Feb. 2, 1965 A. RUSSAC ETAL 3,168,285

HAND TOOL FOR SEPARATING PLANK BOARDS

Filed Feb. 11, 1963 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

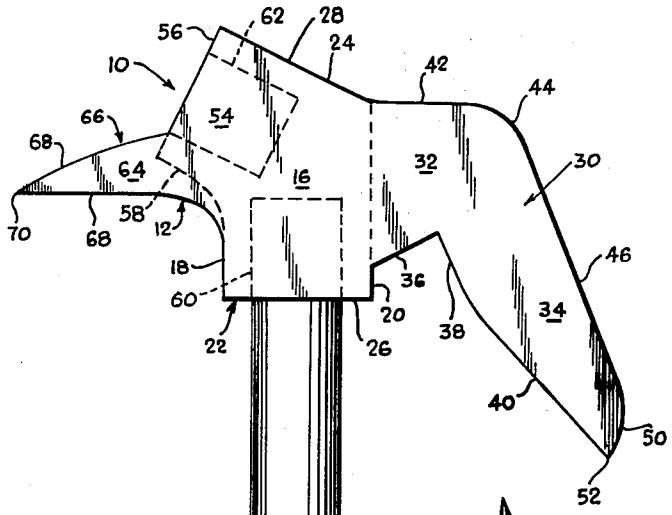


FIG. 1

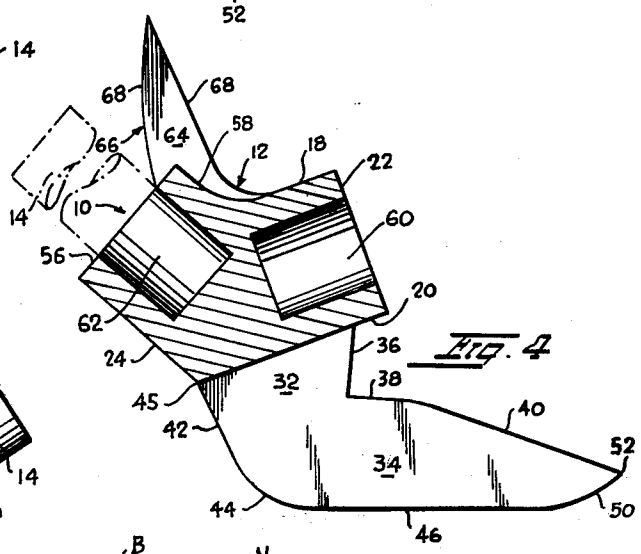


FIG. 4

FIG. 5

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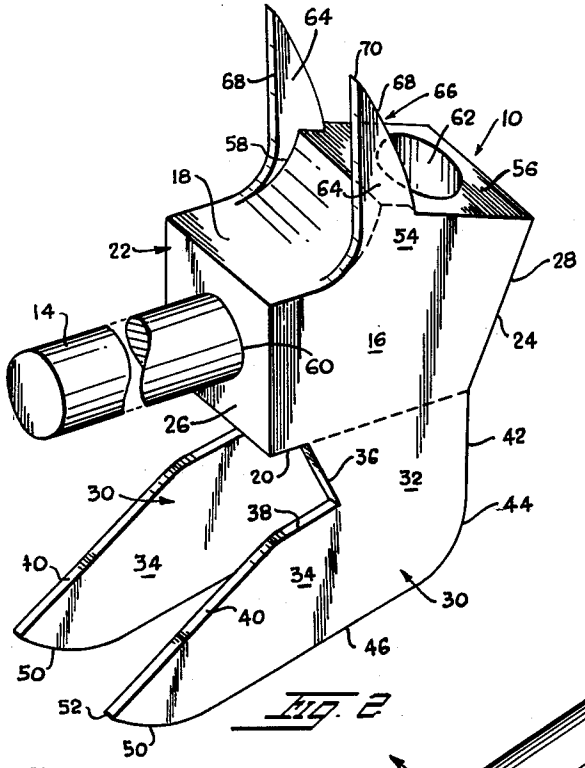


FIG. 2

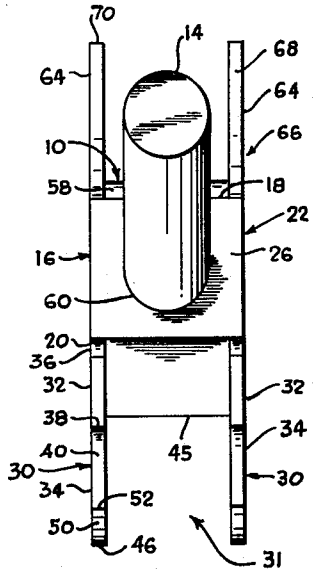


FIG. 3

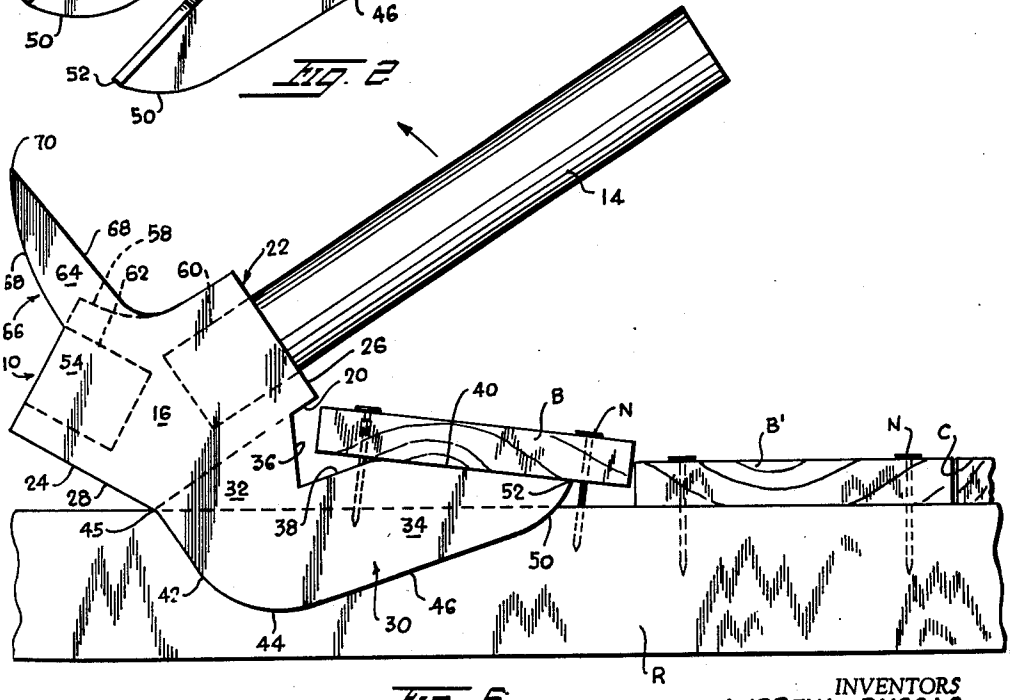


FIG. 6

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HAND TOOL FOR SEPARATING PLANK BOARDS

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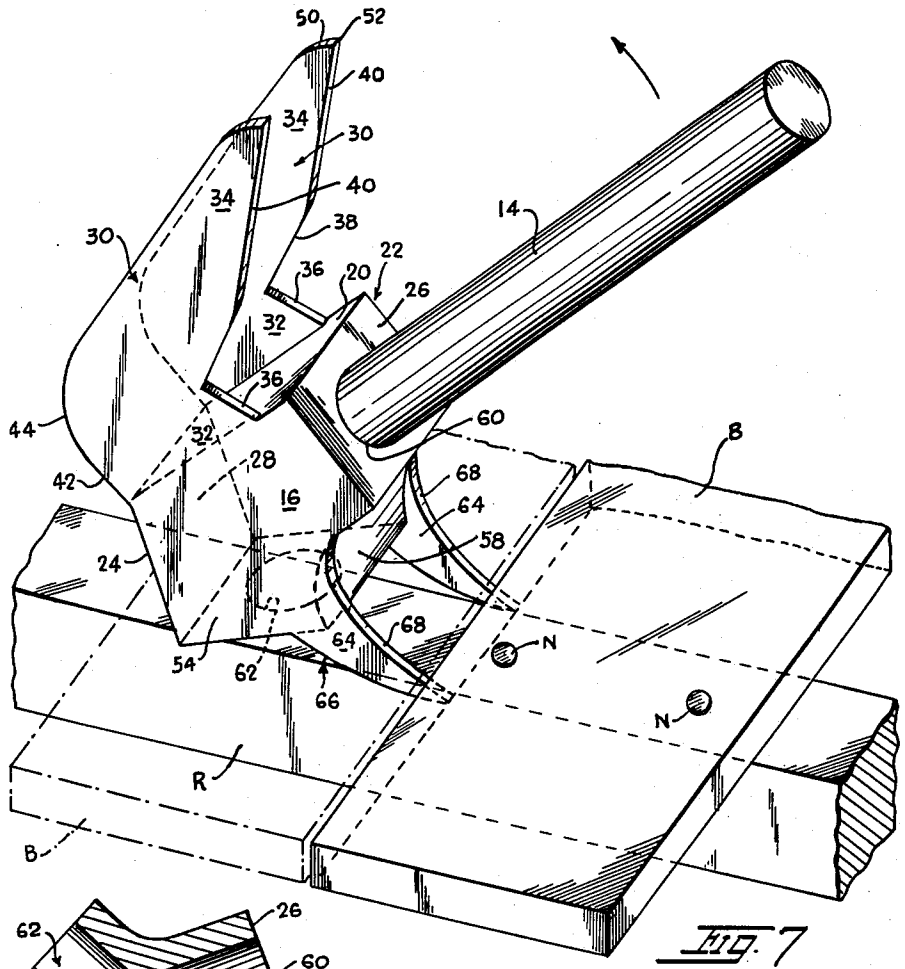


FIG. 7

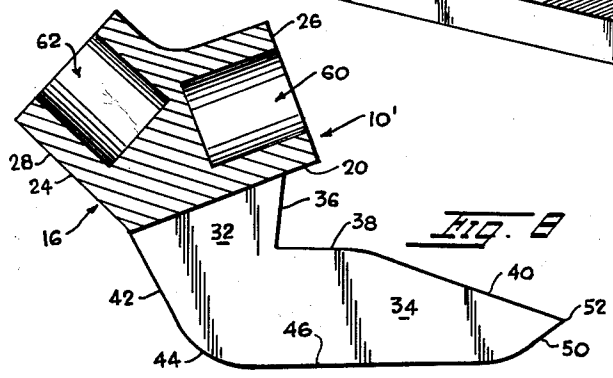


FIG. 8

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3,168,285

HAND TOOL FOR SEPARATING PLANK BOARDS

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2 Claims. (Cl. 254—131)

This invention relates to a manually operated hand tool of the lever type for use in prying off boards, planks and other wooden structural elements nailed to beams and the like in a manner to avoid damaging the structural elements and the supporting beams to permit the structural elements to be used over again.

Broadly, the invention comprises a hand tool of the lever type having a cast iron multi-sided head from which projects laterally and substantially longitudinally thereof a pair of spaced prying arms or prongs.

A general object of the present invention is to provide a hand tool of the lever type for quick, easy and safe removal of boards or other wooden structural elements on side walls, floors, roofs and the like from the beams, joists, rafters, studding and the like supporting such elements.

Another object of the invention is to provide a hand tool of the lever type having a head portion with prying prongs and with sockets disposed 120° apart for selectively receiving and retaining an elongated cylindrical handle whereby the tool may be operated by a downward pressing motion on the handle in a vertical plane or by an upward pulling motion on the handle in a vertical plane so that the tool is rendered adaptable for use in out-of-the-way or cramped places.

A further object is to provide a tool of this kind that is rugged and simple in construction and that can be manufactured and sold at a reasonable cost.

For further comprehension of the invention, and of the objects and advantages thereof, reference will be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, and to the appended claims in which the various novel features of the invention are more particularly set forth.

In the accompanying drawings forming a material part of this disclosure:

FIG. 1 is a side elevational view of a hand tool embodying the invention.

FIG. 2 is an enlarged perspective view thereof, the handle being shown broken away.

FIG. 3 is an end elevational view thereof.

FIG. 4 is a vertical sectional view through the center of the head of the tool, the handle being shown in dot-dash lines.

FIG. 5 is a side elevational view thereof showing one step in the operation of the tool in prying a board off of a beam, the handle being shown broken away.

FIG. 6 is a similar view showing another step.

FIG. 7 is an enlarged perspective view of the tool showing another step in the operation of the tool preparatory to prying off a board, when the boards are in closely spaced relation.

FIG. 8 is a view similar to FIG. 4 of a modified form of tool head.

Referring in greater detail to the drawings, in FIG. 1 a tool embodying the invention is shown and designated generally by the reference numeral **10**. The tool **10** includes a head **12** and an elongated metal handle **14** round in cross section.

The head **12** has a massive one-piece solid metal body **16** cast of iron, steel or other suitable material. The body is multi-sided in shape with opposed sides **18** and **20** and opposed ends **22** and **24**. The side **20** is flat, straight and truly vertical. The end **22** has a flat face **26** truly horizontal, and the face **28** of the end **24** slants at an angle to the horizontal of the order of 30°.

On one side, the side **20**, the body is formed with a pair

of spaced prying arms or prongs **30**, **30** providing a space **31** therebetween. Each arm or prong is angular in shape having a laterally extending portion **32** and a portion **34** extending perpendicularly to the lateral portion and substantially parallel to side **20**. The operating edge of the arm or prong is constituted by the bottom end edge **36** of lateral portion **32** adjacent the end **22** of the body which is cut at an acute angle to the horizontal, of the order of 30°, the adjacent side edge **38** of the portion **34** in the vicinity of its juncture with edge **36** of portion **30** is cut at an acute angle to the vertical of the order of 30°, and the edge **40**.

Each arm or prong **30** at its opposite edge is substantially horizontal as indicated at **42** and continues into a curved edge portion **44** which in turn continues into a slanting edge portion **46**, terminating in a slightly curved extreme end edge **50** at the free end of the arm or prong, the extreme end edge **50** curving inwardly toward edge **40** and with the edge **40** defining a sharp end edge **52**.

On the other side of the body, the side **18**, the body is formed with an enlargement **54**, above its midway, with a face **56** slanting downwardly from the top and outwardly at an angle to the side **18** of the order of 30°. The bottom end of the face **56** merges with a face portion **58** curving inwardly and merging into the side **18**.

One end of the body, the end **22** as viewed in FIG. 1, is formed with a central socket opening **60**, and a similar socket opening **62** is formed in the enlargement **54** at the center of the face **56**. The socket openings are spaced 120° apart circumferentially. Either socket opening is adapted to receive and to retain frictionally and selectively the handle **14** for manipulating the tool.

A pair of pointed fingers or prongs **64** may be formed on the side **18** of the body. Each prong **64** has a tapered body **66** with slightly curved edges **68** and terminates in a flat sharp end edge **70**. The prongs **64** extend in a direction opposite to the direction of the arms or prongs **30**. A tool, however, without the prongs **64** also has utility, such as the modified form of tool **10'** shown in FIG. 8, which is similar to tool **10** except the prongs **64** are omitted.

The tool **10** is used for prying boards B or the like off of beams R or the like, as shown in FIGS. 5 and 6. In removing boards B from beams R or the like on side walls and on roofs, the operation starts at the top so that the operator always has a firm footing when working. In removing boards from floors, the operation starts at the farthermost board.

In use, the head **12** of the tool is placed on the top long edge of the beam R on the side wall, roof, or floor, with the body of the head spanning the beam and with the arms or prongs **30**, **30** extending inwardly along the inner surface of the board. A pull on the handle **14** will cause the body of the head to ride on the slanting edges **40** of the arms or prongs inwardly and downwardly and continued pulling will cause the adjacent edge of the board to be received in the space or notch defined by the angular edges **36**, **38** and side wall **20**. The body of the head and the handle **14** will now be slanting at an angle of approximately 40° to the vertical. Upon lifting the handle or turning the handle counterclockwise or in the direction of the arrow as shown in FIG. 6, around the edge **45** as a fulcrum point, the long edge **40** of the arms or prongs **30**, **30** will engage the inner surface of the board B and continued turning in the same direction around the fulcrum point **45** will lift the board B completely off of the beam as shown in FIG. 6.

When removing boards B from beams R on a floor as described above, a point in the operation might be reached where the handle **14** when seated in socket opening **60** is too long, or it might happen that an article of furniture is in the way, or the operator might find himself in a tight or

cramped position whereby the handle **14** in socket opening **60** is in the way. In such emergencies, it is only necessary to remove the handle from socket opening **60** and place the handle in the socket opening **62** as shown in FIG. 4, whereby the prongs become extensions or prolongations of the handle. With the parts thus positioned, the head is placed on the top edge of the floor beam R and the prongs **30, 30** pushed under the inner surface of the floor board. Continued pushing will position the edge of the board B in the notch defined by the edges **36, 38** and side **20** of the head, and position the edge **45** of the head against the top edge of the beam R thereby positioning said edge to serve as a fulcrum and positioning the handle **14** at an angle of approximately 40° to the horizontal. With the handle in this position, downward pressure on the handle **14** by the operator causes the head to move around the fulcrum point **45** carrying the prongs **30, 30** upwardly prying the board completely off of the beam.

The fingers or prongs **64** have utility in starting removal operations, that is, the uppermost board B on a wall or roof, or the farthermost board B on a floor, or an intermediate board B' shown in FIG. 5, might be initially lifted slightly along its long edge by inserting the pointed ends **70** of the prongs **64** under said edge and through the space C, and raising the handle **14** in the direction of the arrow as shown in FIG. 7, whereby the engaged edge will be lifted sufficiently to insert the longer prongs **30, 30** thereunder to complete the prying operation. By merely spinning the head around 180°, the prongs **30, 30** are in position for use.

The fingers or prongs **64, 64** also have utility in removing shingles from roofs, as the prongs can readily be inserted under the edge of the shingle and upon turning of the handle the shingle will readily be pried off. The tool, accordingly, has special utility for fire departments.

While we have illustrated and described the preferred embodiments of our invention, it is to be understood that we do not limit ourselves to the precise constructions herein disclosed and that various changes and modifications may be made within the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

having thus described our invention, what we claim as new, and desire to secure by United States Letters Patent is:

1. A hand-prying tool comprising a solid multi-sided metal body having a pair of spaced prongs, each of said prongs having a first portion extending laterally outwardly from one side of the body, each prong having a second portion extending laterally from said first portion at a slight angle to said one side of the body, said first and second portions of said prongs and said body forming aligned notches defined by said one side of the body and the adjacent edges of the laterally extending portions, said body having a first socket opening at said one end thereof, an enlargement on the body on the other side thereof adjacent the other end of the body, said enlargement having a second socket opening, the axis of said latter opening disposed at an angle of 120° to the axis of the socket opening in the end of the body, said socket openings adapted to receive and to retain selectively a handle for manipulating the tool, and means on said other end defining fulcrum means for the tool.

2. A hand-prying tool comprising a solid multi-sided metal body having a pair of spaced prongs, each of said prongs having a first portion extending laterally outwardly from one side of the body, each prong having a second portion extending laterally from said first portion at a slight angle to said one side of the body, said first and second portions of said prongs and said body forming aligned notches defined by said one side of the body and the adjacent edges of the laterally extending portions, said body having a first socket opening at said one end thereof, an enlargement on the body on the other side thereof adjacent the other end of the body, said enlargement having a second socket opening, the axis of said latter opening disposed at an angle of 120° to the axis of the socket opening in the end of the body, said socket openings adapted to receive and to retain selectively a handle for manipulating the tool, and means on said other end defining fulcrum means for the tool.

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