To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES E. BELL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Laporte, in the county of Laporte and State of Indiana, have invented new and useful Improvements in Chopping and Pounding Implements, of which the following is a specification.

An object of the invention is to provide an implement, particularly adapted for use in pounding, chopping and cutting meats and the like.

The invention embodies, among other features, a handle provided with a plurality of blade members movable into a plurality of stationary positions for the purpose of positioning the blades for cutting, chopping or pounding articles of food and the like, the blades being arranged to present a plurality of cutting edges, a plurality of chopping edges and a plurality of pounding faces.

In the further disclosure of the invention, reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings constituting a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference denote corresponding parts in all the views, and in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the device showing the blade in one position. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the device showing the blades in another position. Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view taken on the line 3–3 in Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a face view of the center blade showing the beads thereon. Fig. 5 is a view looking at the inner face of one of the jaws. Fig. 6 is a vertical transverse sectional view taken on the line 6–6 in Fig. 1.

Referring more particularly to the views,

I provide a handle 10 terminating at the upper end in an enlarged head 11, a longitudinally extending slot 19 being formed in the head 11 and extending downwardly to the handle 10 to bifurcate the head and form jaws 13.

The outer faces 14 of the jaws 13 are provided with recesses 15 to receive inwardly squared plug lugs 16, formed on blades 17 arranged to lie against the faces 14 of the jaws 18, each of the blades 17 being provided at one end with teeth 18, the said blades having their other ends offset and terminating in cutting edges 19, the mentioned blades being offset at a point adjacent the upper end of the jaws 13 as shown. A central blade 20 is mounted in the slot 12, between the jaws 13, one end of the said blade being provided with teeth 21 and the other end terminating in a cutting edge 22, the mentioned blade extending from the ends of the jaws and between the ends of the blades 17. By providing the slot 12 to extend downwardly into the handle 10, the jaws 13 will be provided with a certain amount of elasticity and when the blade 20 has been inserted between the jaws, the jaws, normally tending to move together will grip the blade. In order to secure the blade in a firmer position, however, the blade is provided with beads 23 struck from one side of the blade, the mentioned beads being arranged similarly to a cross and having their inner ends terminating at a transverse opening 24 formed in the blade 20, an inner face 25 of one of the jaws 13 being provided with recesses 26, arranged similarly to a cross, the recesses 26 being adapted to receive the beads 23 of the blade 20.

The lugs 16 of the blades 17 are provided with transverse openings and the jaws 13 are also provided with openings, the mentioned openings in the lugs 16, the jaws 13 and the blade 20 being adapted to register when the blades are mounted on the jaws so that a bolt 28 can be passed through the registering openings, the mentioned bolt being provided at one end with a head 29 and terminating at the other end in a threaded end on which is mounted a thumb screw 30.

It will be observed that the head 29 of the bolt 28 is seated within one of the inwardly squared struck lugs 16 and terminating flush with the outer face of the blade 17 thereby preventing the same from being accidentally engaged; while the thumb screw 30 is partially seated within the oppositely inwardly struck squared lug 16 of the other of said blades 17, thereby partially preventing the said thumb screw from being accidentally displaced. Now when the thumb screw 30 is screwed up on the bolt 28, the blades 17 and 20 will be rigidly held in engagement with the jaws 13 as shown in Figs. 1 and 3 and it should be herein noted that the outer blades 17, having the offset portion mentioned heretofore, are so arranged that the upper or offset ends of the blades extend outwardly beyond the sides of the jaws.

It will now be seen that the device described and illustrated can be used in the
manner of a hammer for cutting or for chopping meats and the like and the device can be further used to bring the outer face of one of the blades 17 into contact with the meat or food in order to pound the same.

Now if it is desired to chop foods or other substances, the thumb screw 30 is unloosened from the bolt 28 and the blades 17 are partially withdrawn from the sides of the jaws 13, after which the blades are swung at right angles to the handles 10 and the central blade 20 is also swung as mentioned, after which the thumb screw 30 is again screwed up on the bolt 28, the device being now arranged to be used as either a chopper or cutter, as shown in Fig. 2, the device resembling in certain instances the ordinary hatchet of a woodcutter.

It will be also seen that if desired, the blades 17 can be swung on the jaws 13 so that the blades will extend longitudinally to the handle with the teeth 18 at the outermost ends of the blades.

It will also be seen that the blades of the device can be easily and quickly removed for the purpose of sharpening the same and that if desired the center blade can be entirely removed and only the outer blades employed or the outer blades can be removed and only the central blade retained.

I claim:

In a device of the class described, including a handle formed at one end thereof with jaws having squared recesses in the outer face thereof, blades having centrally disposed inwardly squared struck lugs adapted to fit in the squared recesses of said jaws for mounting said blades on the outer face of said jaws, means extending through the handle and through the said squared inwardly struck lugs, a third blade movably supported on the handle and intermediate between the first mentioned blades, the said bolt being passed through the third blade to support the same on the handle and between the said jaws, and means on said bolt to secure said blades rigidly on the handle and for retaining the said inwardly squared struck portions of the blades within the said squared recesses of the jaws.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JAMES E. BELL.

WITNESSES:

H. W. Worden,

Bessie Folant.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."