

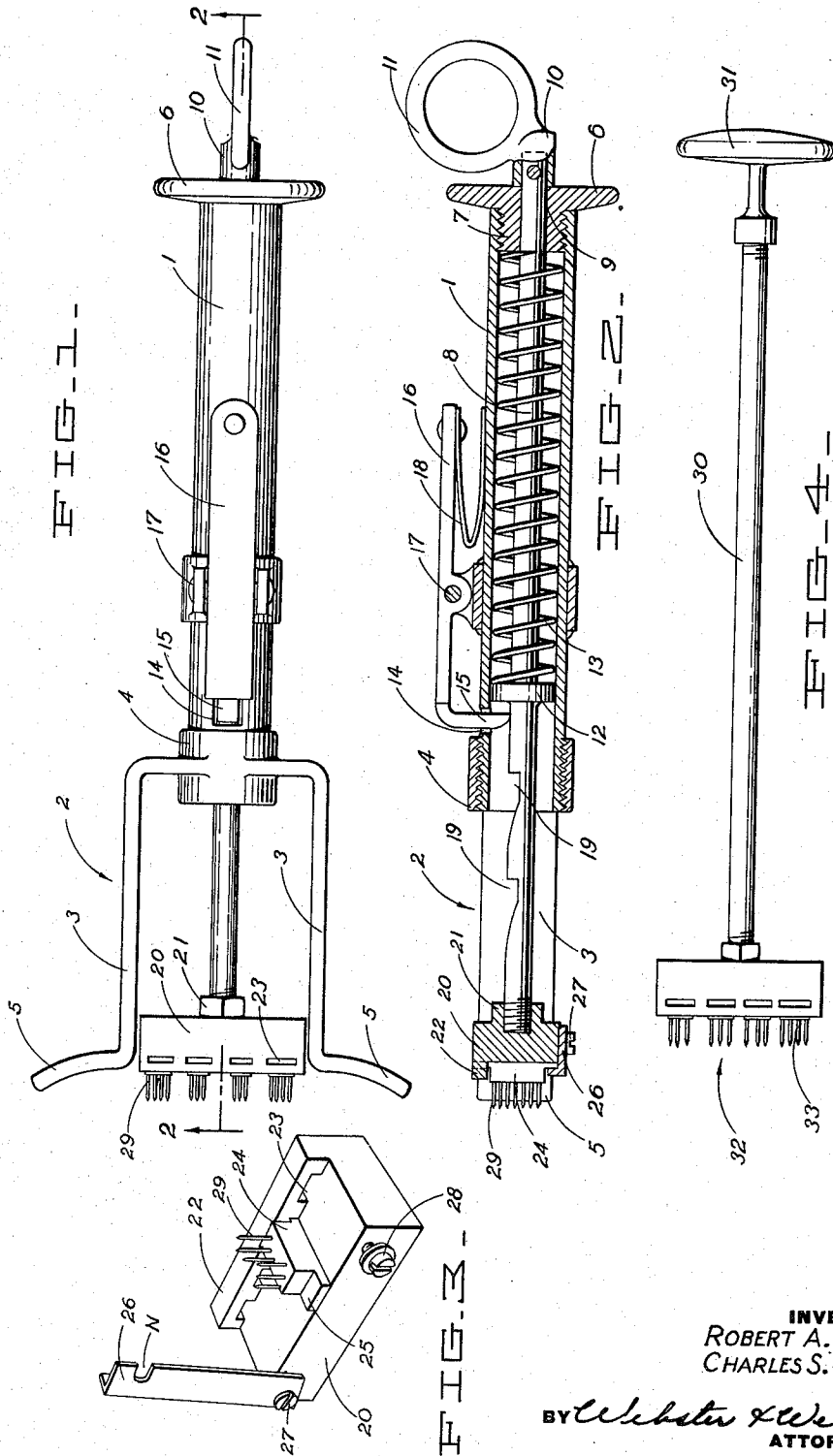
April 15, 1952

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2,593,110

NOSE TATTOOING DEVICE FOR CATTLE

Filed Oct. 30, 1950



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2,593,110

NOSE TATTOOING DEVICE FOR CATTLE

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Application October 30, 1950, Serial No. 192,958

3 Claims. (Cl. 128—329)

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The present invention relates in general to a device for marking cattle for the purpose of identification.

The common method of identifying cattle within a herd is the ear tattoo, which is not only difficult to apply, but often produces imperfect markings. Further, the ear tattoo requires complete restraint of the animal and close inspection of the ear in order for the tattoo to be read.

The instant invention is directed in particular to, and it is a major object to provide, a novel device adapted to tattoo a predetermined identification mark into the nose of cattle; the nose tattoo being easily read at a glance at any subsequent date without confinement or restraint of the animal.

A further object of the invention is to provide a nose tattooing device for cattle which is easy to use, quick and positive in operation, and permanently marks the nose as an identification which may be used in lieu of the conventional ear tattoo.

An additional object of the invention is to provide a nose tattooing device for cattle which is arranged for ready substitution of the indicia blocks included in the device.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a nose tattooing device for cattle which is designed for ease and economy of manufacture.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a practical and reliable nose tattooing device for cattle, and yet one which will be exceedingly effective for the purpose for which it is designed.

These objects are accomplished by means of such structure and relative arrangement of parts as will fully appear by a perusal of the following specification and claims.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a top plan view of the device.

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional elevation of the device.

Fig. 3 is a detached, perspective view of the cross head which supports the indicia blocks; the swinging lock-up bar being in open position, and one indicia block being shown in place.

Fig. 4 is a top plan view of a modification.

Referring now more particularly to the characters of reference on the drawings, and at present to Figs. 1-3, inclusive, the novel, nose tattooing device for cattle comprises an elongated barrel 1, fitted at its front end with a forwardly projecting, U-shaped yoke 2 which includes parallel legs 3; the yoke being mounted, at its rear end, by means of an integral collar 4, to the front end of the barrel 1.

At their free ends the legs 3 of the yoke 2 each include laterally outwardly projecting, forwardly curved locator wings 5.

At its rear end the barrel 1 is fitted with an

enlarged circular hand pad or stop 6, which includes an integral hub or plug 7 threaded into the barrel.

An elongated plunger rod 8 extends through the barrel 1 and projects beyond both ends thereof, being slidably engaged in a bore 9 through the hand pad 6 and plug 7. Outwardly of said hand pad 6 the plunger rod 8 is secured in the hub 10 of a pull-back ring 11 adapted for finger engagement.

Some distance short of the front end of the barrel 1, the plunger rod 8 is formed with a circular guide head 12 which runs in said barrel; there being a relatively heavy-duty helical compression spring 13 disposed in the barrel 1 between the plug 7 and circular guide head 12, normally urging said head, together with the plunger rod 8, in a forward direction.

Ahead of the point of greatest advance of the circular guide head 12, the elongated barrel 1 is formed, on top, with an opening 14, and a catch finger 15 depends through said opening and rides the plunger rod. The catch finger 15 is a laterally inwardly projecting portion of a longitudinal trigger arm 16 which extends lengthwise of the barrel 1 on top thereof.

Intermediate its ends the longitudinal trigger arm 16 is transversely pivoted in connection with the barrel 1, as at 17. A leaf spring 18 engages between the barrel 1 and the rear end portion of the longitudinal trigger arm 16, normally urging the same in a direction which projects the catch finger 15 inwardly into engagement with the plunger rod 8.

Ahead of the circular guide head 12 the plunger rod 8 is formed with a series of longitudinally spaced notches 19 whereby when the said plunger rod is retracted by the pull-back ring 11 against the spring 13 to load the device, the catch finger 15 snaps into one of such notches 19 and maintains the plunger rod in a cocked position rearwardly for forceful advance by said spring.

A rectangular cross head 20 is disposed between the legs 3 of yoke 2 and close thereto as shown in Fig. 1 for to and fro guided motion lengthwise axially of the device; such cross head 20 including a central integral nut 21 at the back into which the front end of the plunger rod 8 is threaded.

A relatively narrow shoulder 22 projects forwardly from one transverse edge portion of the cross head 20, and said shoulder is formed with a plurality of slots 23 extending therethrough, with the bottom of the slots flush with the outer face of the cross head 20.

A plurality of indicia blocks 24 rest against the face of the cross head 20 in side by side relation, and such indicia blocks include tongues 25 at opposite ends. The tongues at one end seat in the

slots 23, while the tongues at the other end are locked against the cross head by a swinging lock-up bar 26 of right-angle configuration in cross section. Said swinging lock-up bar 26 is pivoted at one end, as at 27, for swinging motion between an open position, as in Fig. 3, to a closed position, as in Fig. 2; said bar, in the latter position, being releasably secured in place by a securing screw 28 which is then straddled by a notch N in the bar adjacent the end opposite the pivot 27.

The indicia blocks 24 each include a plurality of fixed, forwardly projecting tattoo needles 29 arranged in predetermined pattern reflecting the mark or brand of the user.

In use of the above described device, the tattoo needles 29 are first immersed in a tattooing fluid, and then the plunger rod 9 is cocked in the manner previously described, which cocking retracts the cross head 20 to a position some distance rearwardly in the yoke 2.

Thereafter, the yoke 2 is engaged with the nose of the animal; the locator wings 5 facilitating the operation.

Immediately upon the device being located, the trigger arm 16 is depressed at its rearward end, retracting the catch finger 15, whereupon the plunger rod 8 and cross head 20 rapidly and forcefully advance, penetrating the tattoo needles 29 into the nose of the animal, imparting a most effective tattoo mark on such nose.

When it is desired to apply a different mark it is only necessary to release the swing bar 26 and substitute new indicia blocks 24 after the previously used ones have been removed from the cross head.

In Fig. 4 we illustrate a simplified embodiment of the invention.

Here the device comprises a plunger rod 30 having a hand engaging pad 31 fixed to its rear end. At its front end the plunger rod 30 is fitted with a cross head type tattooing unit, indicated generally at 32, and which unit is of exactly the same construction as described in detail in connection with the embodiment of Figs. 1-3, inclusive.

In use of the simplified embodiment of the device, the plunger rod 30 is merely gripped in the hand; the tattooing unit 32 is then placed close to the animal's nose; and lastly a forceful manual blow is imparted to the pad 31, which drives the tattoo needles 33 into the animal's nose to apply the tattoo mark.

From the foregoing description it will be readily seen that there has been produced such a device as substantially fulfills the objects of the invention, as set forth herein.

While this specification sets forth in detail the present and preferred construction of the device, still in practice such deviations from such detail may be resorted to as do not form a departure from the spirit of the invention, as defined by the appended claims.

Having thus described the invention, the following is claimed as new and useful, and upon which Letters Patent are desired:

1. A device for applying a tattoo identification mark to an animal, comprising a plunger rod adapted to be forcefully advanced, a head on the front end of the rod, a plurality of side by side indicia blocks removably secured to the face of the block, and tattoo needles projecting forwardly from said blocks in a pattern defining a predetermined indicia; the head including a shoulder projecting forward from one edge, the shoulder having spaced slots in positions corresponding to those occupied by the blocks on the heads, tongues projecting from opposite ends of the blocks, the tongues at one end engaging in the slots, and a releasable hold-down bar mounted on the block and normally engaging the tongues at the other end of the blocks.

2. A device for applying a tattoo identification mark to an animal, comprising an elongated barrel, a plunger rod extending in guided relation through the barrel, a stop fixed in the rear portion of the barrel, the rod sliding through the stop, a stop on the rod some distance ahead of the rear portion of the barrel, a helical compression spring in the barrel about the rod between said stops, manually releasable catch means cooperating with the rod to hold the latter retracted in cocked position, a tattooing unit on the front end of the rod ahead of the barrel, and a forwardly opening yoke having parallel legs on and projecting from the front end of the barrel; the tattooing unit including a cross head disposed to run in guided relation between opposite legs of said yoke.

3. A device for applying a tattoo identification mark to an animal, comprising an elongated barrel, a plunger rod extending in guided relation through the barrel, a stop in the rear portion of the barrel, the rod sliding through the stop, a stop on the rod some distance ahead of the rear portion of the barrel, a helical compression spring in the barrel about the rod between said stops, manually releasable catch means cooperating with the rod to hold the latter retracted in cocked position, a tattooing unit on the front end of the rod ahead of the barrel, and a forwardly opening yoke on and projecting from the front end of the barrel; said yoke including legs having laterally outwardly projecting locator members on their free ends.

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