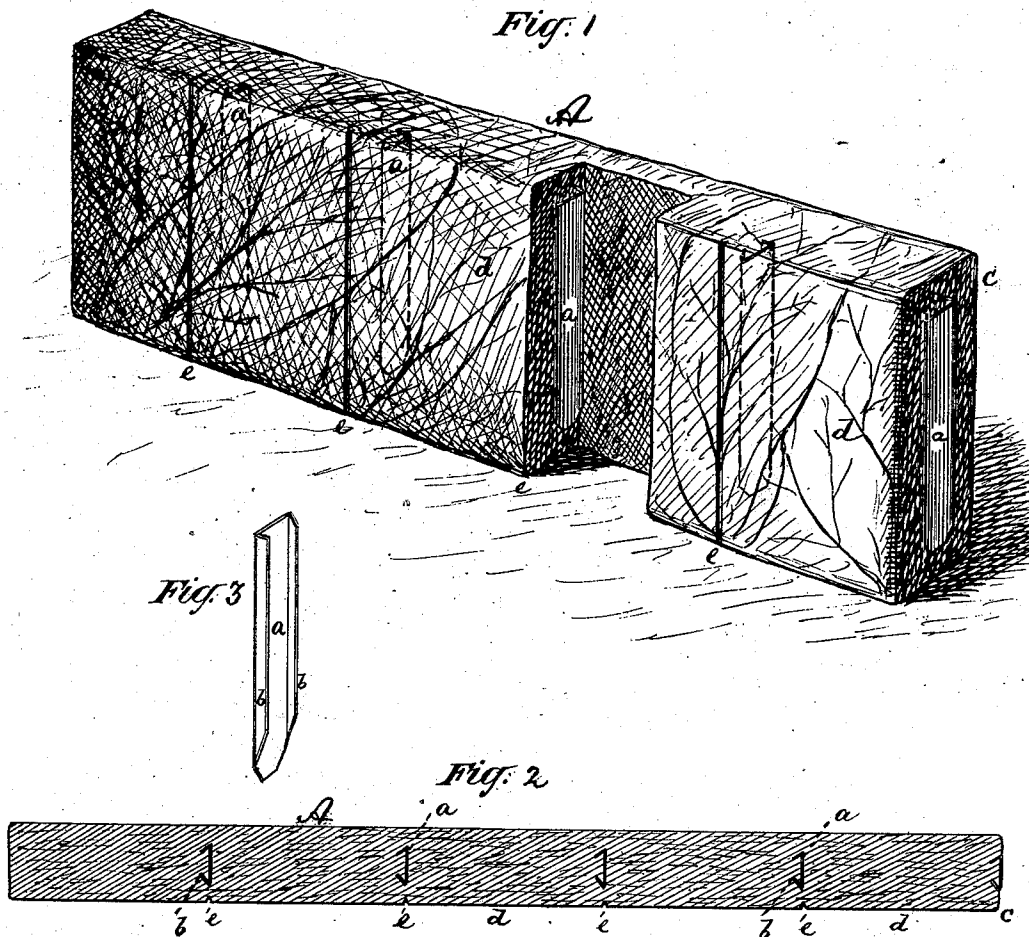


(No Model.)

J. RUPP.  
Plug-Tobacco.

No. 227,927.

Patented May 25, 1880.



Witnesses.

J. M. Linley  
H. R. Boynton.

Inventor.

John Rupp  
by his attorneys  
Rockfellow & Briesen

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN RUPP, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNOR TO WALTER BECKLIND AND  
LOUIS SIEBER, OF SAME PLACE, ONE-THIRD TO EACH.

## PLUG-TOBACCO.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 227,927, dated May 25, 1880.

Application filed March 6, 1880. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN RUPP, of the city of New York, county and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Plug-Tobacco, of which the following is a specification.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a plug of tobacco provided with my improvement, showing a portion of the tobacco removed. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section of the same, and Fig. 3 a perspective view of one of the plates which are inserted into the plug.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

This invention relates to an improvement in preparing plug-tobacco for the market, and has for its object to facilitate the breaking or cutting of the plug into smaller sections, and also to protect the exposed surface from contact with the atmosphere.

The invention consists, first, in providing a plug with a series of incisions which divide it into sections that are connected at the two faces of the plug, but are separated at the interior; secondly, the invention consists in the combination of a plug having the incisions, with plates which fit into the incisions, and are provided with means by which they will retain their hold on the exposed edge of the plug, all as is hereinafter more fully described.

In the drawings, the letter A represents a plug of tobacco. While this plug is still fresh I insert into it, at preferably equal intervals, metallic or other plates, *a a a*, at substantially right angles to the plug. These plates are shorter than the plug is wide and lower than the plug is high, so that they are entirely hidden within the plug. They may be pushed into the plug from one side by suitable means, and are preferably more or less pointed to facilitate their insertion.

The plates *a*, I prefer to make of the form shown in Fig. 3, in which their edges *b* are shown to be bent inward, so as to allow said edges to retain their hold after the sections of the plug adjoining the plates, respectively, have been removed; but the said plates may also be made of other form.

It will be seen that by the insertion of the plates *a* the plug A is cut into equally-sized sections, which are connected at the top and bottom, but are separated at the interior of the plug. In this way the two faces of the

plug remain uninjured, while it may at the same time be readily cut or broken into sections in line with the incisions.

After the plates *a* have been inserted the openings made at the side of the plug may be closed by slightly compressing the tobacco around such openings. This may readily be done, as the tobacco is still fresh and moist, and the air will thus be practically excluded at the several incisions.

In Fig. 1 one of the plates *a* is also shown to be applied to one of the ends *c* of the plug, in order to prevent the tobacco directly behind it from coming in contact with the air. This plate, as well as the other plates *a*, may also, if desired, be utilized to receive the stamp of the manufacturer.

In order to denote at the surface of the plug the position of the interior incision, I provide the face *d* of the plug with a suitable mark, *e*, directly above each of said incisions.

The tobacco may readily be divided at any one of the marks *e*. As soon as any one section of the plug is removed one of the plates *a* will appear at the surface of the remaining portion and prevent the tobacco directly behind from coming in contact with and being dried by the air.

I am aware that tobacco-plugs have heretofore been subdivided into sections by external incisions on the face of the plug; but such incisions could only be carried to a small depth, as otherwise the plug would be apt to break.

My internal incisions, which leave the two faces of the plug entirely uninjured, may be made of a considerable depth without danger that the plug will break accidentally.

I claim as my invention—

1. The plug A, provided with a series of incisions which divide it into sections that are connected at the two faces of the plug, but are separated at the interior, substantially as specified.

2. The combination of a plug, A, having interior incisions, with the plates *a*, which fit into the incisions, and are provided with means for retaining their hold on the exposed edge of the plug, substantially as and for the purpose herein specified.

Witnesses:

JOHN RUPP.

F. V. BRIESEN,  
WALTER BECKLIND.