Dec. 7, 1948. A. C. LAMY 2,455,505

FLESHING TOOL

Filed Dec. 20, 1947

Fig. 1.

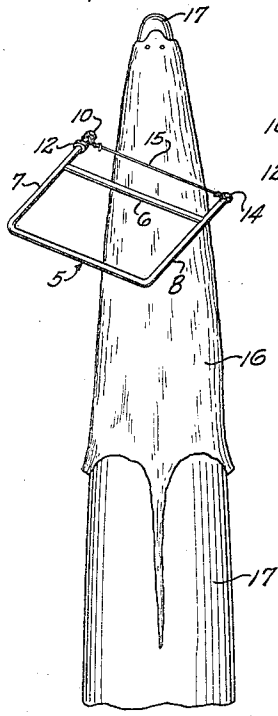
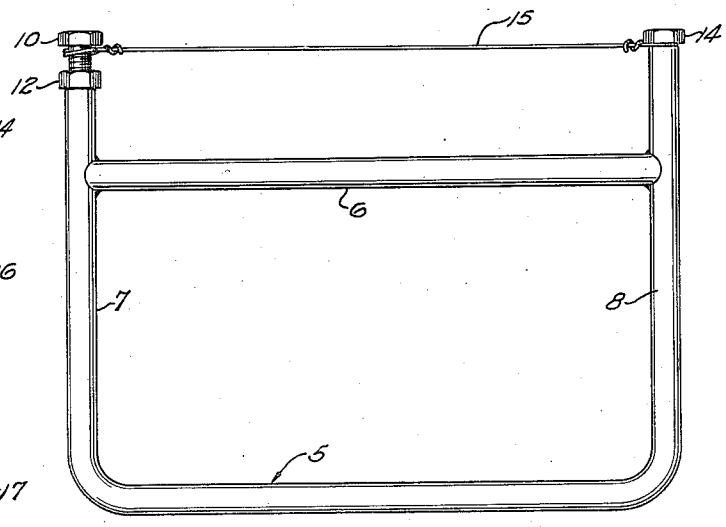


Fig. 2.



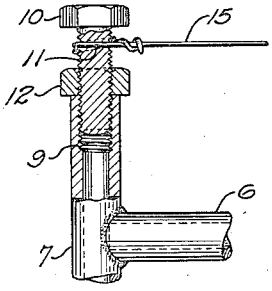


Fig. 3.

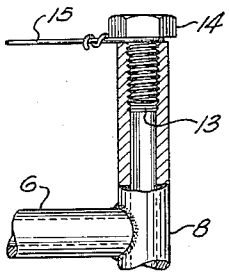


Fig. 4.

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Patented Dec. 7, 1948 2,455,505

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,455,505

FLESHING TOOL

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Application December 20, 1947, Serial No. 792,926

3 Claims. (Cl. 69—20)

1

This invention relates to improvements in fleshing tools.

In the fur and leather industries one of the required operations is that of fleshing. Fleshing involves the removal from a hide or pelt of loose flesh, cellular tissue and other like matter. This operation is usually performed while the hide or pelt is stretched over a tapered post or stretcher. The most common tool with which the fleshing operation is performed is a relatively long, two handled knife similar to a wood worker's drawshave and having a scraping edge to fit the curvature of the post or stretcher over which the hide or pelt is stretched. In addition to the conventional tool mentioned above there have been many other instruments used, such as wooden scrapers, kitchen knives, spoons, and woodworkers' drawshaves, in an attempt to find a satisfactory tool for performing this operation, but none has produced the hoped for result.

In fleshing a hide or pelt, particularly when operating on the hides of valuable fur bearing animals such as mink, it is of utmost importance that the operation be performed without cutting or tearing the same and without shaving off portions of the hide or pelt itself to objectionably reduce the thickness thereof. Any impairment of the hides is to be avoided because of the marked depreciation in value which results. None of the instruments so far used has effected any substantial reduction in the amount of damage resulting from a fleshing operation.

It is therefore a general object of this invention to provide an improved fleshing tool the use of which practically eliminates any danger of cutting, tearing or shaving off portions of the hide or pelt.

A further object of the invention is to effect a very substantial saving to the producer by reducing the number of rejects in pelts and hides which normally result from tearing, cutting or shaving off portions of the same during the fleshing operation.

A further object of the invention is to provide a fleshing tool, the hide or pelt engaging portion of which is of novel construction to speed up the fleshing operation.

A further object of the invention is to provide a fleshing tool which has no cutting blade and which therefore requires no sharpening.

A more specific object of the invention is to provide a fleshing tool including a wire of relatively small gauge mounted under tension in a suitable portable frame, the latter being constructed to permit maintaining the desired tension.

2

With the above and other objects in view, the invention consists of the improved fleshing tool and all of its parts and combinations, as set forth in the claims, and all equivalents thereof.

In the accompanying drawings illustrating one complete embodiment of the preferred form of the invention, in which the same reference numerals designate the same parts in all of the views:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a pelt mounted on a stretcher showing the improved fleshing tool in a position for performing the fleshing operation;

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the improved fleshing tool;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged fragmentary plan view of the adjustment end of the improved fleshing tool, part being broken away and shown in section; and

Fig. 4 is an enlarged fragmentary plan view of the anchoring end of the tool, part being broken away and shown in section.

Referring more particularly to the drawing the numeral 5 indicates a generally U-shaped, preferably tubular, metallic frame, there being a reinforcing bar 6 connecting the two arms 7 and 8 of the frame 5 adjacent the outer ends thereof. The outer end of the arm 7 is internally threaded, as at 9, to receive an adjusting bolt 10. The adjusting bolt 10 is formed with an aperture 11 extending diametrically therethrough adjacent the head end thereof. Threadedly engaging the shank of the adjusting bolt 10 is a lock nut 12 which is adapted to lock the bolt 10 in any desired position relative to the arm 7. The outer end of the arm 8 is internally threaded, as at 13, to receive an anchor bolt 14 mounted therein.

A wire 15 of relatively small diameter is anchored at one end in any suitable manner around the anchor bolt 14. The other end of the wire 15 is extended through the aperture 11 in the bolt 10, and is bent around the bolt 10 one or more turns and anchored in any suitable manner thereto. The wire 15 is placed under tension by turning the adjusting bolt 10, and when the desired tension is created in the wire 15, the bolt 10 is locked in position by means of the lock nut 12.

Experience has shown that a wire such as that commonly known as piano wire, having a diameter of approximately .048 inch gives the best results for most purposes. The tension under which the wire 15 must be kept to produce the

best results has been found to be that which results in the period of vibration which creates the note of high C when the wire is plucked.

It is to be noted that the frame or holder for the wire must be so constructed as to make it possible to create and maintain tension in the wire by locating the relatively strong reinforcing bar 6 relatively close to the ends of the arms 7 and 8 so that the arms are so braced that they cannot be deflected toward one another when the adjustment nut 10 is tightened. On the other hand, the brace 6 is located a sufficient distance inwardly from the wire so as not to interfere with the fleshing operation. Other equivalent means may be utilized but it is necessary that the arms of the frame be strongly braced against inward movement in a manner which will not make the frame unduly heavy to tire the user.

In use, the hide or pelt 16 is stretched over a post or stretcher 17 with the flesh side outwardly. The bits of flesh, cellular tissue and like undesirable matter may be removed by merely drawing the tightly tensioned wire 15 of the improved fleshing tool over the flesh side of the hide or pelt 16 in the manner shown in Fig. 1. There being no sharp elges on the wire 15 to cut the fur, this objectionable feature of the conventional fleshing tool is eliminated. Nor is there any danger of shaving off portions of the hide or pelt, thereby creating thin spots which, together with cuts and tears, greatly depreciates the value of a hide or pelt. In addition to preserving the value of the skins and reducing the number of rejects, the improved fleshing tool makes it possible to perform the fleshing operation much more expeditiously than heretofore.

Various changes and modifications may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention, and all of such changes are contemplated as may come within the scope of the claims.

What I claim is:

1. A fleshing tool comprising an extent of wire, a U-shaped frame having spaced arms, means for connecting one end of the wire to one of said arms, a bolt threaded in the other of said arms, means on said bolt to which the other end of the wire may be connected so that when the bolt is turned the wire is placed under tension, means for releasably locking the bolt in tension applying condition, and a reinforcing bar extending from one of said arms to the other and located sufficiently close to the outer ends of the arms to prevent inward deflection of the arms when the wire is under tension.

2. A fleshing tool comprising an extent of wire, a U-shaped frame having spaced arms, means for connecting one end of the wire to the end of one of said arms, a bolt threaded axially into the end of the other arm, means on said bolt to which the other end of the wire may be connected so that when the bolt is turned inwardly the wire is placed under tension, and a lock nut on said bolt for releasably locking the bolt in tension applying condition.

3. A fleshing tool comprising an extent of wire, a U-shaped frame having spaced arms, means for connecting one end of the wire to the end of one of said arms, a bolt threaded axially into the end of the other arm and having a hole through which the other end of the wire may be threaded so that when the bolt is turned inwardly the wire is placed under tension, and a lock nut on said bolt for releasably locking the bolt in tension applying condition.

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