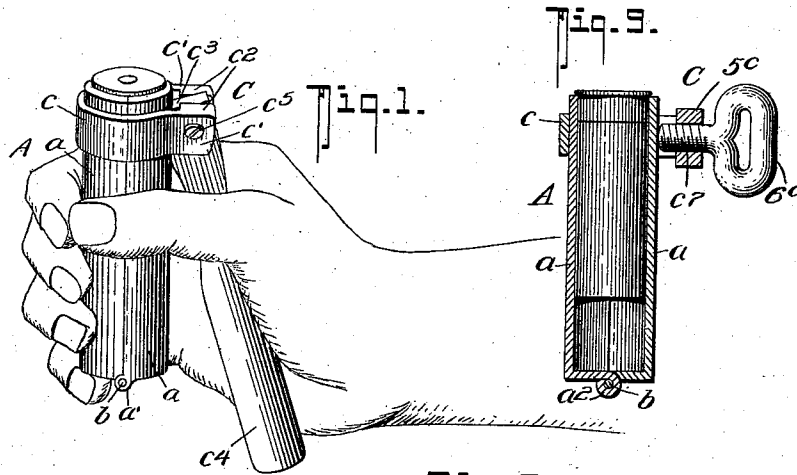
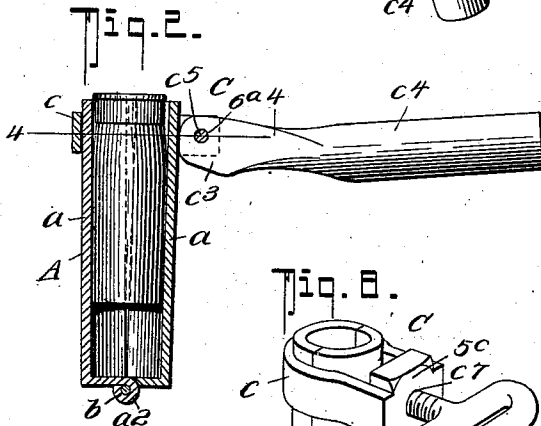
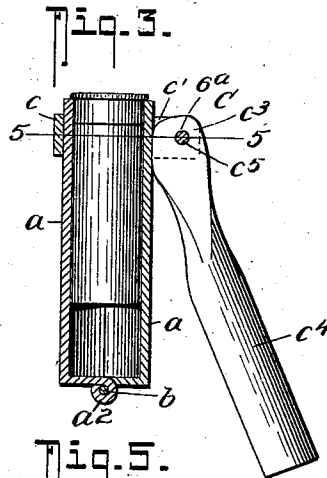
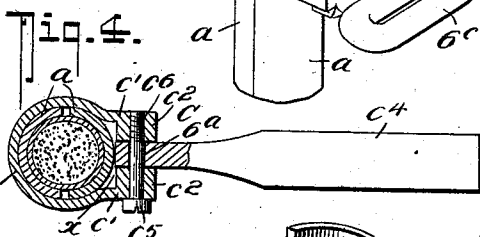
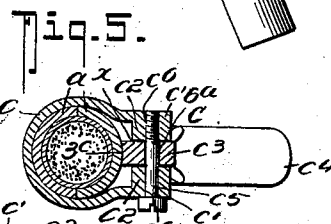


H. W. MENGE.
SHELL REDUCING DEVICE.
APPLICATION FILED NOV. 27, 1905.

903,877.

Patented Nov. 17, 1908.



WITNESSES:
F. L. Gibson.
John J. Schrott.

INVENTOR
H. William Menge.
BY
Fred G. Dietrich & Co.
ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY WILLIAM MENGE, OF EIGHTH WARD, PLAQUEMINES PARISH, LOUISIANA.

SHELL-REDUCING DEVICE.

No. 903,877.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Nov. 17, 1908.

Application filed November 27, 1905. Serial No. 289,346.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY WILLIAM MENGE, residing at Eighth Ward, in the parish of Plaquemines and State of Louisiana, have invented a new and useful Shell-Reducing Device, of which the following is a specification.

My invention is in the nature of an improved implement or device for sportsmen's and hunters' uses, for conveniently and expeditiously fixing shells in such manner that they can be readily entered into the barrel of breech loading fire arms.

It is well-known, particularly to hunters and sportsmen, that great difficulty is experienced with the extractors on breech loaders, in entering or loading shells into the gun barrel, by reason of the shells expanding, bulging or otherwise losing the proper shape required for a quick and positive entering thereof into the gun.

To overcome the above objections in a convenient and inexpensive manner and to provide a device for quickly reducing the shells to a proper shape to permit of quickly inserting the same into the gun barrel, is the object of my invention, which consists in a device that embodies certain peculiar combinations of parts, all of which will be hereinafter fully described, specifically pointed out in the claims and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which,

Figure 1, is a perspective view of my invention and showing the manner in which it is used, Fig. 2, is a vertical section of the preferred form of my invention, the parts being shown with a bulged or expanded cartridge to re-shape the same, Fig. 3, is a similar view showing the parts adjusted to re-shape the shell, Fig. 4, is a horizontal section of the device on the line 4—4 on Fig. 2, Fig. 5, is a similar view on the line 5—5 on Fig. 3, Fig. 6, is a detail view of the hinged sectional clamping socket, Fig. 7, is a similar view of the cam or reducing clamp member, and, Fig. 8, is a modification of the reducing clamp member hereinafter referred to. Fig. 9, is a cross section of a modified form on the line 9—9 of Fig. 8.

In carrying out my invention, I provide a split tubular socket A of suitable length formed of the two half-sections $a-a$, the lower ends of which have apertured eye portions $a'-a''$ adapted to fit together to receive the pintle b whereby to form a hinge joint at one end and to admit of the two sections

$a-a$ being readily opened out to receive a bulged or swelled shell.

C designates a reducing clamp member, which in the preferred form shown in Figs. 1 to 7 consists of a yoke shaped strap or band, the body portion c of which is of a diameter to fit over the upper or open end of the socket A, and the ends c' of which are projected parallel and formed with inwardly projecting bosses c^2-c^2 that oppose one another to form a restricted space x to receive the head c^3 of the cam lever c^4 which is pivotally mounted on the cross pin c^5 that takes through the apertures c^6 and the aperture 6^a in the cam head c^3 .

The gripping face of the cam head c^3 is concaved as at 3^c to accommodate itself upon and form a solid bearing against the round portion of the socket member with which it engages as clearly shown in Figs. 4 and 5.

From the foregoing, taken in connection with the drawing, the advantages of and the manner in which my device is used will be readily apparent. It will be noticed that to reduce or re-shape the shell, it is only necessary to slightly separate the socket sections $a-a$ sufficient to insert the swollen or bulged shell, which is shoved down into the socket until its cap rim engages the upper end of the socket.

The yoke portion of the cam member is then slipped over the top of the socket, and held therein as shown in Fig. 2, and when thus positioned, the user by simply bringing the cam lever down to the position shown in Fig. 3, forces the two sections $a-a$ together and thus squeezes the shell back to a uniform diameter and re-shaped to freely enter the barrel of the gun, it being understood that when re-shaped, it can be readily withdrawn from the socket A by moving up the cam lever to permit of a slight separation of the sections $a-a$.

Instead of using the cam lever device shown in Figs. 1 to 7, the same result can be obtained by forming the yoke portion C of the clamping device with a solid cross portion 5^c between its ends, and using a set screw 6^c in the threaded aperture c^7 in the part 5^c .

By reason of the peculiar arrangement of the several parts they can be easily and economically constructed and easily carried in the pocket and form a desired device to be carried by sportsmen and hunters, particularly when hunting marsh game, since in case the shells become damp or wet and

swollen out of shape, they can in a moment's time be properly re-shaped.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:—

1. A device of the character described, which consists of a socket formed of two semi-cylindrical members open at one end and closed at the other, said members hinged together at their closed end, a yoke adapted to be slipped over the separating ends of the two members, said yoke having a pair of parallelly extended portions, and adjustable means mounted between the parallelly extended portions for clamping the two socket members against a shell to reduce the same, substantially as shown and described.

2. A device of the character described,

which consists of a socket formed of two semi-cylindrical members open at one end and closed at the other, said members hinged together at this closed end, a yoke adapted to be slipped over the separating ends of the two members, said yoke having a pair of parallelly extended portions for clamping the two socket members against a shell to reduce the same, said adjustable means comprising a lever fulcrumed between said parallelly extended portions and having a cam face to coöperatively engage one of said semi-cylindrical members.

HENRY WILLIAM MENGE.

Witnesses:

D. G. WIRE,

E. G. JORDAN.