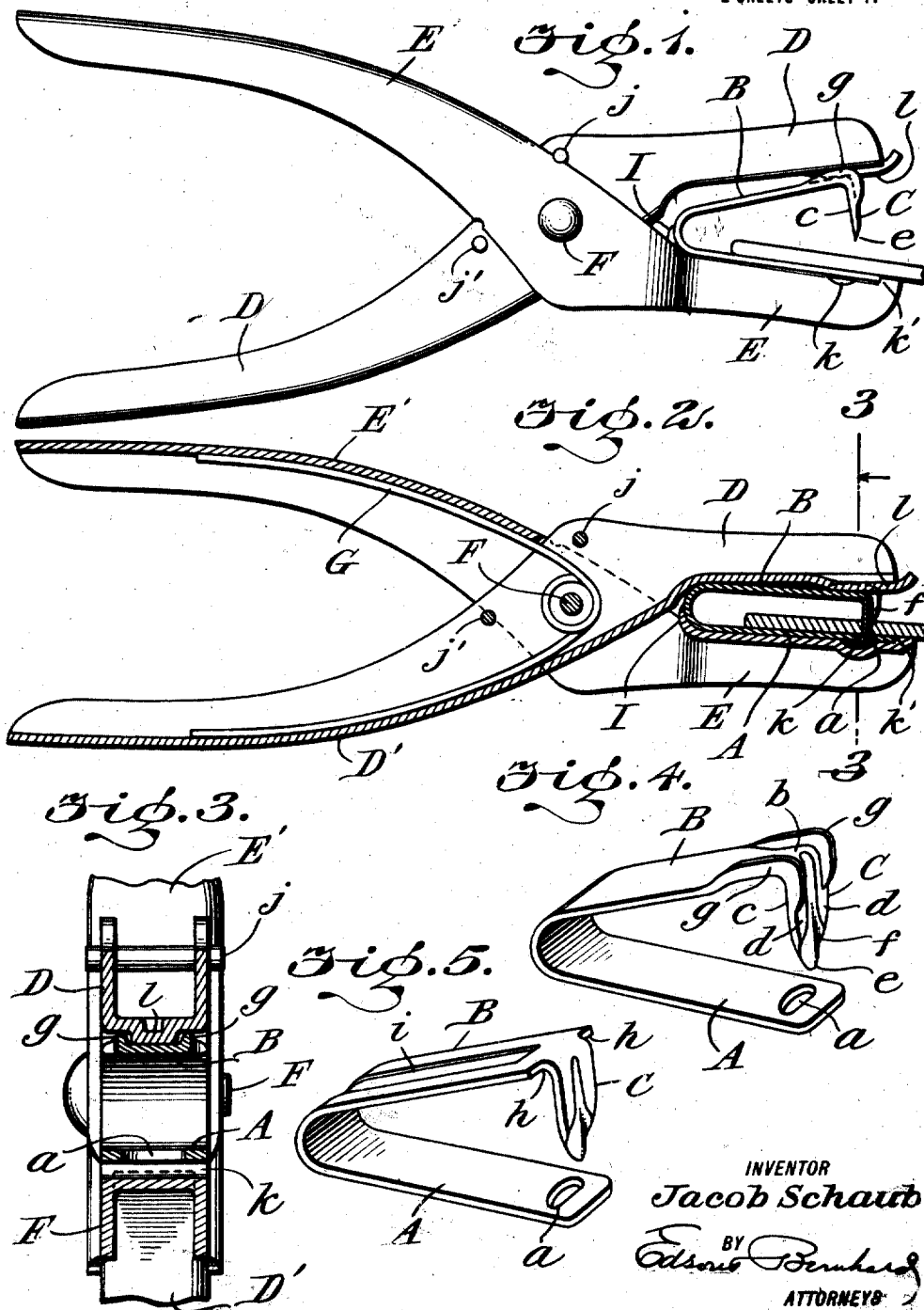


1,249,515.

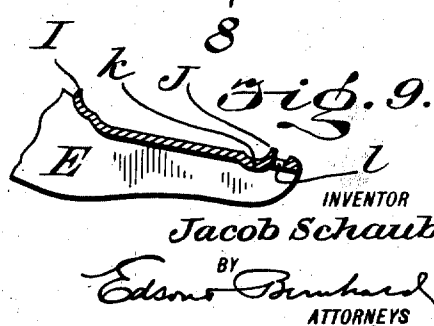
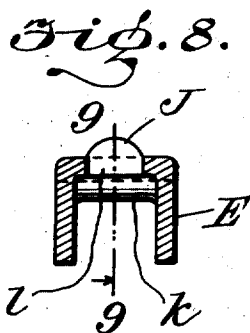
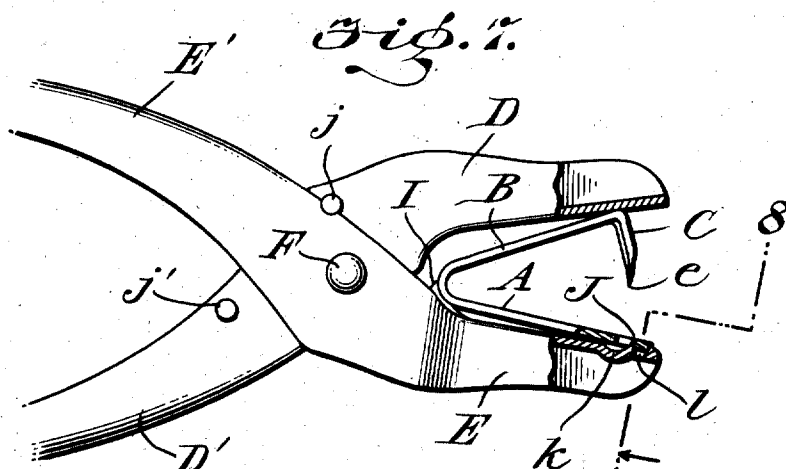
Patented Dec. 11, 1917.
2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



INVENTOR
Jacob Schaub
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ATTORNEYS

1,249,515.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JACOB SCHAUB, OF SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, ASSIGNOR TO SALT LAKE STAMP CO., OF SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, A CORPORATION OF UTAH.

CATTLE-TAG.

1,249,515.

Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 11, 1917.

Application filed June 1, 1916. Serial No. 101,114.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JACOB SCHAUB, a citizen of the United States, residing at Salt Lake City, county of Salt Lake, and State of Utah, have invented a certain new and useful Cattle-Tag, of which the following is a specification.

This invention is a cattle tag, and it embodies, also, an implement for affixing it to the ear of the animal.

The tag is designed, more particularly, as an improvement upon the device disclosed in a prior United States Patent No. 670,099, granted March 19, 1901 to Callison and Bing, the ownership of which patent and of the present invention is vested in the same party. As disclosed in said patent, the tag comprises a strip of metal doubled upon itself and having at one end portion a slot and provided at its other end portion with a prong adapted to be forced through the flesh of the animal's ear and to pass through the slot so that the free end of the prong may be clenched against the metal of the slotted end portion of said tag. Salient features of the patented device consist of certain cutting edges on the prong and flanges provided on the side edges of the prong, but practical experience for many years with such prior construction has demonstrated its inefficiency in at least two important particulars notwithstanding the provision for stiffening the prong and for facilitating the penetration of the fleshy part of the animal's ear, to wit:—first, the prong does not easily and freely penetrate the flesh particularly should the latter be of a tough resisting nature, and, second, the resistance met with from tough flesh of the ear almost invariably results in such displacement of the prong relatively to the slot that the end of said prong cannot pass through said slot, hence the end of the prong is not clenched against the slotted end of the tag and the latter is imperfectly and insecurely attached to the ear.

The improvement of the present invention consists in such form of the prong that it will readily penetrate the flesh of the ear and at the same time said prong is stiffened or stayed that it will not bend or become deflected relatively to the slot, however tough and resisting the flesh of the ear may be, whereby the application of the tag is

facilitated and its attachment rendered secure. The peculiarity in the prong resides in the disposition of the metal on one face thereof, the other face being smooth, such disposition of the metal resulting in a taper in the thickness of the prong decreasing toward the point, and in the formation of ribs diverging from longitudinal axis of said prong toward the respective side edges thereof, such divergence of the ribs producing on the face of the prong a depression or recess approximately of the conventional diamond shape.

The tag is characterized, further, by the presence of side flanges extending from the prong to and beyond the corner where it is bent from one member of the tag. Said side flanges operate as stays in imparting additional stiffness to the bent member, and they operate, also, as guides in order to position the tag relatively to a jaw of the bending implement, said implement jaw being formed with a well defined rib the width of which is equal to the space between the side flanges of the tag, whereby said tag is adapted to be placed initially into contact with the rib of the implement so that the tag cannot become displaced sidewise with respect to the jaw when the implement is manipulated for the purpose of affixing the tag to the animal's ear.

Other features and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following description taken in connection with the drawings, wherein—

Figure 1 is a side elevation illustrating an implement and a tag embodying this invention, and initially positioned for affixing said tag to an animal's ear.

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section through the instrument and the tag, showing the relative positions of the parts when the tag shall have been applied to the ear.

Fig. 3 is a cross section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view on an enlarged scale of one form of my improved cattle tag.

Fig. 5 is a similar perspective view of another form of the cattle tag.

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the new implement one jaw of which is provided with means for effectively retaining the tag in position upon said jaw during and prior

to the operation of affixing said tag to the animal's ear, the tag being shown in position upon the jaw.

Fig. 7 is a side elevation with parts in section with a view to showing more clearly the tag retaining means of the implement.

Fig. 8 is a cross section on the line 8—8 of Fig. 7 through one jaw of the tool, the tag being omitted.

Fig. 9 is a longitudinal section through one jaw of the tool, on the line 9—9 of Fig. 8.

The metal tag A, shown in Fig. 4 of the drawings, consists of a single piece of metal doubled or folded so as to produce members A, B and a prong C. The member A is provided near one end with a transverse slot *a* adapted to receive an end portion of the prong C when the latter is forced through the animal's ear and is clenched against the outer face of said member A, as shown more particularly in Fig. 2.

The prong C, is formed on the free end of member B by bending the metal, the turn or corner at the bent portion being indicated at *b*. The prong C is smooth on the rear face thereof, as at *c*, but the metal on the front face of said prong is distributed in the operation of the dies which fashion the tag so that the prong is tapered and well defined webs or ribs *d* are produced on said front face. The taper of the prong C is indicated quite clearly in Fig. 1 of the drawings, by reference to which it is apparent that the metal of said prong decreases in thickness toward the free extremity, whereby the point *e* of the prong constitutes practically a cutting edge so that the prong will readily penetrate and pass through the flesh of the ear. The webs or ribs *d* on the front face of the prong diverge from the longitudinal axis of said prong toward the side edges thereof, and thus said front face of prong C is characterized by a recess or depression indicated at *f*. The disposition of the metal herein shown and described serves two purposes: first, the prong is tapered so as to produce the cutting edge, and, second, the metal of the prong is stiffened by the presence of the ribs or webs so that the prong remains intact and will not become bent or deflected out of position during the operation of applying the tag to the ear.

In the construction shown in Fig. 4 the bent portion *b* of the metal is reinforced or stayed by the side flanges *g* which extend from a point of member B well toward the rear of the bent corner *b*, thence around said bent corner and thence downwardly along the prong C to a point opposite to the diverging webs or ribs *d*. The side flanges *g* are parallel to each other, so that they serve the initial function of reinforcing or staying the connection between the prong C and

member B, but these flanges are adapted to cooperate with a rib of one jaw of the implement shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3, whereby the tag when initially positioned within the instrument is retained against side-wise displacement, as will be hereinafter described.

Another embodiment of the invention is shown in Fig. 5 of the drawings, wherein the tag consists of members A, B, and prong C, the latter having the peculiar construction hereinbefore described with a view to imparting the desired taper in the thickness of the prong and reinforcing said prong so as to prevent bending thereof out of aligned relation to the slot *a* in the member A when the tag is affixed to the animal's ear. In the form shown in Fig. 5 the metal between the prong C and member B is cut away at *h*, the side flanges *g* being omitted and, furthermore, the outer face of the tag is recessed at *i* so as to receive data for identifying the animal, such as the name of the owner, or a particular brand, or a number. In all other respects the device of Fig. 5 is similar to the tag shown in Fig. 4.

The implement for affixing the tag is shown more particularly in Figs. 1, 2 and 3, said construction being intended more particularly as an improvement upon the device disclosed in Patent No. 661,598, granted Nov. 13, 1900 to Callison and Bing, the ownership of which patent and of the present invention is vested in the same party. As shown, the implement embodies crossing jaws D, E, provided with handles D', E', respectively, and pivoted by a pin F, around which pin is coiled a spring G, the end portions of which are positioned within channels of the handles so as to be concealed from view. The movement of one jaw and handle relative to the other jaw is normally arrested by a stop pin J, and when the handles are pressed together the movement of the jaws toward each other is arrested by another stop pin *j'*, see Figs. 1 and 2. As in the Patent 661,598 the jaw E is provided with a curved recess *k* and with a shoulder *k'* at one side of the recess. The other jaw D is formed with a rib *l*, the same being pressed out of the metal in the operation of blanking up the stock to produce jaw D and its handle D'. The rib extends longitudinally of the jaw D for a part of the length thereof, the width of said rib being less than that of the jaw, as shown in Fig. 3. The rib presents two well defined shoulders intermediate the width of the jaw and extending lengthwise thereof.

When the tag is to be applied to an ear, the jaws D, E are in the open positions of Fig. 1, and the tag is placed intermediate the jaws for the member A to rest upon jaw E, with an end portion of said member A in contact with the shoulder *k'* and with

the slot *a* over the recess *k*, but the other member *B* of the tag occupies such relation to the jaw *D* that the rib *l* of said jaw *D* fits snugly in the space between the side ribs *g* of said tag, whereby the rib *l* and the flanges *g* cooperate in retaining the tag in position between the jaws. When thus positioned the tag cannot be displaced sideways during the manipulation of the implement, and this is an important feature because an unruly animal will seek to escape, so that the operator is not able at all times to hold the instrument and the attached tag in position when an opportunity presents itself to apply the tag.

There is sufficient space between the end of the prong and member *A* to introduce the ear, and when the tag is in position it is only necessary for the operator to press the handles *D'*, *E'* together, whereupon the prong is forced through the ear and the free end of said prong passes through the slot *a* so as to be deflected by the curved bottom of the recess *k*, thus upsetting or clenching the end of the prong against the slotted member *A*, after which the implement is opened and easily withdrawn from the attached tag.

The implement shown in Figs. 1, 2 is constructed with a back gage *I* upon the lower jaw *E* thereof, said back gage being formed by bending upwardly the metal of the jaw at the rear of that flat face of said jaw the forward part of which is formed with the recess *k*. Said back gage, *I* is positioned on the jaw *E* forwardly of the pivotal connection *F* between the jaws, and said gage is curved upwardly from the flat face of the jaw, the curvature of the gage corresponding to the bend in the metal of the tag formed by the members *A*, *B*, thereof. When the tag is in position upon the flat face of the jaw *E*, the heel or rear bent portion of said tag is in contact with the back gage, see Fig. 2, and thus the gage *I* positions the tag with precision upon the jaw *E* and more particularly with respect to the slot *a* in the tag to the recess *k* of jaw *E*.

It is found in practice, however, that there may be, and frequently is, a variation in the length of the slotted member *A* of different tags, due to the action of the dies in bending the metal which compose the tags, and, accordingly, the back gage *I* on the jaw *E* does not at all times cooperate with the different tags that the slots *a* in said tags are in proper register with the recess *k* in the jaw *E*. To remedy this, provision is made in the tool as in Figs. 6 to 9 inclusive whereby the slotted part of the tag is brought into register with the recess of the jaw due to the use of a projection on the jaw entering into the slot *a* of the tag, as a result of which each tag is brought and re-

tained in position for its slot to register with the recess *k* regardless of the length of the tag and to the contact, or the lack of contact, between the heel of the tag and the back gage *I*. The positioning projection referred to is a lug or ear *J* extending upwardly from the face of the jaw *E*, the same being arranged close to the recess *k*; in fact, the back wall of the ear or lug *J* is continuous with the wall of the recess *k*, as shown more clearly in Figs. 7 and 9, said continuous wall being curved in order that the point *e* of the prong *C* will strike the rear curved wall as said point enters the slot *a* of the tag, whereby the bending of the point commences immediately after said point passes through the flesh of the animal's ear. The ear or lug *J* is forwardly of the recess *k*, and as shown said ear or lug is produced by upsetting the metal of the jaw, for which purpose the jaw in front of the ear is perforated as at *l* in order to supply the metal required to form the ear or lug at the required place.

In using the tag in connection with the implement, said tag is placed upon the jaw *E*, with the heel of the tag in contact with the back gage *I* and with the ear or lug *J* extending into the slot *a* of said tag, the upper forward part of the tag being in contact with jaw *D*, whereby the lug or ear *J* with or without the back gage *I* retains the tag in connected relation to the implement, and in proper position therein against a tendency of the tag to work out of position when the latter is held by the hand in any position. When the handles of the implement are pressed together, the prong *C* is forced through the flesh of the ear, the point *e* of said prong entering the slot *a*, at which time the extremity of the prong strikes the curved face or wall continuous with the recess *k* and lug *J*, so that the point is deflected as the point passes through the slot *a*, such deflection of the point being continued by contact with the face of the recess *k* during the application of pressure to the handles of the implement, as a result of which the prong is quickly and effectively clenched against member *A* of the tag.

In the preferred form of the tag shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 4, it is characterized by the employment of stay ribs or flanges *g* extending in two directions away from the bend *b* which joins the prong *C* to member *B*, said ribs or flanges *g* being positioned at the respective side edges of the tag. Experience shows that a tag without these stay ribs as in Fig. 5 is subject to serious objection when bending the tag for the reason that the pressure applied to the tag is liable to, and often does, force the prong forwardly so that the point *e* of the prong will not enter slot *a*, hence the prong is not

clenched against the outer face of member A and the tag is insecurely attached to the animal's ear. Such premature or improper bending of the prong at the bend *b* where it joins member B is wholly precluded by the stay ribs *g* extending as described in two directions from the bend *b*, and, accordingly, said ribs *g* constitute an important improvement which I have made in tags of the class described.

No claim is made herein to the tool or implement adapted to affix the tag to the ear of an animal, for the reason that said tool or implement forms the subject matter of a divisional application filed by me August 30, 1916, Serial No. 117,687.

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

1. A cattle tag bent from a piece of metal and comprising a plurality of members and a prong, the metal on the face of said prong being distributed to produce webs which are positioned intermediate the side edges of the prong to produce a channel between the webs, said prong tapering in thickness below the webs and said webs operating as stays in reinforcing the metal in order to preclude deflection of the prong by the resistance encountered when affixing said tag.

2. A cattle tag comprising a member provided with a slot, a second member, and a prong extending at an angle to said member, said prong being tapering so as to decrease in thickness toward its free end or point, the metal on one face of said prong being distributed to produce webs which diverge relatively to each other and result in a recess extending to the pointed free end of said prong.

3. A cattle tag comprising a slotted member, a second member, and a prong extending from said second member toward the slot in the first named member, the metal on one face of said prong being distributed to produce integral webs which diverge substantially with respect to the axial line of the

prong, said diverging webs being relatively spaced to form an intermediate channel and said prong being tapered and provided with a cutting edge below said diverging webs.

4. A cattle tag comprising a member provided with a slot, a second member, a prong bent from the second member and extending toward the slot in the first member, the metal on one face of the prong being distributed to produce integral webs which are spaced to form a channel, and stay ribs positioned at the side edges of the tag, said stay ribs extending around the bend at which the prong joins the second member and said stay ribs projecting beyond the plane of said integral webs and beyond the face of the second member.

5. A cattle tag comprising two members and a prong bent from a piece of metal, one of said members having a prong-receiving slot and the other member and the prong being provided at the side edges thereof with stay ribs each extending in two directions from the corner of the bend and each stay rib projecting from the plane of the exposed faces of the prong and the member of which it forms a part, whereby said stay ribs stiffen the tag for precluding bending of the prong prematurely at the point at which the prong is joined to the member.

6. A cattle tag bent from a piece of metal and comprising two members and a prong, one of said members being provided with a prong-receiving opening and said prong extending at an angle from the other of said members, said prong and the member of which it forms a part being provided at the respective side edges thereof with stay ribs each of which extends from a point intermediate the length of the prong to a point intermediate the length of said member whereby each stay rib is continuous at and beyond the line of bend where the prong joins the member.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto signed my name

JACOB SCHAUB.