March 10, 1925. 1,529,560

F. M. THOMAS

WIRE STRETCHER

Filed June 9, 1924

Fig. 1.

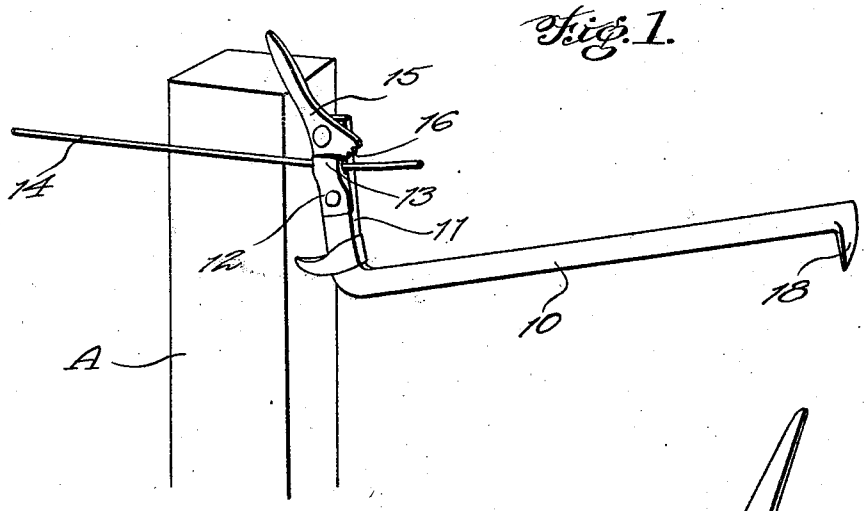


Fig. 2.

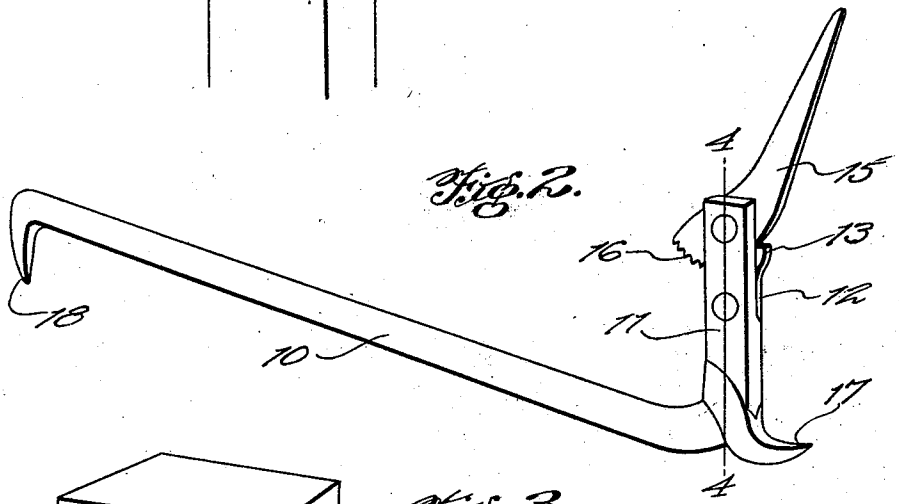


Fig. 3.

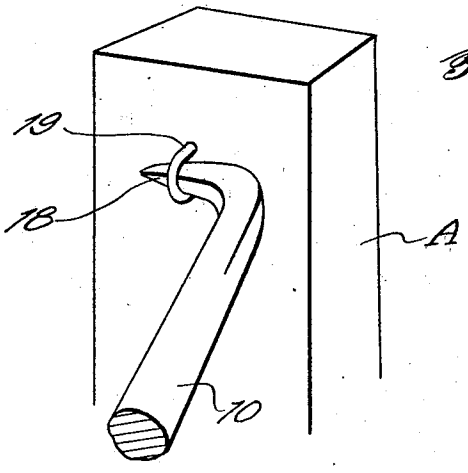
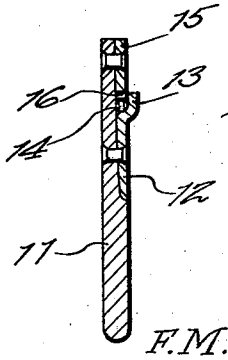


Fig. 4.



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WITNESS:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRED M. THOMAS, OF TOPEKA, KANSAS.

WIRE STRETCHER.

Application filed June 9, 1924. Serial No. 718,905.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRED M. THOMAS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Topeka, in the county of Shawnee and State of Kansas, have invented new and useful Improvements in Wire Stretchers, of which the following is a specification.

This invention contemplates the provision of a tool designed to be conveniently used as a wire stretcher and staple puller.

In carrying out the invention I contemplate the provision of a tool which is very simple in construction and cheap to manufacture, and one designed to obtain an effective grip upon the wire to be stretched and to hold the wire taut while a staple is being driven into a fence post across which the wire has been stretched.

The nature and advantages of the invention will be better understood when the following detailed description is read in connection with the accompanying drawings, the invention residing in the construction, combination and arrangement of parts as claimed.

In the drawings forming part of this application, like numerals of reference indicate similar parts in the several views, and wherein:

Figure 1 is a view showing how the tool is used for stretching a strand of wire across the fence post.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the tool.

Figure 3 is a fragmentary view showing how the tool can be used as a staple puller.

Figure 4 is a sectional view taken on line 4—4 of Figure 2.

The tool forming the subject matter of the present invention comprises a lever of substantially L-shaped formation, the body portion of which is indicated at 10, while the relatively short offset branch or portion is indicated at 11. This portion 11 is slightly reduced in thickness adjacent the upper end thereof, and riveted or otherwise suitably secured to one side of this reduced portion is a small plate 12, the upper extremity 13 of which is offset to provide a groove or channel for the reception of the wire strand 14 to be stretched by the tool. Pivoted upon the branch 11 of the tool is a cam shaped locking lever 15 the working portion of which is provided with teeth 16, so that when the lever 15 is moved to an active position the teeth 16 engage the wire strand 14 and effectively hold the wire fixed within the groove above mentioned. Supported by the portion 11 of the tool and projecting at a right angle therefrom is a pointed lug 17 adapted to be slightly embedded in the post A when the tool is in use as shown in Figure 1. The opposite end of this lever 10 is offset as at 18, which offset portion tapers to a point so it can be conveniently inserted within a staple 19 when it is desired to extract a staple from a post or other object. This use of the tool is clearly shown in Figure 3.

When it is desired to stretch a strand of wire across a fence post or the like, the said strand is received within the groove above mentioned, and the lever 15 swung to the position shown in Figure 1, in which position the lever serves to hold the wire securely attached to the tool. The pointed lug 17 is then arranged against the fence post A, and by pressing down on the lever 10, the wire strand will be stretched and held taut until it is secured to the fence post by means of a staple in the ordinary well known manner. Manifestly the greater the pull upon the strand 14, the more effective is the gripping action of the lever 15.

While it is believed that from the foregoing description, the nature and advantages of the invention will be readily apparent, I desire to have it understood that I do not limit myself to what is herein shown and described, and that such changes may be resorted to when desired as fall within the scope of what is claimed.

What I claim is:

A tool of the character described comprising a lever including a right angularly disposed end portion, said end portion being recessed at one side and defining a shoulder, a plate arranged in said recess to lie substantially flush with the adjacent side of said end member, said plate reposing upon said shoulder, means for securing the plate to said end member, the outer end of said plate being curved outwardly to define a wire receiving groove with the adjacent side of said end member, said end member projecting an appreciable distance beyond the outer end of said plate, and a cam shaped locking lever pivoted on the end member beyond said plate and adapted to be received by said groove to clamp a wire therein.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

FRED M. THOMAS.