

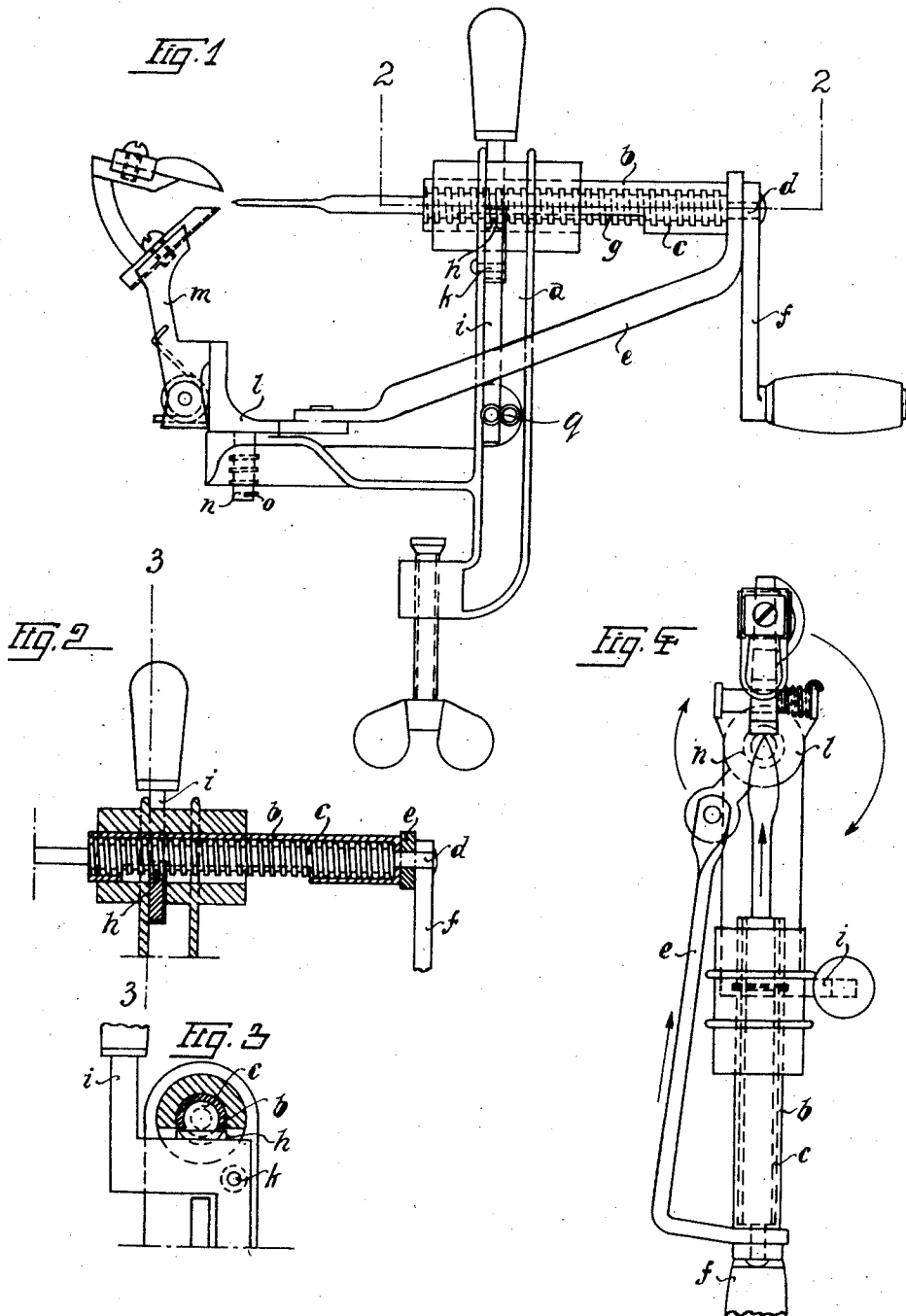
Oct. 8, 1929.

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1,730,888

FRUIT AND LIKE PEELER

Filed Jan. 4, 1929



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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FRUIT AND LIKE PEELER

Application filed January 4, 1929, Serial No. 330,290, and in Germany January 5, 1928.

This invention relates to fruit and like peelers of the kind wherein the fruit is attached to the end of a screw-spindle and rotated and advanced by means of the latter relative to a peeling tool which is carried by a swivelled support, the latter being controlled by the spindle so as to move the tool about the fruit. The spindle is slidably held in a bearing and normally engaged by an abutment which, on being released, enables the spindle to fly back to its normal position under the influence of a spring.

This automatic restoration of the spindle to its normal position is impeded if, as usually soon happens, grooves are formed in the bearing by the screw-threads of the spindle.

The object of the present invention is to provide an arrangement whereby a free sliding movement of the spindle will be permanently ensured, and the invention consists in introducing, between the spindle and the bearing, a bedding element or elements which prevent the detrimental grooving of the bearing. This is preferably effected by enclosing the spindle in a sleeve adapted to follow its axial movements.

Fig. 1 of the accompanying drawings represents a side view of the fruit peeler,

Fig. 2, a section on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1,

Fig. 3, a section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2, and

Fig. 4, a top view of the device.

The machine comprises a frame *a* which is provided with a bearing wherein a screw-spindle *c* is slidably and rotatably supported. The spindle is fitted at one end with an operating handle *f* and carries at the other end a flat spear point adapted to receive the fruit. The peeling tool *m* is mounted on a support *l* which swivels about a pin *n* and which has the form of a double-armed lever. Pivoted to one arm of this lever is a rod *e* which engages, on a neck *d* on the spindle, between the latter and the handle *f* so as to follow the axial movements of the spindle and turn the support *l* about the pin *n*. While the spindle is free to slide within the bearing it is normally prevented from so doing by an abutment *h* which is carried by a double-armed hand lever *i* pivoted at *k*. A spring *o* acts on the lever *i*

and holds the abutment *h* normally in engagement with the screw-thread of the spindle. The fruit is rotated and advanced by means of the screw-spindle relative to the peeling tool which at the same time is turned by the rod *e* about the fruit. A spring *o* on the pin *n* opposes the turning movement of the tool support *l* and restores the elements to their normal position as soon as the abutment *h* is withdrawn from the spindle.

In order to prevent the spindle from wearing grooves in its bearing and in order to ensure, permanently, a free axial movement of the spindle, a bedding is provided consisting preferably of a sleeve *b* which follows the axial movements of the spindle but which is prevented from rotary movement. The sleeve has an elongated slot *g* through which the abutment *h* can enter into engagement with the spindle. The wear of the sleeve *b* by the spindle and that of the bearing by the sleeve, will be uniform, and an easy sliding movement of spindle and sleeve will thus be permanently ensured.

I claim:

In a fruit and like peeler of the character described, the combination with a supporting frame, of a sleeve arranged to slide in said frame, a screw spindle mounted rotatably in said sleeve, a pivotally supported abutment adapted to engage the screw spindle through a slot in the sleeve so as to cause spindle and sleeve to be axially advanced in the frame when the spindle is rotated, a fruit holder on the spindle, a peeling tool, connection between the peeling tool and the spindle for turning the tool about the fruit holder when the spindle is advanced, and a spring for returning the elements to their initial positions when the spindle is released from the abutment.

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