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M. POLLAK

2,593,601

UTILITY CUTTER

Filed May 12, 1949

Fig. 1

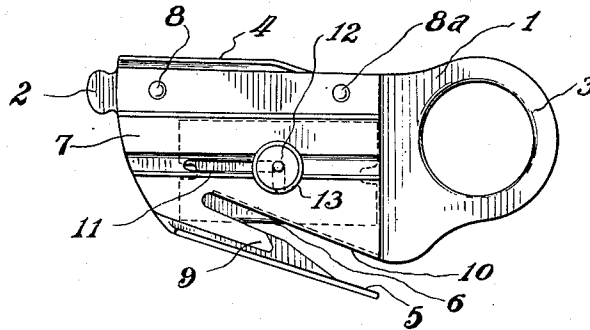


Fig. 2

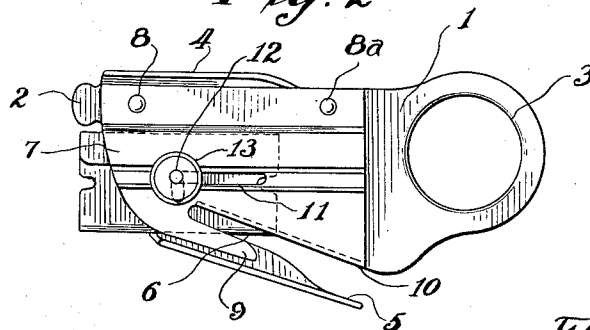


Fig. 3

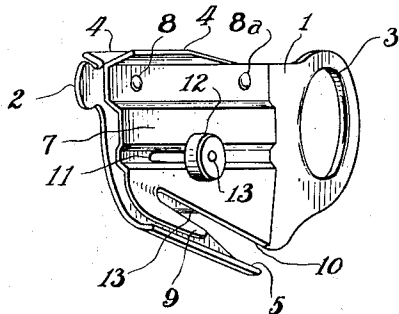
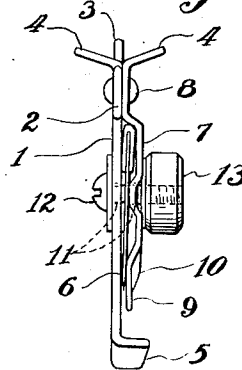


Fig. 4



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2,593,601

UTILITY CUTTER

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Application May 12, 1949, Serial No. 92,925

1 Claim. (Cl. 30—2)

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This invention relates to a new type of cutting device which may be employed for multiple uses either industrially or domestically, being of the type in which a single edge razor blade is employed as the cutting element, comprised mainly of a back plate and an affixed sheath or holder plate designed to hold such a blade, each plate being provided with a longitudinally extended slot coinciding with each other so as to receive a threaded stud through said plates and center of the blade, said slots being adapted as a slideway by which means the blade may be extended or retracted within the holder plate by simple manual pressure without the loosening or dismantling of parts.

The blade that this cutter is designed to employ is of the single edge razor type having a flanged back on one side and elongated opening medially. A double edge razor blade may be employed instead, but such a blade will not extend manually. I prefer the single edge type because of its heavier construction and its capability of better and longer service.

This application is a continuation in part of my application, Serial No. 82,849, filed March 22, 1949, and now abandoned.

My device may be adapted as a general utility cutter wherever a cutting edge of this size may be used. It is designed so that the blade may be extended manually for the use of the frontal portion of the cutting blade and it may be retracted to employ a cutting edge within the holder plate for other purposes. For example, when extended it may be employed as a carton or box opener, cutting paper, cardboard, light leather and the like, in tailoring and allied trades, bundle making and dismantling, etc. In its retracted position it may be employed for cutting twine that is tightly bound on all types of packages, and also the cutting of ribbon, tape, string and twine from a roll or cutting the excess twine from a package being assembled. It may be hung temporarily by its handle to be used as a wall cutter. When blade is retracted in the position previously described, the device, although being used for cutting, is still very safe to handle as blade is situated in such manner as not to cause user to contact blade in any way.

Among the objects of the invention is to provide a utility cutter of the above type which is of simple construction, inexpensive to manufacture, easy to assemble, has a minimum number of parts, easy to adjust, compact, durable and efficient in operation.

For other objects and for a better understand-

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ing of the invention, reference may be had to the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, in which

Fig. 1 is a side elevational view of the cutter showing the blade retracted.

Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the blade extended to its maximum point.

Fig. 3 is a front perspective view of the cutter with blade retracted.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged view of the front end, showing the blade within the holder plate.

My device comprises a back plate 1 having a forwardly-extending protrusion 2 adapted for dismantling cartons sealed with gum paper. By breaking gum paper with said protrusion where carton is joined, and pulling toward the user, the carton may be opened easily and safely.

The back plate is also provided with a circular opening or finger grip portion 3 on the back end to provide a finger grip or means of holding the cutter when extending or retracting blade and when using cutter with blade retracted for operations as hereinafter described in third paragraph. This opening may be used as a means for hanging the cutter on a wall, or as a means of securing same on the person, or to a bench or table. A finger rest 4 on the top portion is provided for comfort and stability when operating cutter with the blade extended.

The cutter also comprises a diagonally extended flanged portion 5 at the lower portion of cutter which is employed as a wedge and guard, said wedge providing an opening or leadway to edge of the blade 6 and being designed as a lifting instrument to enable the cutter to get under twine that is tightly or snugly bound on packages. By grasping the finger grip 3 and placing the point of the wedge 5 under the tight twine and pulling, the twine is automatically guided up the opening above the wedge and to the blade 6 where the cutting is accomplished. The flanged portion 5 also serves as a skid to facilitate the movement of the cutter through the package. As the cutter is used, the back end is raised so that the flanged portion may ride flush on a surface under the portion of the package being cut.

The cutter further comprises a sheath or holder plate 7 wherein the blade is firmly held, said plate being affixed at the top portion of back plate by means of rivets 8 and 8a to the back plate and being open at the lower portion to allow the blade to be inserted longitudinally from the front. The holder plate is provided with a diagonally extended portion 9 which runs par-

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allel part way with the wedge or flanged portion 5 of the back plate at the blade's edge for the purpose of holding blade firmly at the cutting edge. A small flange 10 at the lower portion of the holder plate 7 is also provided to hold the blade firmly against the back plate.

The back plate 1 and the holder plate 7 are both provided with a longitudinally extended slot 11 coinciding with each other. When blade is inserted into the holder plate the slots on both plates coincide with opening in the blade to receive the stud 12. A nut 13 is engaged on the threaded stud 12 to hold the blade in place. The stud need not be too tight at any time. When the stud is tightened to the correct pressure, it would not be necessary to loosen or tighten stud for manipulation as tension against the holder plate is always present as said plate is spaced so that when stud is tightened, tension is automatically provided. By holding the finger grip portion 3 with one hand and gripping both ends of the stud with the other hand, the blade can be extended or retracted easily and safely. The blade can be changed or turned by removing the center stud. My device in its retracted position is designed so that it may be carried on one's person without danger of injury to one's self or clothing.

While various changes may be made in the detail construction, it shall be understood that such changes shall be within the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined by the appended claim.

What I therefore claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

A utility cutter comprising a back plate having an upper portion, a rearwardly extending finger grip portion and a downwardly and rearwardly inclined wedge portion having a laterally extending flange serving as a skid on which the

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cutter may ride when being used and providing a forwardly and upwardly inclined slot, a holder plate secured to the upper portion of the back plate and depending therefrom, said back and holder plates having longitudinally extending elongated slots respectively and registering with each other, a razor-like blade longitudinally adjustable between extended and retracted positions with respect to said plates and having an opening therein, releasable means extending through the opening in the blade and through the elongated slots of said plates to secure the blade in any of its adjusted positions, said holder plate having a downwardly and rearwardly inclined portion running coextensively with the inclined wedge portion of the back plate and over the blade and providing a slot registering with the inclined slot of the back plate, said blade having a cutting edge extending downwardly into registry with said inclined slots whereby upon material being forced into said slots it will be severed by the cutting edge of the blade, said holder plate having a small inwardly bent flange extending along the upper side of the slot of the holder plate and over the blade to hold the blade firmly against the back plate.

MYER POLLAK.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
1,553,449	Kennedy	Sept. 15, 1925
2,094,260	Brody	Sept. 28, 1937
2,237,331	Bodkin	Apr. 8, 1941