(No Model.)

J. S. HOLMES.

ENVELOPE CUTTER.

No. 388,872. Patented Sept. 4, 1888.

Fig. 1

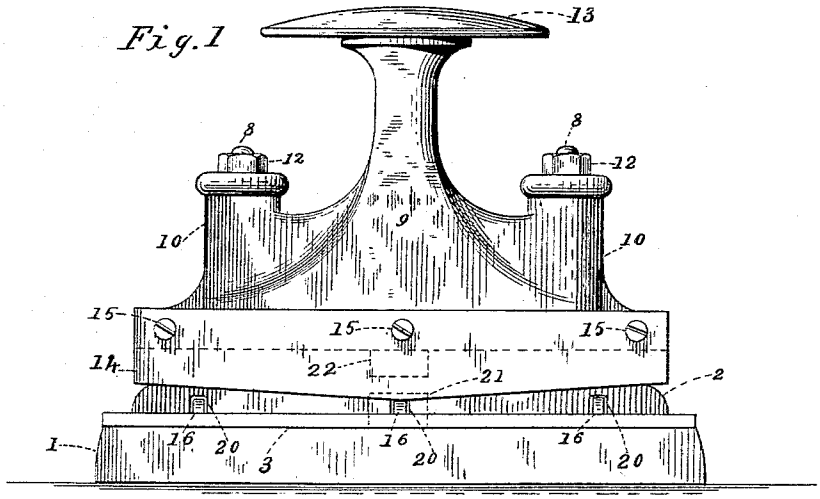


Fig. 3

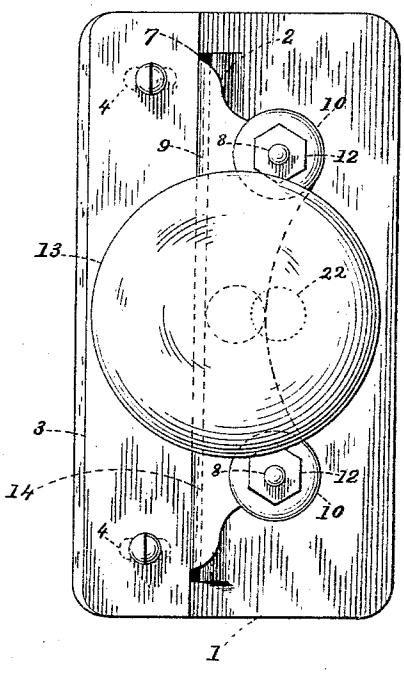
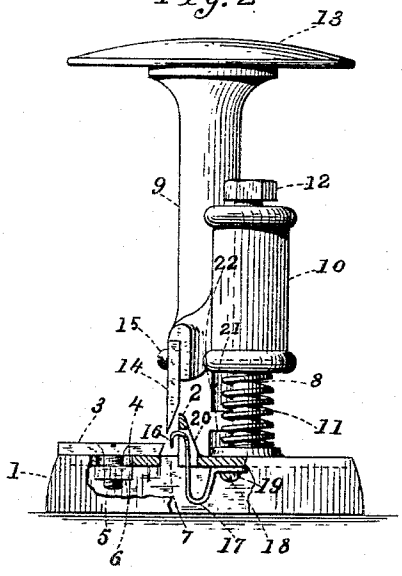


Fig. 2



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES S. HOLMES, OF BUFFALO, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR TO FRANK ARMSTRONG, OF BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT.

ENVELOPE-CUTTER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 388,872, dated September 4, 1888.

Application filed March 16, 1888. Serial No. 267,312. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES S. HOLMES, a citizen of the United States, residing in Buffalo, in the county of Erie and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Envelope Cutters, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to devices for cutting the edges of envelopes, or for opening letters or other like purposes, and will be fully and clearly hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a front elevation. Fig. 2 is a side elevation showing a portion broken away, so as to expose one of the springs back of the vertically-movable cutter and the fastening for the adjustable lower stationary cutter; and Fig. 3 is a top plan view.

The base 1 is provided with a stationary gage-piece, 2, formed in one piece with it, and the whole is preferably made of cast-iron, although any other suitable material may be used. At the front of the base 1 is a stationary horizontally-adjustable cutter, 3, made adjustable either forward or back by means of the slotted holes 4 in the base, (shown in section in Fig. 2, and by dotted lines 4 in Fig. 3,) and the bolt 5 and nut 6. (Shown in Fig. 2.) At the front of the base 1 is a long narrow slot or opening, 7. (See Figs. 2 and 3.)

On the back portion of the base 1 are rigidly secured two uprights or vertical bars, 8, upon which is mounted the vertically-movable upper portion, 9, by means of its two sleeve portions, 10, which are made to slip over the uprights 8 and are fitted nicely thereon, so as to move easily up or down on them without any perceptible side movement.

At the bottom of the sleeves 10, and surrounding the uprights, are spiral springs 11, one on each upright. The sleeves 10 and portion 9, forming a part thereof, rest upon the springs 11, so as to be supported and held in their highest position, which is limited by the nuts 12, secured at the top of the uprights. The portion 9 is provided at the top with a knob or button, 13, and on its lower end or side with a knife or cutter, 14, rigidly secured thereto by screws 15. A series of springs, each having a hook-shaped upper end, 16, and a bend, 17, having a horizontal portion, 18, are secured to the under side of the base by means of screws 19. (See Fig. 2.) The upper ends of these springs are also shown in Fig. 1. They project up into the openings 20, extending from the under side of the base up into the stationary gage-piece 2, so as to leave room for them to act. Their object is to provide a gage against which the edge of an envelope or other article is placed preparatory to cutting off a thin strip, and to catch against the back of the cutter 14 and hold its cutting-edge up to the edge of the horizontal cutter 3, and thereby insure a clean smooth cut.

About the center of the device, at the back, is a rubber block, 21, (shown in Fig. 2, and by dotted lines in Figs. 1 and 3,) secured in a recess in the usual way in the base 1, and in the upper portion, 9, is another similar piece of rubber, 22, secured thereto in the ordinary way. Their object is to overcome the effect of the blow when the cutter 14 is forced down by a blow from the hand while in the act of cutting.

The uprights 8 may be turned up with solid heads instead of the nuts 12, and then riveted to the base-plate, if desired.

In operating with this device an envelope (or other article to have a thin strip cut from the edge) is slipped under the cutter 14 while in the position shown in Fig. 1 until its edge comes against the portion 16 of the springs in the openings 20, and a blow is struck with the hand on the knob 13, which forces the cutter down and cuts off the strip. The springs 11 then bring the cutter back again to its normal position, as shown in Fig. 1. As the cutter comes down it strikes the spring portions 16, and is thereby held up to the knife 3, so as to produce a smooth cut. It will be noticed that the cutter 14 is pointed in the center and inclines upward both ways, so as to give a sliding cut.

If desired, the upper portion, 22, may be a lug of metal projecting out from the back of the vertically-movable part 9 and located so as to strike on the lower rubber portion, 21, on the base for the purposes above mentioned.

I claim as my invention—

1. An envelope-cutter consisting of the base provided with a horizontal knife, a gage against

which the article to be cut is placed, and two vertical bars provided with springs, upon which is mounted an upper vertically-movable portion carrying a cutting-knife, and a knob by which it is operated, substantially as described.

2. In an envelope-cutter, the combination of the base provided with a stationary cutter, two vertical bars having spiral springs, a movable portion mounted thereon carrying a knife and knob for operating it, and a series of spring-gages against which the envelope is set to be cut, substantially as and for the purposes described.

3. An envelope-cutter consisting of a base provided with a horizontal stationary knife, two vertical bars, each having a spiral spring, in combination with an upper vertically-movable portion carrying a cutter and knob for operating it, the whole mounted on the vertical bars so as to rest on said springs, and a spring-gage secured to the under side of the base, consisting of a series of springs projecting up through the base and presenting a portion against which the envelopes to be cut are set, which springs act as a gage and for holding the movable cutter up to the stationary cutter, substantially as described.

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