

N. Stafford.

Stencil Cutting Gauge.

Nº 87,983.

Patented Mar. 16, 1869.

Fig. 2.

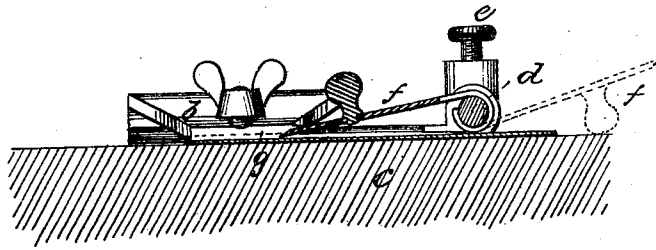
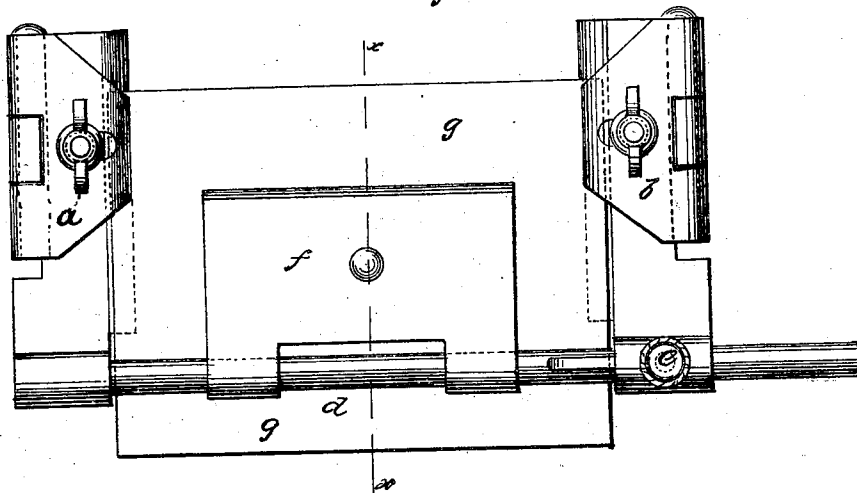


Fig. 1.



Witnesses:

H. L. Brown.

Geo. Walker.

Inventor.

N. Stafford.

United States Patent Office.

NELSON STAFFORD, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

Letters Patent No. 87,983, dated March 16, 1869.

IMPROVED STENCIL-CUTTING GAUGE

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, NELSON STAFFORD, of Brooklyn, in the county of Kings, and State of New York, have invented, made, and applied to use, a certain new and useful Improvement in Stencil-Cutting Apparatus; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the said invention, reference being had to the annexed drawing, making part of this specification, wherein—

Figure 1 is a plan of said apparatus, and

Figure 2 is a section of the same at the line *x x*.

Similar letters denote the same parts.

In cutting out stencil-plates, the operator usually marks a line upon the sheet-metal or other material, lays said sheet upon a block of lignumvitæ, and applies the letter or other punch to the surface, placing it upon the line, and then striking the head of the punch with a hammer. In doing this, the punch is liable to slip, and frequently is not placed correctly upon the line, in consequence of carelessness or inexperience in the workman.

Efforts have been made to remedy this difficulty, by the use of a heavy and cumbersome apparatus, fixed to the lignumvitæ bed; but another difficulty arises in that case, viz, the lignumvitæ bed frequently has imperfections and flaws, and it is necessary to move the plate from one place to another. This cannot be done where the apparatus is fixed to the bed or block.

Besides this, it is necessary to hammer the plate flat after cutting out one letter, and before impressing the next.

The nature of my said invention consists in a clamping-frame, for holding the plate, in combination with a movable gauge, for the punch, so that the gauge will act to steady the punch, and keep the bottom of the line straight, and the gauge can be moved aside, for allowing the plate to be hammered out flat, and the whole apparatus moved about from place to place upon the block, as may become necessary.

In the drawing—

a and *b* are clamps, formed by hinged pieces, that receive and grasp between their surfaces the edges of

the sheet of metal, or other material, forming the stencil, and the faces of the clamps that grasp the sheet stand at an inclination to the backs of the clamps, so as to turn the edges of the sheet up slightly, and thereby the sheet itself will lie flat upon a block of lignumvitæ, *c*, or other material, the backs of the clamps being upon the same surface.

These clamps *a* and *b* are united by a rod, *d*, and either one or both clamps can slide along upon said rod, to vary the distance between said clamps, for accommodating different sizes of stencil-plates, and a clamp-screw, *e*, holds the moving clamp, when adjusted to its place.

Upon the rod *d* is a movable gauge, *f*, that can be slid along on said rod *d*, as occasion may require, or turned back from over the plate *g*, as seen by red lines, fig. 2.

The edge of this gauge is used for guiding and steadying the punch, by the operator placing the top or bottom edge of said punch against said gauge, and holding it there while impressing the same in the plate or sheet *g*. The gauge can be slid aside or turned back, to allow the plate to be hammered out flat, after the letter or other openings have been cut.

The plate is to be moved in the clamps, for cutting one line after another, or, if preferred, the gauge *f* might be fitted to lift off the rod, and one of a different width or length substituted, or a curved or inclined edge might be employed.

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The clamps *a* and *b*, to grasp the sheet of metal or other material, in combination with the rod *d* and movable gauge *f*, the parts being constructed and arranged substantially in the manner and for the purposes set forth.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my signature, this 25th day of September, A. D. 1868.

N. STAFFORD.

Witnesses:

CHAS. H. SMITH,
GEO. T. PINCKNEY.