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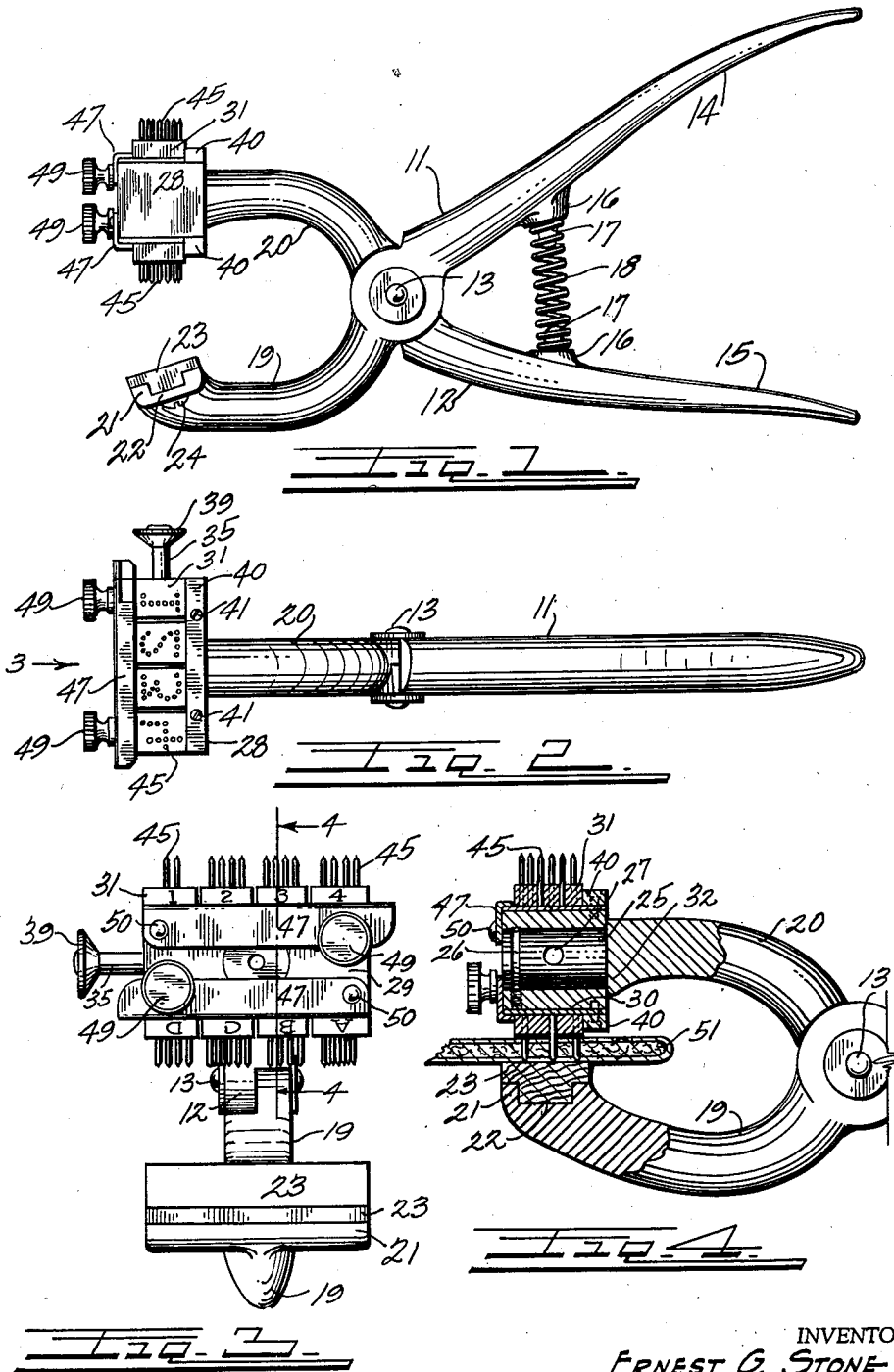
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2,239,761

BRANDING TOOL

Filed Aug. 17, 1940

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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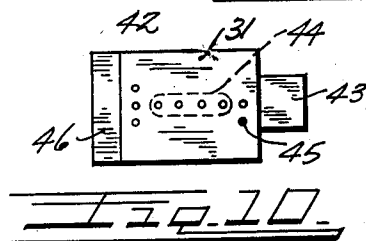
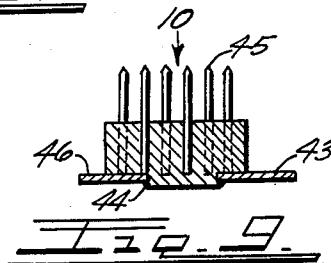
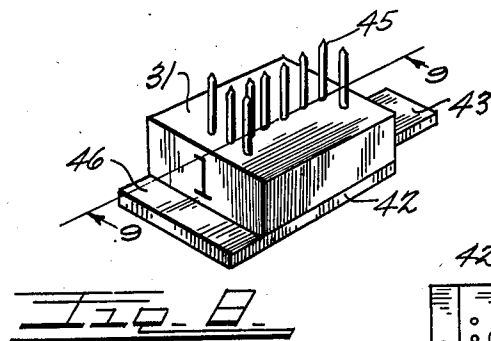
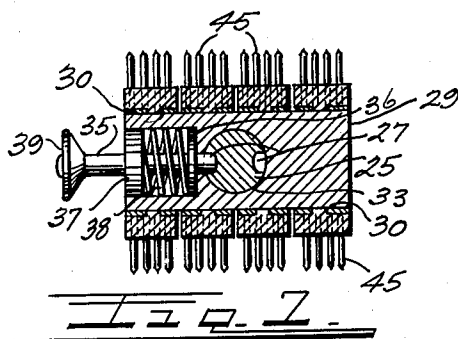
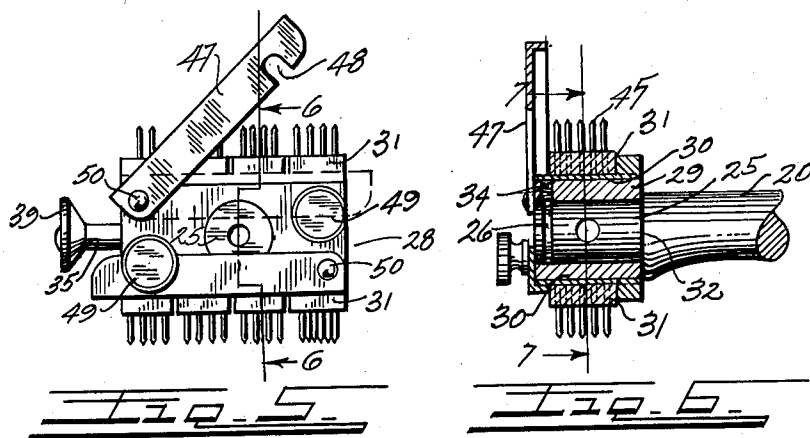
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BRANDING TOOL

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2 Sheets-Sheet 2



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2,239,761

BRANDING TOOL

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5 Claims. (Cl. 101—20)

This invention relates to improvements in branding tools of the tattoo type.

Stock raisers and feeders find it necessary to brand stock so that they can be positively identified and this is usually accomplished either by burning the brand into the skin or by means of a tattoo mark.

It is frequently desirable to apply to an animal a number and also one or more letters; the number may indicate the registration number and the letter or letters may indicate the owner's initials. The numbers and initials may, however, be arbitrarily selected or may have other significations than what has been pointed out above.

Where tattoo branding is employed the ears are usually punctured by means of a tool having letters or numbers or both outlined by a series of pointed needles. After the needles are withdrawn a branding oil is applied which penetrates the openings in the skin and leaves a permanent visible mark in the nature of a tattoo.

It is the object of this invention to produce a simple and substantial branding tool of such construction that the letters or numbers can be readily changed and will be securely held in place while in use.

Another object of this invention is to produce a branding tool in which the numbers and the letters may occupy separate portions thereof and in which they may be quickly moved into and out of operative positions.

A further object of the invention is to provide a tool in which any one letter or number can be removed and replaced without disturbing the others.

A still further object of the invention is to produce a tool in which the stamp head can be quickly and easily turned about an axis to bring either the letters or the numbers into operative position, and another object is to produce a type block of such shape and construction that it can be manufactured at a reasonable cost and which shall be especially well adapted for use with the stamp head of the tool.

The above and any other objects that may become apparent as this description proceeds are obtained by means of a construction and an arrangement of parts that will now be described in detail and for this purpose reference will be had to the accompanying drawings in which the invention has been illustrated and in which,

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a branding tool embodying this invention.

Figure 2 is a top plane view of the tool shown in Figure 1.

Figure 3 is an end elevation looking in the direction of arrow 3 in Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a section taken on line 4—4, Figure 3.

Figure 5 is an end elevation of the stamp block showing one of the clamp members in inoperative position.

Figure 6 is a section taken on line 6—6, Figure 5.

Figure 7 is a section taken on line 7—7, Figure 6.

Figure 8 is a perspective view of a type block.

Figure 9 is a longitudinal section taken on line 9—9, Figure 8, and,

Figure 10 is a top plane view of the type block shown in Figure 8.

This invention consists of a tool having two pivotally connected levers which have been designated by reference characters 11 and 12. These levers are connected by means of a pivot 13 about which they can move rotarily in the manner of a pair of pincers. The end 14 of lever 11 and the end 15 of lever 12 are handles and extend a considerable distance from the pivot. The two handles are shaped somewhat differently and the shapes are shown clearly in Figure 1. Each handle is provided with a knob 16, each of which has a projection 17 that extends into the ends of the helical compression spring 18. The spring tends to hold the parts in the open jaw position shown in Figure 1.

Those parts of levers 11 and 12 to the left of pivot 13 will be referred to as jaws. The jaw which is integral with lever 11 has been designated by reference numeral 19 and the corresponding jaw which forms an integral part of lever 12 has been designated by reference numeral 20.

Jaw 19 terminates in a transversely extending elongated support 21 that is provided with a longitudinally extended groove 22 in which is positioned a wooden strip 23 shaped to fit the support and which is held in place by means of screws 24. The wooden strip 23 has a plane upper surface which, if extended, would pass through the axis of pivot 13 or at least be parallel to the axis of this pivot.

Jaw 20 terminates in a cylindrical portion 25 which is provided near its outer end with a circular groove 26. The cylindrical projection is also provided with openings or depressions 27 for a purpose which will hereafter appear. Positioned on the cylindrical projection 25 is a stamp head which has been designated in its entirety by the reference numeral 28. The stamp head

consists of a metal block 29, of substantially rectangular cross section. Block 29 has two oppositely positioned plane surfaces 30 which form supporting surfaces for type blocks that have been designated by reference numeral 31. The cylindrical portion 25 terminates in a shoulder 32 which limits the inward movement of the stamp block. The stamp block 29 is provided with an opening 33 of the proper size to receive the cylindrical portion 32 and is also provided with an opening in which is positioned a screw 34; this screw is provided with a tapered end which extends into the groove 26 and forms means for limiting relative longitudinal movement of the stamp block and the cylindrical portion.

The cylindrical portion 25 is also provided with two diametrically positioned openings 27 for the reception of a positioning pin which has been designated by reference numeral 35. This pin extends inwardly from one end of the block 29 and is provided with a washer-like abutment plate 36 which is held against longitudinal movement thereon. Pin 35 also extends through a washer-like member 37 which has a pressed fit with the opening in block 29. A helical compression spring 38 is positioned between the members 36 and 37 and tends to move the pin inwardly. The outer end of pin 35 is provided with an enlarged head 39 which can be grasped for the purpose of moving the pin outwardly in opposition to the action of spring 38.

Referring now more particularly to Figure 7 it will readily be seen that by pulling the pin 35 outwardly, so as to remove its inner end from the opening 27, in which it is positioned, the stamp block may be rotated 180 degrees in which position the pin, when released, will enter the other opening 27. The purpose of this rotating feature will be hereinafter explained.

Referring now more particularly to Figures 1, 2 and 3, it will be seen that the stamp block is provided with two abutments 40 that are formed from substantially rectangular metal rods which are secured to the stamp block by screws 41. The inner surfaces of the abutments 40 are provided with spaced notches which form openings of which the surfaces 30 form one of the walls. These openings are uniformly spaced and serve as means for positioning type blocks 31 in properly spaced relation.

The construction of the type blocks has been shown in Figures 8, 9 and 10 to which reference will now be had. Each type block consists of a metal plate 42 which is substantially rectangular and which is provided at one end with a projection 43 of a proper size to fit the openings formed by the notches in the abutments. Each plate 43 is provided with a central opening 44 which is shown in Figure 9 and which is also indicated by a dotted line in Figure 10. Attached to each plate 42 is a type block 31 which may be made from type metal or some other readily fusible metal. The type block is molded in a mold of which plate 43 forms one side and during the molding operation the pins 45 are embedded in the metal so that the parts 31, 42 and 45 form a unitary assembly which will be referred to as a type block. The pins 45 are arranged to form letters or numbers, as the case may be, and in Figure 2 type blocks representing numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 have been shown. The plates 42 are of such length that the length of the plate plus the length of the projections 43 equals the width of the block, as shown most clearly in Figures 4 and 6.

It will be noted from Figures 8 and 10 that the plates 42 extend beyond the ends of the block so as to leave a projection 46 which is engaged by clamping member 47 that serves to hold the type block in position on the stamp head. The clamps 47 are angular or L-shaped, as shown in Figures 4 and 6. One flange engages the front surface of the stamp block and the other overlaps the surface 30 and will therefore engage the projection 46 of the plates 42. Each clamp is provided with a notch 48 for the reception of the shank of a clamping screw 49 which holds the clamps in position. Each clamp is secured to the stamp block by means of pivots 50. When the clamps are moved into the position shown in Figure 5 the type blocks may be removed and inserted by a transverse movement and it will be apparent that either one of the blocks can be removed and replaced by another without disturbing the adjacent blocks because they move transversely and are therefore independently movable.

The type blocks are formed with letters and numbers and can therefore be assembled so as to have a certain number on one side and a combination of letters on the other side of the block. When the stamp block is in either of its two operative positions the corresponding type blocks will be so positioned relative to the surface of member 23 that the latter will form an abutment and therefore whenever a portion 51 of an animal's ear is inserted between the stamp block and the abutting surface and the tool closed the pins 45 will penetrate the ear and after the tool has been opened a suitable branding fluid is supplied which penetrates the opening formed by the pin and leaves an indelible brand or mark.

Having described the invention what is claimed as new is:

1. In a branding instrument of the tattoo type having two pivotally connected levers corresponding ends of which form handles and jaws, one of the jaws having a cylindrical projection; a stamp head having an opening for the reception of the projection, said stamp head having at least one elongated plane surface, an abutment extending along one edge thereof, the abutment having a plurality of type positioning openings, and an elongated clamping member movably secured to the side of the stamp head opposite the flange, the clamping member having a type engaging portion extending over the plane surface in spaced relation thereto.

2. In a branding instrument of the tattoo type having two pivotally connected levers corresponding ends of which form handles and jaws, one of the jaws having a cylindrical projection; a stamp head having an opening for the reception of the projection, said stamp head having at least one elongated plane surface, an abutment extending along one edge thereof, the abutment having a plurality of type positioning openings, and an elongated clamping member pivotally attached at one end to the stamp head, said member having a type engaging portion extending over the plane surface in spaced relation thereto.

3. A stamp head in accordance with claim 1 in which the clamping member has two angularly related flanges, one of which is positioned in engagement with the side of the stamp head opposite the abutment, the other flange extending inwardly over the plane surface in spaced relation thereto, and means for securing the clamping member in type engaging position.

4. A stamp head in accordance with claim 1

in which the clamping member has an angular cross section, one flange overlapping the side of the block opposite from the flange, a pivot extending through the flange and into the block at a point adjacent one end thereof, the other flange projecting over the plane surface in spaced relation thereto.

5. In a branding instrument of the tattoo type having two pivotally connected levers corresponding ends of which form handles and jaws, one of the jaws having a cylindrical projection, a stamp head having an opening for the reception of the projection, means comprising a spring pressed

manually engageable plunger for positioning the stamp head on the projection, said stamp head having at least one elongated plane surface, an elongated abutment extending along one edge thereof, the abutment having a plurality of type positioning openings, and an elongated type clamping member pivoted near one end to the stamp head, said member having two angularly related flanges one of which projects over the plane surface, for engaging type blocks positioned thereon.

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