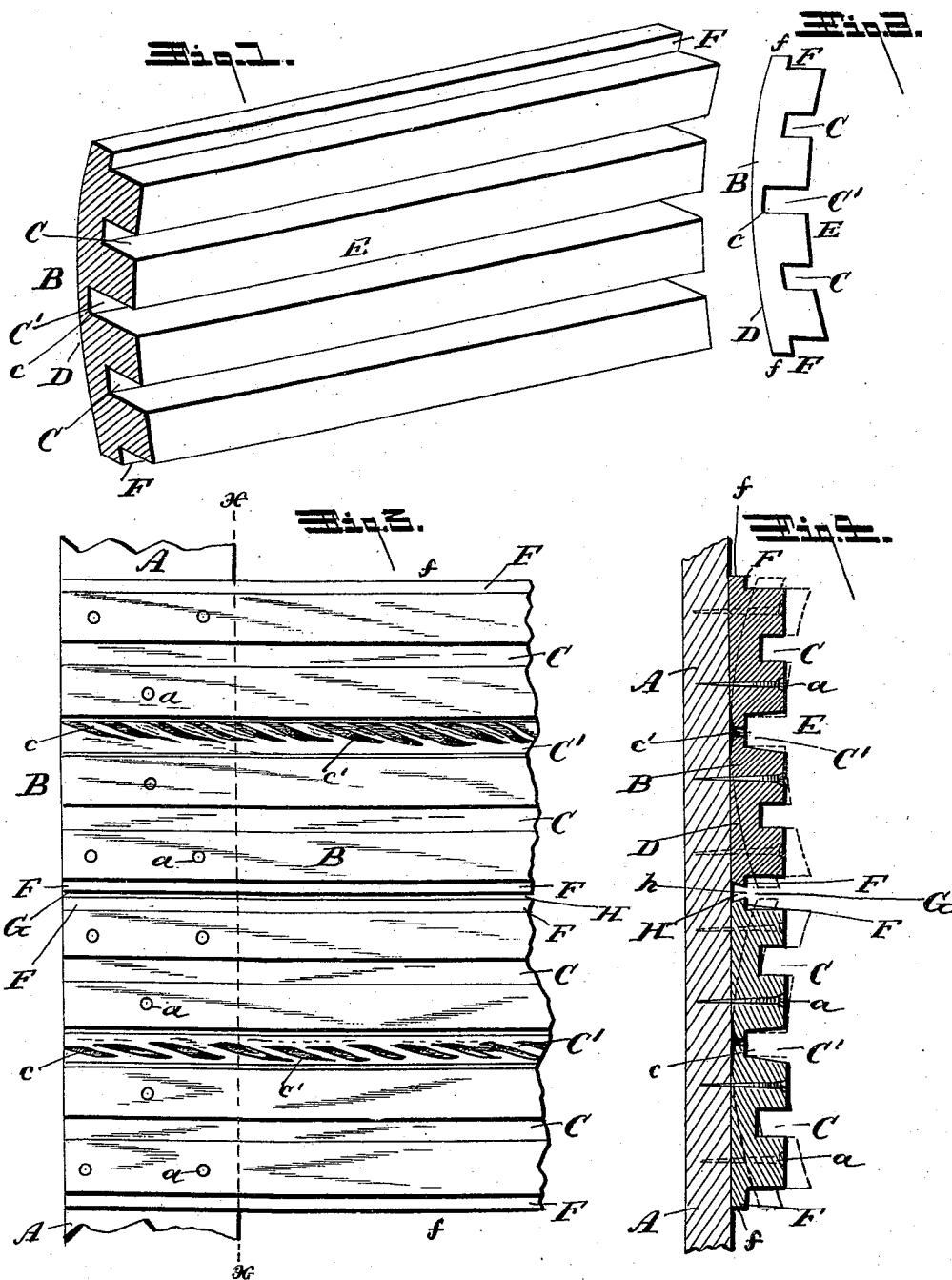


(No Model.)

A. BALDWIN.
SHEATHING LATH.

No. 501,397.

Patented July 11, 1893.



WITNESSES:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ANDREW BALDWIN, OF VIROQUA, WISCONSIN.

SHEATHING-LATH.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 501,397, dated July 11, 1893.

Application filed April 3, 1893. Serial No. 468,879. (No specimens.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ANDREW BALDWIN, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Viroqua, in the county of Vernon and State of Wisconsin, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Sheathing-Laths; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a piece of my improved sheathing lath, ready to be nailed onto the studding. Fig. 2 is a side view of the same. Fig. 3 is a front or face view of the lath as it appears after nailing on the studding; and Fig. 4 is a vertical sectional view of the studding or backing and the lath nailed thereon, on line $x-x$ in Fig. 3; the dotted lines showing the position of the lath before bending it into shape and fastening it upon the studding.

Like letters of reference denote corresponding parts in all the figures.

This invention relates to wooden sheathing-laths for nailing onto the studding to hold the plastering in in-door work, of that type which consists of longitudinally grooved wooden strips adapted to hold the plaster in the grooves; and my improvement consists in cutting the lath strips with a concave face and convex back and grooving in a peculiar manner, as and for the purpose which will be hereinafter more fully described and claimed.

Referring to the drawings, the letter A denotes the studding or backing and B the body-strip of my improved wooden sheathing lath. This consists of a strip of pine or other suitable wood, of any desired length and width, which is grooved longitudinally on one side, the grooves or channels, C C, running parallel to one another from end to end. These strips are cut or sawed by suitable machinery so that the back, D, will be convex or rounded, corresponding to the concavity or hollowing of the grooved front side, E; and the middle groove or channel, C', is cut deeper than the rest, so as to extend into the wood below the same, as clearly shown at c. At the upper and under side of each piece of grooved lath

are tongues or rabbets, F F, which, in nailing the lath upon the studding, approach but do not touch corresponding rabbets on the adjacent pieces of lath, so as to form grooves or channels G between the pieces of lath corresponding in depth and width to the parallel integral channels C' C', but having deeper sub-grooves H. It is important that the grooves C C and C' should run at a slight angle to the grain of the wood from which the lath is cut; *i.e.*, not exactly parallel to or with the grain, but deflecting slightly therefrom, for the purpose hereinafter stated.

To use this lath, it is nailed upon a proper backing or studding, A, by nails, a, inserted through the ribs formed by and between the parallel grooves or channels C. In this process of nailing the convex strips of lath upon the straight face of the studding, it is necessarily bent backward at both edges, which results in the cracking or splitting of the wood at its thinnest part offering least resistance, viz: at the bottom c of the deep middle groove C'. Now, if this groove were cut in alignment with or parallel to the grain or fiber of the wood, the lath would split through at this point; but the grooves being cut at a sharp angle, that is, deflecting a little from the line or direction of the grain, the strip of lath will not break entirely through, but merely crack at the bottom of the deep groove C', so as to form slanting fissures, shown at c' in Figs. 3 and 4, which overlap one another endwise and form narrow recesses, or rather sub-recesses, which are filled with plaster during the subsequent process of plastering the lath, and thus co-operate with the grooves C and C' to hold the plastering firmly upon the lath and prevent it from falling or scaling off. Another result of this straightening out of the convex lath upon the studding is the formation of longitudinal dovetailed recesses H in the bottom of the grooves G formed by the parallel meeting edges of the tongues or rabbets F, F, of adjacent pieces of lath. These rabbets being cut with straight or square edges f in the process of bending back or straightening out the lath, the opposite parallel edges f' f' of contiguous pieces of lath will be slanted inwardly so as to form, between adjacent sections or pieces of lath, the dovetailed channels or sub-recesses H, shown in

Fig. 4; a narrow open space, *h*, being left between the adjacent strips of lath for this purpose, instead of bringing the pieces up close together. These dovetailed channels *H* co-
5 operate with the fissures *c'* and grooves *C* and *C'* to retain the plastering firmly in place.

From the foregoing, it will be observed that my improved sheathing lath can be made with little or no waste; that it does not require
10 special or complicated machinery for its manufacture; and that it possesses advantages as a "holder" or "binder" for the plaster not found in the ordinary lath.

Having thus described my invention, I
15 claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States—

As an improved article of manufacture, the herein described concavo-convex sheathing-lath of wood, having parallel shallow grooves *C* and a deeper middle groove *C'*, and lateral
20 rabbets *F F'*, said grooves and rabbets being cut at an angle deflecting slightly from the longitudinal grain or fiber of the wood; substantially as and for the purpose shown and
25 set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereunto affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

ANDREW BALDWIN.

Witnesses:

O. B. WYMAN,
W. P. LINDEMANN.