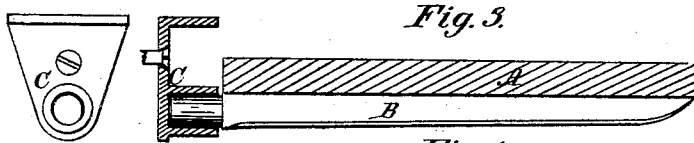
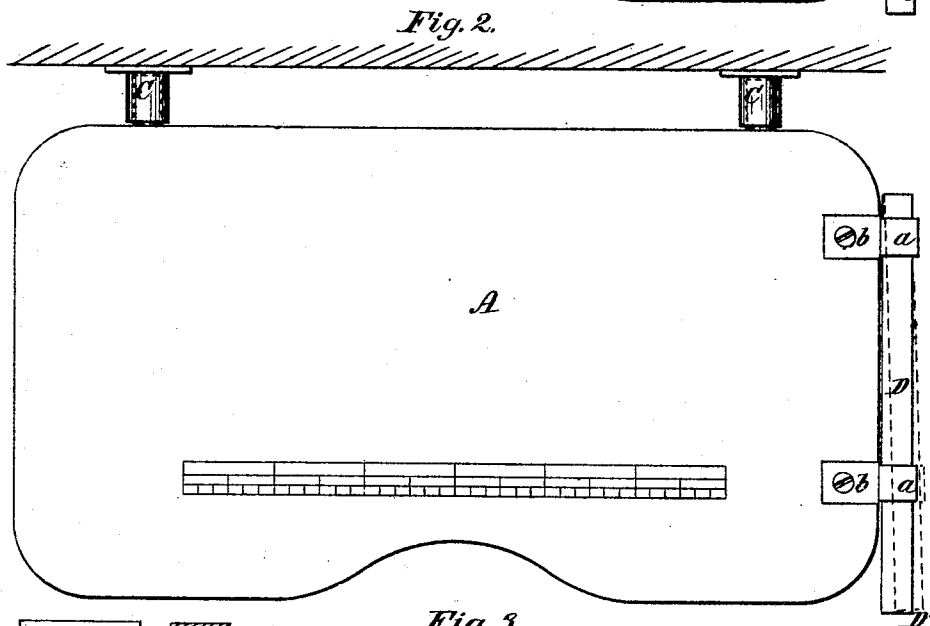
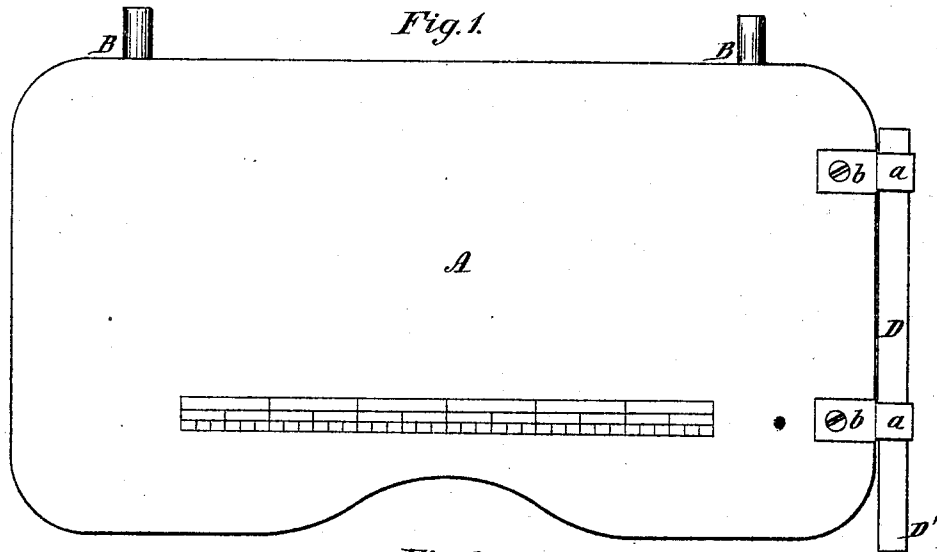


E. J. SPRAGUE.
Lap-Boards.

No. 140,313.

Patented June 24, 1873.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWIN J. SPRAGUE, OF YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO.

IMPROVEMENT IN LAP-BOARDS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **140,313**, dated June 24, 1873; application filed March 22, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWIN J. SPRAGUE, of Youngstown, in the county of Mahoning and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Combined Lap-Boards and Cloth-Holders, of which the following is a specification:

The object of this invention is to furnish a lap-board for the use of seamstresses and others, which is provided with a cloth-holder; the whole device being arranged for convenient attachment, removal, and readjustment to a table, sewing-machine table, the apron of a window-sill, or the wall of a room, without in any manner being dependent upon the operative for support.

My said invention consists in the attachment of a lap-board to a table, sewing-machine table, apron of a window-sill, or other appropriate place, by means of cleat-pins upon the under side of said lap-board, which telescope in socket bracket-pieces screwed or otherwise fastened to said tables or other places; and being thereby firmly supported for use without the intervention of the operative; also in providing said lap-board with a spring-clamp for holding the material during the operation of cutting or basting, all of which will be hereinafter more particularly set forth.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents a top view of the lap-board and cloth-holder, detached from the socket-brackets and ready for adjustment to any suitable place. Fig. 2 represents a similar view of the same, showing the manner of adjustment and support. Fig. 3 represents a transverse section, showing more clearly the telescoping of the holding cleat-pins with the socket bracket-pieces; and Fig. 4 represents a longitudinal section through the lap-board and spring-holding clamp.

To the under side of the lap-board A are screwed two or more cleat-pins, B, or bars, the ends of which project and are cylindrical, so as to telescope with socket bracket-pieces C; which socket bracket-pieces are secured to an ordinary table, a sewing-machine table, or the apron of a window-sill, or the wall of

room, as may be most convenient to the user; said bracket socket-pieces being fastened by screws so as to be readily detached from one place and fastened to another.

The lap-board is made to conform to the person, and has a scale, in bas-relief or painted thereon, for graduating the work.

The spring-clamp consists of a simple bar, D, at the right end of the lap-board, and in the same plane, and is held to the same by rubber bands *a*, which cause it to firmly clamp the cloth. It is provided with a handle, D', by which it may be extended with the right hand of the operative while she manipulates the cloth with her left, its bearing when open being upon the edge of the lap-board at the inner end thereof. Said rubber bands *a* embrace slight recesses in the bar D, so as to prevent the same from sliding out; and they are secured to the lap-board A by means of holding-plates *b* upon the top of the board, and washers *c* upon the bottom, connected by screws, so that in the event of the bands wearing out or breaking they can be easily removed and others substituted. The holding-plates *b* are countersunk and flush with the top surface of the board, so as not to interfere with the manipulation of the cloth.

The combined movable lap-board and cloth-holder is constructed in a substantial manner, and is a most desirable and convenient device for the purpose. It is supported entirely by the bracket-pieces, the intervention of the lap of the operative or of props being entirely unnecessary and superfluous.

Having described my invention, I claim—

1. The combination of a lap-board, provided on its under side with cleat-pins or bars, with removable socket bracket-pieces, substantially as described, whereby said lap-board is supported for use without the intervention of the operative, as described.

2. The combination of a lap-board and spring-clamp cloth-holder, substantially as hereinbefore described.

Witnesses: EDWIN J. SPRAGUE.

L. BOOTH,

G. J. MARQUIEN.