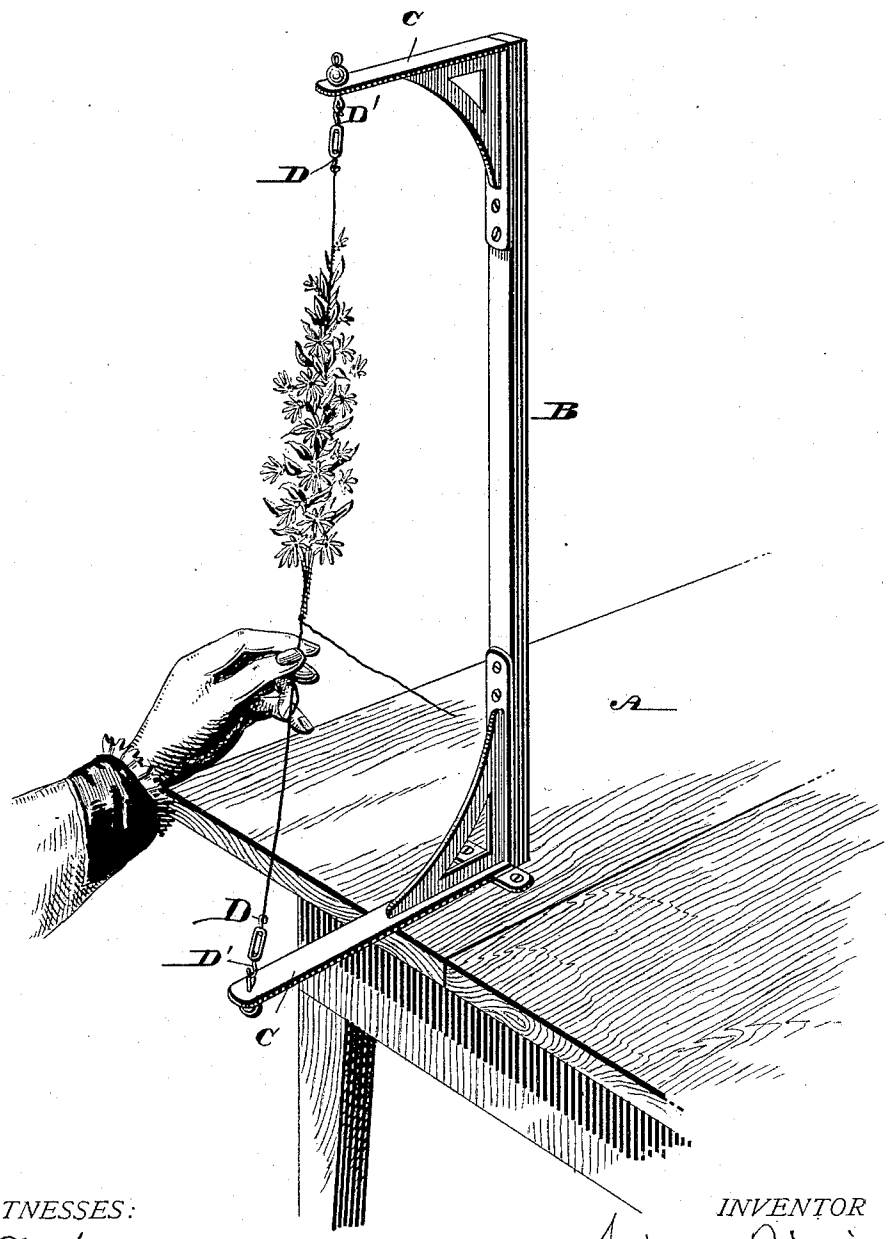
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I. BIRGÉ.

APPARATUS FOR BRANCHING ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS, &c.

No. 418,489. Patented Dec. 31, 1889.

Fig. 1.



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Theo. Rollé.

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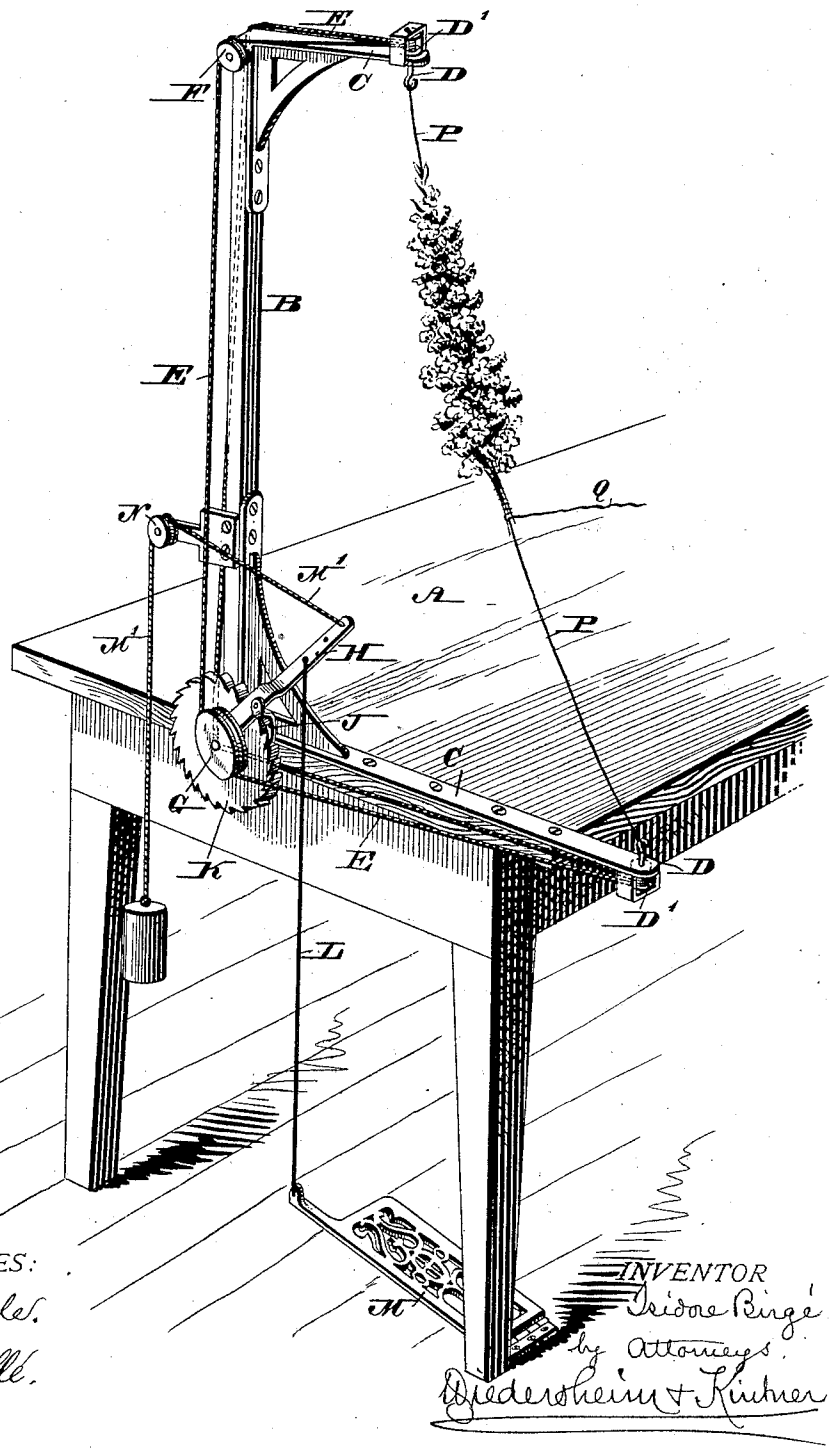
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No. 418,489. Patented Dec. 31, 1889.

Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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APPARATUS FOR BRANCHING ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS, &c.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 418,489, dated December 31, 1889.

Application filed March 9, 1889. Serial No. 302,682. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ISIDORE BIRGÉ, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city and county of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Apparatus for Branching Artificial Flowers and Trimmings, which improvement is fully set forth in the following specification and accompanying drawings.

My invention consists of an apparatus for branching artificial flowers and trimmings, the same embodying a frame or bars having at one or both ends swivels or hooks to which the foundation of the branch of flowers or trimmings are connected. By these means the apparatus may be operated by hand or power, the branching conveniently accomplished in a perpendicular or approximately perpendicular direction of the work, the spray may be equally balanced and injurious handling of the same obviated, a larger per cent. of work being accomplished, and the work is neater and cleaner than heretofore.

The figures represent perspective views of an apparatus for branching artificial flowers and trimmings embodying my invention.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the drawings.

Referring to the drawings, A designates a table to which is connected a standard or post B, from whose upper and lower ends project the horizontal arms C, forming together an upright frame.

D designates rotatable hooks, which are connected by swivels B′ to the arms C, so as to be capable of rotation, the latter being accomplished by hand, as in Figure 1, and by power, as in Fig. 2. In Fig. 2 the shanks of the hooks have connected with them the pulleys D′, around which passes an endless belt or band E, the latter also passing around guide-pulleys F G, in lieu of which suitable gearing may be employed. Freely mounted on the shaft of the pulley G is an arm H, which carries a pawl J, the latter engaging with a ratchet K, secured to the shaft of said pulley G. Connected with the arm H is a rod, cord, or chain L, to which is attached the foot-treadle M, and also connected with said arm is a weighted cord M′, which passes around a guide-pulley N, mounted on the frame B C, said weighted cord having for its object the return of the arm H, and consequently the pawl J, to its normal position, it being seen that when the treadle is depressed the arm H is advanced, whereby the pawl J, engaging with one of the teeth of the ratchet K, rotates said ratchet, so that motion is imparted to the belt E, the effect of which is the rotation of the pulleys D′, and consequently of the hooks D. When the treadle is allowed to rise, the pawl is carried back over the teeth of the ratchet, so as to take fresh hold of the latter preparatory to the next motion of the treadle. If desired, a treadle and wheel may be employed for making a complete revolution in lieu of the intermitting motion of the ratchet. The cord, wire, tubing, chenille, or other foundation P of the branch or spray of flowers or trimmings is connected with the hooks D, and the flowers, leaves, &c., are successively applied to said foundation, and as applied they are secured in position by the fastening cord, strip, or wire Q, it being seen that as the foundation P is rotated the wire, &c., is wound or twisted around the stems of the flowers, &c., and said foundation, whereby the work of forming a branch or spray of flowers is expeditiously and easily accomplished, avoiding tiring of the fingers or hands, it being evident that as the work progresses the branch or spray is equally balanced and injurious handling of the same is avoided.

It is evident that the apparatus is applicable to the manufacture of long and short branches and sprays of flowers, piquets, seed, or tassels, fringes, trimmings, fruit, &c.

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

1. An apparatus for branching artificial flowers, consisting of a standard having arms at the ends thereof, and rotatable hooks connected with said arms by means of swivels, the latter being attached to said hooks and mounted in said arms, said parts being combined substantially as described.

2. An apparatus for branching artificial flowers, consisting of a standard with arms at the ends thereof, swivels mounted in said arms, hooks attached to said swivels, pulleys

connected with said swivels, and an endless belt passing around said pulleys, said parts being combined substantially as described.

3. An apparatus for branching artificial flowers, consisting of a standard with arms C C at upper and lower ends thereof, the connected hooks D, swiveled in said arms, the pulleys D′ on said hooks, guide-pulleys F and G, the endless belt E, the ratchet-wheel K and arm H on the shaft of the pulley G, the pulley N, the weighted cord M′, secured to said arm H, and the rod L, with treadle M, said parts being combined substantially as described.

ISIDORE BIRGÉ.

Witnesses:
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