J. J. LAUGHLIN.

Picture-Nail Head.

No. 215,007. Patented May 6, 1879.

Fig. 1.

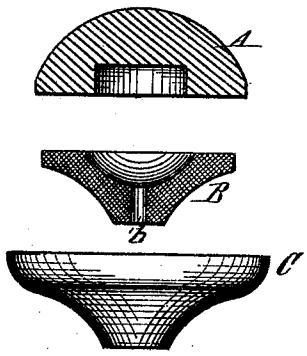


Fig. 2.

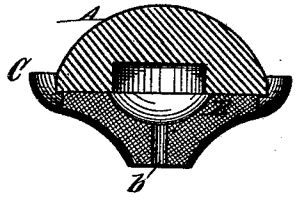


Fig. 3.

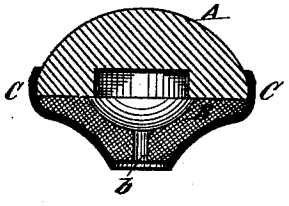


Fig. 4.

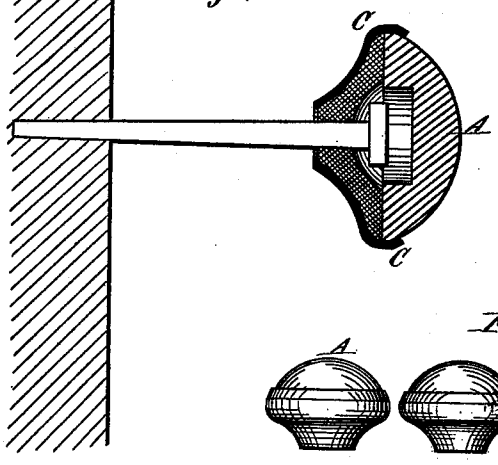


Fig. 6.

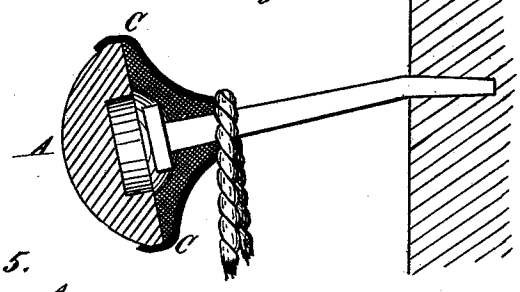
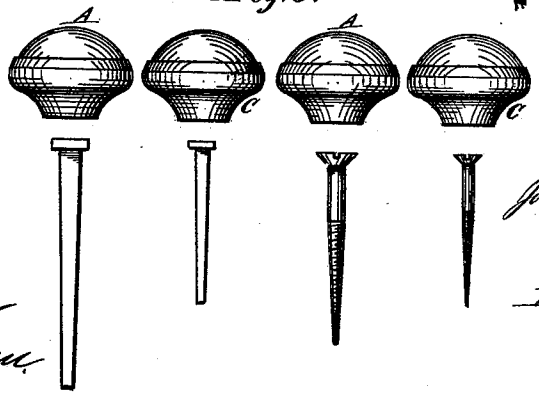


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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IMPROVEMENT IN PICTURE-NAIL HEADS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **215,007**, dated May 6, 1879; application filed February 12, 1879.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN J. LAUGHLIN, of Brooklyn, county of Kings, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Picture-Nail Heads, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

Figure 1 represents the three parts of which my picture-nail head is composed as detached from each other and in section. Fig. 2 is a sectional view, showing the three parts in proper relative location, but not secured together; and Fig. 3 represents the same parts assembled and secured in place for use. Fig. 4 is a sectional view similar to Fig. 3, showing the improved nail-head located upon an ordinary nail. The group of figures numbered 5 are elevations of the improved nail-head, shown detached from nails, pegs, or screws, and intended to indicate that the same head is capable of use with either a large or small nail, peg, or screw. Fig. 6 is a sectional view, illustrating the manner in which a cord or wire will draw against the head in case the nail happens to be sufficiently inclined.

Like letters in all the figures indicate corresponding parts.

The object or purpose of my invention is to provide a simple, cheap, durable, and efficient means of attaching ornamental heads to ordinary nails, pegs, or screws, which means shall be such as will permit the improved head to be applied to nails, pegs, or screws of varying sizes; permit it to be easily detached without injury, whenever desired; prevent accidental detachment or separation of the improved head and its supporting peg, nail, or screw; and to maintain the head in a proper symmetrical position with respect to the axis of its support.

To accomplish all of this, the invention consists in certain novel and useful combinations or arrangements of parts, and in a peculiar formation or construction of the separate parts, all of which will be hereinafter first fully described, and then pointed out in the claims.

A is the ornamental cap or top piece, which is usually made of glass, porcelain, or other material, and which may be plain or ornamented, as desired. As usually constructed, this top piece is provided with a recess upon its under side, as plainly indicated in the sectional views; and this recess forms a convenient receptacle for the ordinary head of the nail or screw, but it is in no way essential to the successful use of my improved device, which, as will be seen hereinafter, will accommodate various-sized nail or screw heads without this recess in the cap.

B is a block of rubber or other elastic medium, having a central perforation, *b*, of small diameter—say, about an eighth of an inch—and intended to permit the insertion of the nail or screw head. The block B has a recess in its upper part sufficiently large to accommodate any ordinary nail or screw head, and its walls are made slightly flaring at top, as plainly shown.

C is a collar, of brass or other metal suitable for the purpose, having its lower part contracted, substantially as shown, and intended to unite the elastic block B with the cap-piece A. This union is made by dropping the block B into collar C and placing the cap thereon, as indicated in Fig. 2. Then the three parts are securely united by spinning, bending, or otherwise turning the upper edge of the collar down upon the edge of the cap-piece, as shown at Fig. 3.

It will be observed from an inspection of Figs. 1, 2, 3, and 4 that the under side of the block B and the inner surface of collar C conform somewhat in shape or general contour, and that when these two parts are in place and the cap properly secured, it will pinch the flaring rim of the block against the adjacent surface of the collar. The cap should be so firmly secured that it will pinch the block sufficiently hard to prevent withdrawal of the latter through the lower open mouth of the collar. The lower mouth of the collar, as will be seen, is left entirely open, so that a larger range of use in connection with nails or screws of varying sizes is possible, there being no flange to interfere with the insertion of the nail or screw head, as in such devices wherein a screw-thread is employed for attachment.

By securing the block at its top, as shown, I am enabled to leave this mouth of the collar entirely free, and at the same time permit the removal of the improved head without with-

drawing the rubber cushion. After removal the head is ready to be applied to any other nail or screw. To apply it, it is only necessary to incline it slightly with respect to the axis of the nail, press it slightly upon the head, and then give it a little twist either to the right or left. To remove it, it is only to be pulled gently and slightly twisted.

By making the perforation *b* central with respect to the block, and providing a recess for the nail or screw head, the improved device is sustained properly upon the axis of the nail or screw, and not off to one side of it, as in many forms of attachable and detachable heads.

By making the block in the shape shown I am enabled to use it with various-sized collars and top pieces, its elasticity permitting it to be compressed within all reasonable or desirable limits.

In case the supporting nail or screw becomes inclined, so that the sustaining cord or wire bears against the improved head, as in Fig. 6, it will be readily seen that the cord or wire presses the rubber directly against the head of the nail, preventing the detachment of the device.

As thus constructed and arranged, the improved device is found to admirably answer the several purposes and objects of the invention, as previously stated.

Having thus fully explained my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a nail-head of the character herein specified, the combination of a metallic collar, an ornamental top piece, and a centrally-perforated elastic block, held in place by being pinched between the collar and cap, substantially in the manner shown and described.

2. In a nail-head of the character herein specified, the combination of a metallic collar having a lower unobstructed mouth, an ornamental top piece, and a centrally-perforated elastic block, held in place by being pinched between the collar and cap, the upper rim of the collar being turned or bent down upon the edge of the cap, substantially as and for the purpose herein set forth.

3. The herein-described elastic block for picture-nail heads, the same being provided with a recess or cavity at top, flaring upper rim, and central limited perforation, all substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand and seal in the presence of two witnesses.

JOHN J. LAUGHLIN. [L. S.]

Witnesses:
M. A. RULAND,
A SANDS.