Jan. 26, 1932. H. H. McKEE 1,843,098

MEAT STAMP

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Fig. 1.

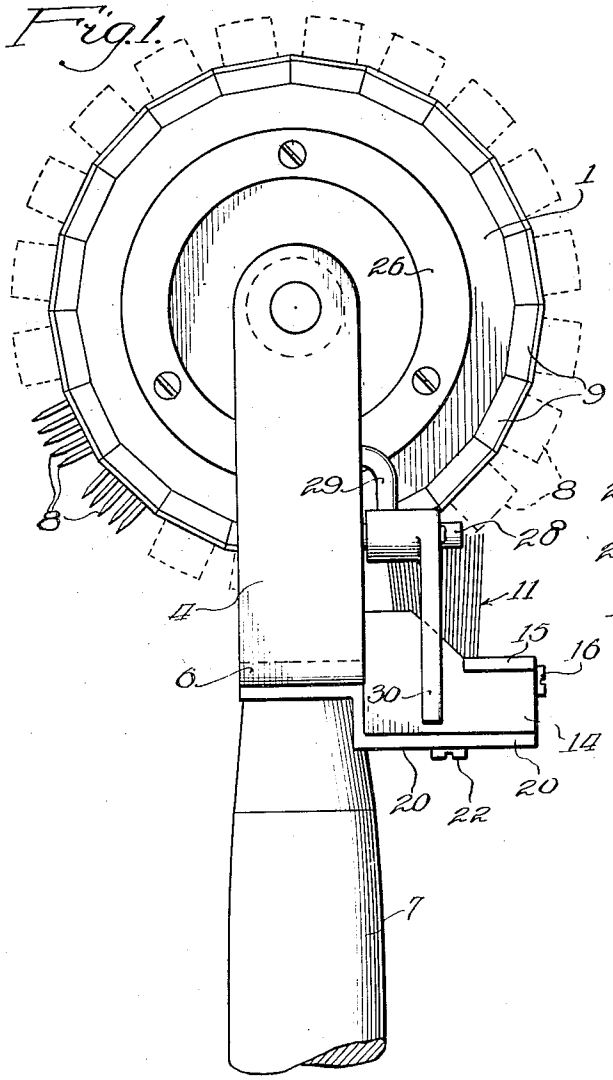


Fig. 2.

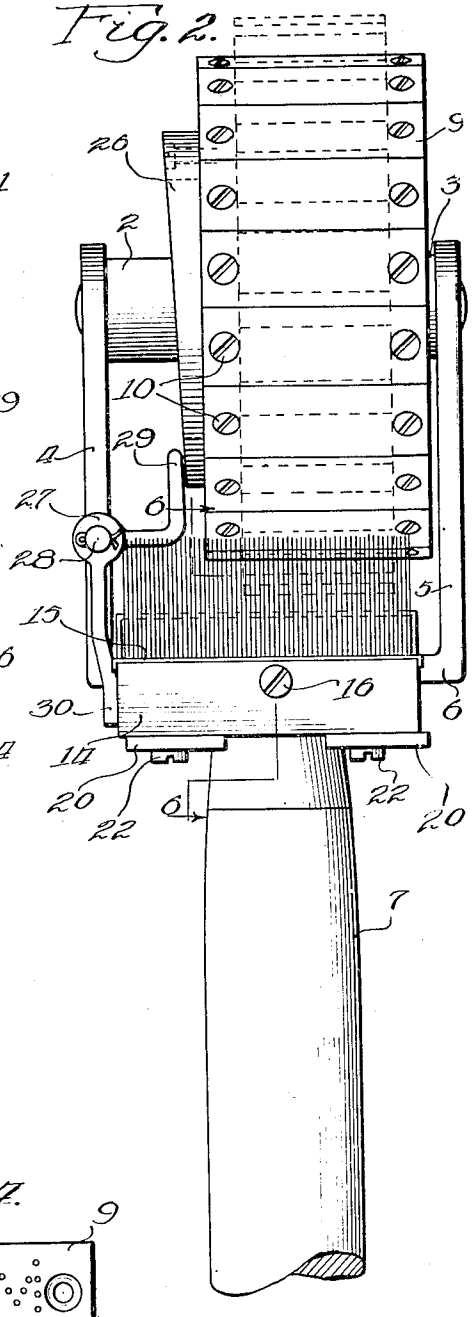


Fig. 3.

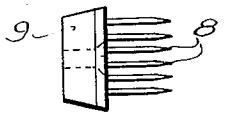
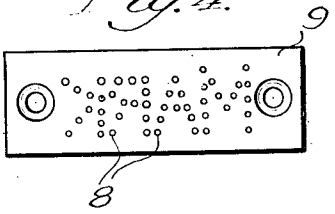


Fig. 4.



Inventor:
Harry H. McKee.
Pummer & Pummer
Attys.

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Fig. 5.

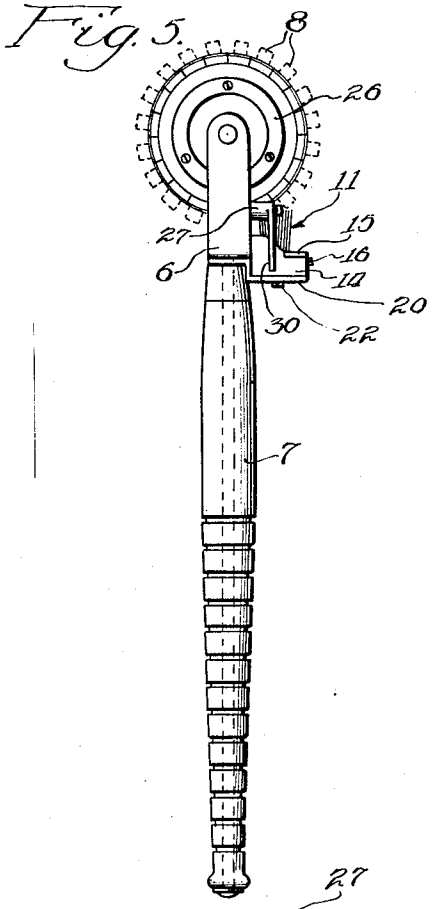


Fig. 6.

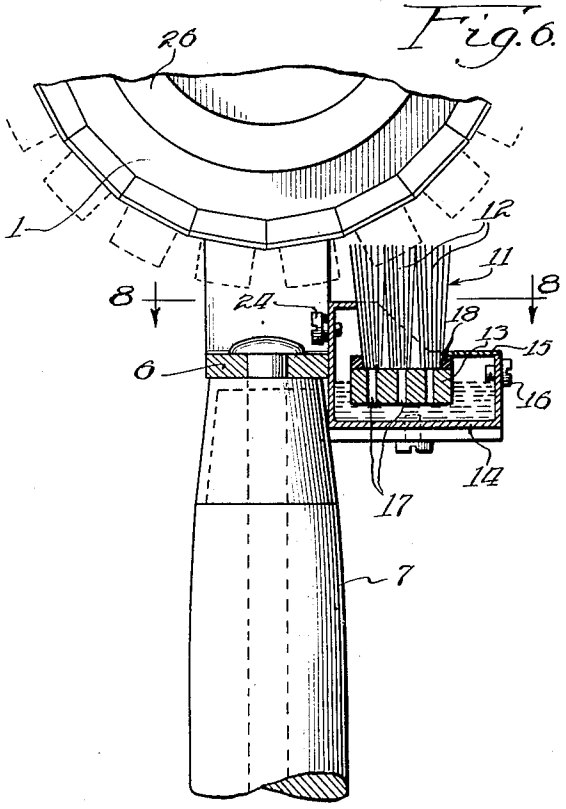


Fig. 7.

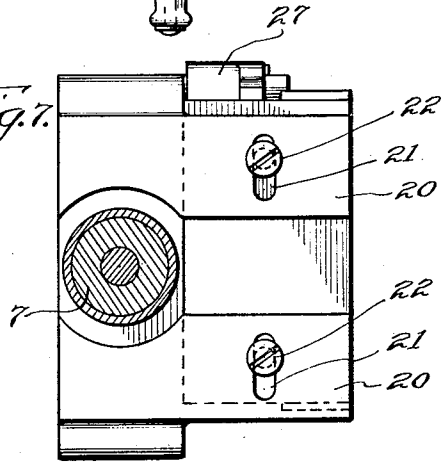
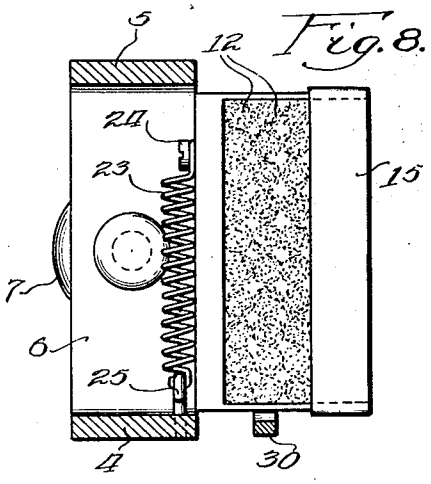


Fig. 8.



Inventor.
Harry H. McKee.
Plummer & Plummer
Attys.

Patented Jan. 26, 1932

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

HARRY H. McKEE, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR TO SWIFT & COMPANY, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, A CORPORATION OF ILLINOIS

MEAT STAMP

Application filed July 27, 1927. Serial No. 208,668.

This invention relates to improvements in devices for marking meats and the like, more particularly for marking fresh meat.

Heretofore, there has been no very satisfactory means for marking fresh meats, especially for marking the whole length of the meat, so that the separate pieces cut therefrom could be identified. Tattoo brushes have been used for marking the skins of live hogs so that the marks can be seen after the carcasses have been scalded and dehaired; and also rubber stamps and blunt pointed pins have been used for stamping meat with ink, but in this invention sharp instruments such as needles are arranged in symbol forming groups and mounted in such manner as on the periphery of a roller or stamp cylinder, with suitable means for supplying ink to the ends of the needles so that the entire length of the meat may be marked in a single operation; one of the main objects of this invention being to provide suitable means for marking the meat products by embedding the ink in the surface thereof.

An illustrative embodiment of the invention is shown in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is the side elevation of the marking device.

Fig. 2 is a view looking toward the right side of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 and Fig. 4 are side and face views respectively of one of the needle stamps.

Fig. 5 is a side elevation on a reduced scale showing the full length of the marking device.

Fig. 6 is a sectional view taken substantially on the line 6—6 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 7 is a bottom plan view of the device, with the handle shown in section.

Fig. 8 is a plan section taken on the line 8—8 of Fig. 6.

Referring to the drawings, a stamp cylinder, or roller 1 is provided having a long hub 2 at one side, and a short hub 3 on the opposite side. The drum is journaled in the ends of the arms 4 and 5 of the U-shaped frame member 6 which is fixedly attached to the upper end of the handle 7. The marking needles 8, in suitable groupings, are fixedly mounted in blocks 9 which are removably secured around the periphery of the roller 1 by means of the flat head screws 10, as is best shown in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2.

In order to properly ink the ends of the needles and to avoid a surplusage of ink, the ends of the needles run through the brush 11 which is mounted on the frame 6, the needles being drawn through the brush as the stamp cylinder is rotated. The brush is provided with long fibre bristles 12 which are fixedly secured in a stiff metal back 13 which is soldered or otherwise secured in place in the sheet metal ink reservoir 14. The bristles project through an opening in the top of the reservoir, and the reservoir is provided with a removable cover plate 15 on the outer side of the brush to afford access for cleaning, the reservoir being filled with ink by removing the plug 16 which is threaded into the side of the reservoir. Preferably the back of the brush is perforated, as shown in Fig. 6, by the channels 17 so that the ink may pass up into the bristles, and a rubber or soft fibre band 18 is wound around the base of the bristles to tend to hold the ink therein.

On account of the needles revolving in a fixed path, the brush is given a reciprocating motion so as to distribute the ink into the bristles which are wiped by the ends of the needles. This movement is accomplished by mounting the reservoir 14, in which the brush is fixedly secured, slidably on the bracket members 20 which are integral with and extend from one side of the frame 6. The holes 21 for the fastening screws 22 which thread into the bottom of the reservoir, are slotted, and a spring 23 is attached at one end of the reservoir 14 by means of a screw 24, and attached at the opposite end to the post 25 which is fixedly secured in the arm 4 of the frame, so that the reservoir is urged to move to the left as shown in Fig. 2.

At the left side of drum 1 is provided an angularly disposed cam 26. The bell crank 27 is rotatably mounted on the post 28 which is secured to the frame arm 4, and one arm 29 of the bell crank rides the surface of the cam 26 while the other arm 30 bears against the end of the reservoir 14 in opposition to the

tension of the spring 23. Thus as the drum 1 is turned, the bell crank 27 is oscillated on the post 28, and transfers a reciprocatory movement to the reservoir 14 and the brush 11.

In use, the device is usually held in the upright position as shown in Fig. 5, and the markings are placed on the hanging meat by sweeping the roller down along the side thereof. The amount of penetration of the needles is largely controlled by the rolling action from one group of needles to the next, but the needles are not turned to so great an angle, while imbedded in the meat, as to cause the edges of the marks to become blurred. The ink is wiped off the ends of the needles as they penetrate the meat and the ink becomes imbedded in the tissues, near the surface thereof.

Manifestly the whole length of the meat may be marked with one motion, and the marks are closely spaced, so that the cuts from the meat will bear at least some portion of the markings after being severed from the whole piece. By placing the inking device on the lower side of the roller, the needles do not become fouled with ink, since only the ends are moistened, and the ink is immediately wiped off as the needles pass around into engagement in the surface being marked. The ink is thoroughly distributed into the brush, and is applied evenly to the points. It is also obvious that the blocks can be readily replaced for renewal, or to change in the mark.

Applicant does not claim any such variations of the construction, herin shown and described, as would include the check-protector of the patent to Dauley et al. of March 20, 1923, nor the check marker of patent to Coggeshall of November 18, 1890, but intends that each of the claims herein be regarded as limited to devices that are adapted for the purpose of marking a whole length of meat, so that separate pieces cut therefrom can be identified, by means of the mark thereon, as coming from the same source, and so that each identifying mark will be imbedded in the meat, as is accomplished by the use of the needles which carry the ink or cause the ink to penetrate below the surface of the meat.

While but one specific embodiment of this invention has been herein shown and described, it will be understood that details of the construction shown may be altered or omitted without departing from the spirit of this invention as defined by the following claims.

I claim:

1. In a device for marking meat, a frame having a handle, a stamp cylinder rotatably mounted in the frame, groups of needles projecting from the surface of the cylinder, a brush mounted on the frame to contact with the ends of the needles, and means for supplying ink to the brush.

2. In a device for marking meat, a frame, a stamp cylinder rotatably mounted in the frame, groups of needles projecting from the surface of the cylinder, a brush mounted on the frame to contact with the ends of the needles, an ink reservoir around the base of the brush, and means for reciprocating the brush to distribute the ink therethrough.

3. In a device for marking meat, a frame having a handle, a stamp cylinder rotatably mounted in the frame, groups of needles projecting from the surface of the cylinder, a brush slidably mounted on the frame to contact with the needles, an ink reservoir around the base of the brush, a cam on one end of the cylinder, and means operated by the cam to reciprocate the brush as the cylinder is rotated.

4. In a device for marking meat, a support, a rotary marking element mounted on the support, groups of sharp pointed projections mounted on the marking element and forming successive identifying means on the meat when the support is moved over the same, and an inking brush carried by the support and arranged to contact with the sharp pointed projections for supplying ink to the said sharp pointed projections.

5. In a device for marking meat, a support, a rotary marking element mounted on the support, transverse groups of needles projecting from and extending across the marking element and forming a series of symbols so that when the support is moved over the surface of the meat the groups of needles are successively moved into penetrating contactual relation with the meat, and an inking brush arranged to contact with the needles for supplying ink to the same.

6. In a device for marking meat, a support, a marking element rotatably mounted on the support, transverse groups of needles forming identifying means extending across the marking element in predeterminately spaced repeated sequence around the periphery of the marking element for effecting a series of repeated identification marks on the meat when the support is moved thereover, and an inking brush mounted on the support and arranged to contact with the needles for supplying ink to the same.

7. In a device for marking meat, a support, a rotary marking element mounted on the support, transverse groups of needles projecting from the marking element and forming a series of symbols so that when the support is moved over the surface of the meat the groups of needles are successively moved into penetrating contactual relation with the meat, and a transverse inking brush carried by the support and arranged to contact with the needles for supplying ink to the same.

8. In a device for marking meat, a support, a rotary marking element mounted on the support, transverse groups of needles projecting from the marking element and forming a series of symbols, and a transverse inking brush carried by the support and arranged to contact with the needles for supplying ink to the same, said groups of needles being arranged to successively pass through the brush and thereafter to successively penetrate successive portions of the meat when the support is moved over the said meat.

Signed at Chicago this 14th day of July, 1927.

HARRY H. McKEE.