H. K. AUSTIN.

Handles for Files.

No. 135,684. Patented Feb. 11, 1873.

Fig. 1.

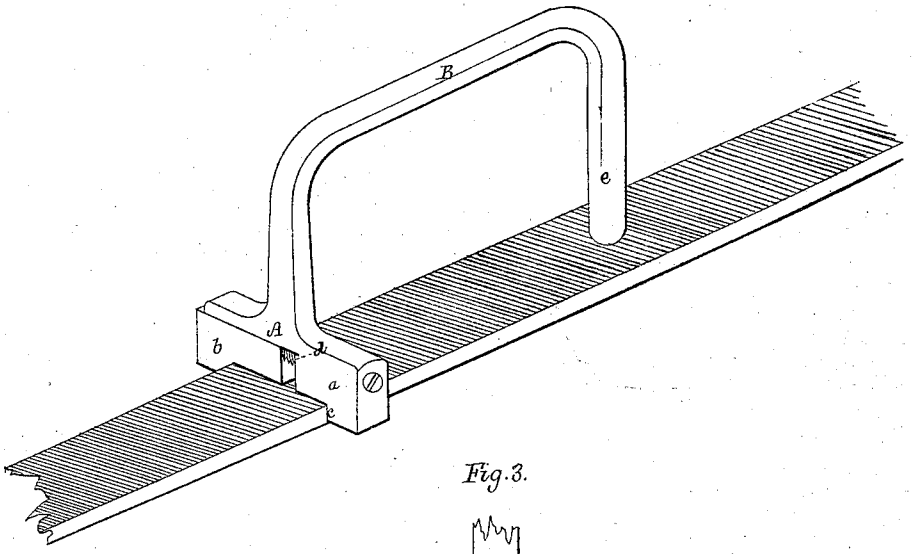


Fig. 3.

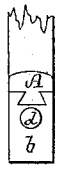
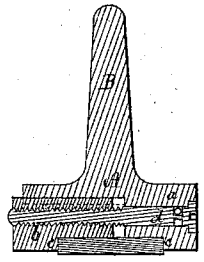


Fig. 2.



Witnesses.
W. Geo. Alden
N. E. Boardman

Henry K. Austin.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY KNIGHT AUSTIN, OF CHARLESTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF AND GEORGE V. MILLETT, OF SAME PLACE.

IMPROVEMENT IN HANDLES FOR FILES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **135,684**, dated February 11, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY KNIGHT AUSTIN, of Charlestown, Middlesex county, Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Device or Handle for Files, of which the following is a specification:

The purpose of this invention is to provide a handle for files which may be readily attached or detached; and consists not only of a clamp portion so composed of a fixed and a movable abutment or jaw and a feed-screw as to grasp opposite edges of a file and adhere tenaciously thereto, but also of a handle portion, which rises above the clamp in order that when desirable the workman's hand may pass above and over the work, the device being intended for "surface-filing" more especially—that is to say, where it is desirable to produce a uniformly flat and true surface.

The drawing accompanying this specification represents in Figure 1 a perspective view, and in Fig. 2 a cross-section, of my invention; Fig. 3 being an end elevation of the clamping portion of the same.

In the drawing, A denotes the head or stock of the implement as an oblong rectangle in form, and formed at one end with a stationary jaw or abutment, *a*, and at the opposite carrying a movable jaw or abutment, *b*, of like size and depth, the connection between the two being a sliding one by means of a shelf-groove or dovetail joint of ordinary construction, while the extreme depth of each jaw or its file-clasping portion *c* is less than the thickness of the thickest portion of such size of file as the device may be applicable to.

The movable jaw *b* is fed toward or away from the fixed abutment *a* by means of a feed-screw, *d*, one end of which is swiveled within the abutment, as shown in Fig. 2 of the drawing, while its body screws through the movable jaw, as shown.

In lieu of swiveling the screw *d* within the abutment *a*, as stated, it may be simply inserted therein and the movable jaw forced away from the stationary one by the hand, the screw serving in either instance to force the jaws tightly up to the file and clamp it firmly between them, as shown in Fig. 1 of the drawing.

The handle portion of the implement is shown at B as a curved or arched bar rising above and extending rearward from the base A, the rear arm or post *e* being of such length as to rest upon the fore part of the file or the "point" thereof, as shown in Fig. 1 of the drawing.

My present invention, though perhaps trifling in point of mechanical construction, is, nevertheless, a valuable one, as it not only permits an artisan to obtain a very firm gripe upon a file and use it with ease, but enables him to file with comparative celerity and freedom a flat surface.

The value of my invention will be at once apparent to all mechanics, who are aware of the difficulty of accomplishing surface-filing satisfactorily. In fact, few mechanics are capable of it.

In conclusion, I would state that I do not, broadly, claim a removable file-handle composed of a clamp portion and a bent or curved arm, adapted to bear upon the top of the file in front of the clamp. This, I am aware, is not new. My claim is limited to the construction of the jawed head or clamp, adapting it especially to be applied to the edges of the file proper, and rendering it impossible for the jaws to extend below the working-surface of the file.

What I therefore claim as my invention is—

The combination, with handle B and post or arm *e*, of the head A provided with a stationary jaw, *a*, and a sliding jaw, *b*, operated by screw *d*, the said jaws being provided with working-faces parallel with each other and adapted to grasp the opposite edges of the file proper, and being of a depth less than the thickness of the file, so that they cannot extend below the working-surface of the latter, as set forth.

HENRY K. AUSTIN.

Witnesses:
F. CURTIS,
W. E. BOARDMAN.