No. 716,797. Patented Dec. 23, 1902.

J. H. WESSON.

DEVICE FOR RELOADING CARTRIDGE SHELLS.

(Application filed Aug. 23, 1900.)

(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

Fig. 1.

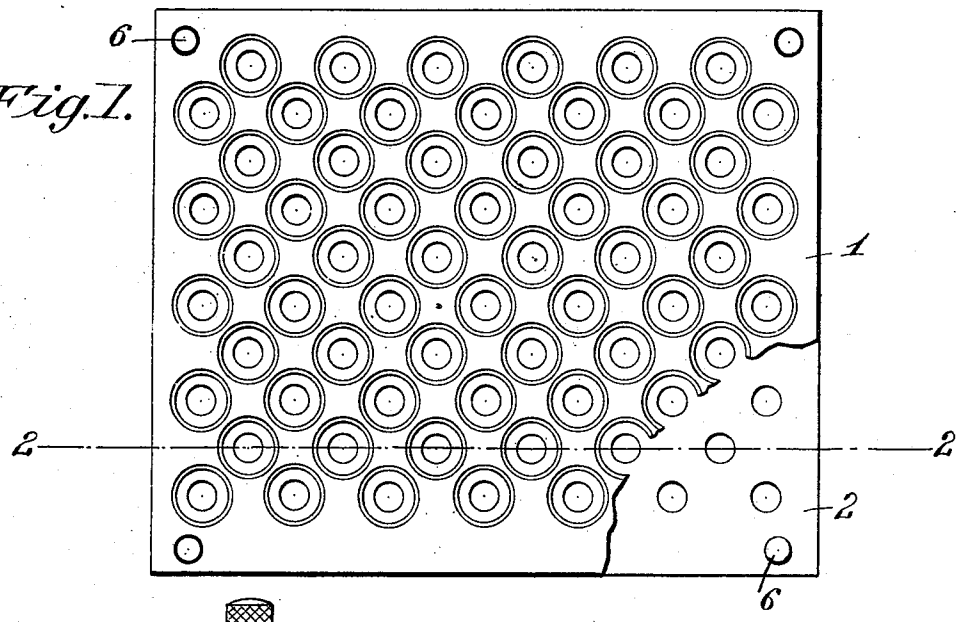
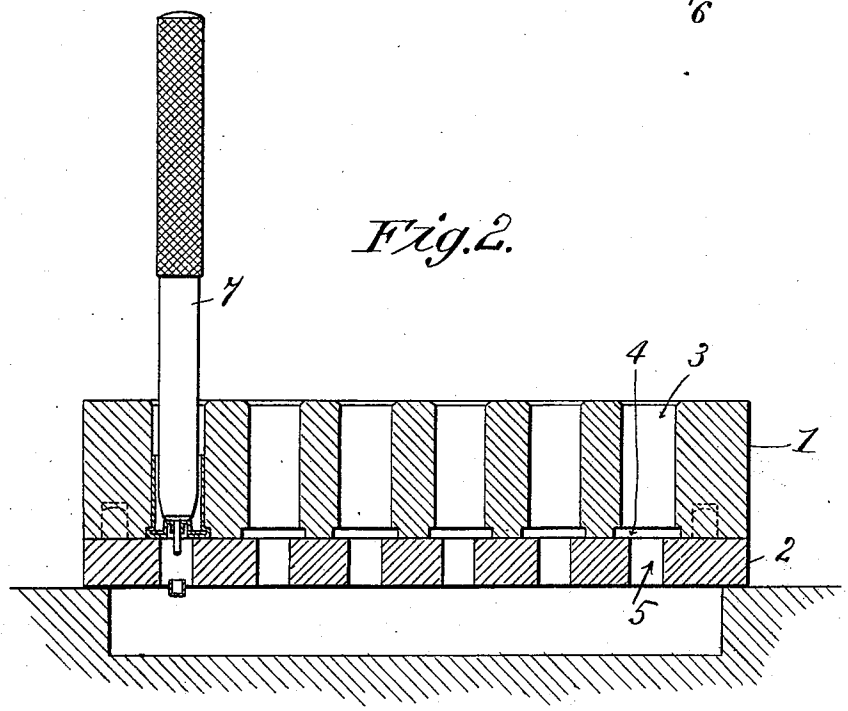


Fig. 2.



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Fig. 3.

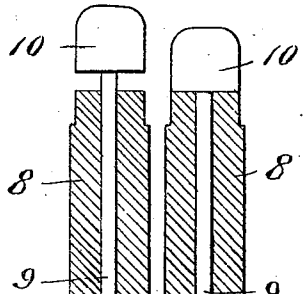


Fig. 4.

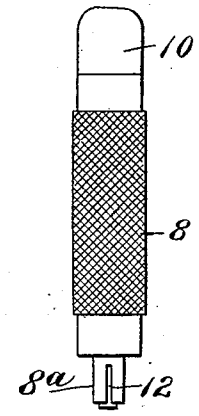


Fig. 5.

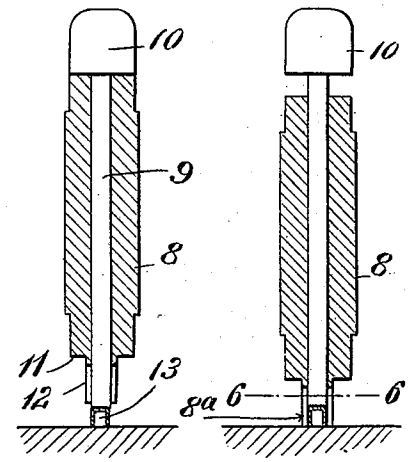


Fig. 7.

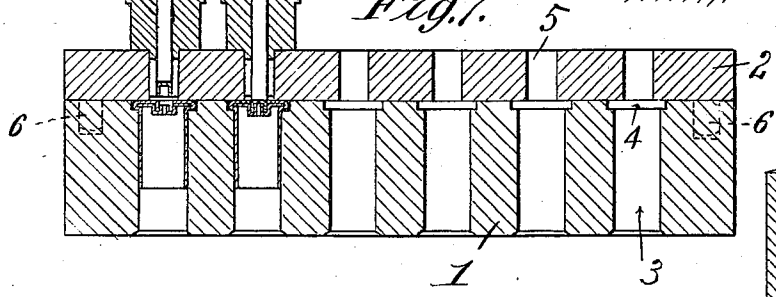


Fig. 6.

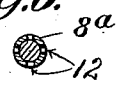
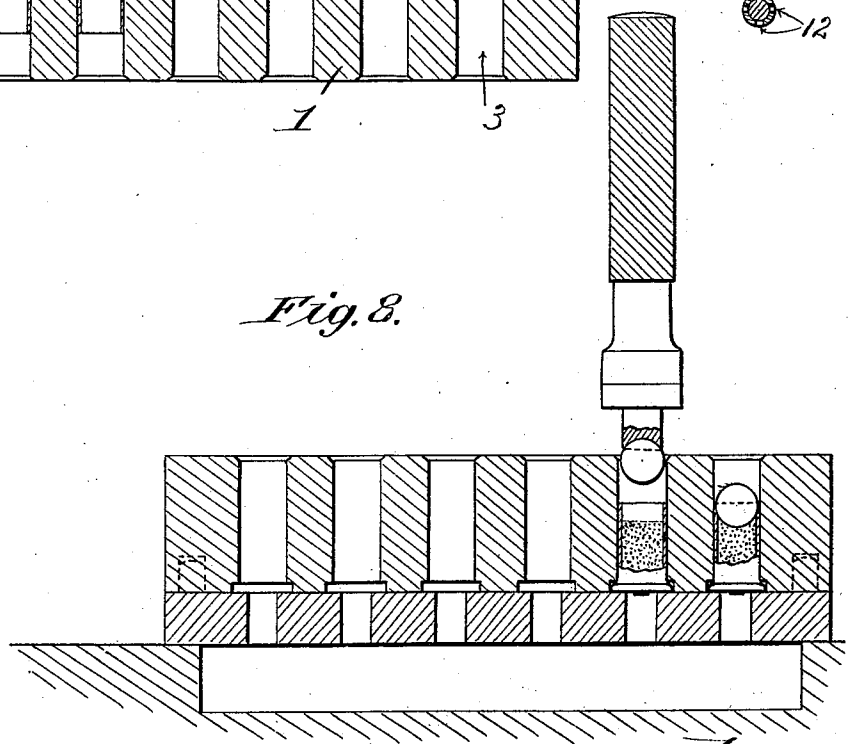


Fig. 8.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH H. WESSON, OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS.

DEVICE FOR RELOADING CARTRIDGE-SHELLS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 716,797, dated December 23, 1902.

Application filed August 23, 1900. Serial No. 27,834. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH H. WESSON, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Springfield, in the county of Hampden and State of Massachusetts, have invented new and useful Improvements in Devices for Reloading Cartridge-Shells, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in devices for repriming and reloading the shells of cartridges which have been fired, the object being to provide improved devices for effecting said priming and loading, whereby the fixing of a new primer in a shell is quickly and properly accomplished without danger of exploding the same and whereby the insertion of the powder and the ball into the shell is rendered simple and inexpensive and the use of shells for refiring effects a considerable economy in the use of cartridges for certain purposes, as below set forth; and the invention consists in providing the below-described improved devices, through the employment of which the objects are attained, all as hereinafter fully described, and more particularly pointed out in the claim.

In the drawings forming part of this specification, Figure 1 is a plan view, partly broken away, of two superposed plates in which empty cartridge-shells are held. Fig. 2 is a sectional view of Fig. 1 on line 2 2, Fig. 1, and showing in section a cartridge-shell therein in position for decapping. Fig. 3 is a side elevation of the recapping-tool, and Figs. 4 and 5 are sectional elevations of the same in different positions. Fig. 6 is a sectional view of the recapping-tool on line 6 6, Fig. 5. Fig. 7 is a sectional elevation of the shell-holding plate, showing the operative position of the recapping-tool relative thereto. Fig. 8 is a sectional elevation of the shell-holding plate, illustrating the reloading position of said plate after the recapping of the shell.

As is well known, it is customary to reload metallic center-fire cartridge-shells after firing the same, whereby a great economy is effected, said shells being capable of practically an indefinite reloading, especially when used for target practice, wherein the powder charge is much reduced. For such reloading on a scale other than a commercial one various implements have been provided, which, as well known, consist ordinarily of a pincer-like instrument, in which the shell is gripped, and whereby the exploded primer may be removed and a new primer inserted in the base of the shell and driven home by pressure applied on the handles of the implement.

The present invention is an improvement in manually-operated devices for reloading fired cartridge-shells, and in carrying the invention into practice I provide two metal plates 1 and 2, plate 1 being provided with any desired number of transverse perforations 3, one end of which is counterbored, as at 4, to receive the rim of the cartridge-head, to the end that the outer surface of the latter may be flush with the surface of the plate. The perforations 5 in the plate 2 register axially with the perforations 3, but are of somewhat smaller diameter, said two plates being held in proper relation one to the other by dowel-pins 6 in one of them entering suitable holes bored in the other.

In decapping shells the plate 1 is separated from the plate 2, the perforations 3 having each a cartridge-shell introduced therein. The plates are then superposed one over the other, as shown in Fig. 2, and the exploded primer is driven out by means of a decapping-tool 7, which is shown in Fig. 2, and consists mainly of a suitable punch substantially of the diameter of the inside of the shell and terminating in a smaller extremity adapted to pass through the central perforation in the anvil of the cartridge. After the used primers have been removed from the shells the plates 1 and 2 are reversed, the plate 2 being uppermost. In this position fresh primers may be inserted in the cavity provided therefor in the head of the cartridge by means of the recapping-tool. (Shown particularly in Figs. 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the drawings and in operative position relative to the shell-holding plates in Fig. 7.) The said recapping-tool consists of a cylindrical body 8, provided with a central longitudinal perforation, within which is located the plunger 9, whose upper extremity has a head 10 of substantially the diameter of the body of the tool. The lower extremity 8^a of the body 8 is turned down to a diameter substantially equal to that of the perforations 5 in the plate 2, the reduced diameter of said extremity resulting in the formation of a

shoulder 11, which, abutting against the surface of the plate 2, serves to determine the extent of entrance of the small end 8^a of the body in the plate 2. Said reduced end of the body 8 is provided with two or more longitudinal slits 12, whereby said extremity is divided into several spring-arms. The diameter of the longitudinal perforation in the body 8, in which the plunger 9 plays, is somewhat less than the diameter of the primer 13, and said plunger has a free play endwise within the body 8. The primers may be inserted into the end of the extremity 8^a by the fingers, or a more convenient way is to spread said primers upon the table and grasping the body 8 of the recapping-tool between the fingers push the part 8^a down over the primer, the plunger 9 retiring. The primer when in proper position within the part 8^a of the body will occupy the position shown in Fig. 5. It will be observed that the length of the plunger 9 is slightly greater than the length of the body 8, as seen in Fig. 3, whereby when said plunger is forced downward the primer will be expelled completely from the said part 8^a.

In recapping a shell the recapping-tool having the primer therein has the part 8^a thereof entered into one of the perforations 5, and the plunger 9 is then forced downward by pressure upon the head 10 thereof and the primer forced to its seat within the cavity provided therefor in the head of the cartridge.

The reloading-tool is maintained in a proper position relative to the head of the cartridge-shell by means of the shoulder 11, as stated, and the primer is forced into its cavity in the head of the shell always to precisely the same extent by reason of the head 10 coming to a bearing against the top of the body 8. It is not, therefore, possible to explode a primer in recapping the shell, for it can never be forced into the cavity sufficiently far to cause the explosive substance in the end of the primer to come in contact with the anvil of the cartridge-head. After the shells have been recapped the plates 1 and 2 are again reversed, and the shells then receive the proper charges of powder, and the balls are then seated in the open end of said shells in the usual manner.

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

A reloading device for center-fire cartridge-shells comprising a recapper consisting of a cylindrical body having a central longitudinal perforation therethrough, a plunger vertically movable within said perforation, a shoulder on said body, a spring-chuck for holding the primer, and extending from said shoulder axially of said body, consisting of a split sleeve as shown; a shell-holding plate, means for supporting the recapper in line axially with the shell, and means on the plunger for expelling the primer out of said chuck.

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