

W. H. BOWYER.

MACHINE FOR CANCELING STAMPS.

No. 175,914.

Patented April 11, 1876.

Fig. 1

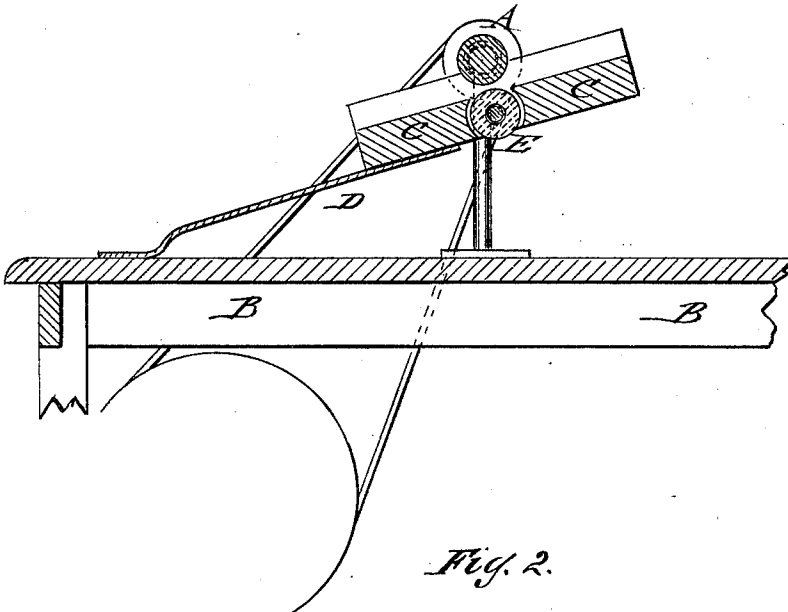
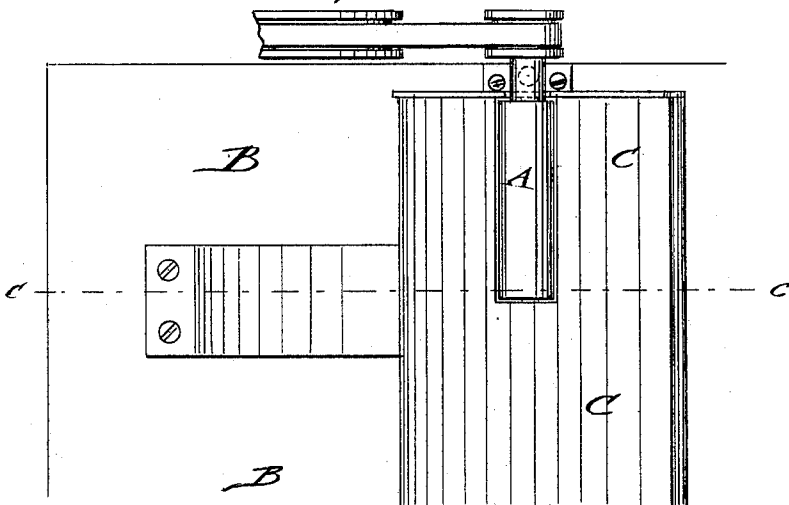


Fig. 2.



WITNESSES:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM H. BOWYER, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNOR TO
JOHN J. RIDGWAY, JR., OF SAME PLACE.

IMPROVEMENT IN MACHINES FOR CANCELING STAMPS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **175,914**, dated April 11, 1876; application filed
March 13, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM H. BOWYER, of Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and Improved Machine for Canceling Stamps, of which the following is a specification:

In the accompanying drawing, Figure 1 represents a vertical longitudinal section of my improved machine for canceling stamps, taken on line *c c*, Fig. 2, and Fig. 2 is a top view of the same.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

This invention relates to an improved machine for canceling and destroying postage or other stamps in a rapid and perfect manner; and the invention consists of a revolving grinding-roller, to which the stamps are exposed for cancellation on a spring-acted board with a rubber feed-roller corresponding in length to the grinding-roller.

In the drawing, A represents the grinding-roller, which is made of suitable rough substance, and revolving in bearings of a table, B, in the nature of a sewing-machine table. The grinding-roller A is rapidly revolved by means of a treadle-acted crank-wheel, belt, and pulley connection, and the letters or other papers having postage or other stamps for cancellation and destruction are fed to the action of the grinder A on a small board, C, that is attached to the table B by a strong band-spring, D, at an angle of about forty-five degrees, more or less. The spring D forces the board with sufficient pressure against the

grinder to produce the grinding action of the same at the required point. The spring-acted board C is recessed and provided immediately underneath the grinder with a rubber roller, E, of the same length as the grinder. The rubber roller E does not rise above the surface of the board, and is intended to prevent the grinder from injuring the board when there are no letters or papers to be stamped on the same, while it also assists in the forward feeding of the letters when the stamps are destroyed. The board is pressed down by placing a pile of letters or other papers upon it, so that the stamp of the topmost is immediately under the grinder. The rapidly-revolving grinder cuts the stamp or stamps of the uppermost letter, and when the stamp is sufficiently effaced the letter is allowed to go, and the next stamp will then be exposed to the grinder, and so on, so that the feeding, canceling, and removing of letters is accomplished in a very rapid, reliable, and perfect manner.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

A machine for canceling stamps, constructed of a revolving grinding-roller in connection with a spring-board having a rubber feed-roller below the grinder, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

W. H. BOWYER.

Witnesses:

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