H. J. PENN.

TOBACCO EXTRACTOR.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 12, 1919.

1,311,618. Patented July 29, 1919.

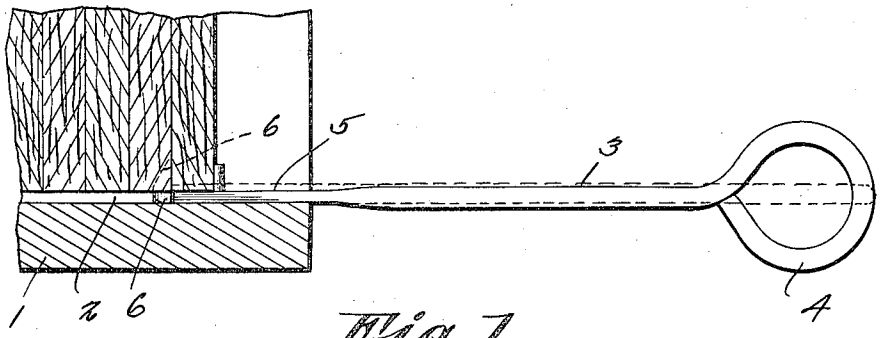


Fig. 1.

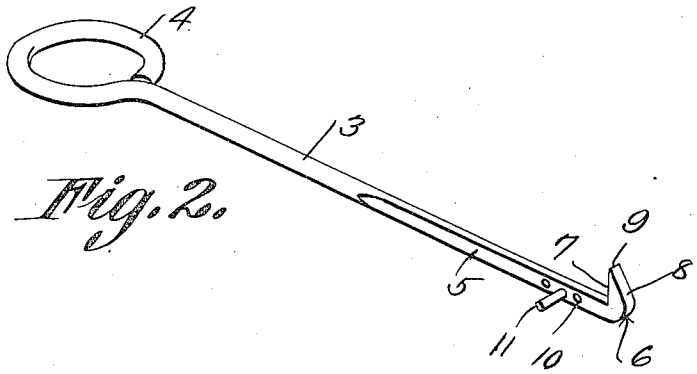


Fig. 2.

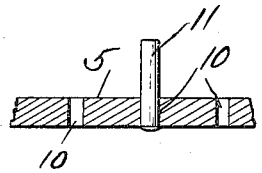


Fig. 3.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HARRY J. PENN, OF MADISON, NORTH CAROLINA.

TOBACCO-EXTRACTOR.

1,311,618. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented July 29, 1919.

Application filed April 12, 1919. Serial No. 289,648.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HARRY J. PENN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Madison, in the county of Rockingham and State of North Carolina, have invented a new and useful Tobacco-Extractor, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to tobacco plug extractors and has for its object the provision of an implement whereby a plug of tobacco may be separated and removed from the box or container in which it is packed without loosening the remainder of the contents and is particularly intended for the convenience of the retail salesman.

Considerable difficulty is often experienced in removing plug tobacco from the boxes in which it is packed, due to the compact condition in which it is necessary to press the plugs to retain the moisture in the tobacco and many expedients are resorted to in order to loosen the tobacco to be sold and at the same time leave the balance undisturbed, it being the common practice to loosen the sides of the container, which not only renders the same unfit for future use but permits the air to enter and dry out the tobacco, which is very undesirable. Although my extractor may be used effectively to withdraw plugs of tobacco from any kind of a container, it is designed particularly to be used in conjunction with the tobacco container and tobacco caddy shown and described in Letters Patent Nos. 1,030,744 and 1,030,745, issued to me on June 25, 1912.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a sectional view of a portion of a tobacco container with the invention shown in elevation;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the device; and

Fig. 3 is a sectional view of the device.

Referring to the drawings by characters of reference the numeral 1 designates a tobacco container having a groove 2 formed in one of the sides thereof. At 3 is shown a shank made of stout wire stock and provided at one end with a ring 4 to form a handle for manipulating the implement.

The end of the rod remote from the handle end is flattened for a distance as shown at 5 and is provided at the end with a hook 6, the forward edge 7 of the hook being formed at approximately right-angles to the length of the shank, and the rear face 8 formed at an angle to the forward face to define a wedge member with a cutting edge 9. The sides of the wedge member lie parallel with the flattened portion of the shank and the flattened portion and wedge are approximately of the same thickness.

The flattened portion is provided with a series of spaced apertures 10, into one of which is secured a pin 11. As hereinbefore stated the extractor is intended for use with my improved tobacco container or with my tobacco caddy, but it may also be used in connection with a box not provided with the groove 2, by forcing the comparatively thin flattened end portion between the end of the plug and the box. In either case the tool with the hook end lying flat and parallel with the side of the box and the pin 11 upstanding is introduced under the plug of tobacco until the pin strikes the plug, this serves as a stop gage and the wedge member will then be located with its edge 9 at the back of the plug to be withdrawn. A quarter turn of the handle causes the wedge to enter the joint between two plugs and force the forward plug away from the remainder of the tobacco in the box.

The forward face of the wedge member abuts the plug to be removed and the inclined face acts against the adjacent part of the caddy to break the forward plug away from the remainder so that the plug may be readily removed.

In this way the heretofore tedious operation of extracting a single plug of tobacco is greatly facilitated and the unsold portion of the box is kept in good condition.

It is to be understood that although the preferred embodiment of the invention has been shown, minor changes may be made in the device within the scope of the appended claims without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

Having thus described the invention what is claimed is:—

1. A device for extracting tobacco plugs from a container, comprising a shank provided with a laterally projecting hook; and a projection extending from one side of the shank and spaced from the hook longitudinally of the shank, the projection being disposed substantially at right angles to the hook, the projection constituting a plug engaging stop serving to locate the hook with respect to the plug to be extracted, the opposite side of the shank being smooth and

unencumbered to facilitate the insertion of the shank and the hook between the plug and the container and to permit a rotation of the shank whereby to engage the hook with the plug to be extracted.

2. A tobacco extractor embodying a shank provided at one end with a handle and at the other with a wedge shaped hook adapted to be inserted under a plug of tobacco in a container to facilitate withdrawal of the plug, the shank being provided with a plurality of openings; and a pin mounted in one of the openings and disposed at right angles to the hook, the pin constituting a stop limiting the insertions of the hook under the plug, and being shiftable from opening to opening to position the hook for coöperation with plugs of different thicknesses.

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

HARRY J. PENN.

Witnesses:
J. H. MOORE,
J. O. RAGSDALE.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents. Washington, D. C."