MULTIPLE-PURPOSE HAND TOOL
Bernard L. Striani, Lakewood, Calif.

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2 Claims. (Cl. 254—131)

The present invention relates generally to the field of hand tools, and more specifically to a carpenter's tool that is particularly adapted for use in dismantling existing structures. In the past it has been common practice to employ implements such as crowbars in the wrecking of buildings, dismantling of partitions, or removal of molding from a wall structure, but this instrument is not entirely satisfactory for this purpose as in many instances it is impossible to place it in a levering position to obtain a prying or forcing action therewith.

A primary object of the present invention is to provide a hand tool of unique design that defines a jaw particularly adapted for gripping an upright member such as a stud or the like, which easily separates the stud from a supporting structure when a twisting force is exerted thereon.

Another object of the invention is to supply a modified device of the character described above that embodies the use of a pressure plate and jaw structure by means of which molding may be simply and easily separated from a wall structure.

Still further objects of the invention are to supply a compact tool that has no moving parts, can be fabricated from standard, commercially available materials, and which due to its novel design, is particularly well adapted for use in the building trades for use in gripping, twisting, or prying members loose from their supporting structures, as well as serving as a means to remove nails therefrom.

Yet another object of the invention is to provide a multiple-purpose device of the type described of such simplified structure that it can be manufactured and sold at a sufficiently low price as to encourage its wide-spread use.

These and other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following description of a preferred and alternate form thereof, and from the accompanying drawings illustrating same, in which:

Figure 1 is a front perspective view of the invention;
Figure 2 is a perspective view of the tool showing its manner of use in removably gripping and separating a stud from a supporting structure;
Figure 3 is a combined horizontal cross-sectional and top plan view of the device taken on line 3—3 of Figure 2;
Figure 4 is a perspective view of a first alternate form of the invention; and,
Figure 5 is a fragmentary side elevational view of the lower portion of the tool shown as utilized in separating molding from a supporting wall structure.

Referring to the drawings for the general arrangement of the preferred form of the invention, it will be seen to include an elongate rigid member A, one end of which develops into a hook-defining portion B which is provided with a slotted structure C that is adapted to removably engage and pry nails from the supporting structure in which they are embedded. The end of member A opposite that from which hook B extends is provided with two laterally separated tines D and E. The tine E, as can best be seen in Figure 1, is formed from an extension of member A that has a curved, downwardly projecting portion 10 which develops into a substantially flat, straight end portion 12. Portion 12 is preferably wider than extension 10, and in cross section tapers in much the same manner as a chisel, to permit initial insertion of extreme 12 within relatively narrow crevices or cracks. Tine D is formed as a separate element which has a rearwardly disposed, generally wedge-shaped end portion 14 that is welded or otherwise affixed to the inner curved portion of tine E. Tine D also has an extension 14a that curves slightly downwardly and outwardly and projects from the wedge portion 14, the outermost edge portion 16 of which is substantially straight. Due to the configuration thereof tines D and E define a space 20 therebetween in which a stud 22 or other member may be removably locked, with the narrow extremity 26 of tine E digging into the material forming the member 22 to prevent inadvertent displacement therefrom. It will be immediately apparent from an inspection of Figure 2 that the tool above described permits easy, quick separation of studs or other members 22 from their supporting structure when the tool is rotated in either a horizontal or vertical plane.

The hook B comprises a curved, outwardly extending portion, the extremity of which taperingly develops into a flat slotted portion C. Portion C has two laterally spaced legs 32 and 34 which define a slot 36 therebetween that is of such width as to permit engagement of a nail thereby to remove the nail from the member in which it is embedded when the invention is rotated in a horizontal direction. As previously mentioned, hook B not only serves as a means for removing nails prior to dismantling a structure, but also as a handle by which the invention may be easily and conveniently carried by the hand in a downwardly depending position.

A first alternate form of the invention is shown in Figure 4, which is preferably smaller in dimension than the form above described, but includes a rigid member A' having a hook B' formed on one end thereof that is also provided with a nail-extracting extension C'. This alternate form of the invention, like the preferred form, develops on the end opposite that on which hook B' is disposed into two laterally spaced tines F and G. Tine G', as may best be seen in Figure 5, is formed from a portion 28 of member A', which portion curves downwardly and terminates in a flattened area 30. Tine F, like tine D shown in Figure 1, is formed with a wedge-shaped portion 32 from which a curved extension 34 projects that terminates in a transversely disposed pressure plate 36, which in vertical cross section preferably tapers downwardly and inwardly as shown in Figure 5.

This smaller tool is primarily adapted for use in separating moldings 38, or the like, from a wall by inserting pressure plate 36 between the inner surface of the molding 38 and the exterior surface of the wall structure 40. Molding 38 (Figure 5) is removably engaged between tines F and G, and when the invention is manually rotated in a clockwise direction, the molding is pivoted in a clockwise direction therewith to separate it from the wall on which it is mounted. It will be apparent that by rotating this form of the tool in a counter clockwise direction, the pressure plate 36 is also caused to pivot in a counter clockwise direction whereby molding 38 will be separated from the wall 40.

The use of the preferred and alternate forms of the invention have been previously set forth in detail and need not be repeated herein.

Although the forms of the invention herein shown and described are fully capable of achieving the objects and providing the advantages hereinafore mentioned, it
is to be understood that they are merely illustrative of the presently preferred embodiment thereof and that I do not mean to limit myself to the details of construction herein shown and described other than as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In a wrecking tool capable of use to dismantle both separated rigid members and to separate a plurality of rigid members nailed together, comprising: an elongate rigid handle; two tines extending outwardly from a common end portion of said handle, the major portions of which tines are laterally separated from one another, with a first one of said tines being substantially straight but having a slightly convex inner surface formed on the free end portion thereof, the second one of said tines being longer than said first tine and having a free end portion that curves toward said first tine, the extremity of said second tine being of chisel-like configuration to permit forcible insertion of said second tine between two of said members that are nailed together, with the lateral spacing between the projecting portions of said tines being sufficient to permit said tines to removably grip a stud to twist same loose from a building structure and to permit said second tine to be forcibly inserted between a wall structure and molding affixed thereto, and said handle due to the curvature of said second tine extending upwardly and outwardly from said wall structure in a position convenient to use when said second tine is disposed between said molding and wall structure.

2. A wrecking tool as defined in claim 1 in which said second tine is formed to provide a pressure plate that extends outwardly transversely from two opposite sides thereof, which plate distributes the force applied to the molding being separated to prevent the splintering thereof.

References Cited in the file of this patent

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