P. J. AND M. J. CLARKE.

LASHING CUTTER.

APPLICATION FILED AUG. 28, 1919.

1,397,362.

Patented Nov. 15, 1921.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

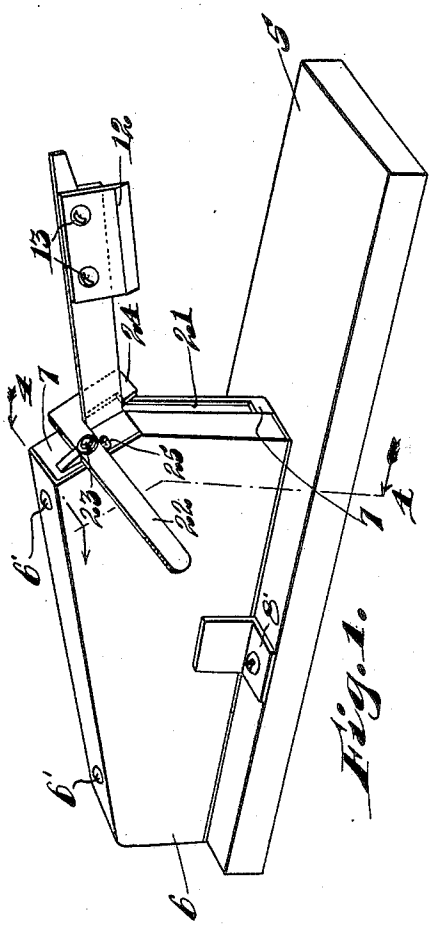


Fig. 1.

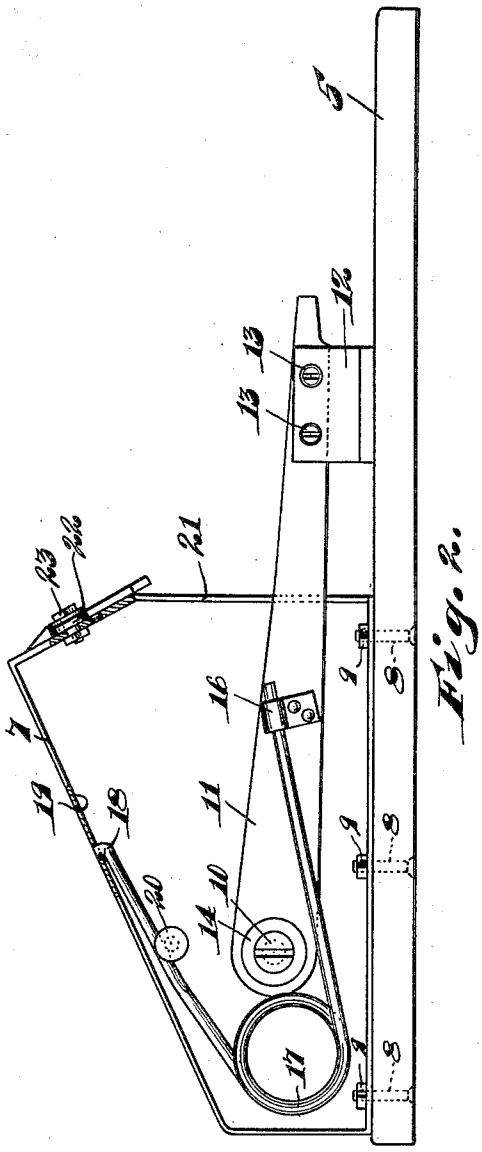


Fig. 2.

Witnesses:
C. E. Wessels.
Thos. S. Donnelly

Inventors.
Peter J. Clarke,
And Michael J. Clarke,
By Joshua R. H. Potts
Attorney.

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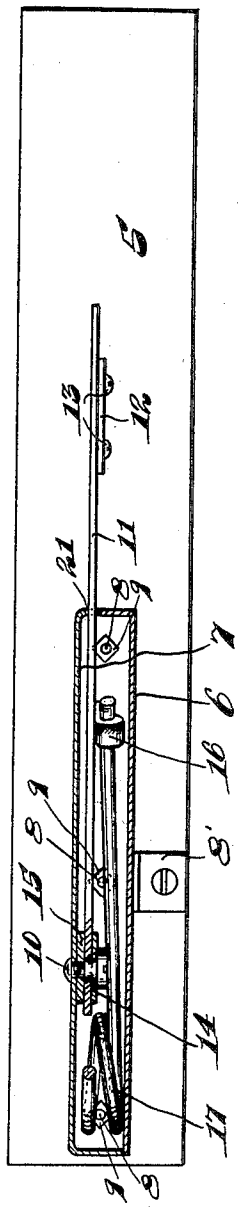


Fig. 3.

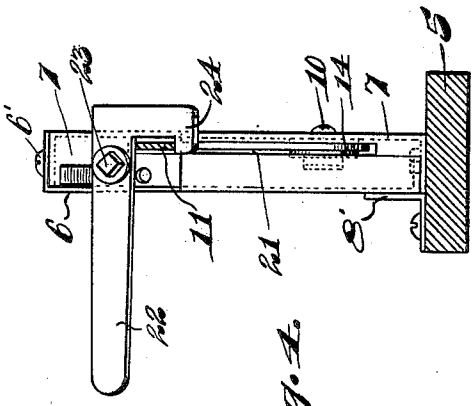


Fig. 4.

Witnesses:
C. E. Wessels.
Thos. L. Donnelly

Inventors.
Peter J. Clarke,
And Michael J. Clarke,
By Joshua R. H. Potts
Attorney.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

PETER J. CLARKE AND MICHAEL J. CLARKE, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

LASHING-CUTTER.

1,397,362. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Nov. 15, 1921.

Application filed August 28, 1919. Serial No. 320,474.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, PETER J. CLARKE and MICHAEL J. CLARKE, citizens of the United States, and residents of the city of Chicago, county of Cook, and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Lashing-Cutters, of which the following is a specification.

Our invention relates to new and useful improvements in lashing cutters and has for its object a provision of a lashing cutter which will be highly efficient in use, durable in structure and economic in manufacture.

Other objects will appear hereinafter.

The invention consists in the combination and arrangements of parts hereinafter described and claimed.

The invention will be best understood by reference to the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification, and in which,

Figure 1, is a perspective view of the invention.

Fig. 2, is a side elevational view of the invention with parts removed.

Fig. 3, is a top plan view of a horizontal sectional view of the invention.

Fig. 4, is a sectional view of the invention taken substantially on line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

The approved form of construction comprises a base 5 mounted upon which is a housing 7, one wall 6 of which is detachable, the wall 6 being secured to the rest of the housing by suitable fastening means 6′ and 8′, the housing proper being mounted upon the base 5 by means of suitable bolts 8 and nuts 9. Pivotally mounted upon one side of the housing 7 by means of a suitable bolt 10 is lever 11, the opposite end of the lever 11 projecting exteriorly of the housing 7. Secured to the exteriorly projecting end of the lever 11 is a suitable cutting element or blade 12. Positioned upon the member 10 adjacent opposite sides of the lever 11 are washers 14 and 15. Securely fastened to lever 11 within the housing 7 as at 16 is one end of a torsional spring 17, the opposite end 18 of which is laterally offset and adapted to project through a slot 19 provided in the upper face of the housing 7. Securely fastened to the rigid wall of the housing 7 adjacent the upper side thereof is a guide member 20 adapted to retain the end 18 of the spring 17 in engagement with the slot 19.

The front wall of the housing 7 is provided with a vertically extending slot 21 in which the lever 11 is adapted to move. Pivotally mounted upon the front wall of the housing 7 by means of a bolt 23 is a lever 22 one end of which is turned at right angles to form a suitable ratchet element 24 which is adapted to engage and retain the lever 11 in elevated position. When the lever 11 is raised to an elevated position, the same may be released by disengaging the ratchet member 24 from the lever, whereupon the torsional spring 17 will carry the lever 11 and its coöperating cutting element 12 quickly and forcefully downwardly into contact with the base 5. To prevent accidental release of the member 11 when in elevated position a suitable stop 25 is inserted in an opening provided in the front wall of the housing 7. When the lever 11 is raised to elevated position and the stop 25 inserted into the opening mentioned, the member 24 can not be disengaged from the member 11. This member 25, however, may be readily inserted or removed in the opening mentioned.

The device is adapted and intended for use for cutting the lashing of a ship upon the launching of the same. The base 5 is inserted beneath the lashing rope, so that the rope lies across the base 5 at the point where the blade 12 strikes the same. When the rope is so positioned, release of the lever 11 from engagement with the ratchet element 24 will cause the cutting element 12 to forcefully strike the lashing rope thereby immediately severing the same. It is consequently seen that we have provided a device which is accurate and efficient in use and instantaneous in action.

While we have illustrated and described the preferred form of construction for carrying our invention into effect, this is capable of variation and modification without departing from the spirit of the invention. We, therefore, do not wish to be limited to the precise details of the construction set forth, but desire to avail ourselves of such variations and modifications as come within the scope of the appended claims.

Having described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:—

1. In combination with a lashing cutter having a housing; a spring-actuated lever pivotally mounted on said housing; a de-

tachable cutting element mounted on the forward end of said lever; and a lever pivotally mounted on said housing, said lever provided with a laterally extending ratchet at its forward end, adapted to engage said spring-actuated lever for retaining the same in elevated position, substantially as described.

2. In combination with a lashing cutter having a housing; a spring-actuated lever pivotally mounted on said housing; a detachable cutting element mounted on the forward end of said lever; a lever pivotally mounted on said housing, said lever provided with a laterally extending ratchet at its forward end, adapted to engage said spring-actuated lever for retaining the same in elevated position; and means for preventing the operation of disengaging the said ratchet from said spring-actuated lever, substantially as described.

3. In combination with a lashing cutter having a housing; a spring-actuated lever pivotally mounted on said housing; a detachable cutting element mounted on the forward end of said lever; a lever pivotally mounted on said housing, said lever provided with a laterally extending ratchet at its forward end, adapted to engage said spring-actuated lever for retaining the same in elevated position; and a stop detachably mounted on said housing adapted to prevent the operation of disengaging the said ratchet from said spring-actuated lever.

4. In combination with a lashing cutter having a pivotally mounted spring-actuated lever; a cutting element detachably mounted on the forward end of said lever and extending laterally therefrom; and a pivotally mounted lever having its forward end bent at right angles adapted to engage said spring-actuated lever retaining the same in elevated position, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof we have signed our names to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

PETER J. CLARKE.
MICHAEL J. CLARKE.

Witnesses:
JOSHUA R. H. POTTS.
B. G. RICHARDS.