

May 9, 1961

G. M. LA POINTE ET AL

2,982,966

STAPLER DEVICE

Filed July 15, 1959

5 Sheets-Sheet 1

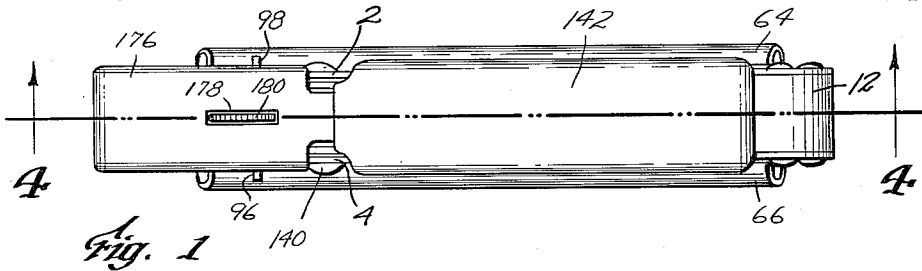


Fig. 1

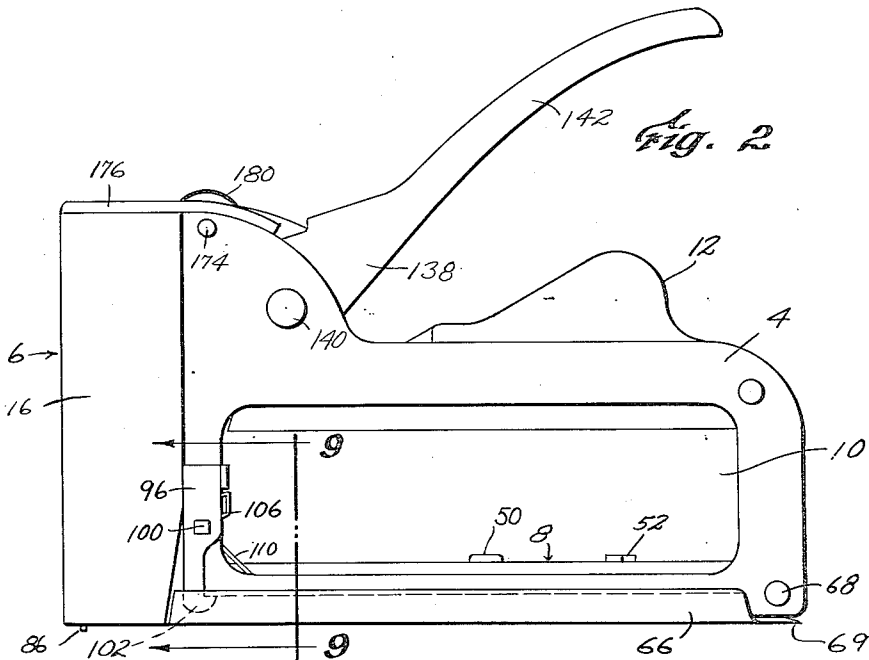


Fig. 2

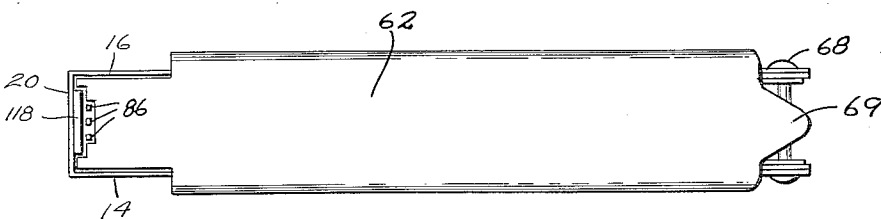


Fig. 3

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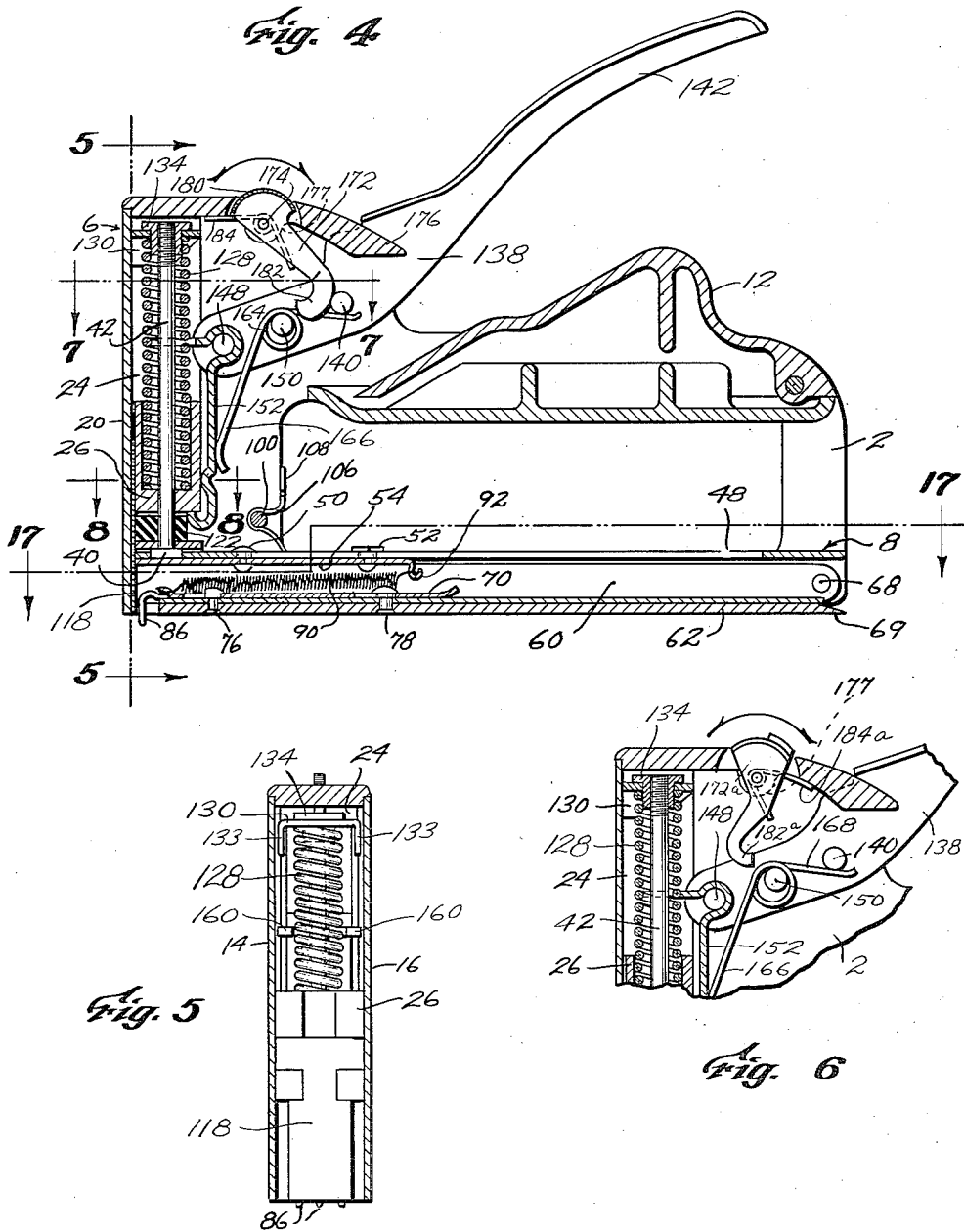
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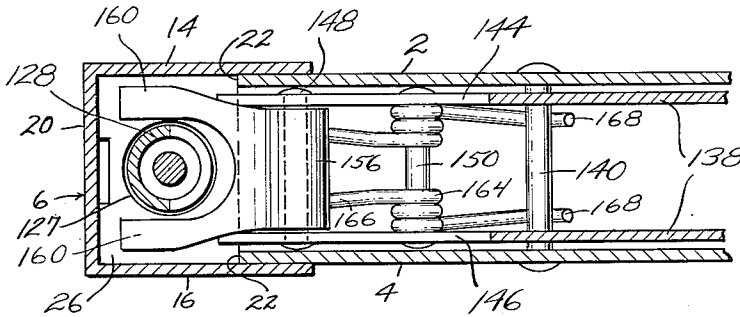


Fig. 7

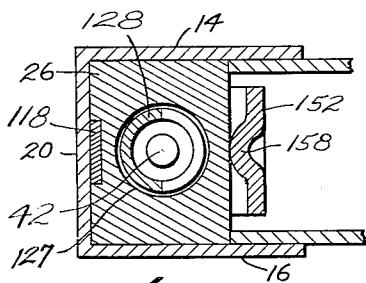


Fig. 8

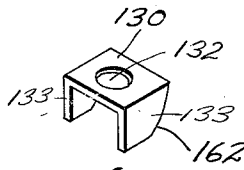


Fig. 10

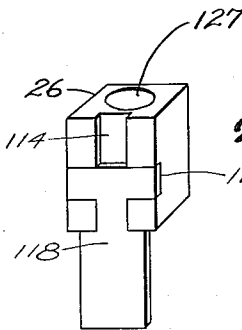


Fig. 11

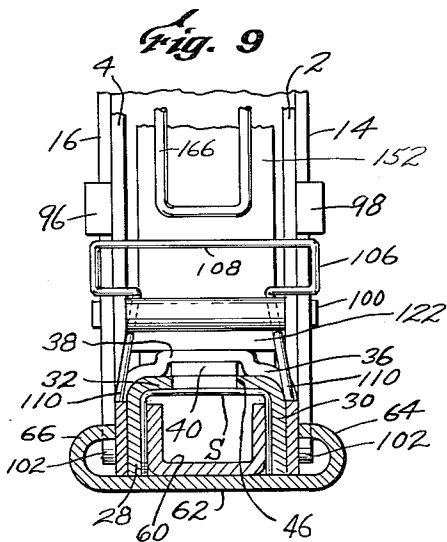


Fig. 9

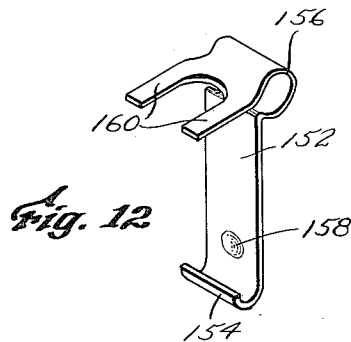


Fig. 12

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Fig. 13

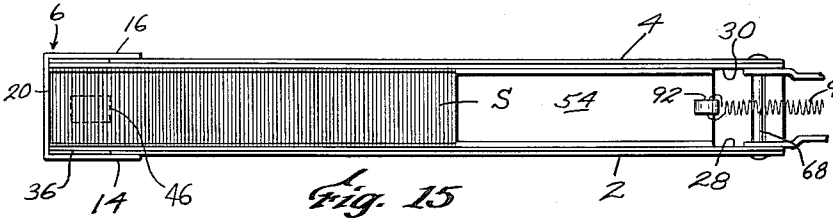
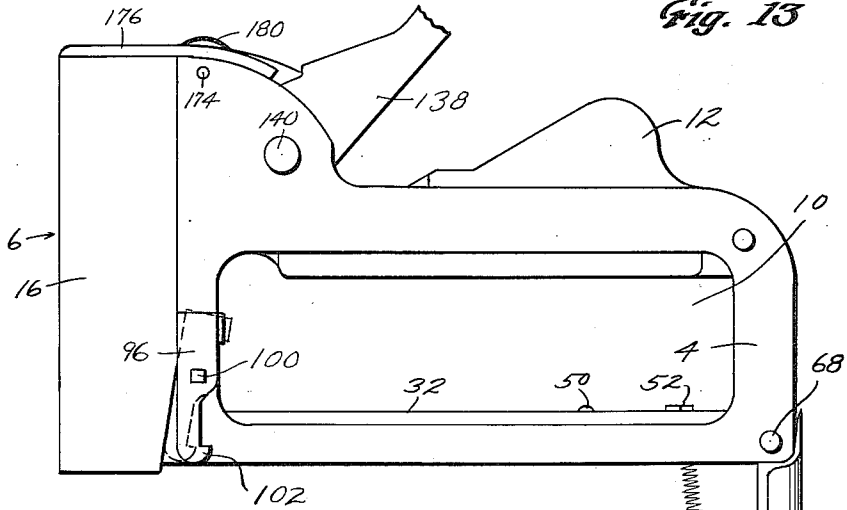


Fig. 15

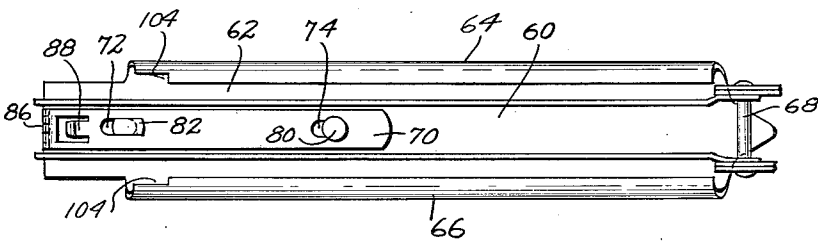


Fig. 16

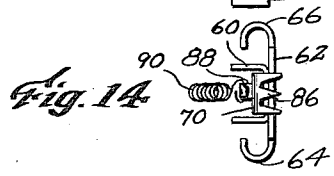


Fig. 14

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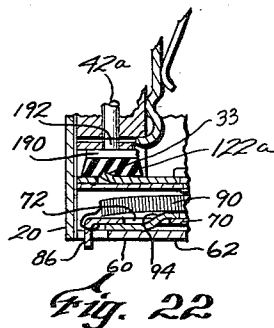
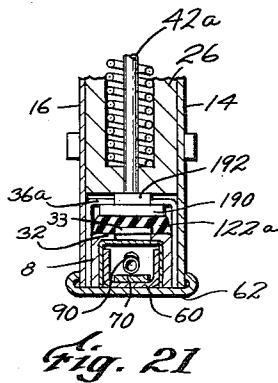
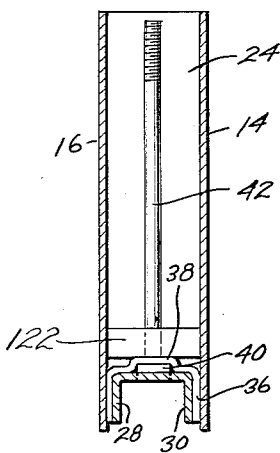
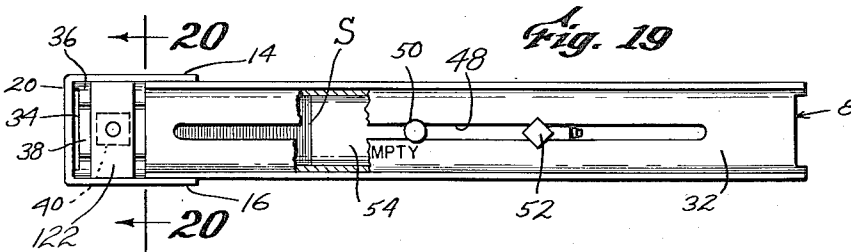
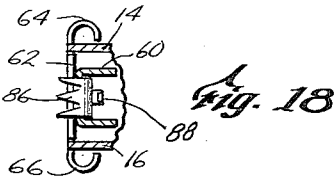
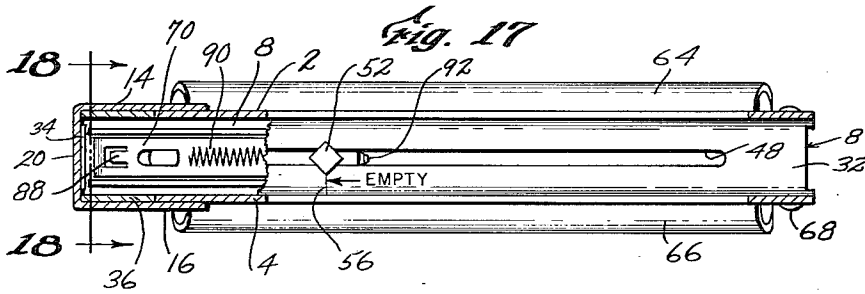


Fig. 20

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STAPLER DEVICE

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8 Claims. (Cl. 1—96)

This invention pertains to staplers and more particularly to staple tackers.

The principal object of the invention is to provide a stapler that is cheap and easy to manufacture and reliable to use.

A more specific object is to provide a stapler that comprises a frame including a magazine for a series of staples, a hammer mounted for reciprocal movement on a center post or bolt secured to the frame and extending upwardly at right angles to the magazine, a staple driver secured to the hammer for ejecting staples one by one from said magazine, a compression spring normally holding the hammer in a first lower staple-ejecting position adjacent the magazine whereat the driver projects into said magazine, an operating member pivotally secured to the frame, a hammer-operating member pivotally secured to the lever, said member having a hook portion for gripping the hammer whereby when the lever is operated the hammer is moved upwardly against the force of the spring, and means for pivoting said member to disengage said hook portion when the hammer has been moved upwardly to a second selected position, whereby the hammer will be driven back to said first position by said spring to eject a staple from the magazine.

Another specific object is to provide a stapler tacker having a novel form of screen puller.

Still another specific object is to provide a staple tacker having a simplified form of means for indicating the quantity of staples remaining in the magazine.

Still another specific object is to provide a stapler having a novel mechanism for operating the stapler driver.

A further object is to provide a stapler having a simplified handle-locking mechanism.

Other objects and many of the attendant advantages of this invention will be more readily appreciated as the invention becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed description when considered in connection with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a stapler embodying the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the same stapler;

Fig. 3 is a bottom view of the same stapler;

Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken along line 4—4 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 5 is a sectional view taken along line 5—5 of Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary sectional view similar to a portion of Fig. 4 but illustrating a modified form of handle-locking mechanism;

Fig. 7 is a sectional view taken along line 7—7 of Fig. 4, but with the handle lock omitted for clarity;

Fig. 8 is a sectional view taken along line 8—8 of Fig. 4;

Fig. 9 is a sectional view taken along line 9—9 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 10 is a perspective view of a combination spring retainer and pawl release cam;

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Fig. 11 is an enlarged perspective view of the hammer and staple ejector assembly;

Fig. 12 is a perspective view of the pawl for lifting the hammer;

Fig. 13 is a side elevation like Fig. 2 but showing the base member in opened relation to the frame;

Fig. 14 is an end view of the base member;

Fig. 15 is a bottom view of the frame as it appears when the base member is in opened position;

Fig. 16 is a plan view of the base member;

Fig. 17 is a sectional view taken along line 17—17 of Fig. 4 with the magazine empty of staples and the screen puller in extended operating position;

Fig. 18 is a sectional view taken along line 18—18 of Fig. 17;

Fig. 19 is a sectional view similar to Fig. 17 but taken at a higher level and with a supply of staples in the magazine;

Fig. 20 is a sectional view taken along line 20—20 of Fig. 19, and

Figs. 21 and 22 are fragmentary cross-sectional and longitudinal sections respectively showing modifications of the present invention.

The stapler about to be described in detail comprises the following sections: a frame, a magazine for a series of staples, an indicator for revealing the quantity of staples in the magazine, a base member which functions as a cover for the magazine, a screen puller, a staple extractor, operating mechanism for ejecting staples one by one, and a lock for the firing mechanism.

(A) The frame, magazine, and staple supply indicator

The frame comprises a pair of flat side members 2 and 4, a U-shaped front member designated generally at 6, and a U-shaped bottom member designated generally at 8. Side members 2 and 4 have large matching openings 10 to accommodate the fingers of the operator's hand and are secured to a plastic handle 12 located therebetween. The side walls 14 and 16 of front member 6 overlap and are welded to the front ends of side members 2 and 4. Side walls 14 and 16 cooperate with the front wall 20 of front member 6 and the front edges 22 of side members 2 and 4 define a rectangular vertical guideway 24 for a hammer element 26 which is described more fully hereinafter.

The sides 28 and 30 of U-shaped bottom member 8 extend into the guideway 24 up against front wall 20. The top wall 32 of bottom member 8 terminates short of the front wall 20 and forms a narrow slot 34. Straddling the sides 28 and 30 and the top surface 32 of the bottom member 8 at its front end is a U-shaped member 36 which is rigidly secured thereto. The top portion of member 36 has a raised portion 38 which cooperates with the top surface 32 of member 8 to form a channel to receive the square head 40 of a bolt or center post 42. The raised portion 38 has a suitable opening to accommodate bolt or center post 42. The top portion 32 of bottom member 8 has a square hole 46 (Figs. 9 and 15) for bolt head 40. The top portion of member 36 is notched at the front so as not to obstruct the slot 34.

The bottom member 8 defines a channel or magazine to contain staples S. The top surface 32 of bottom member 8 is provided with an elongated slot 48 which acts as a guideway for two rivets 50 and 52 which support a U-shaped staple feeding member 54. The heads of rivets 50 and 52 overlap the top surface 32 of bottom member 8. The head of rivet 52 is of square or diamond shape, as shown in Figs. 4, 17, and 19. Inscribed on the top surface 32 is a line 56, the word "Empty," and an arrow pointing to the line. These indicate that almost all of the staples are consumed when rivet head 52 is located at line 56.

(B) Base member, screen puller, and staple extractor

The base member comprises a U-shaped channel 60 which is welded to the top surface of a relatively wide base plate 62 whose side edges are curved upwardly and inwardly as shown at 64 and 66. The sides of channel member 60 are spaced to fit between the side members 2 and 4 of the frame and are pivotally connected to the latter by a pin 68. The rear end of base plate 62 is beveled and tapered as shown at 69 in Figs. 2, 3, and 4. This permits the rear end to function as a staple extractor.

Positioned in channel member 60 at its front end is a screen puller member 70. The latter has two elongated slots 72 and 74. These slots cooperate with rivets 76 and 78 secured to channel member 60 and base plate 62 to permit longitudinal movement of screen puller 70 relative to the base. The head 80 of rivet 78 is round and overlaps the top surface of screen puller 70. The head 82 of rivet 76 has been cut away on three sides, leaving a lip which overlaps screen puller 70 only when the latter is moved forward. When the latter is moved rearwardly, it becomes free of the rivet head 82; and, since it is flexible, its front end can be raised. Its front end is bent downwardly and has a series of depending prongs 86 which can be used to pull a wire screen. When the puller is latched down by the head of rivet 76, prongs 86 are located in front of base plate 62 and project below it by an amount sufficient to grip a screen. The puller is also provided with a hook 88 which functions as an anchor for one end of a tension spring 90. The opposite end of spring 90 is attached to a depending hook 92 formed on the rear end of the staple feeder 54. When the base member is in closed position, spring 90 urges the staple feeder 54 forward in position to engage and force staples S toward slot 34. When the base member is moved toward open position (Fig. 13), the spring will stretch and will not begin to draw the staple feeder away from the staples until the base member has been swung open through a relatively large angle. This prevents spilling of the staples when the base member is opened for the purpose of permitting the operator to engage screen puller 70 so as to shift it to latched position.

The base or cover member is locked in closed position (Fig. 2) by means of two identical latch elements 96 and 98 (Fig. 9) which are secured to a rotatable pin 100 which extends between and through side members 2 and 4. The bottom ends of these latch elements have rearwardly extending hook portions 102 which slip under the sides edges 64 and 66 of base plate 62. These side edges are notched at their front ends as shown at 104 (Fig. 16) to accommodate the bottom ends of the latch elements. The latch elements are restrained against pivoting to release position by a spring member 106 which is bent around pivot pin 100 and has a top portion 108 which bears against the latch members and two end portions 110 which bear against side members 2 and 4 and bottom member 8.

(C) Operating mechanism and lock

Hammer 26 is slidably mounted on bolt or center post 42 and is guided by the front edges 22 of side members 2 and 4. On its front face, hammer 26 has two intersecting rectangular grooves 114 and 116, and force fitted into these grooves is a T-shaped driver blade 118. The latter projects down beyond the bottom of hammer 26 by an amount at least equal to the height of staples S plus distance between bottom of hammer 26 and the top of member 36. The driver blade 118 fits into slot 34.

Seated on top of U-shaped element 36 is a rubber bumper or cushion 122 of sufficient thickness and resiliency to absorb the energy of hammer 26 when the latter is operated to eject a staple. Rubber cushion 122 is kept in place by bolt 42 which projects through it

The center bore in hammer 26 is enlarged as shown at 127 to accommodate a compression spring 128. The top end of spring 128 is engaged by a spring retainer element 130. As seen in Fig. 10, spring retainer element 130 is of U-shaped construction and has a hole 132 in its center portion. Its sides 133 are spaced apart by a distance greater than the outside diameter of spring 128. Hole 132 is just large enough to receive a bushing 134 which is screwed onto the top end of bolt 42 and functions to keep the retainer element 130 in tight engagement with spring 128. Spring 128 holds the hammer down in the position shown in Fig. 4 and also urges bolt 42 upward so as to keep it in place. It is to be noted that bolt 42 is not permanently secured in place and can be removed by the simple expedient of removing bushing 134.

The operating mechanism for hammer 26 includes an elongated lever 138 of U-shaped construction disposed between side members 2 and 4. It is pivotally mounted on a pivot pin 140 connected to side members 2 and 4. The rear end of lever 138 projects upwardly out from between side members 2 and 4 and is shaped as at 142 to function as a handle or trigger. From pivot pin 140 to its front end, lever 138 is slotted so as to leave two parallel arms 144 and 146. Two pins 148 and 150 are connected between arms 144 and 146. A hammer lifting element is supported by the foremost pin 148. As seen best in Fig. 12, the hammer lifting element comprises an elongated flat portion 152 formed with a hook portion 154 at its bottom end and with a loop portion 156 at its top end. Flat portion 152 has a dimple 158 just above hook portion 154. Formed integral with loop portion 156 and extending at right angles to flat portion 152 is a bifurcated portion comprising a pair of spaced fingers 160. Pin 148 passes through loop portion 156. Flat portion 152 extends down behind hammer 26, and dimple 158 spaces it from the hammer so as to permit only the end of the hook to engage the underside of the hammer. This makes it easier to disengage the hook from the hammer. Fingers 160 extend into guideway 24 along opposite sides of the compression spring 128, as shown in Figs. 4, 7, and 8. It is to be noted that the sides of spring retainer 130 are in position to intercept fingers 160 when the hammer lifting element is raised by operation of lever 138. This will cause the hammer lifting element to pivot counterclockwise (Fig. 4) about pin 148 to free the hammer from the hook. The bottom rear corners of sides 133 of spring retainer 130 are beveled as shown at 162 (Fig. 10). This facilitates pivoting the hammer lifting element to hammer releasing position. Pin 150 supports a spring member 164 which comprises a loop portion 166 that engages the rear side of flat portion 152 of the hammer lifting mechanism and two end portions 168 that extend under and engage pivot pin 140. Spring member 164 urges flat portion 152 toward hammer 26 and also urges lever 138 counterclockwise (Fig. 4). Thus, hook portion 154 is held against the hammer at all times except when fingers 160 strike sides 133 of the spring retainer.

The operating mechanism functions as follows: When handle or trigger 142 is squeezed toward handle 12, hook 154 moves hammer 26 upwardly against the spring 128. This lifts driver 118 out of the staple magazine, allowing staple pusher 54 to place a staple in the position previously occupied by the driver. When fingers 160 strike retainer 130, the hammer lifting element 152 is pivoted to free the hammer. When this occurs, spring 128 rapidly forces the hammer back down to its original position, causing the driver to strike and eject the staple in its path. The force of the hammer is absorbed by rubber cushion 122 and also by a U-shaped element 36 directly beneath it.

A lock is provided to render the stapler inoperative. The lock takes the form of a lever 172 supported by a

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pivot pin 174 which is secured to side members 2 and 4. A cover plate 176 is secured to side members 2 and 4 in covering relation to the forward end of lever 138 and the guideway 24. Cover plate 176 is secured in place by pivot pin 174 which extends through a pair of ears 177 found on the underside of the cover plate. Cover plate 176 has a narrow slot 178 (Fig. 1) located between ears 177. Slot 178 accommodates the top end of lever 172. The top end of lever 172 is rounded and knurled as shown at 180 so as to facilitate movement of the lever by the operator's thumb. The bottom end of lever 172 has a forwardly extending hook 182 which, when the lever 138 has been pivoted clockwise (Fig. 4) sufficient to "fire" the stapler, can be moved under pin 150 to hold lever 138 down against handle 12. A small spring 184 mounted on pivot pin 174 acts between cover plate 176 and lever 172 to urge the lever in a counterclockwise direction, whereby to facilitate unlocking of lever 138.

Fig. 6 shows a modified form of lock wherein release of lever 138 is effected by clockwise instead of counterclockwise movement of the locking lever. In this case, locking lever 172 is replaced by a locking lever 172a whose hook portion 182a extends rearwardly instead of forwardly. A spring 184a urges lever 172a clockwise, and counterclockwise movement is required to cause hook 182a to engage pin 150.

Figs. 21 and 22 illustrate two other variations that may be made without departing from the principles of the present invention. Here, the U-shaped element 36 is replaced by a U-shaped element 36a that stands higher above the top surface 32 of member 8, and rubber cushion 122 is replaced by a rubber cushion 122a that fits below instead of above the U-shaped element. Rubber cushion 122a is supported by the top surface 32 of member 8 and is kept in place by tongue 33 lanced out of top surface 32 of member 8. Bolt or center post 42 is replaced by a guide rod 42a which has an enlarged head 190 of square rectangular cross-section and a shoulder 192 of rectangular cross-section. Head 190 rests on rubber cushion 122a. U-shaped element 36a has a matching rectangular hole to accommodate shoulder 192. The latter projects above element 36a and is engaged by hammer 26 when the latter is in its at-rest position. When the hammer is completing its "firing" stroke, it strikes shoulder 192. The latter yields downwardly with the blow, transmitting the absorbed energy to cushion 122a. By proper selection of dimensions, hammer 26 is prevented from striking U-shaped element 36. Since this eliminates a metal-to-metal blow, the mechanism will not emit a loud noise when fired.

The second variation illustrated by Figs. 21 and 22 relates to the screen puller. Here, the rivet 76 (Fig. 4) is omitted, and instead, tongue 94 is struck up in the U-shaped channel member 60 of the base plate. This tongue projects up into slot 72 of screen puller 70. When the screen puller is moved forwardly, tongue 94 will overlie the rear edge of slot 72 and thereby act to hold the forward end of the screen puller flat against channel member 60 so that prongs 86 will project below base plate 62. The screen puller is unlatched by shifting it rearwardly. When unlatched, its teeth will be substantially fully retracted. In some cases, the teeth may still project below base plate 62; but due to the springiness of the metal of which it is constructed, the screen puller will flex readily to permit retraction of prongs 86 when they are pressed upwardly. Even in its modified form, screen puller 70 functions as an anchor for spring 90. In this case, however, the end of spring 90 is slipped into a hole formed in the front end of the screen puller, just above prongs 86.

The operating mechanism has several notable advantages. First of all, it is adjustable. By turning bushing 134 in one direction, spring 128 is compressed and retainer 130 is brought closer to cushion 122. This

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results in shortening of the operating stroke of hammer 26 since the closer retainer 130 is to cushion 122, the sooner fingers 160 engage the retainer and the sooner hook 154 is disengaged from the hammer. The adjustability of bushing 134 also makes it possible to replace spring 128 with another spring of slightly different length or strength. Thus, the size and strength of spring 128 is not critical as in previous constructions.

A further advantage of the operating mechanism is the use of a single spring 164 to keep the hook 154 in engagement with the hammer and also to return the lever 138 to its normal at-rest position (Figs. 2 and 4). Another advantage is the use of retainer 130 to retain spring 128 on shaft 42 and also to function as a cam against fingers 160. A further advantage resides in the fact that the hammer and driver are only snug-fitted together with the front wall 20 of the frame and the front edges 22 of side members 2 and 4 acting to prevent lateral separating movement of the hammer and driver. This eliminates a welding or similar operation normally used to secure a driver to a hammer.

The lock mechanism also provides an advantage. It can be operated easily with the thumb of the same hand used to squeeze together handle 12 and trigger 138. Previously, lock mechanisms were difficult to operate and were so located as to require the use of the other hand. It is to be noted also that lever 138 is locked in "down" rather than "up" position, thereby making it more compact for packing and for storing in a workman's pocket.

Screen puller 70 also provides a material advantage. In addition and without detriment to its normal function, it serves as an anchor for spring 90. The latter not only urges staple feeding member 54 forward but also urges the forward end of screen puller 70 upward, thereby drawing the prongs 86 up into device when the puller is slipped to the right free of rivet head 82 (Figs. 4 and 16) or tongue 94.

Another significant advantage is the location of latches 96 and 98. Since both are secured firmly to pin 100, operation of either will operate the other. Moreover, they can be operated regardless of the position of lever 138 and by the thumb and/or index finger of the hand holding the stapler by its handle 12. The use of two latches, one for each side edge, eliminates any torsional strain on base plate 62. Having the latches engage the intumed side edges of the base plate makes possible the use of a relatively wide base plate. A wide base plate makes it easy to hold the stapler normal to the surface to be stapled and also permits it to be set down with its handle standing up, ready to be grasped again for additional use.

Obviously, many modifications and variations of this invention are possible in the light of the foregoing teachings. Therefore, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of construction and arrangement of parts specifically described or illustrated, and that within the scope of the appended claims, it may be practiced otherwise than as specifically described or illustrated.

We claim:

1. A staple tacker comprising a vertical guideway having a narrow elongated opening at one end for a staple driving blade, a guide rod mounted in said guideway, a hollow hammer mounted on said guide rod for reciprocal movement in said guideway, a staple driving blade carried by said hammer, said hammer normally located at said one end of said guideway with said driver blade extending through said narrow opening, a first spring opposing movement of said hammer away from said one guideway end, means at said one end for absorbing the energy of said hammer when said hammer is returned rapidly to said guideway end by said first spring, a lever, means mounting said lever for pivotal movement about a pivot point located intermediate its ends, a hammer-

lifting element pivotally connected to one end of said lever, said hammer-lifting element having a depending hooked portion, means urging said hooked portion into gripping connection with the bottom end of said hammer whereby when said lever is pivoted by force in a first direction said hammer-lifting element will move said hammer away from said one guideway end in opposition to said first spring, means connected to the top end of said rod for moving said hooked portion away from said hammer when said hammer has been moved a selected distance away from said one guideway end, whereby to release said hammer for a return stroke back to said one guideway end under the force exerted by said first spring, and means urging said lever in a second direction whereby said lever will return to its original position after it is released of said force.

2. A staple tacker as defined by claim 1 wherein said means for moving said hooked portion away from said hammer is movable longitudinally of said rod whereby to vary the distance through which said hammer must be moved before it is released.

3. A staple tacker as defined by claim 1 further including a pin on said lever intermediate the pivot point of said lever and the pivot point of said hammer lifting element, and a latch located above said pin and engageable therewith to lock said lever against movement back to its original position after said hammer has been released.

4. A staple tacker as defined by claim 1 wherein said first spring is maintained on said shaft by said means for moving said hooked portion away from said hammer.

5. A staple tacker comprising a frame having a pair of side walls, a front wall and a bottom wall, said bottom wall having an elongated narrow opening therein adjacent said front wall, said front wall and said side walls encompassing a vertical guideway extending upwardly from said bottom wall, a vertical guide rod mounted in said guideway, a hammer having a hole therein mounted on said guide rod, said guide rod extending through said hole, a compression coil spring mounted on said guide rod above said hammer, a retainer element mounted on said guide rod above said spring for holding said spring under compression against said hammer, whereby to normally maintain said hammer in a first bottom position at the bottom of said guideway, a staple driver attached to said hammer, said driver extending through said elongated opening when said hammer is in said first position, a staple magazine located below said bottom wall, means for feeding staples in said magazine toward said front wall in position to be ejected by said driver, a lever pivotally secured between said side walls, said lever having a rear handle portion and a front portion, a hammer operating element pivotally secured to said front portion, said hammer operating element comprising a depending hook portion for engaging said hammer and for lifting said hammer against the force of said compression spring when said lever is pivoted in a first direction, said hammer operating element also having a finger extending toward said front wall, means normally holding said hook portion in engagement with said hammer, said retainer element having a surface positioned to be engaged by said finger when said hammer is lifted upward past a preselected point determined by the position of said retainer element, said retainer element surface shaped to pivot said hammer operating element in a direction to disengage said hook portion from said hammer, whereby to allow said hammer to be returned rapidly to said first position by said compression spring, and means for pivoting said lever in a direction opposite to said first

direction whereby to restore said hook portion to engaging relation with said hammer in said first position.

6. In a staple tacker comprising a frame housing a staple magazine, mechanism for ejecting staples one by one from said magazine, a base member for closing said staple magazine, means pivoting one end of said base member to one end of said frame, and means for releasably locking the opposite end of said base member to said frame, the improvement comprising a screen puller slidably attached to said base member on the side facing said magazine, said screen puller having a plurality of pointed teeth and movable from a first position wherein said teeth are retracted into said frame and a second position wherein said teeth project outwardly of said frame and said base member.

7. A staple tacker comprising a vertical guideway having a narrow elongated opening at one end for a staple driving blade, a hammer mounted in said vertical guideway for reciprocal movement therein, a staple driving blade carried by said hammer, said hammer normally located at one end of said guideway with said driver blade extending through said narrow opening, a first spring opposing movement of said hammer away from said one guideway end, means at said one end for absorbing the energy of said hammer when said hammer is returned rapidly to said guideway end by said first spring, a lever, means mounting said lever for pivotal movement about a pivot point located intermediate its ends, a hammer lifting element pivotally connected to one end of said lever, said hammer lifting element having means for engaging said hammer whereby when said lever is pivoted by force in a first direction said hammer lifting element will move said hammer away from said one guideway end in opposition to said first spring, means for moving said hammer lifting element away from said hammer when said hammer has been moved a selected distance away from said one guideway end, whereby to release said hammer for a return stroke back to said one guideway end under the force exerted by said first spring, means urging said lever in a second direction whereby said lever will return to its original position after it is released of said first direction force, a pin on said lever intermediate the pivot point of said lever and the pivot point of said hammer lifting element, and a latch located above said pin and engageable therewith to lock said lever against movement back to its original position after said hammer has been released.

8. A staple tacker as defined by claim 7 further including a cover member covering the top end of said guideway and the forward end of said lever, said cover member having a slot, said latch having a portion projecting upward through said slot, whereby said latch may be engaged and operated manually by the operator of the stapler.

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