Nov. 23, 1954

W. J. MILLER ET AL

2,695,044

BARKING MACHINE

Filed Jan. 23, 1952

4 Sheets-Sheet 1

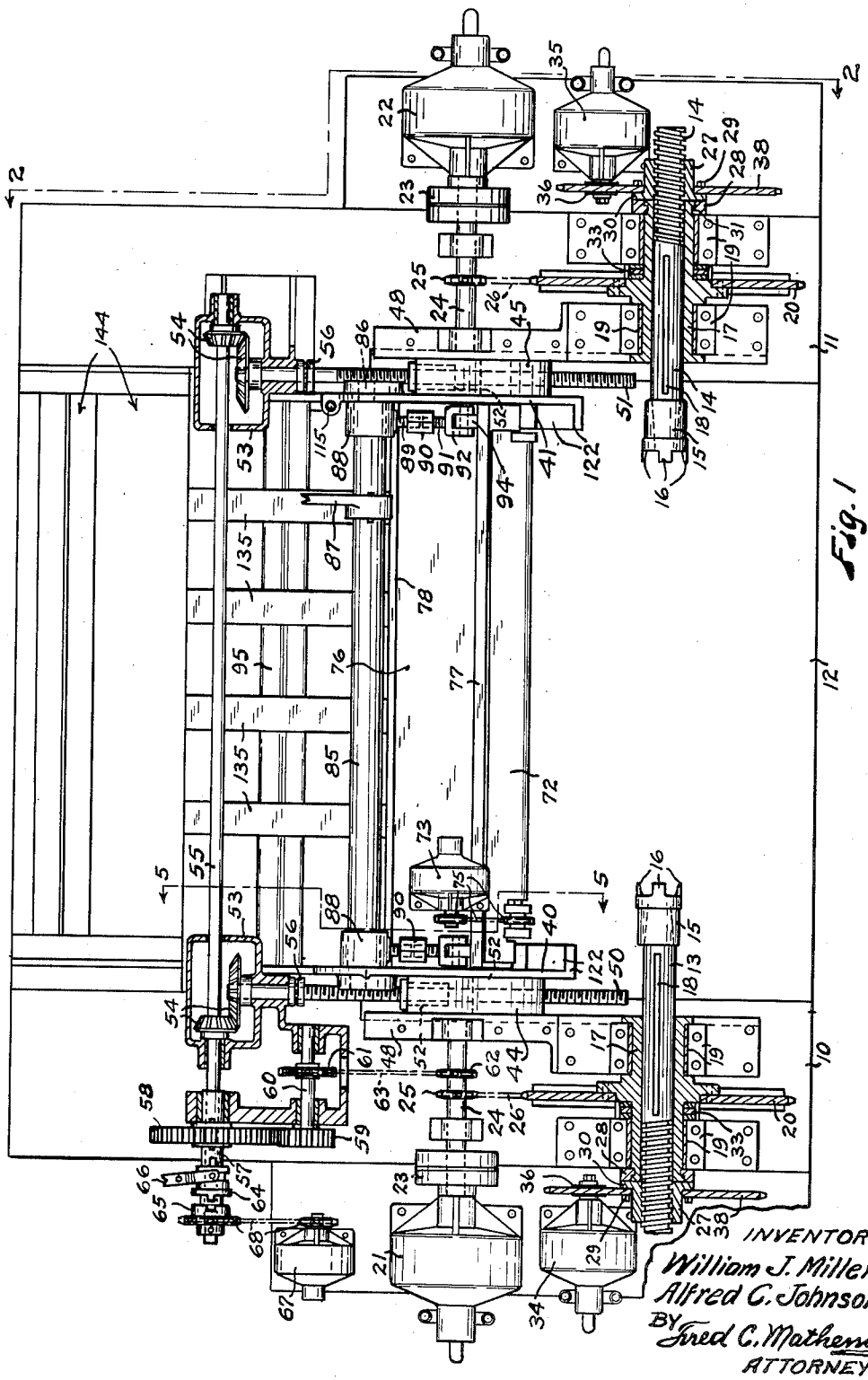


Fig. 1

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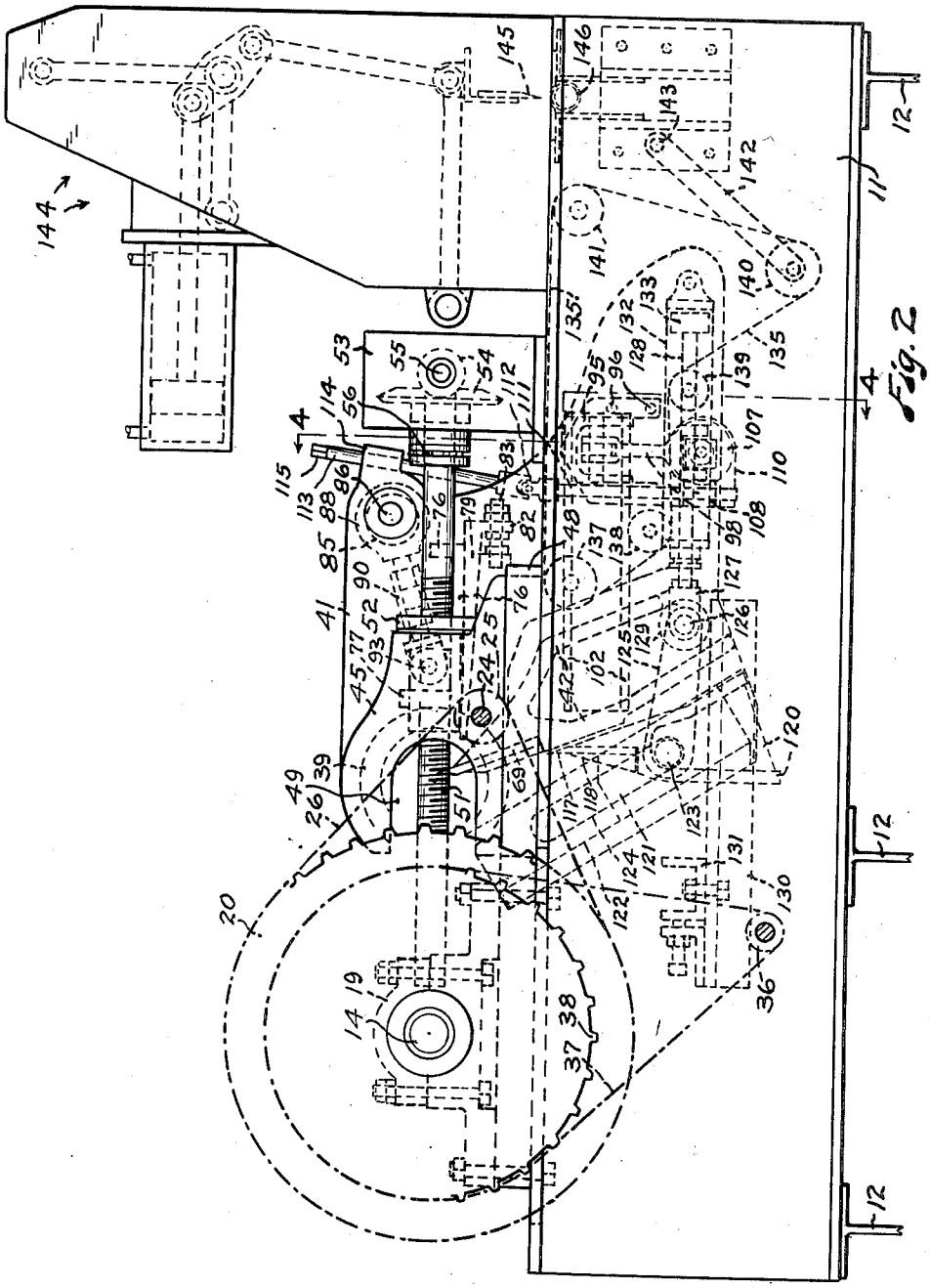


Fig. 2

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4 Sheets-Sheet 3

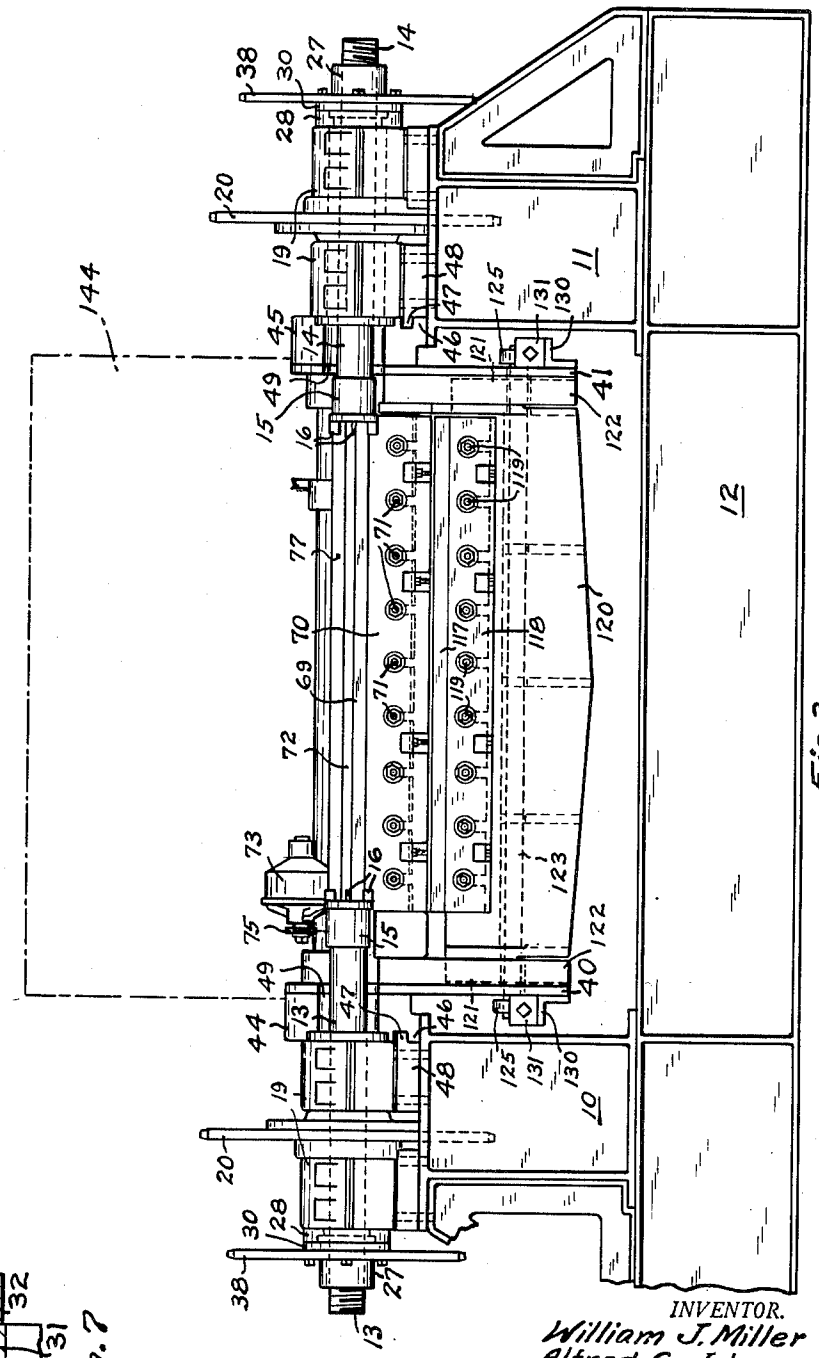


Fig. 3

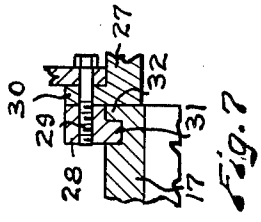


Fig. 7

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4 Sheets-Sheet 4

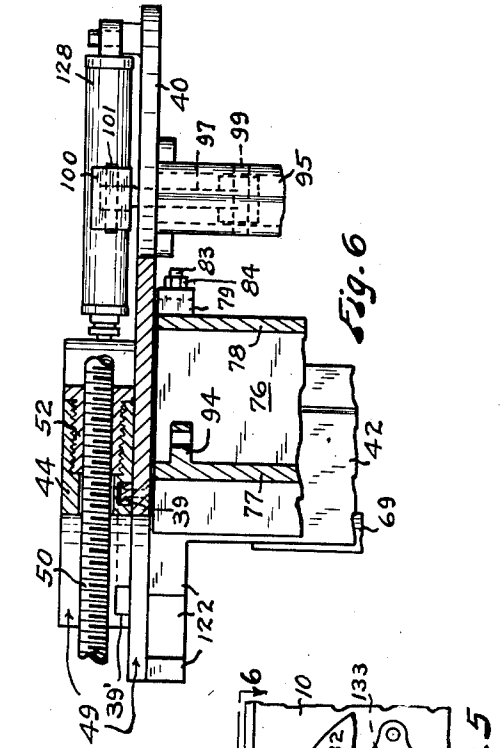


Fig. 6

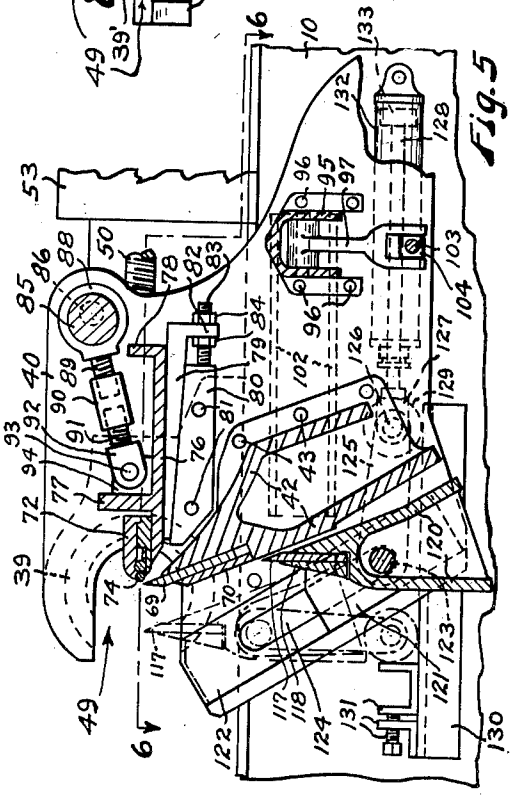


Fig. 5

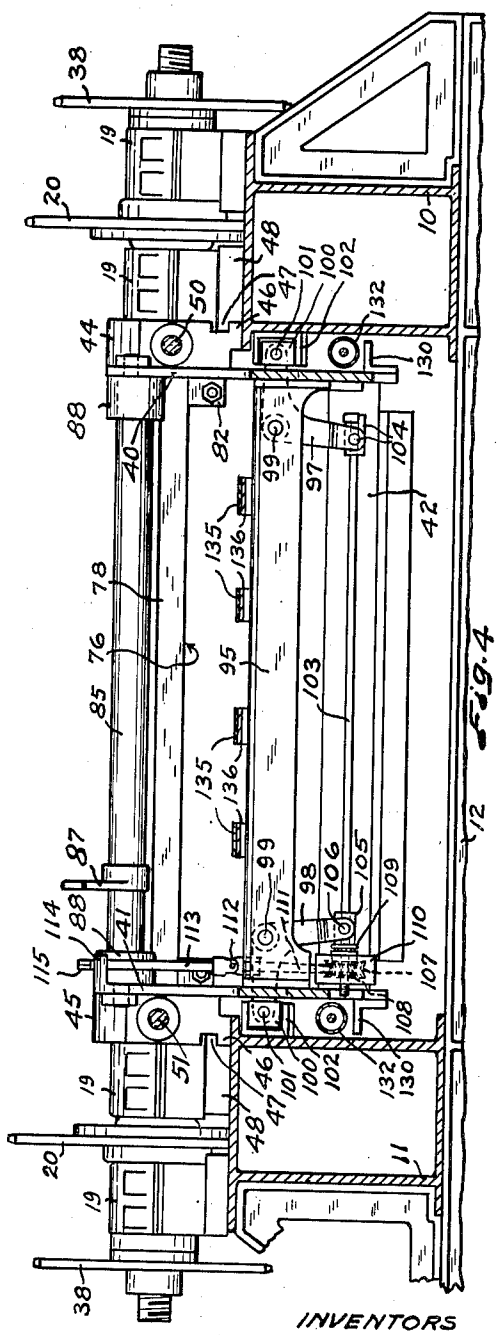


Fig. 4

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United States Patent Office 2,695,044 Patented Nov. 23, 1954

2,695,044

BARKING MACHINE

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Application January 23, 1952, Serial No. 267,790

2 Claims. (Cl. 144—208)

This invention relates to a veneer making machine and an object of this invention is to provide a veneer making machine constructed in one compact unit which will remove the bark from a log and peel or rotary cut the log to form veneer and clip the veneer into pieces all at one continuous operation.

In making veneer it is common practice to bark or remove the bark from the logs in one machine by placing said logs in chuck means and rotating them against a barker knife and then to release the logs and transfer them to a peeler where said logs are again chucked preparatory to rotary cutting or peeling them to form veneer. In placing the barked logs in the chucks of the peeler it is usually not possible to apply the second set of chucks to the logs so that they exactly coincide axially with the chucks by which the logs were held for barking and the result is that material will be wasted in truing the log up to the new axis of rotation established by the chucks of the peeler. Also time and labor are consumed in re-chucking the log and in truing it up to the second axis of rotation.

It is an object of this invention to provide a veneer making machine in which a log can be successively barked and peeled or rotary cut to form veneer while the log is held in one set of chucks and rotated on one axis and without requiring the re-chucking of the log between the barking and peeling operations, thus saving time and labor and avoiding the loss of valuable veneer stock which usually occurs, due to a change in the axis of rotation, when a log is re-chucked.

Another object is to provide a simple and efficient veneer making machine having a barker knife and a peeler knife which can be successively applied to a rotating log without loss of time while the log is held within and continuously rotated by one set of chucks and without re-chucking the log to first bark and then peel the log as it goes through the machine.

Another object of this invention is to provide a veneer making machine constructed in one single compact unit which is small enough and light enough in weight so that it may be placed on a truck and moved over ordinary highways and roads thus rendering the machine portable and making it possible to move the machine from place to place so that the machine will be near the location where the logs are being cut rather than shipping the logs to a veneer plant, which usually is located at a substantial distance from the scene of the logging operations.

Another object of this invention is to provide a veneer making machine which is especially well adapted for handling short pieces of logs and for making veneer of a grade ordinarily used for cross binding or core stock and one which will make it possible to turn or peel the logs down to a smaller diameter than is usually possible with longer pieces of logs, thus utilizing more of the core or axial portion of the logs and reducing waste of this part of the logs. Other objects of the invention will be apparent from the following description and accompanying drawings.

In the drawings Figure 1 is a plan view, with parts in section, of a veneer making machine constructed in accordance with this invention.

Fig. 2 is a view in side elevation of the same looking in the direction of broken line 2—2 of Fig. 1, and on a larger scale than Fig. 1, parts being shown by dotted lines.

Fig. 3 is a front elevation of the machine and showing the outline of a clipper diagrammatically by dot and dash lines.

Fig. 4 is a view partly in section and partly in elevation taken substantially on broken line 4—4 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary sectional view taken substantially on broken line 5—5 of Fig. 1 and on a larger scale than Fig. 1, parts being shown in elevation and parts being shown by dotted lines.

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary plan view looking down on broken line 6—6 of Fig. 5, parts being shown in section.

Fig. 7 is a detached fragmentary sectional view showing a part of the chuck adjusting or chuck moving means.

Like reference numerals designate like parts throughout the several views.

This machine comprises two spaced apart longitudinally extending side frame members 10 and 11 which are rigidly secured to and supported by and on transverse frame members 12. The members 10, 11 and 12 form a rigid and unitary frame which supports all of the operating mechanism of the machine and all parts are compactly arranged so as to keep them within over all dimensions not exceeding the limits ordinarily permitted on public roads. This makes it possible, without dis-assembling the machine, to load it onto a suitable truck and move it to successive locations where logs are being cut.

The barker and peeler means, shown at the left in Fig. 2, includes two axially aligned, spaced apart, rotatable, longitudinally movable chucking spindles 13 and 14 each having a chuck 15 fixedly mounted on its inner end. Each chuck 15 has inwardly protruding spikes 16 which are adapted to penetrate and enter into and hold a log or block which is to be turned.

Each spindle 13 and 14 is supported within a sleeve 17 in such a manner that the spindle is longitudinally movable within the sleeve but is not rotatable relative to the sleeve. This may be accomplished by using spline means 18, shown somewhat diagrammatically in Fig. 1, to interconnect each spindle 13 and 14 with its sleeve 17. Each sleeve 17 is rotatively supported in bearings 19 and has a relatively large sprocket wheel 20 secured thereto.

Two motors 21 and 22, Fig. 1, are provided for rotating the respective spindles 13 and 14. Each motor 21 and 22 is connected by a coupling member 23 with a shaft 24. The motor 22 is omitted in Fig. 2 and the shaft 24 thereof is shown in section. Each shaft 24 is connected by a small sprocket wheel 25 and sprocket chain 26 with one of the larger sprocket wheels 20 for driving one of the sleeves 17. The two motors 21 and 22 operate at the same rate of speed to apply torque to the two ends of a log or block B which is held in the chucks 15—16. The sprocket wheels 20 and 25 and sprocket chains 26 are diagramamtically shown in the drawings.

The spindles 13 and 14 are adapted to be longitudinally moved by nuts 27 which are threaded onto the outer end portions of said spindles. Each nut 27, see Fig. 7, is connected with the adjacent sleeve 17 by a collar 28 which is preferably made in two or more pieces and is secured as by screws or bolts 29 to an outwardly extending flange 30 of the said nut 27 and has an inwardly directed annular lip 31 which extends over and engages with an external annular flange 32 on the end of the sleeve 17. This connects each nut 27 with the adjacent sleeve 17 so that the nut may be rotated relative to the sleeve but can not be moved lengthwise relative to said sleeve. Lengthwise movement of both the sleeve 17 and nut 27 is prevented by thrust means 33 which engages with the bearings 19.

Two reversable motors 34 and 35 are provided for longitudinally moving the respective spindles 13 and 14. Each motor 34 and 35 is connected by a small sprocket wheel 36, sprocket chain 37 and large sprocket wheel 38 with one of the nuts 27. Parts 36, 37 and 38 are diagrammatically shown in the drawings. Operation of the motors 34 and 35 in one direction will engage the spikes 16 of the chucks 15 with a log or block and operation of the motors 34 and 35 in a reverse direction will withdraw the spikes 16 from the block or log and release the same. When the motors 34 and 35 are de-energized and the log is being rotated in the proper direction for barking or peeling the same then the nuts 27 will rotate with the sleeves 17 and the motors 34 and 35 will coast idly

but may, if necessary, be started monentarily while the chucks are rotating to tighten the chucks against the log.

Barker and peeler and pressure bar means are movably supported by the frame members **10** and **11** so that they may be applied selectively to a log or block which is held and rotated by the chuck mechanism. The carriage means for supporting the barker and peeler and pressure bar devices comprises two side plates **40** and **41** positioned in vertical planes adjacent the inner sides of the respective frame members **10** and **11**. The side plates **40** and **41** are rigidly connected with each other by a transversely extending frame member **42** of strong and substantial construction. Bolts **43** may be used to secure the end portions of the frame **42** to the respective side plates **40** and **41**. The plates **40** and **41** are pivotally connected with relatively thick knee members **44** and **45** which are positioned in contact with the outer sides of the plates **40** and **41** toward the upper end of said plates and above the side frame members **10** and **11**.

The pivotal connections between the side plates **40** and **41** and the respective knee members **44** and **45** are preferably formed by rigidly securing to the outer side of each side plate an arcuate track member **39**, Figs. 2, 5 and 6, which is operatively disposed within a recess **39'** in the adjacent knee member. Each arcuate track member is of more than a half circle in extent but terminates short of a notch or cutaway portion in the side plates and knee members, as hereinafter described. The parts **40**, **41** and **42** form a rigid carriage which is pivotally connected with the knee members **44** and **45** and one end portion of which is pivotally supported by the knee members **44** and **45** for longitudinal movement toward and away from the chuck means. The other end portion of this carriage is supported for longitudinal movement by self leveling means of a form hereinafter described.

The knee members **44** and **45** have rabbeted base portions **46**, Fig. 3, which slidably support the carriage. The base portions **46** rest on the top surfaces of the frames **10** and **11** and are engaged beneath overhanging flanges **47** of track strips **48**. The track strips **48** are secured to the side frames **10** and **11** and the two chuck spindle bearings **19** adjacent the knee members **44** and **45** are mounted on these track strips. The side plates **40** and **41** and knee members **44** and **45** have relatively wide deep U shaped clearance notches **49** provided therein and disposed with the open ends of the notches **49** facing toward the chucks **15** and chuck spindles **13** and **14**. The notches **49** provide clearance for the chucks and chuck spindles and facilitate movement of the knife carrying parts of the carriage into close proximity to the chucks and chuck spindles.

Two horizontally positioned threaded shafts **50** and **51**, Fig. 1, herein termed feed screws, are provided for moving the carriage toward and away from the chuck mechanism. Each feed screw **50** and **51** is threaded through a nut **52** which is fixedly secured to the corresponding knee member **44** or **45**. The end portions of the feed screws **50** and **51** remote from the chuck means extend into housings **53** which are rigid with the respective side frames **10** and **11**. Bevel gears **54** in the housings **53** connect the feed screws **50** and **51** with a cross shaft **55**. Thrust bearings **56** cooperate with feed screws **50** and **51** and housings **53** to prevent longitudinal movement of the feed screws relative to the housings. The cross shaft **55** has thereon a rotatively mounted sleeve **57** which is connected for driving purposes by spur gears **58** and **59** and countershaft **60** and sprocket wheels **61** and **62** and link belt **63** with the shaft **24** which is driven by the motor **21**. A clutch member is splined on the sleeve **57** so that the sleeve and clutch member must rotate together but are relatively longitudinally movable. The clutch member **64** is adapted to interlock with another clutch member **65** which is rigidly secured to the shaft **55**. Clutch member **64** is movable to engage or disengage it from clutch member **65** by a lever **66**. When clutch members **64** and **65** are engaged and motor **21** is operating the feed screws **50** and **51** are driven from the motor **21** and are properly synchronized with the chuck spindles for log peeling purposes. Also preferably independent driving means is connected with the shaft **55** for quick return of the carriage to a starting position and for independent feeding forward of a barker knife used in barking the logs, as hereinafter explained. The independent driving means comprises a reversible motor **67** connected by link belt and sprocket wheel means **68** with the clutch member **65** which is fixed to the shaft **55**. The motor **67** is only used when clutch member **64** is disengaged and will coast freely when clutch members **64** and **65** are engaged and motor **21** is operating the feed screws **50** and **51**.

The frame member **42** has a peeler knife **69** secured thereto as by a plate **70** and screws **71**, Figs. 3 and 5.

Roller pressure bar means **72** of a type fully disclosed in U. S. Patents No. 2,562,868, issued July 31, 1951 and No. 2,473,541 issued June 21, 1949, is carried on a horizontal plate **76**, herein termed a cap. A motor **73**, Fig. 1, drives roller means **74**, Fig. 5, in pressure bar **72** by link belt and sprocket wheel means **75**.

Two reinforcing bars or upright flanges **77** and **78** are rigid with the respective edge portions of the cap **76** and extend from end to end of said cap to reinforce and strengthen said cap. Each end portion of the cap **76** rests on a tapered wedge member **79** which has a substantially horizontal upper surface and an inclined lower surface. The wedge shaped members **79** are positioned with their thinner ends toward the chuck means. The lower inclined surface of each wedge shaped member **79** rests on a similarly inclined surface of a metal bracket **80**. Each bracket **80** is positioned against the inner side of one of the side plates **40** or **41** and is rigidly secured to the plate as by bolts **81**. Thus the brackets **80** are rigid relative to the frame **42** which carries the peeler knife **69**. The end portion of each wedge member **79** remote from the pressure bar **72** has a downwardly offset part **82**. Each part **82** fits over a stud bolt **83** which is rigidly secured to and protrudes from the end of the adjacent fixed bracket **80**. Each offset part **82** is adjustably connected with one of the stud bolts **83** by nuts **84**. Adjustment of the nuts **84** will longitudinally adjust the wedge members **79** and thus vertically adjust the cap **76** which carries the roller pressure bar **72**. The wedge members **79** are independently adjustable and make possible independent vertical adjustment of each end of the roller pressure bar **72**.

Devices are provided for supporting the cap **76** against the pressure exerted by the log or block on the roller pressure bar **72** and for independently adjusting each end of the cap **76** horizontally. These devices comprise a cross shaft **85** extending between the side plates **40** and **41** and having on its opposite end portions two aligned eccentric integral bearing pins **86**. The bearing pins **86** are journaled in the respective side plates **40** and **41**. A lever **87** may be attached to the shaft **85** for rotatively moving the same and to hold said shaft in any desired position rotatively considered. A collar **88** is rotatively mounted on each end portion of the shaft **85** near the adjacent plate **40** or **41**. Each collar **88** has a threaded shank **89** which is connected by a turnbuckle nut **90** with an oppositely threaded shank **91**. Each shank **91** has a forked forward end portion **92** which is connected by a horizontal pivot member **93** with a lug **94** which is integral with the cap **76**. Rotary movement of the shaft **85** will move the cap **76** and pressure bar **72** toward or away from the work and turning of the turnbuckle nuts **90** will selectively horizontally adjust either end or both ends of said cap and pressure bar.

The forward end portions of the plates **40** and **41** and other parts of the carriage are pivotally supported by the knee members **44** and **45** and cooperating track forming parts **46** and **47** and side frame members **10** and **11**. The rear end portion of the carriage is supported by vertically adjustable self leveling means and by devices which impart a slight tilting movement to the carriage as it moves longitudinally. This slight tilting movement varies the angle of application or lead of the peeler knife as the carriage moves forwardly toward a log which is being reduced in diameter and facilitates smoother operation.

The supporting means for the rear end portion of the carriage comprises a transverse frame bar **95** of inverted U shape in cross section extending between the side plates **40** and **41** and rigidly secured to said plates, as by bolts **96**, Fig. 5. Two bell crank arms **97** and **98** are fulcrumed in the cross bar **95** by pivots **99** adjacent the respective end portions of said cross bar **95**. The horizontal arm of each bell crank **97** and **98** extends outwardly through a suitable opening in the adjacent plate **40** or **41** and has a slide block **100**, Fig. 6, attached thereto as by a pivot pin **101**. Each slide block is supported for movement longitudinally of the machine by a channel

shaped track member **102**, Figs. 4 and 5, which is rigidly secured to the adjacent frame member **10** or **11**.

Each track member **102** is slightly inclined downwardly from right to left, Fig. 5. This incline of track members **102** brings about a slight lowering of the end portion of the carriage remote from the peeling mechanism as the carriage moves toward the peeling mechanism. The knee members **44** and **45** with bearing parts **39** and **39'** pivotally support the end portion of the carriage adjacent the peeler mechanism so that the carriage is free to pivot slightly about a center close to but slightly above and forwardly of the cutting edge of the peeler knife **69**. This slight pivotal movement of the carriage as said carriage is advanced toward a log which is being peeled provides a desired angular adjustment of the peeler knife known as the "lead" of the knife, this adjustment being conducive to smoothness and efficiency of operation as the diameter of a log which is being peeled decreases.

A connecting rod **103** connects the lower end portions of the downwardly extending arms of the two bell cranks **97** and **98** with each other. One end of the connecting rod **103** is pivotally connected with the bell crank **97** by sleeve and pivot means **104** which prevents rotation of the connecting roll **103**. The other end of the connecting rod **103**, shown at the left in Fig. 4, passes through a sleeve **105** which is connected by a pivot **106** with the lower end portion of the bell crank **98**. Outwardly from sleeve **105** the rod **103** is threaded through the hub portion of a small worm wheel **107** which meshes with a worm **108**, see also Fig. 2. The hub of the worm wheel **107** bears against sleeve **105**, preferably by means of a thrust bearing **109**. This leaves the worm wheel **107** free to turn and move lengthwise on the threaded end portion of the rod **103**. This endwise movement of worm wheel **109** on rod **103** adjusts the lower ends of the upright arms of the bell crank levers **97** and **98** toward and away from each other and in this way vertically adjusts the end portion of the carriage which is supported by the bell cranks **97** and **98**. At the same time this end portion of the carriage is self leveling thereby making it easier to adjust and avoid twisting and warping strains.

The worm wheel **107** and worm **108** are supported in a floating housing or bracket **110**. This leaves the worm wheel **107** and worm **108** and housing **110** and rod **103** free for some horizontal movement to take care of the self leveling of the end portion of the carriage which they cooperate in supporting. The worm **108** is secured to an upright floating shaft **111** which is connected by a universal coupling **112** with another upright shaft **113**. The shaft **113** is rotatively supported and guided in a bracket **114** on one of the side plates such as side plate **41**. A square upper end part **115** on shaft **113** facilitates the turning of shafts **113** and **111** to operate worm wheel **107** and vertically adjust the rear end portion of the carriage.

In addition to carrying the peeler knife **69** and pressure bar **72** the carriage, including parts **40** to **45** also supports barking means by which a log may be barked after it has been placed in the chucking means and before it is peeled or turned to form veneer and without releasing the log from the chucking means between the barking and peeling operations. The successive barking and peeling of a log without re-chucking said log between the barking and peeling operations results in a substantial saving in time and material as it obviates the work of re-chucking the log and obviates a loss or waste of material which usually occurs if a log is re-chucked between a barking and a peeling operation.

The barking means, Figs. 1, 3 and 5, comprises a barker knife **117** secured as by a plate **118** and screws **119** to a strong and substantial frame member **120**. The barker knife **117** and frame **120** extend across the carriage between the side frame members **40** and **41** and the barker knife **117** is of substantially the same length as the peeler knife **69**. The frame **120** has a slide member **121** rigidly secured to each end thereof. Each slide member **121** is movably disposed within an inclined guideway **122** which is rigid with the frame **42** and the forward end portion of the adjacent side plate **40** or **41**. Movement of the two slide members **121** upwardly and toward the chuck mechanism will properly position the barker knife **117** for application to a log or block which is being supported by and rotated by the chuck mechanism. A rod **123** extends entirely across the barker frame **120** just below the barker knife **117** and the opposite end portions of said rod protrude outwardly from the slide members **121** and extend through inclined slots **124** in the respective side plates **40** and **41**. Obviously the rod **123** could be replaced by rigid outwardly protruding pins on the slide members **121**. Each outwardly protruding end portion of the rod **123** is pivotally engaged by one end portion of a connecting plate **125**. The other end portion of each plate **125** is connected by a pivot member **126** with a U-shaped bracket **127** on the forward end portion of a piston rod **128**. A wheel or roller **129** is rotatively mounted on each pivot member **126** and is adapted to roll on a horizontal track **130**. Each track **130** is rigid with one of the side plates **40** or **41** and preferably has an adjustable stop member **131** mounted on the end portion thereof which is shown at the left in Figs. 2 and 5.

The piston rod **128** extends into a pneumatic cylinder **132** and has a piston **133** thereon to cooperate in moving the barker knife **117** upwardly. The barker knife **117** is used only for barking, which is rough work, and it has been found that discarded peeler knives are suitable for use as barker knives.

When the barker knife **117** is in a fully raised position, as illustrated by dot and dash lines in Fig. 5, the plates **125** will be substantially vertical and these plates **125** and the rollers **129** will support the vertical load including the down thrust of a rotating log on the barker knife **117** when barking is being done.

In barking a log, after the barker knife is raised into a position, as shown by dot and dash lines in Fig. 5, said barker knife **117** is moved toward the log while the log is being rotated by operation of the motor **67**, Fig. 1. Motor **67** is a variable speed reversible motor and the barker knife can be moved rapidly toward the log until the log has been barked. Motor **67** can then be reversed to quickly move the carriage back to a starting position preparatory to peeling the log. Clutch **64—65** is disengaged while motor **67** is being used. To peel the log after it has been barked motor **67** is de-energized so that it will coast, clutch **64—65** is moved to engaged position and motor **21** is operated to advance the peeler knife **69** while the log is being rotated. While the peeling operation is being carried out the barker knife is lowered into the position in which it is shown by full lines in Fig. 5. Motor **22** cooperates with motor **21** at all times in rotating the log. The motor **67** is used to retract the carriage after the peeling of a log is completed. This provides for a fast return of the carriage.

Endless traveling veneer conveying belts **135**, Figs. 1, 2 and 4 are movably supported by belt supports **136** which are carried by the carriage. The belts **135** pass around sheaves **137**, **138**, **139**, **140** and **141**, shown by dotted lines in Fig. 1. The sheaves **137**, **138** and **139** are mounted on and carried by the carriage and for this reason are movable longitudinally of the machine. The sheaves **141** are mounted on a fixed part of the frame. The sheaves **140** are floatingly supported by link members **142**. The link members **142** are swingingly mounted on pivot means **143** so that the sheaves **140** are movably supported and ride in loop portions of the belts **135** and can move up and down to provide length compensating adjustment of the belts **135** as the sheaves **137**, **138** and **139** are moved toward and away from the sheave **141**. Preferably sheaves **141** are driven at a suitable speed to convey veneer which is being peeled from a log to a veneer clipper **144** having a clipper knife **145** which cooperates with a shear block **146** to clip the veneer.

Preferably the veneer clipper and control means therefor are of the type disclosed in U. S. Patent No. 2,394,558, issued Feb. 12, 1946 and the shear block **146** is of the type disclosed in U. S. Patent No. 2,405,598, issued Aug. 13, 1946.

In the use of this veneer making machine both knives **69** and **117** are in a retracted position, as shown by full lines in Fig. 5, while a log is being centered and secured in the chuck members **15**. The chuck members are then rotated to rotate the log and, with clutch members **64** and **65** disengaged, the barker knife is first raised and then advanced by the operation of motor **67** to bark the log. The barker knife **117** is then lowered and the carriage is simultaneously moved forwardly until the peeler knife **69** is close to the barked log. Motor **67** is then de-energized and clutch **64—65** engaged so that motor **21** becomes operative to feed the peeler knife **69** toward the

log at the proper speed for peeling. The log is not rechucked and consequently its center of rotation is not changed between the barking and peeling operation. This avoids the loss of material which would be incidental to a second truing up of the log if the center about which it is being rotated had been changed. The barking is done rapidly and little time is lost while the barker knife **117** is being lowered and the peeler knife **69** is being moved up to the log. The machine is designed to handle short pieces of log and for this reason the chuck members **15** can be of small diameter and the pieces of log can be turned down to a small diameter so that core waste is minimized.

The foregoing description and accompanying drawings clearly disclose a preferred embodiment of this invention but it will be understood that this disclosure is merely illustrative and that changes may be made within the scope of the following claims.

We claim:

1. In a veneer making machine, a frame; rotatively driven chuck means positioned at one end of said frame adapted to support and rotate a log on a horizontal axis; a carriage supported by said frame for horizontal movement toward and away from said chuck means, said carriage having two side plates rigidly connected by a cross frame member; feed screws operable to move said carriage toward and away from said chuck means; two spaced apart inclined guideways supported by said side plates between said cross frame member and the chuck means, said guideways upwardly considered being inclined from the vertical toward said chuck means; a barker knife frame extending crosswise of said carriage between said cross frame member and the chuck means; slide blocks rigid with the end portions of said barker knife frame and slidably disposed in said inclined guideways; a barker knife carried by said barker knife frame; and barker knife frame moving means connected with said slide blocks adapted to move said slide blocks and said barker frame along said guideways between a retracted position and a log barking position.

2. In a veneer making machine, a frame; rotatively driven chuck means positioned at one end of said frame adapted to support and rotate a log on a horizontal axis; a carriage supported by said frame for horizontal movement toward and away from said chuck means, said carriage having two spaced apart side plates rigidly connected by a cross frame member; feed screws operable to move said carriage; two spaced apart opposed inclined guideways supported by said side plates between said cross frame member and the chuck means; a barker knife frame extending crosswise of said carriage between said cross frame member and said chuck means; rigid slide blocks on the respective end portions of said barker knife frame slidably disposed in said inclined guideways; a barker knife carried by said barker knife frame; an inclined slot extending lengthwise of each of said inclined guideways; a pin rigid with each slide block and extending outwardly through the adjacent inclined slot; a plate pivotally connected at one end with each pin; a piston rod pivotally connected with the other end of each plate; a wheel on the pivot means connecting each plate with a piston rod; a horizontal track member rigid with each side portion of the carriage supporting each wheel for movement alongside of the carriage; and power operated means connected with each piston rod operable to move said wheel along said trackway, whereby said barker knife may be moved upwardly along said inclined trackways into log engaging position and said plates moved into substantially upright thrust resisting positions.

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