W. Minster,

Carpet Stretcher,

No. 80,495. Patented July 28, 1868.

Fig: 1.

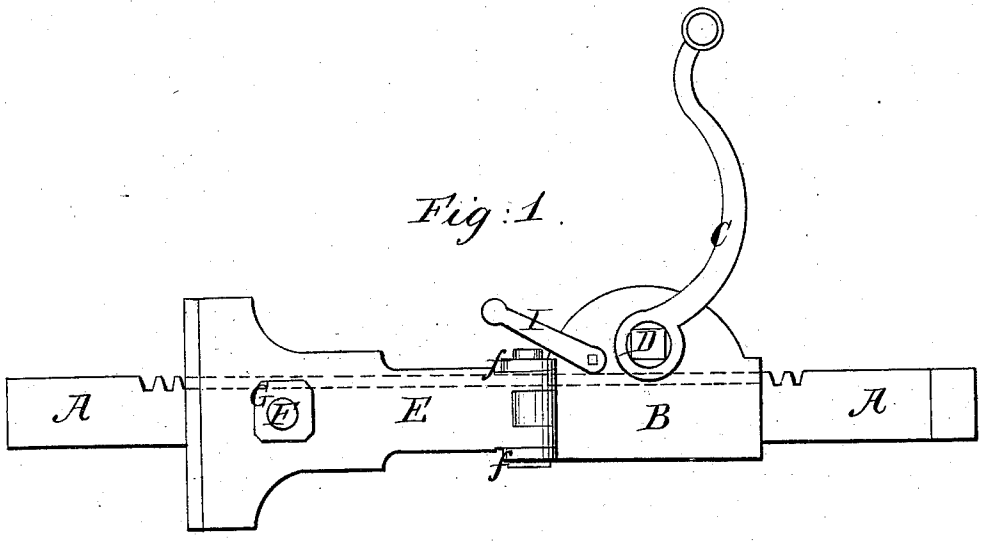


Fig: 2.

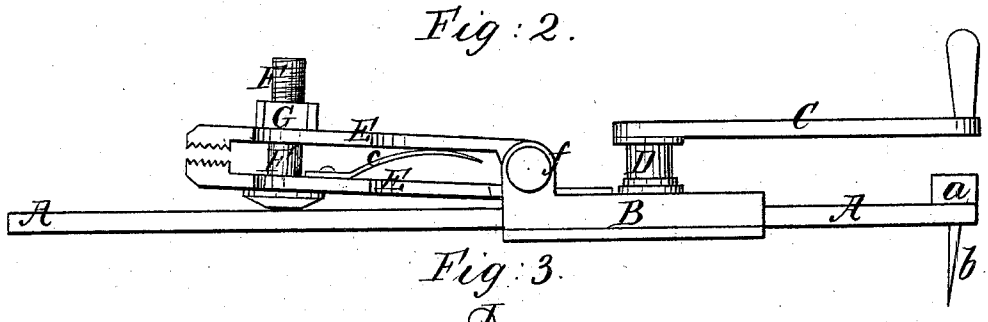
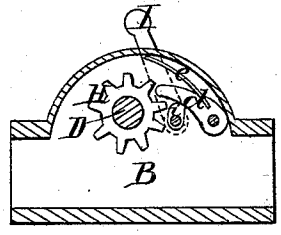


Fig: 3.



Witnesses,
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United States Patent Office.

WILLIAM MINSTER, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Letters Patent No. 80,495, *dated July* 28, 1868.

IMPROVED CARPET-STRETCHER.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM MINSTER, of Washington, in the District of Columbia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Carpet-Stretchers; and do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

The nature of my invention consists in a device for stretching carpets, so that they can easily be tacked down close to the walls.

In order to enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will now proceed to describe its construction and operation, referring to the annexed drawings, which form a part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a plan view,

Figure 2 a side view, and

Figure 3 an inside view of the sliding box.

A represents a ratch-bar, made of suitable material, and provided at one end with a flange, *a*, on its upper side, and with one or more sharp points *b* on its lower side.

B is a box, formed of two plates, fastened together by screws, or in any other suitable manner, which encloses said ratch-bar, and slides over the same.

Inside of this box B is a pinion, H, which works in the ratch-bar A, and is turned by means of the crank C and the shaft or bolt D, which latter passes through said box, and through the pinion. By this means the box B can be moved backward and forward on the ratch-bar.

On the front end of the box B are two ears *f f*, between which the clamp E is hinged.

This clamp consists of two lips, formed in any of the known and usual ways for clamps, and provided with a spring *c*, to keep them apart. The jaws of the clamp are corrugated, so as to hold the carpet, and they may be lined with rubber, so as to avoid any danger of tearing the carpet.

The clamp is worked by means of a headed screw-bolt, F, passed through the same from underneath, and a nut, G, on the upper side.

To use my device, place the rear end of the ratch-bar A squarely against the wall, and drive the point or points *b b* into the floor.

The carpet is then folded over a sufficient distance, and placed between the jaws of the clamp E, which are then screwed together by means of the nut G. By now turning the crank C, the box B and the clamp E are moved on the ratch-bar toward the wall, at the same time stretching the carpet as far as may be desired.

To prevent the box B from sliding back again when the force on the crank is removed, there is inside of said box a dog or pawl, *d*, which is held down between the cogs on the pinion H by means of a spring, *e*. This pawl may be lifted out of the pinion by means of a lug, *i*, which is turned by the lever I on the outside of the box.

Instead of the crank C, any other means to move the box B on the ratch-bar may be substituted, and the upper part of the shaft D may be of the same size as the nut G, so that, whether a crank or a wheel is used for turning the pinion H, the same may be used to screw the clamp.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The hinged jaws E E, pressed apart by means of a spring, and bound together by either a set-screw or the headed bolt F and its nut G, for the purpose of firmly holding the carpet, substantially as herein set forth.

2. In a carpet-stretcher, the jaws E E, constructed as described, and hinged to the box B, which slides upon the ratch-bar A, and operating as and for the purposes specified.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing, I have hereunto set my hand, this 17th day of June, 1868.

WILLIAM MINSTER.

Witnesses:

A. A. YEATMAN,

LEOPOLD EVERT.