members 4 and 5 together, the finger 18 will ride past the final ratchet tooth 14, and by the inherent spring action of the members 10 and 11, the finger 18 will ride over the curved portion 15 in the groove 16 back to the position shown in Fig. 4, and the tool will then be in condition to be connected to other wire terminals.

From the foregoing it will be obvious that our invention, while simple in construction, provides novel and readily operable means for disconnecting the jaws by pressing the handle members together, and that this action is very desirable, for the reason that only one hand is required for releasing the tool from the ends of the wires and for the further reason that the action is entirely automatic.

We claim:—

1. A wire connector comprising handles pivotally connected together, jaws on said handles, and a ratchet device formed on the ends of the handles, said ratchet device comprising a series of teeth on one of the members, the terminal tooth having a curved wall, and the other member having a projecting finger for engaging the ratchet teeth, said members being adapted to be released by pressing the handles inwardly until the finger rides past the final ratchet tooth and follows the curved wall to release said finger from the ratchet teeth.

2. In a device of the character described,
handles pivotally connected together, jaws
on said handles, a ratchet device formed on
the handles, said ratchet device comprising
5 a series of teeth on one member, one of which
teeth is provided with a curved rear portion,
the other member being provided with a
finger to engage the ratchet teeth and adapt-
ed to pass around the curved wall for releas-
10 ing the same when the handles are pressed

together, the ends of said ratchet members
being oppositely curved.

In testimony whereof we affix our signa-
tures in presence of two witnesses.

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Witnesses:

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A. F. MILLER.