RANSOM MAULDIN.

Cotton Press.

118142

PATENTED AUG 15 1871

Fig. 1.

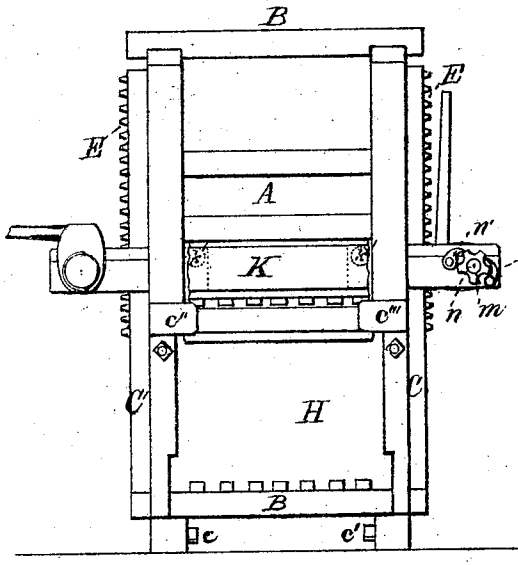


Fig. 2.

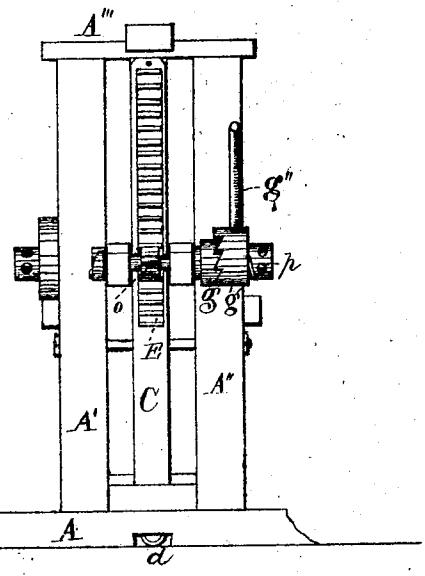
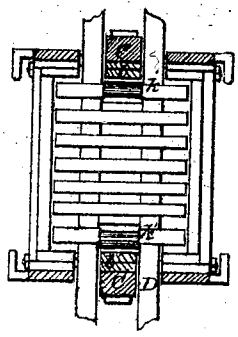


Fig. 3.



Witnesses.

R. H. Steele

F. B. Curtis

Inventor.

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Attys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RANSOM MAULDIN, OF MARIETTA, MISSISSIPPI.

IMPROVEMENT IN COTTON-PRESSES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 118,142, dated August 15, 1871.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RANSOM MAULDIN, of Marietta, in the county of Prentiss and State of Mississippi, have invented a new and valuable Improvement in Cotton-Presses; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawing making a part of this specification, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon.

Figure 1 of the drawing is a side view of my press. Fig. 2 is an end view, and Fig. 3 is a detail.

This invention consists in the construction of an improved cotton-press; the object being the production of a machine for compressing cotton and the like into bales for convenience in storage and transportation, and a machine easily operated, small in dimensions, and comparatively inexpensive.

Referring to the drawing accompanying this specification, the frame is in the general form shown, consisting of sills, posts, and plates. Each end of the frame is formed of a sill, A, which supports two posts, A′ and A″, the posts being connected at the top by a plate, A‴. These ends are connected at the top by a cross-plate, B, and at the bottom by a cross-sill, B′, which has a projection extending between and beyond the end posts A′ and A″, and which projection serves as a support for the vertical posts C and C′, which are connected at the top to the plates A‴, and which serve as guides for the frame of the follower-block K and as supports for the cog-rails E and E′. The end pieces or posts are also connected at the front and back by side pieces F and F′, which, with the end posts, form a box for the reception of the cotton or substance to be compressed. The sill B has secured upon its upper side strips *b*, and the follower-block has upon its under side strips *b′*. These strips press directly upon the substance compressed, and serve also to support the detached pieces G, G′, G″, and G‴ when they are placed in position at the sides and ends of the strips within the frame and upon the sill B′ to form the compressing-box H. The box-pieces G and G′ are provided with ledges at their ends, and their upper edges are beveled to fit the beveled edges of the side pieces F and F′; and the box-pieces G″ and G‴ are beveled on their backs to fit inside of the ledges on the side box-pieces G and G′, which are held in position by bars serving as keys, which are pressed under the projections *c*, *c′*, *c″*, and *c‴*, and against the outside of the box-pieces G and G′. The sills B′ are fastened to the sills A by staples and pins *d*. The follower-block is formed of the block K, rollers K′ and K″ to move on the posts C and C′, and the side frame-pieces *l* and *l′*, which project beyond and on each side of the posts C and C′ to form bearings for the shafts *m* and *m′*, one on each side of the press. The shafts *m* and *m′* are each provided with a ratchet-wheel, *n*, and detached pawls *n′* and *n″*; a pinion-wheel, *o*, to work in or upon the cog-track or cog-rails E and E′; a drum, *p*, provided with holes *p′* for hand-spikes; and clutch-collars *q* and *q′*, the collars *q* having a hole and pin, so that it may be fastened and unfastened to and from the drum *p*, and the collar *q′* having a lever-arm, *q″*.

To use the machine, unfasten the clutch-collar *q* by removing the pin, throw back the pawls *n′*, and turn the drum with hand-spikes or otherwise so that the pinion-wheels *o* will move up on the cog-rails, and thus elevate the follower-block to the upper part of the frame; turn the pawls *n″* against the ratchets to hold the follower-block in position. Place the detached box-pieces G, G′, G″, and G‴ in position on the sill B′, and put in place the key-bars. Put the substance to be pressed into the press; push it down well by some suitable means; and, when the press is full, detach the pawls *n″*, and put in position the pawls *n′*; insert the pin through the clutch-collar *q*, and, by means of the clutch-collar *q′* and and lever *q″*, force down the follower-block until it reaches the proper position at the lower edge of the side pieces F and F′, when the substance will be sufficiently compressed, and it may be removed, by removing the key-bars and box-pieces G and G′, to allow the bale to be taken out.

I claim as my invention—

1. The combination and arrangement of the shaft *m*, pawls *n′* and *n″*, ratchet *n*, pinion-wheel

o, drum *p*, clutch-collars *q* and *q'*, and cog-rail E, all constructed substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. In combination with the subject-matter of the first claim, a follower-block, consisting of side frame-piece *l* and *l'*, rollers K' and K'', and block K, for the purpose specified.

In testimony that I claim the above I have hereunto subscribed my name in the presence of two witnesses.

RANSOM MAULDIN.

Witnesses:

A. W. DAVIS,

C. S. WILLIAMS.