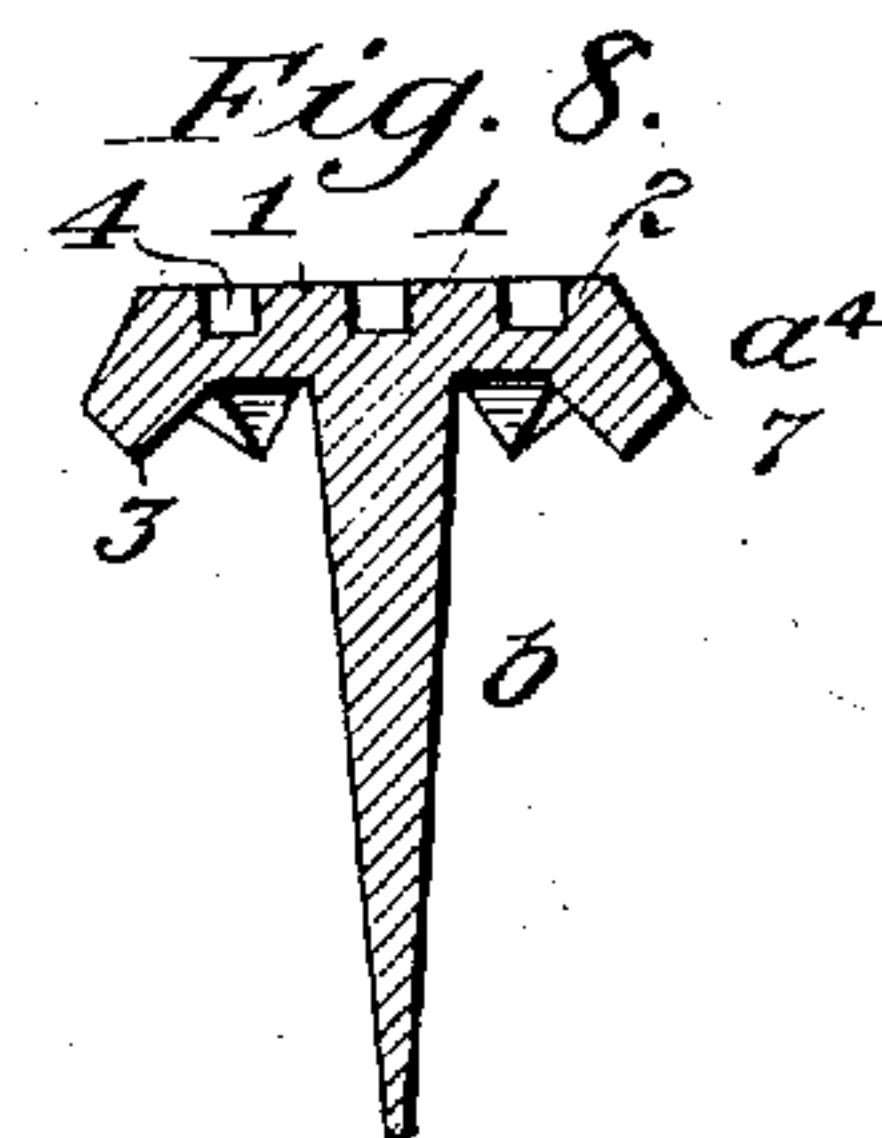
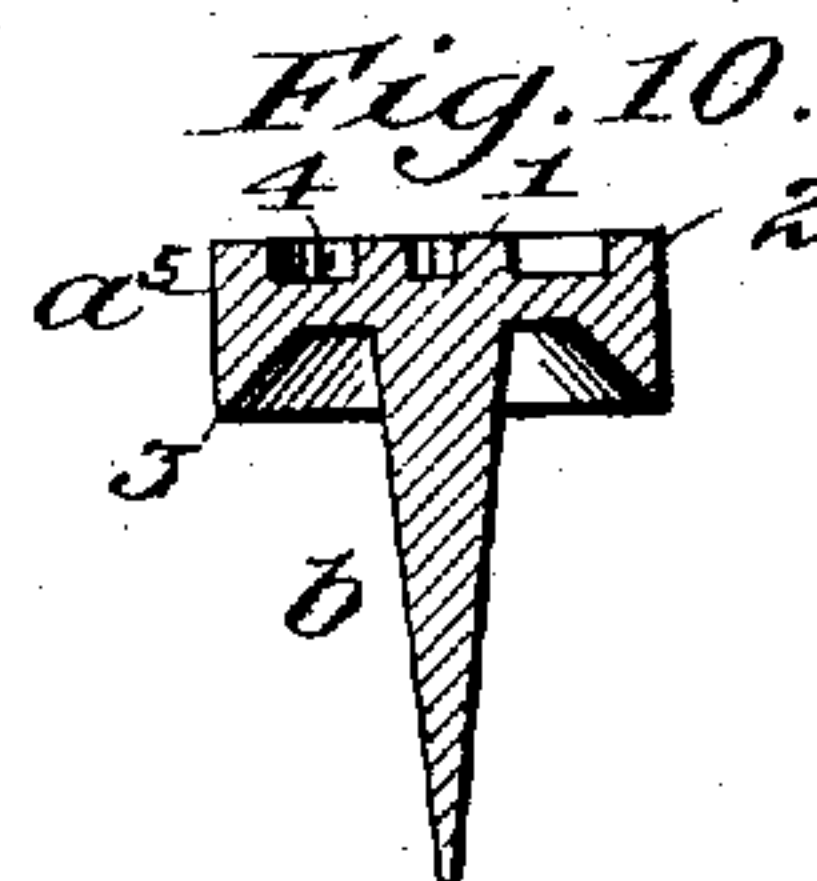
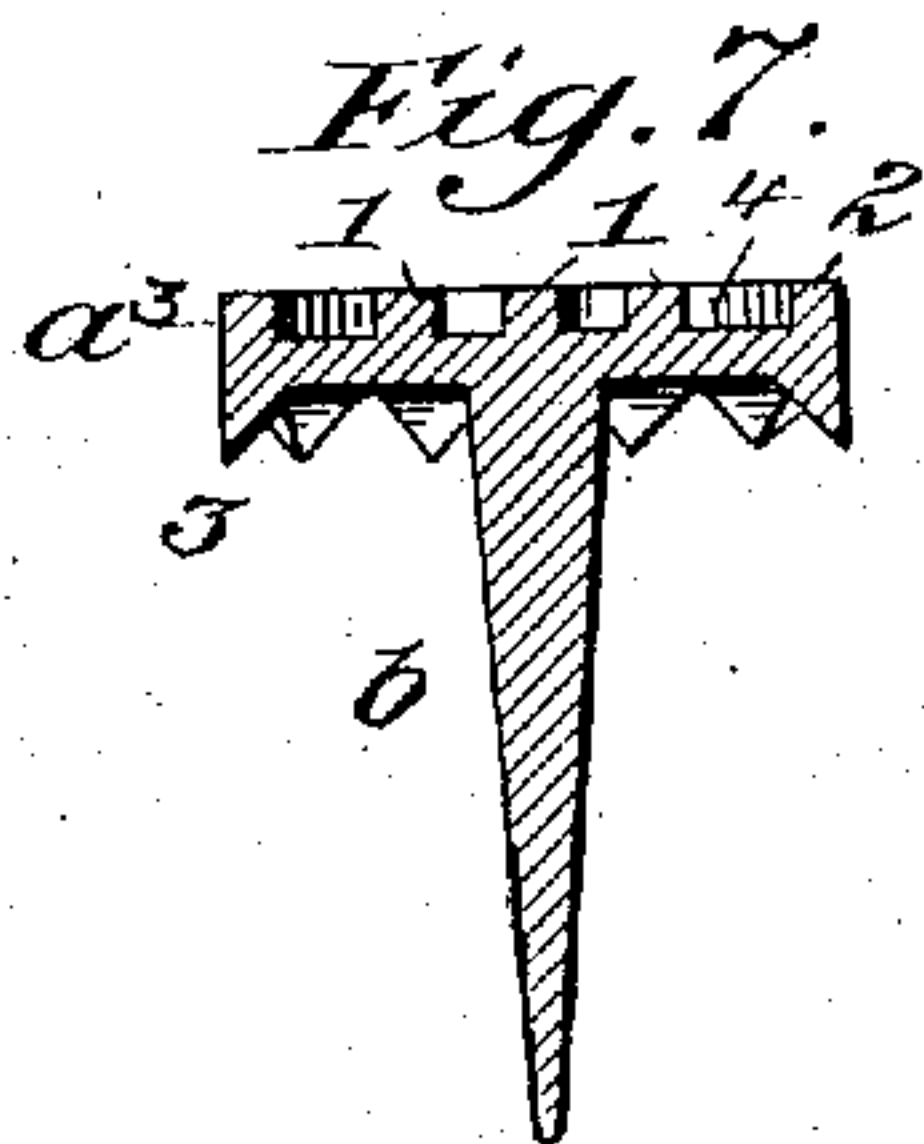
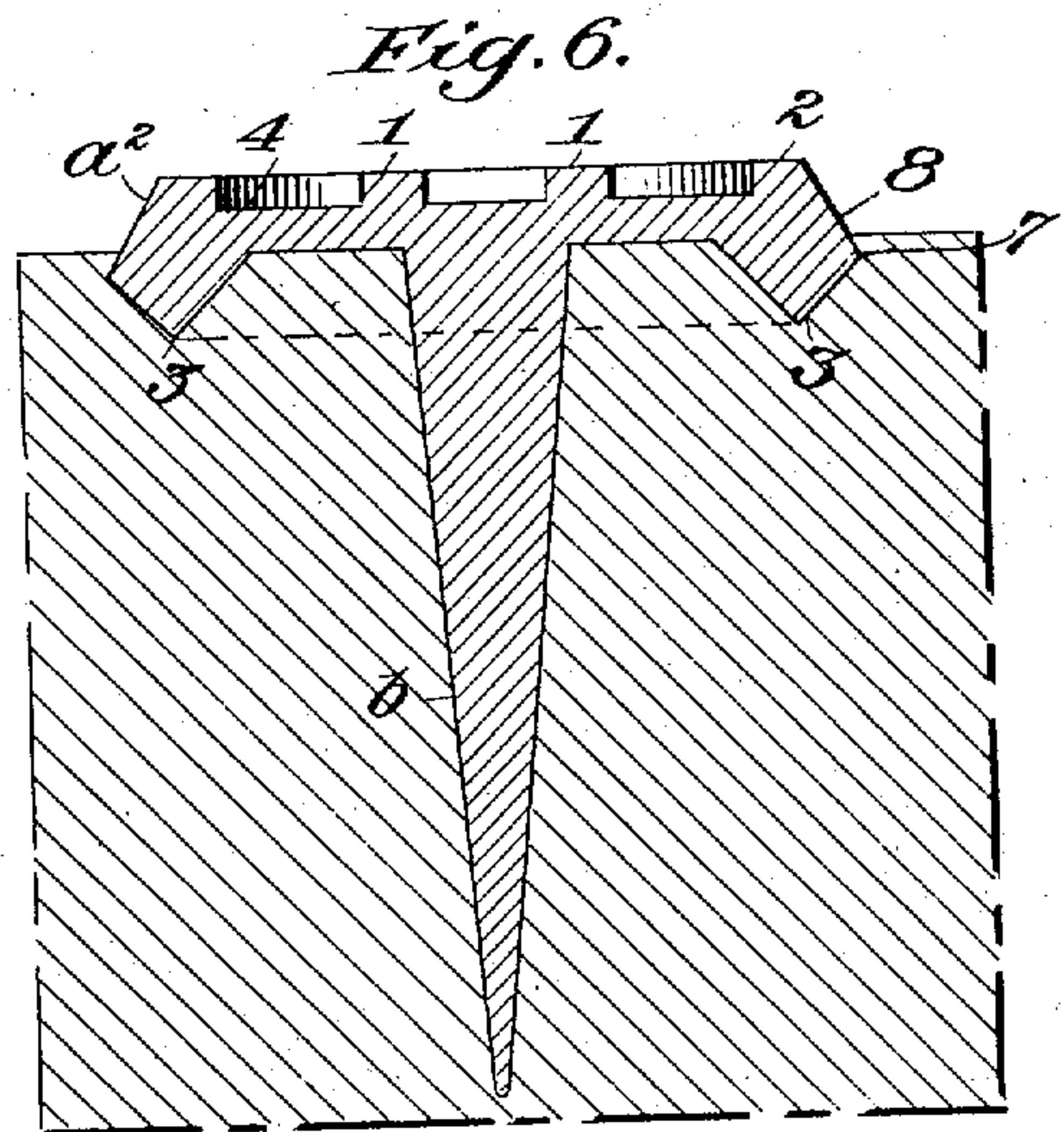
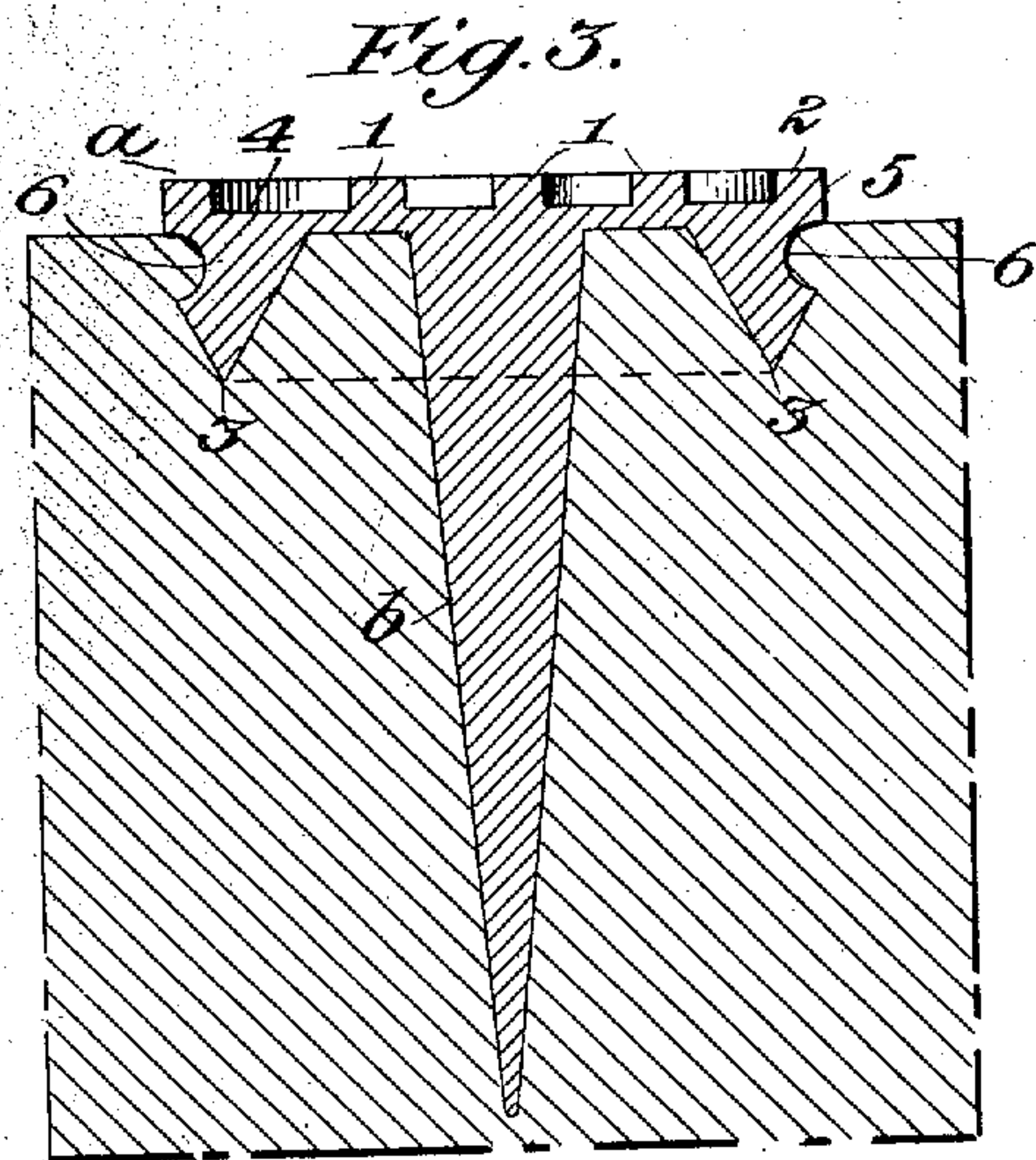
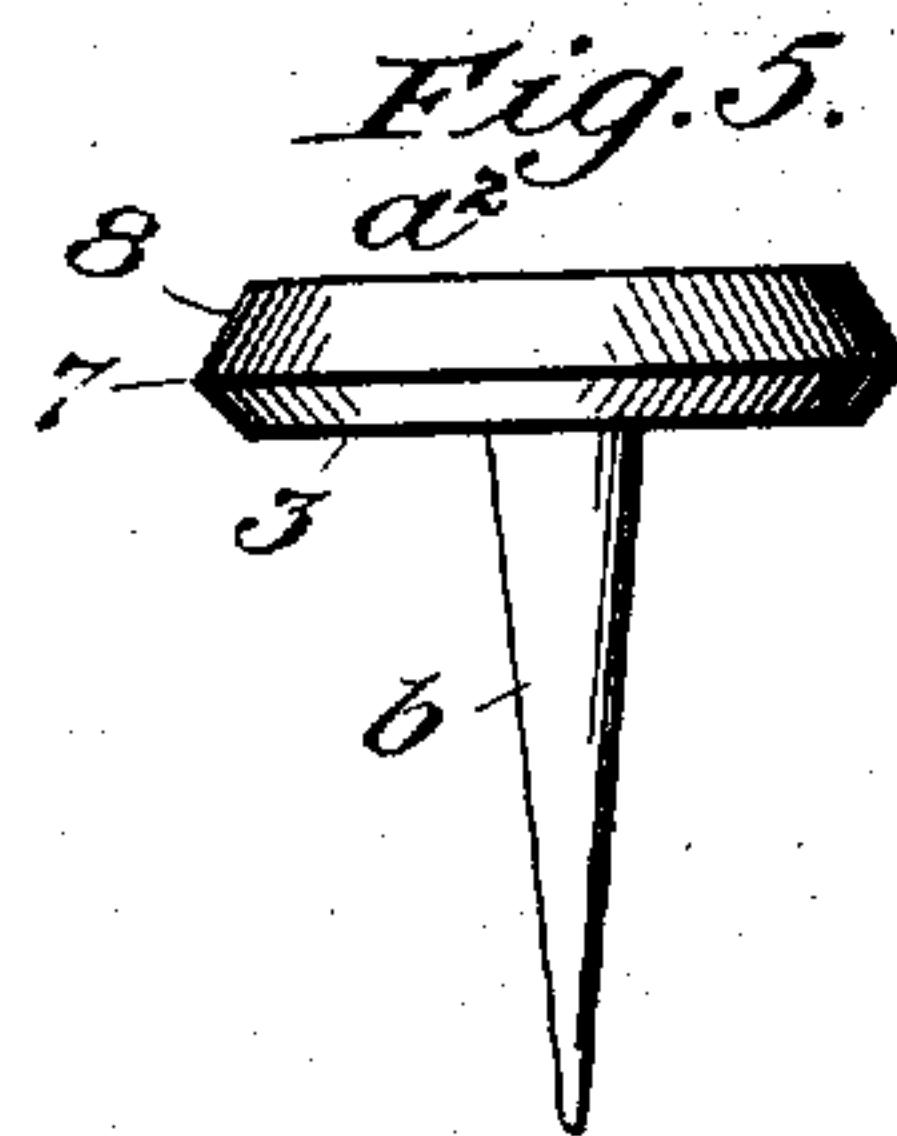
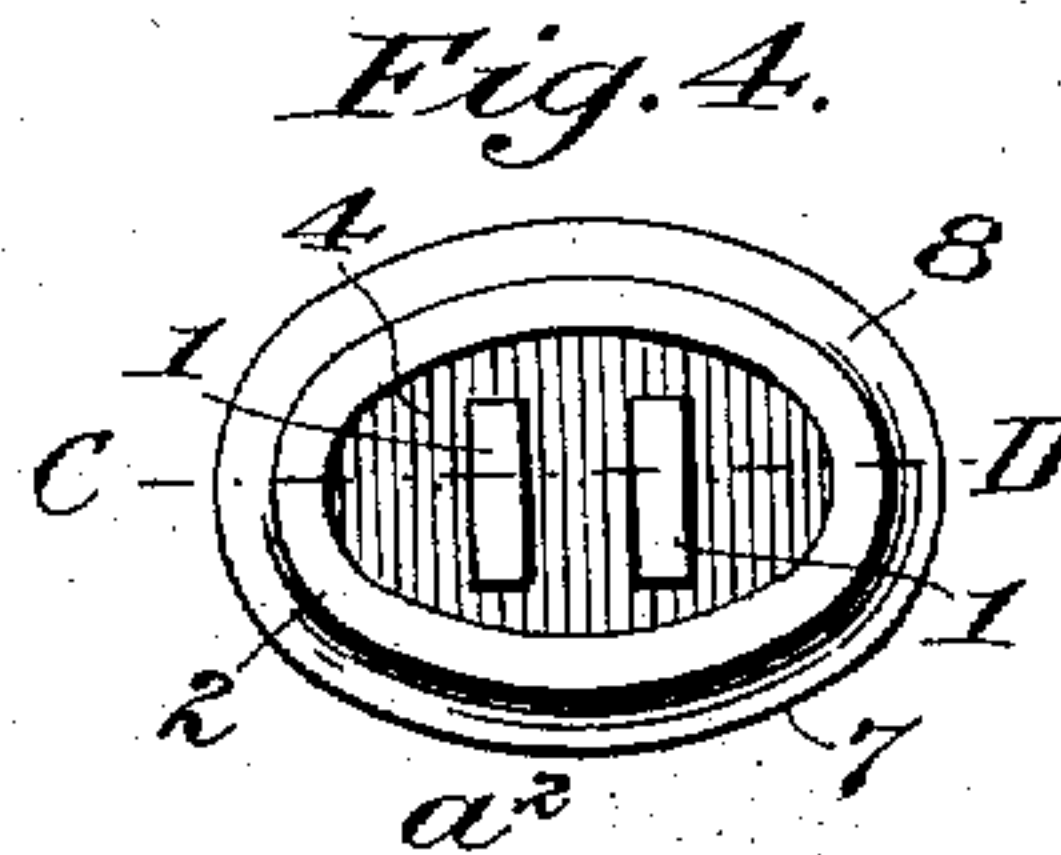
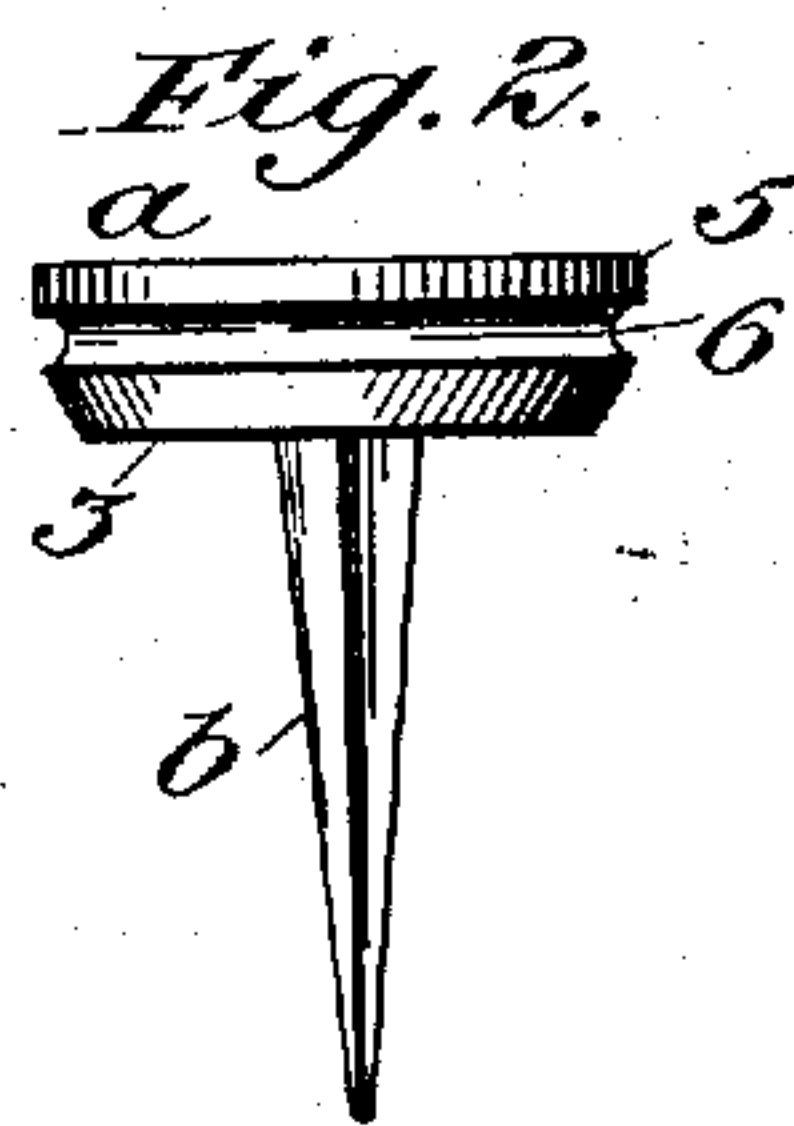
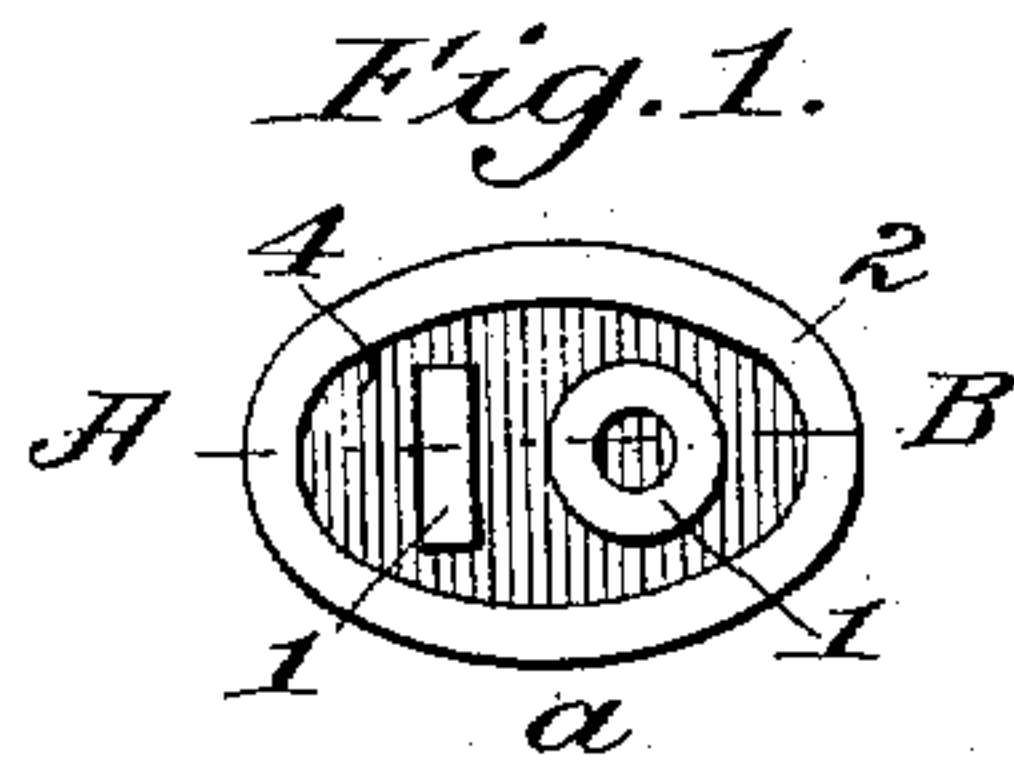


E. J. BROOKS.  
 DATING NAIL SEAL.  
 APPLICATION FILED OCT. 21, 1909.

954,924.

Patented Apr. 12, 1910.



Witnesses:

*Wm. E. Lamb.*

Inventor:

*Edward J. Brooks*  
 by his attorney  
*Wm. E. Lamb.*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD J. BROOKS, OF EAST ORANGE, NEW JERSEY.

## DATING NAIL-SEAL.

954,924.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Apr. 12, 1910.

Application filed October 21, 1908. Serial No. 528,911.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, EDWARD J. BROOKS, a citizen of the United States of America, and a resident of East Orange, in the State of New Jersey, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Dating Nail-Seals, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates preliminarily to means for indicating the age of railway cross-ties or sleepers, telegraph and telephone poles, or colliery prop wood, and for general use where like timbers are employed and renewals have to be made. For that purpose, a "date nail" or dating nail is driven into each sleeper or the like before it leaves the supply depot or yard, and is intended to be an inseparable and indestructible marker or seal thereof. Heretofore such dating nails have been ordinary nails having flat heads provided with raised characters which, owing to the irregular shapes of the characters, render it difficult to drive the nails home without defacing or bending them, and too liable to work loose or to be surreptitiously withdrawn to be reliable as permanent markers or seals.

The present invention consists in such dating nail seals, of improved construction, as hereinafter described and claimed.

The leading objects of this invention are to facilitate driving home the nail seals without bending or defacing them, and at the same time to securely anchor the nail seals in the resilient wood, so as to render it practically impossible for them to work loose or to be withdrawn without so marring the wood or metal or both as to show that they have been tampered with.

Other objects will be set forth in the general description which follows.

A sheet of drawings accompanies this specification as part thereof.

Figures 1 and 2 are respectively top and side views of a dating nail seal constructed according to the present invention; Fig. 3 represents a magnified section on the line A—B, Fig. 1, showing the nail seal as it appears when driven; Figs. 4 and 5 are top and side views of another dating nail seal constructed according to the same invention; Fig. 6 represents a section on the line C—D, Fig. 4, showing this nail seal as it appears when driven; Figs. 7 and 8 are longitudinal sections of additional species of the improved dating nail seal; and Figs. 9 and 10

are respectively a top view and longitudinal section of a lettered nail seal constructed according to the same invention in part.

Like reference characters refer to like parts in all the figures.

In each of the species the improved nail seal is composed of a flat-topped head,  $a$  or  $a^2$  or  $a^3$  or  $a^4$  or  $a^5$ , and a central prong,  $b$ , and is intended and adapted to be made in one part of galvanized iron or other suitable metal.

In each of the species the head  $a$  or  $a^2$  or  $a^3$  or  $a^4$  or  $a^5$  is provided with a number or its equivalent, which may conveniently be formed by two characters in place of the single central character heretofore used, so as to indicate any one of the years 1910-'10 to 1999 ('99) inclusive, such characters being located on opposite sides of the center of the head and prong, and the head is recessed to form such characters so that the latter may be surrounded by a flat top surface, rendering the driving surface of the head flat and substantially uniform from side to side. Such characters and top surface are shown respectively at 1 and 2 in the several figures. Another characteristic of the head  $a$  or  $a^2$  or  $a^3$  or  $a^4$  or  $a^5$ , in each species is a wood penetrating bottom edge, 3, formed by a downward projecting flange or its equivalent, underlying the flat rim of the head, and made sharp so as to readily cut its way into the wood when the nail seal is driven as in Figs. 3 and 6.

In each species the characters represented at 1 are raised within a depression, 4, and the top surface 2 is that of a rim or crown flange surrounding the dating characters and protecting them against defacement when the nail is driven, and at the same time facilitating the work of driving home the nail without bending it.

In the species represented by Figs. 1, 2, and 3, said bottom edge 3 is formed by a downward projecting flange V-shaped in vertical section and continuous, and the outer edge 5 of the head is perpendicular to said top surface 2 to about the driving level, and is provided immediately below this level with a circumferential groove 6, into which the resilient wood expands when the nail seal is driven home, as in Fig. 3, so as to securely lock the nail seal against working loose, and against being readily withdrawn.



In the second species, represented by Figs. 4, 5 and 6, a like wood-penetrating edge 3 is formed by an outward projecting flange substantially rectangular in cross section, with a salient angle at its bottom to form the bottom edge 3 and another salient angle, 7, outermost and below the level to which the head is adapted to be driven as represented in Fig. 6. The upper side or bevel, 8 of the flange is thus adapted to permit the expansion of the wood inward above said outer salient angle 7 as an equivalent of the circumferential groove 6 of the head  $a$  of the first species. Otherwise the nail seal  $a^2 b$  of the second species is or may be substantially identical with that of the first species.

In the third and fourth species represented by Figs. 7 and 8, wood-penetrating edges 3, formed by flanges which are respectively chisel-shaped and like those of said nail seal  $a^2 b$  of the second species, are divided into points or spurs to further facilitate driving the nail seals. Otherwise each of the nail seals represented by Figs. 9 and 10 respectively may be identical with that of said second species.

The modifications illustrated by Figs. 9 and 10 consist in substituting a single character which may be a letter instead of a numeral, within the recess 4 in the top of the head  $a^5$  of the nail seal  $a^5 b$ , and in making the head  $a^5$  round as compared with

the oval heads represented in the other figures.

The oval heads accommodate two characters without materially reducing their size in a nail seal of given weight, and the construction of the head as above described adapts the nail seals to be driven with such oval heads.

In each of the species, the numbering characters would be from 10 to 99 inclusive, which would adapt a single series of the nail seals for the remainder of the century.

Other shapes for the head of the improved nail seal, and other like modifications, will suggest themselves to those skilled in the art.

Having thus described said improvement, I claim as my invention and desire to patent under this specification:

1. A nail seal having a character-forming head constructed with a raised marginal rim forming a flat driving surface and protecting the characters against defacement.

2. A dating nail seal having a flat-topped head and drivable attaching means, said head being provided with raised characters surrounded by a raised rim, whereby a flat driving surface is formed and the characters are protected against defacement.

EDWARD J. BROOKS.

Witnesses:

ELLEN J. BROOKS,  
ELINOR BROOKS.