

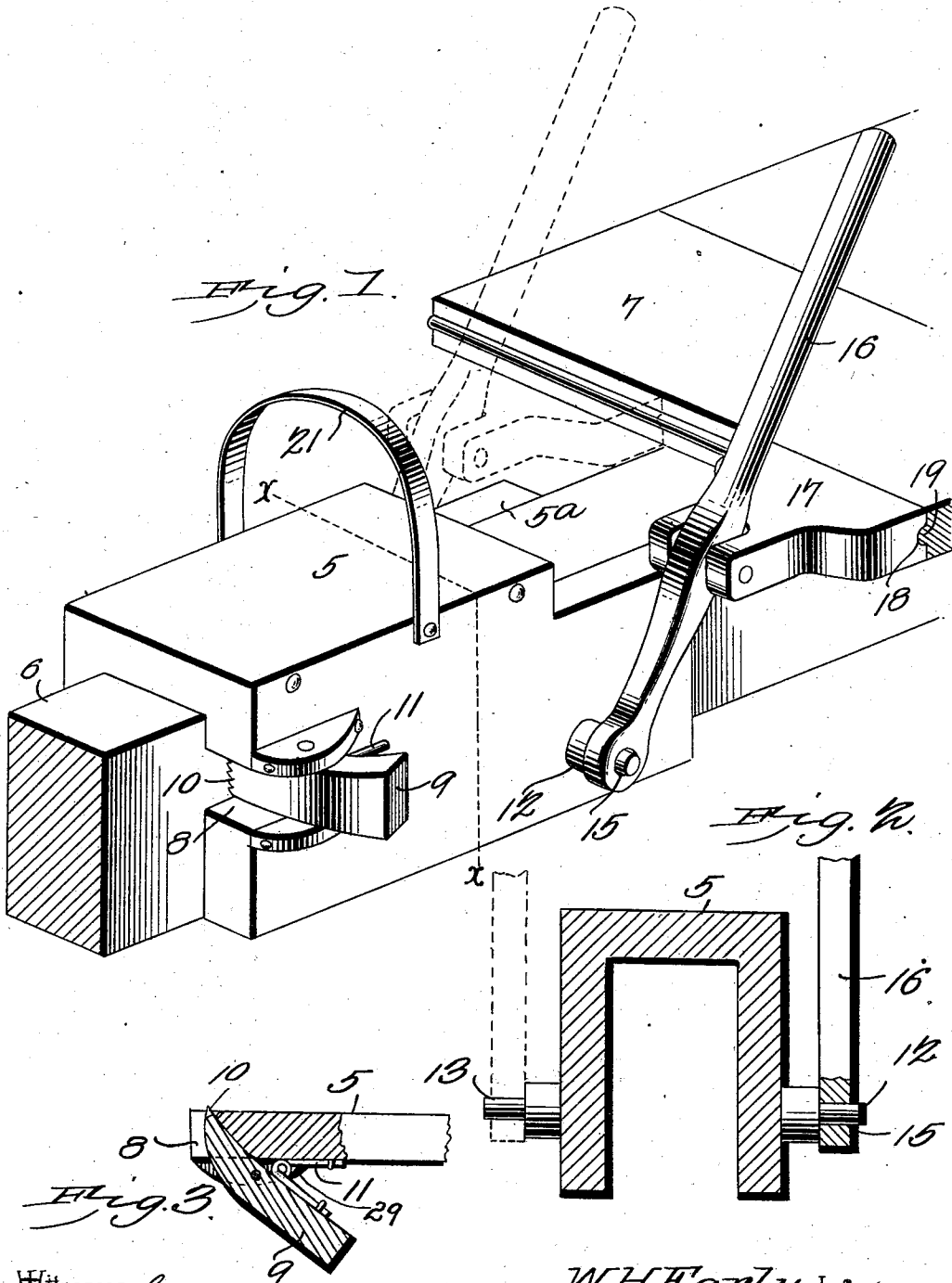
No. 721,681.

PATENTED MAR. 3, 1903.

W. H. EARLY.
FLOORING CLAMP.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 4, 1902.

NO MODEL.



Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM HARVEY EARLY, OF HAYS, KANSAS.

FLOORING-CLAMP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 721,681, dated March 3, 1903

Application filed March 4, 1902. Serial No. 96,662. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM HARVEY EARLY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Hays, in the county of Ellis and State of Kansas, have invented a new and useful Flooring-Clamp, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to implements employed by mechanics to assist in laying flooring, siding, and for similar purposes, and has for its object the production of a device of greater simplicity of construction and of increased utility, whereby its efficiency and scope are greatly increased.

The invention consists in certain novel features of the construction, as hereinafter shown and described, and specifically pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings illustrative of the invention, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the device applied to portions of flooring. Fig. 2 is a transverse section on the line *xx* of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a sectional detail illustrating the construction and operation of one of the gripping-jaws.

In this invention is comprised a supporting-frame 5, adapted to be clamped to the joist (represented at 6) contiguous to the flooring, which is represented at 7. The frame 5 will preferably be of malleable iron and will conform to the joist and will project down a short distance on each side, as shown. The side members of the frame 5 extend horizontally beyond the top member, with the upper surface of the extensions flush with the top of the joist, as shown at 5^a. At its rear end the frame 5 is provided with recesses 8, in which clamp-pawls 9 are disposed, the pawls being pivoted in lugs 29 on the sides of the frame and adapted to be held with their inner ends 10 normally pressed inward by springs 11, as shown in Fig. 3. The inner ends 10 of the pawls are serrated, as shown in Fig. 1, and are adapted to engage the joist from opposite sides and effectually prevent any rearward movement of the device.

Only one of the clamping means is shown in the drawings; but it will be understood that two of the clamps will preferably be employed, but as both clamps are precisely alike only one has been illustrated. By this simple means any rearward strain upon the frame 5

will cause the pawls to firmly engage the joist and effectually prevent any rearward movement, and thus form an immovable abutment against which the resistance of the clamping means will be expended.

Projecting from the side members of the frame near the inner end are two spurs or trunnions 12 and 13, oppositely disposed and adapted to form the fulcrum-point 15 of a lever 16. The lower end of the lever is adapted to engage either one of the trunnions 12 or 13, so that the lever can be disposed upon either side of the frame, as indicated in Fig. 1, wherein the lever is shown engaged with the trunnion 12 in full lines and in position in engagement with the trunnion 13 in dotted lines.

Pivotaly supported upon the lever 16, in line with the upper surface of the joist 6, is a clamping-jaw 17, the outer or free end of the jaw being extended laterally and provided with a groove 18 in its outer edge, adapted to engage the tongue 19 of the adjacent section of the flooring 7.

The clamp-jaw is formed equal-sided, so as to operate on either side of the joist, as required, and when in operation one of the laterally-extended sides will rest upon one or the other of the upper edge 5^a of the frame 5, according to which one of the trunnions 12 or 13 the lever 16 may be for the time being engaged. Thus the jaw rests upon one of the projections 5^a, no matter on which side of the casing 5 the lever 6 may be mounted, and the jaw thereby rendered interchangeable from side to side of the joist. This ability to readily change the clamp-head from side to side of the joist is a very important advantage and is one of the features of the present invention. It frequently happens that it is necessary to bring pressure to bear near the end of the floor-board or at a butt-joint, and when that occurs it is necessary that the jaw be located on the side of the joist next the joint, and this cannot be done if the device is arranged to operate on one side of the joist only. Then, again, it frequently happens that it is necessary to bring pressure to bear upon the floor-board near a wall or partition, and here, again, the ability to reverse the position of the lever and clamp-jaw is very important, as otherwise the jaw could

not be actuated nearer to the required point of pressure than the distance to the next joist, generally sixteen inches.

5 The frame 5 will preferably be provided with a bail 21 to assist in transporting the device.

10 This makes a very simple, cheap, and convenient implement, one which can be very readily applied and operated and easily adjusted to every locality where it may be required and which is capable of use in situations and under conditions not attainable by prior devices of the same class.

15 The size of the casing 5 and other parts may be varied to suit the circumstances, and the dimensions of the parts may be altered and modified in minor details without departing from the spirit and scope of my invention.

20 By the lateral extension of the clamp-jaw it rests constantly upon the extension 5^a and is supported thereby, and the part 5^a being flush with the upper surface of the joist the operative edge of the jaw is at all times in
25 proper position to engage the tongue in the floor-board and will automatically engage the tongue, while at the same time the jaw operating in contact with the uniform surface of the metal part 5^a its consequent uniformity
30 of action is assured. This is an important feature of the invention and adds materially to the efficiency of the device.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

1. In a flooring-clamp, the combination of 35 a frame adapted to engage the joist, oppositely-disposed trunnions projecting therefrom, a lever adapted to removably engage said trunnions alternately, and a clamping-jaw pivotally disposed upon said lever and 40 adapted to engage the adjacent floor-board, whereby the said lever and jaw are adapted to engage alternate sides of the joist, substantially as described.

2. In a flooring-clamp, a frame adapted to 45 engage the joist, and with its sides horizontally extended and flush with the upper surface of the joist, oppositely-projecting trunnions upon said casing, a lever adapted to pivotally engage said trunnions alternately, 50 a clamp-jaw pivotally engaging said lever and having laterally-extended sides adapted to engage said casing extensions, substantially as described.

3. In a flooring-clamp, the combination with 55 a frame adapted to engage the joist and having means to prevent it from sliding rearwardly thereon, of a lever carrying a clamp said lever being adapted to be interchangeably connected with opposite sides of the 60 frame, substantially as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM HARVEY EARLY.

Witnesses:

LEE MONROE,
THOS. GARTLAND.