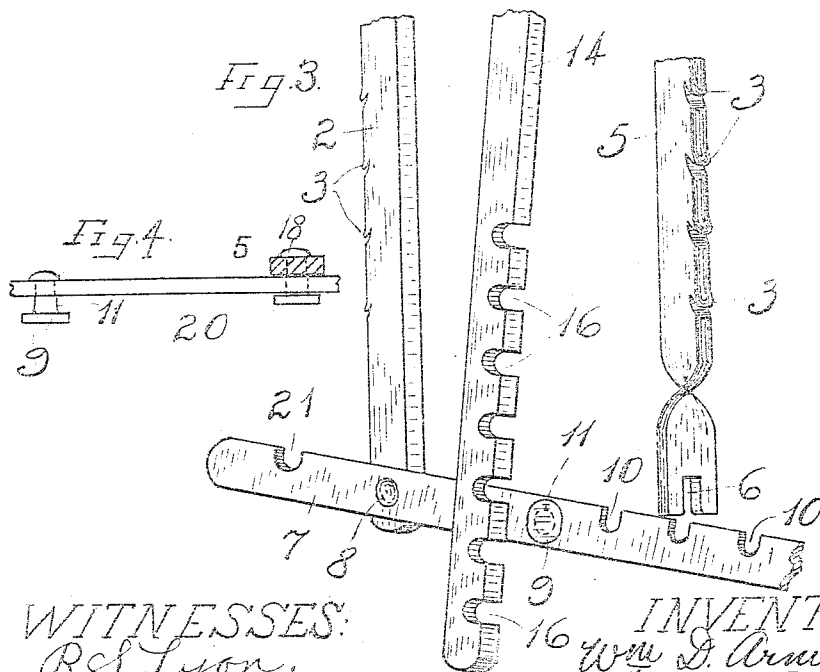
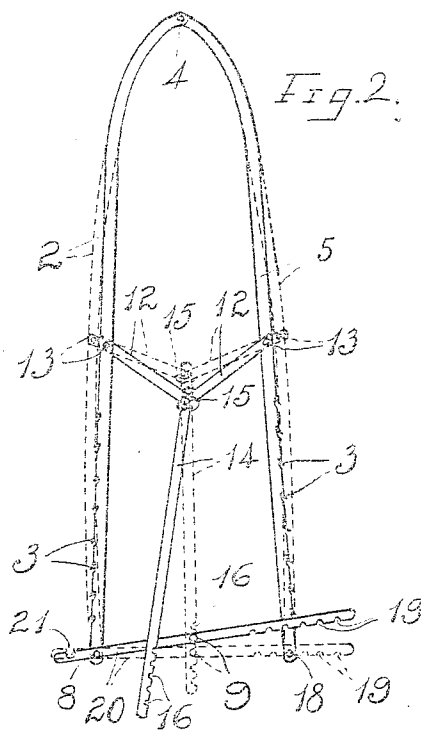
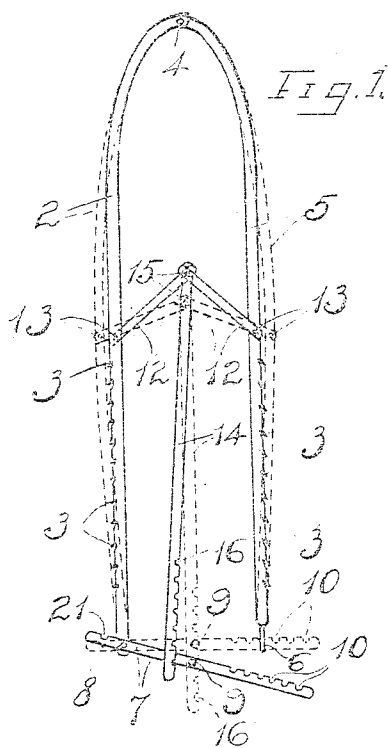


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1,059,337.

W. D. ARMSTRONG.
FELT STRETCHER.
APPLICATION FILED AUG. 6, 1912.

Patented Apr. 22, 1913.



WITNESSES:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM DAVIS ARMSTRONG, OF ABINGDON, ILLINOIS.

Pelt-Stretcher.

1,059,387.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Apr. 22, 1913.

Application filed August 3, 1912. Serial No. 714,110.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM D. ARMSTRONG, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Abingdon, in the county of Knox and State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Pelt-Stretcher, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to that class of devices which are used by trappers and others for stretching and drying the pelts of newly killed animals, and to that particular type thereof which are constructed of metallic arms pivoted at one, and adapted to be spaced and locked at suitable distances at their other, end portions.

One of the principal objects of the invention is to provide for separating or bowing the arms at their median portions after the pelt is placed on the stretcher and after it has been stretched to as great an extent as would be possible by prior devices. Inasmuch as the middle portion of the pelt is by far the most valuable portion thereof, the object in additionally stretching it at this point will at once be apparent.

Another object is to provide novel locking means.

In devices of this character as heretofore constructed the objection has been made that the teeth on the edges of the arms were of such construction that they caught in and mutilated the taut skin, which, during the period of drying, has a tendency to "creep." It is therefore an object to provide a superior form and construction of teeth which are devoid of this objectionable feature.

It is an object to provide novel means for accomplishing the first recited object, which means are operable either toward or from the pivot end of the arms, the result of the operation being the same.

In the accompanying drawings: Figure 1 is a front elevation or face view of the preferred construction; Fig. 2, a similar view, a modification; Fig. 3, an enlarged fragmental perspective of the device shown in Fig. 1; and Fig. 4, an enlarged fragmental detail, partly in section.

Coming now to a detailed description of the drawings, in which the same numeral, wherever used, refers to the same or a like part, and considering particularly Figs. 1 and 3, 2 designates a bent stretcher-arm provided along a portion of its outer edge with teeth 3 which are struck up therefrom,

preferably by driving a chisel edge toward the outer or bent end of the arm and, after it has made a shallow incision, but is still within the cleft thus formed, raising its butt, whereby a small portion of the metal will be turned outwardly beyond the plane of said edge, but not to such extent that it will either injure the skin or weaken the arm. In this connection it may be stated that a great strain is placed upon the arms by the drying pelt, and that should metal be cut from them to form the teeth there would be great liability of their bending inwardly, whereby the very object of the invention would be defeated. To the point of the arm 2 is pivoted by a rivet 4 a similar arm 5. However, the heel of the arm 5 is given a one-fourth twist and a fork 6 is provided at its end, for the purpose presently related. 7 designates a lock-bar, pivoted at 8 to the arm 2. It is provided on its outer face and near its midlength with a headed stud or lock-pin 9 and on its forward edge with a series of notches 10, as shown best in Fig. 3, the projecting stem of the stud being indicated by 11. 12, 12 are toggle arms or spreader arms pivoted at 13, 13 to the stretcher arms 2 and 5. 14 is a toggle-actuating bar, pivoted to the arms 12 at their knuckle 15 and provided near its inner end with a series of notches 16, either of which is adapted for engagement with the shank of the stud 9, as indicated by dotted lines in Fig. 1.

A detailed description of Figs. 2 and 4 follows. In these figures the elements 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 are identical with the corresponding parts of the structure shown in the principal figures and require herein no further description. It will be observed, however, that in Figs. 1 and 2 the toggle arms and bar occupy different relative positions—that in Fig. 1 the arms are actuated by pulling the bar rearwardly, while in Fig. 2 they are operated by pushing it forwardly. The ultimate result (of superstretching the pelt at its median portion) is, however, the same, and the differences merely mechanical ones. In Figs. 2 and 4, 5 designates a stretcher arm pivoted to the arm 2 at 4 and provided at its inner end with a headed stud 18 adapted for engagement with either one of a series of notches 19 in the outer edge of a lock-bar 20 pivoted at 8 to the arm 2 and provided near its

midlength with a headed stud 9. 21 is a hanger notch, common to both structures, and is old in the art.

The operation: Assume the parts to be in the relative positions shown in Fig. 1. The operator by bringing the free ends of the stretcher arms toward each other will thereby lessen the distance of separation throughout the entire length thereof, whereupon he will draw the pelt from the point to the rear end portion of the stretcher and thereover. The shape of the teeth will permit the wet skin to slip freely thereover, and their points projecting slightly beyond the plane of the outer edges of the arms, will hold the skin out of contact with the metal below that from which the teeth were struck up. It will be evident that if the teeth-points lay in the plane of the metal just below them, that the somewhat unequal, stringy surface of the skin would catch thereon and render difficult the operation of drawing the pelt over the arms. The outer edges of the arms and therefore the outer corners of the teeth are preferably rounded off, in order that they will not injure the skin. Having properly positioned the pelt, the inner ends of the stretcher arms are then spaced to as great a distance as is possible, whereupon the bar 7 is brought into position and the proper one of its notches engaged with the fork 6 to lock said arms in spaced engagement. The stress or tension on the bar 14 will still further or more securely hold the bar 7 in engagement with the fork, in an evident manner.

Treated as above described, the pelt will in some of its parts be stretched to a sufficient degree—in fact, as well as could be done on heretofore existing devices of this character—but at its median portion, which is much the most valuable, it will not be so stretched. The operator will therefore draw upon the bar 14 to actuate the toggle 12 to bow the arms 2 and 5 and thus superstretch the median portion or “middle” of the pelt, as indicated by the dotted lines. When the arms have been bowed or further spaced to the extent desired the proper one of the notches 16 is brought into engagement with the stud 9 to lock the bar 7, the toggle, and thereby the stretcher arms in said bowed form. The pelt thus stretched will be preserved in a more natural shape, will be more presentable to the purchaser, will require less dressing to bring it to the desired degree of thinness, will measure more in square inches, and will bring a higher price. Moreover, the toggle and toggle-actuating bar effectually prevent the opposed faces of the pelt from coming in contact with each other, thus allowing a free circulation of air whereby the pelt will be better preserved, better cured, and of better quality and therefore greater value.

In the modification shown in Fig. 2, the primary operations having been completed as above described, the stretcher arms are locked apart by engaging a notch 19 with the stud 18. The bar 14 is then forced forwardly to drive the toggle-knuckle likewise to bring the toggle into the dotted line position shown in this figure. Locking thereof is effected as in the structure illustrated in the principal figure.

I claim:

1. A pelt-stretcher comprising in combination a pair of stretcher arms pivoted to each other at their front ends, a lock-bar pivoted to the rear end of one of said arms and adapted to be engaged at different portions of its free end by the rear end of the other bar, a spreader arm pivoted to the median portion of each of said stretcher arms and the inner ends of said spreader arms pivoted to each other, and a spreader-actuating bar pivoted at one end directly to both of said spreader arms, its other end portion being free to swing and adapted for selective engagements with said lock-bar.

2. A pelt-stretcher comprising, in combination, a pair of arms pivoted to each other at their front ends, a lock-bar pivoted to the rear end of one of said arms and adapted for engagement with the rear end portion of the other of said arms, a stud on said lock-bar, a spreader-arm pivoted to the median portion of each of said arms, and a spreader-actuating bar pivoted to the inner ends of said spreader arms and adapted for engagements with said stud.

3. A pelt-stretcher comprising in combination a pair of stretcher arms pivoted to each other at their front ends, a stud on the rear end of one of said arms, a lock-bar pivoted to the rear end of the other and provided with a plurality of notches on its rear face, whereby it is adapted for selective engagements with said stud, to space said rear ends at different distances apart, a stud secured to and near the midlength of said lock-bar, a pair of toggle-arms pivoted to the stretcher arms near their midlengths, and a toggle-actuating bar pivoted at one end to the toggle joint and its other end portion free and provided with notches any one of which is adapted for engagement with the lock-bar stud.

4. In combination, stretcher arms, a spreader-arm pivoted to each thereof near its midlength, means for pivotally connecting their inner ends, a lock-bar for locking their rear ends at different distances apart, a stud secured on its median portion, and an actuating bar in pivotal engagement with said spreader arms and provided with a series of notches any one of which is adapted to engage said stud.

5. In a pelt-stretcher, stretcher

spreader arm pivoted to each thereof near
its midlength, a lock-bar for locking the
rear ends of the stretcher arms at different
distances apart, and an actuating bar in
5 pivotal engagement with said spreader arms
and adapted for engagement with said lock
bar.

In witness whereof I hereunto sign my
name, in presence of two subscribing wit-
nesses, this fifth day of August, 1912.

WILLIAM DAVIS ARMSTRONG.

Witnesses:

ANNA M. MILLER,
ELDEN KLINE.