J. G. POWELL.

Compound-Implement.

No. 131,904. Patented Oct. 1, 1872.

FIG. 1.

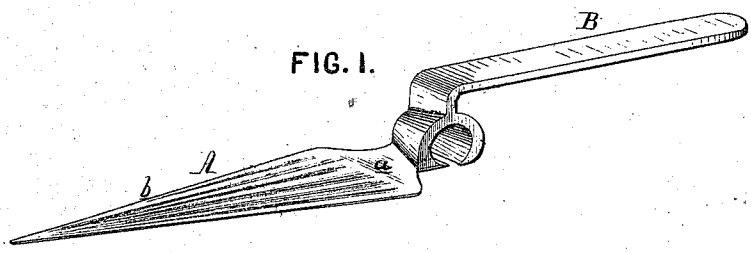


FIG. 2.

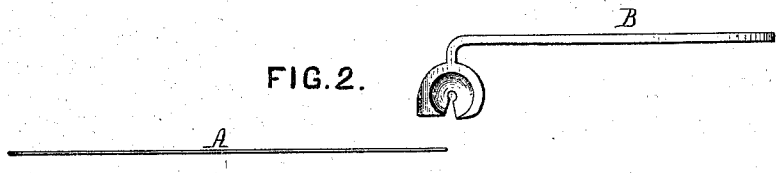


FIG. 3.

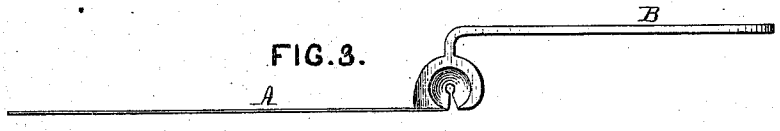
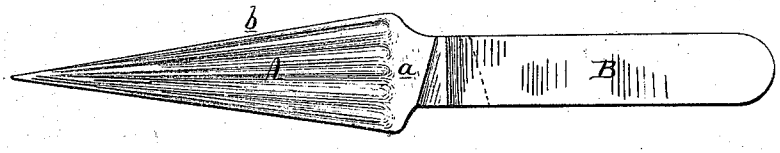


FIG. 4.



WITNESSES { Jno. B. Harding
Harry Smith

John G. Powell
by his attys.
Howson and Son

AM. PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHIC CO. N.Y. (OSBORNE'S PROCESS.)

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN G. POWELL, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN COMPOUND IMPLEMENTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **131,904**, dated October 1, 1872; antedated September 30, 1872.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN G. POWELL, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, have invented an Instrument for Opening Envelopes, Cutting Paper, &c., of which the following is a specification:

My invention consists in a compound instrument, too fully explained hereafter to need preliminary description, for opening envelopes, cutting the leaves of books, &c., and sharpening pencils.

In the accompanying drawing, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the instrument for opening envelopes, cutting paper, &c.; Fig. 2, an edge view of the parts of the instrument, showing the two detached from each other; Fig. 3, the same, showing the two parts connected together; and Fig. 4, a plan view.

A is the blade, and B the handle of the instrument, the former being elastic and the latter rigid. The blade, which has a gradual taper from the shoulder *a* to the point, may be made of thin elastic steel with a plain surface on both sides; but I prefer to make it of very thin steel, such as that used in the manufacture of steel-pens, and to corrugate it in the manner shown in the drawing, these corrugations rendering the steel sufficiently rigid without depriving it of proper elasticity, and the elasticity being greater at the point than at the shoulder, owing to the gradual increasing width of the blade and the increased depth of the corrugations at this point. The blade should be more or less elastic in order that it may perform its duty properly. It is also necessary that the handle, whatever the material of which it is composed, should be rigid, and elevated above the blade, substantially in the manner shown. In the present instance the handle is made of cast metal, and the blade is soldered or brazed to it, although it may be secured by rivets, or by any other mode of fastening. The handle must be somewhat massive at the points where it is secured to the blade, and I have availed myself of this requirement by forming, at the point shown, a pencil-sharpener, of the character too well known to need further explanation other than that there is a conical recess for receiving the point of the pencil, on turning which the wood and lead are shaved by the sharpened rear edge of the blade A, which projects into the recess. It should be understood that the edge *b*, and, if desired, the opposite edge of the blade, is made more or less sharp.

It will be readily understood how, in using the instrument, the point of the blade can be quickly introduced beneath the folds of an envelope; how the folds can be quickly severed by the sharp edge of the blade, and how useful the instrument will be for those who have a large number of letters to open.

The instrument may be also employed as a paper-cutter for severing the leaves of books, pamphlets, &c., in which case the blade may be longer and less pointed than that shown in the drawing.

I claim as my invention—

1. The compound instrument described, consisting of the said blade and handle, and a pencil-sharpener arranged at the junction of the two.

2. The compound implement described, in which the steel blade is prolonged and sharpened to form the cutting-edge of the sharpener, as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOHN G. POWELL.

Witnesses:
WM. A. STEEL,
HARRY SMITH.