This invention relates to a lifting tool for building blocks and more particularly to such a tool which shall be adapted to lift building blocks having openings therein. An object of my invention is to provide a simple tool for handling building blocks whereby the hand of the worker does not come into direct contact with the blocks, thereby saving wear and tear on the hands and gloves.

Another object of my invention is to provide a lifting tool for building blocks in which the tool may be actuated by one hand to engage and release the blocks thus handled.

Another object of my invention is to provide a lifting tool for building blocks in which the gripping elements thereof engage only the inside of the blocks, thus preventing scratching or damaging the exposed surface of the block.

Another object of my invention is to provide a lifting tool of the character designated which shall be positive in operation whereby the block is firmly clamped by the tool, thereby eliminating the possibility of the block becoming separated from the tool as the block is being transferred from place to place.

A further object of my invention is to provide a lifting tool for building blocks which may be released after the block is in mortar without disturbing the block.

A further object of my invention is to provide a lifting tool of the character designated in which the block may be positioned accurately in place and leveled prior to release from the tool.

A still further object of my invention is to provide a tool of the character designated which shall be simple of construction, economical of manufacture and one which is adapted to handle various sizes and shapes of building blocks having openings therein.

Briefly, my improved lifting tool comprises a support member having depending projections which are disposed to enter the opening in the block. Gripping elements are pivotally supported by the depending projections in position to engage the inner surface of the opening in the block upon pivotal movement of the gripping elements in one direction and to disengage the inner surface upon pivotal movement of the gripping elements in another direction. The gripping elements are operatively connected to actuating members which are urged by resilient means in a direction to pivot the gripping elements in a direction to engage the inner surface of the block. A handle is carried by the actuating member whereby the actuating member may be depressed in a direction to pivot the gripping elements whereby they are moved in a direction to be out of engagement with the opening in the block.

Lifting tools embodying features of my invention are illustrated in the accompanying drawing, forming a part of this application, in which:

FIG. 1 is a side elevational view of the tool, showing the manner in which the tool is supported by the building block, the building block being broken away and in section;
support member 13, the building block is also leveled. Upon release of the handle 27, the springs 34 urge the gripping elements 17 toward the inner surface of the opening 11 whereby the relatively sharp contact points engage the block to firmly secure the lifting tool to the block. After the block is correctly positioned, the tool is released from the block by depressing the handle 27 whereby the gripping elements 17 again move to the uppermost dotted line position shown in FIG. 2. In this position, the tool is free to be removed from the block without disturbing the same.

In FIG. 4 of the drawing, I show a modified form of my invention in which the support member 13b is of a width to span the building block 10. The support member 13b is operatively connected to the actuating rods 24 and to the elongated U-shaped member 31 in the manner described hereinabove. Also, the support member 13b is provided with depending projections 14 and 16 as described hereinabove. The operation of the tool shown in FIG. 4 is identical to the operation of the tool shown in FIGS. 1–3, the only difference being the fact that the support member 13b is of a width to be in contact with the upper surface of the building block adjacent the sides thereof, as shown.

From the foregoing, it will be seen that I have devised an improved lifting tool for building blocks. By providing a relatively simple tool which may be operated by one hand to position and release the blocks, the tool not only facilitates handling of the blocks but provides for more accurate laying of the blocks. Also, by providing positive and firm contact between the tool and the building block, there is no possibility of the block becoming separated from the tool as the block is being handled.

While I have shown my invention in two forms, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that it is not so limited, but is susceptible of various other changes and modifications without departing from the spirit thereof, and I desire, therefore, that only such limitations shall be placed thereupon as are specifically set forth in the appended claim.

What I claim is:

In a lifting tool for a building block having an opening therein, a relatively flat support member adapted to fit over the block, said support member having an integral projection on each end thereof extending generally perpendicularly thereto and disposed to enter the opening, a pair of elongated gripping elements pivotally supported intermediate their ends on each projection, an actuating member connected to each pair of gripping elements adjacent the inner ends of the gripping elements to move the gripping elements into engagement with the inner surface of the block defining the opening when moved outwardly and out of engagement with said inner surface when moved inwardly, said support member having openings to receive the actuating members whereby the actuating members extend outwardly from said support member, a handle extending between and connecting the outer ends of the actuating members, an elongated generally U-shaped member secured to said support member and positioned between the support member and the handle, said elongated member having openings to receive the actuating members, and resilient means operatively connected between the elongated member and said handle to urge said handle and actuating members secured thereto outwardly from said elongated member and said support member whereby the gripping elements are urged continuously in a direction to engage the inner surface of said block defining the opening therein.

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