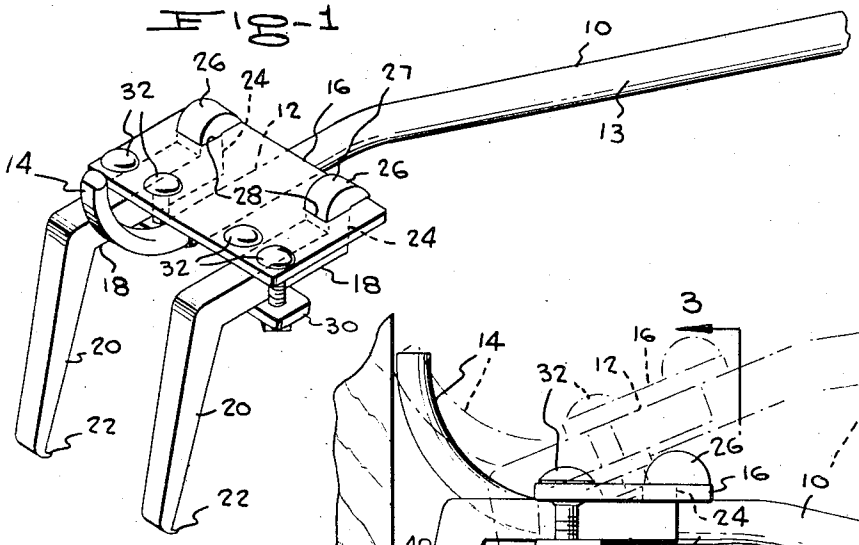
Sept. 16, 1958 J. A. LATIOLAIS 2,852,228

WRECKING TOOL

Filed Sept. 13, 1957

Fig-1



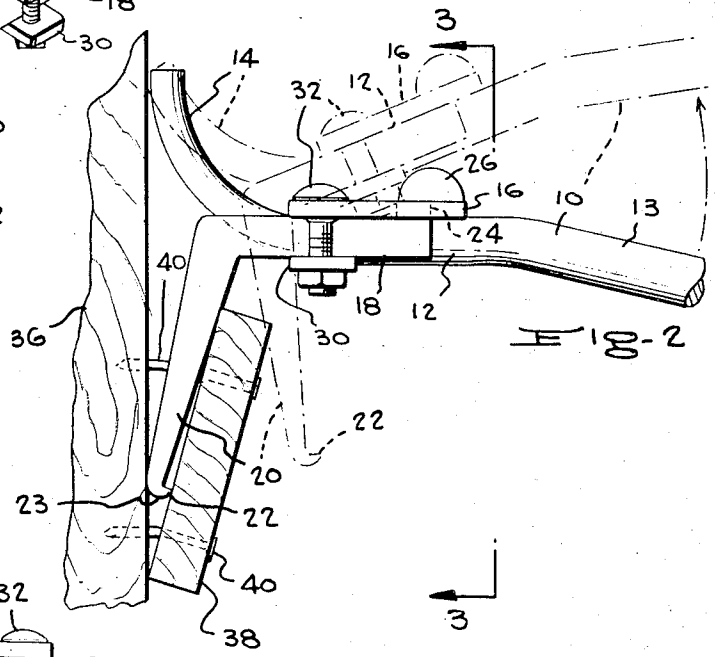
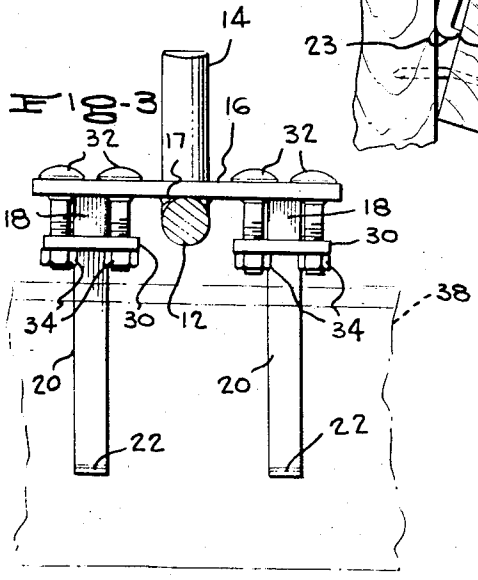


Fig-2

Fig-3



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WRECKING TOOL

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3 Claims. (Cl. 254—131)

This invention relates to wrecking tools, crow bars, and the like. More particularly, the invention has reference to a generally improved wrecking tool, so designed as to provide a very effective prying action, that is designed to swiftly and easily pull sheathing or other boards off studs to which they are nailed.

One important object is to provide a wrecking tool having one portion that will engage against a stud, said tool having prongs that engage in back of a board that is to be pried off the stud, at opposite sides of the stud. In this way, it is proposed to provide maximum leverage at the exact points desired, without damage to the stud, or to the boards.

A second important object is to provide an improved tool of the character described that will be designed to be applied swiftly and easily to a board that is to be removed.

Another object is to provide an improved tool which will have maximum leverage considering the size of the tool.

A further object is to provide a tool that will be swiftly and easily disengageable from the board after the board has been pried off the stud.

Yet another object is to so form the tool as to permit the same to have general utility as a crow bar, apart from the particular functions described above.

Still another object of importance is to provide a wrecking tool of the character described which will have prongs and can be removed if desired, to permit use of the tool as a crow bar of completely conventional characteristics.

Other objects will appear from the following description, the claims appended thereto, and from the annexed drawing, in which like reference characters designate like parts throughout the several views, and wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a wrecking tool according to the present invention, a portion of the handle being broken away.

Figure 2 is a side elevational view of the tool in use, shown in different positions to which it is movable in full and dotted lines, the handle being partly broken away.

Figure 3 is a transverse sectional view on line 3—3 of Figure 2.

Referring to the drawing in detail, an elongated rigidly constituted handle **10** is formed at its front end with an extension **12** disposed at a wide obtuse angle to the length of the main portion **13** of the handle. Extension **12**, in turn, at its front end, merges into an upwardly curving fulcrum portion **14**, which curves through approximately ninety degrees.

The curved portion or fulcrum member **14** may appropriately be said as being projected in a direction laterally of the length of the handle constituted by the handle portions **12, 13**, since said handle portions in effect constitute a continuous, elongated handle **10** which, if not completely straight from end to end thereof, is at least almost straight. In fact, the handle **10** could be completely straight, rather than composed of obtusely related portions **12, 13**.

In any event, a connector plate **16** of rectangular configuration is disposed in a plane tangential to the circular cross section of the handle, as clearly shown in Figure 3. The plate is in overlying relation to the handle, and is welded thereto as at **17**, medially between opposite sides of the plate.

A pair of identical, laterally spaced, parallel prongs or teeth is provided, each tooth being of obtusely angular formation as shown in Figure 2 and including an inner leg **18** and an outer leg **20**. The inner leg **18** constitutes a proximal end portion of the tooth while the outer leg **20** constitutes a distal end portion. Thus, the inner leg **18** of each tooth is in underlying relation to one side edge portion of plate **16**, in face-to-face contact with said plate, with the front end of the leg **18** projecting beyond the front edge of the plate, as shown in Figure 1.

At the free extremity of leg **20**, there is provided a small lip or lug **22** which is extended rearwardly and which has a rounded outer surface **23**.

At the rear end of the leg **18**, there is formed on each tooth an upwardly projecting, short connector portion **24** of the tooth integral at its upper end with a rearwardly extending abutment portion **26**, the top surface **27** of which is curved through substantially 180°, with said abutment portion having a flat bottom surface in face-to-face contact with the top surface of the plate **16**. Connector portions **24** of the respective teeth extend through rectangular openings **28** of the base plate, with the rearwardly extending extensions **26** overlying the base plate in back of the openings **28**.

This engages the rear ends of the teeth with the base plate, and connecting the legs **18** fixedly to the base plate forwardly of the extensions **26** are clamping plates **30** underlying the respective legs **18**, and connecting bolts **32** extending through registering openings of plate **16** and clamping plate **30**, at opposite sides of leg **18**.

By removing bolts **32**, each tooth can be swung downwardly from its Figure 1 position, rocking in opening **28** to permit extension **26** to be moved downwardly through the opening, thereby to completely disengage the tooth from the plate **16**.

The free ends of the fulcrum **14** and of the teeth are disposed, as shown in Figure 2, substantially in a common vertical plane normal to the length of the front end portion **12** of the handle and normal also to the plane of the base plate **16**.

At **36** there has been shown a conventional stud, and extending horizontally in front of the stud is a board **38** secured to the stud by nails **40**.

In removing the board, one simply disposes the teeth at opposite sides of the stud in back of board **38**, with fulcrum portion **14** in engagement with the front surface of the stud. Then, the handle is rocked from its full line to its dotted line position of Figure 2, so that the device fulcrums on the free end of the portion **14**. This is translated into a rearward movement of the leg **20**, forcing the board **38** forwardly outwardly from the stud to remove the board from the stud.

It is believed apparent that the invention is not necessarily confined to the specific use or uses thereof described above, since it may be utilized for any purpose to which it may be suited. Nor is the invention to be necessarily limited to the specific construction illustrated and described, since such construction is only intended to be illustrative of the principles of operation and the means presently devised to carry out said principles, it being considered that the invention comprehends any minor change in construction that may be permitted within the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A wrecking tool comprising an elongated handle; a fulcrum portion rigid with and projecting laterally from

the handle at one end of the handle, providing a fulcrum on which the handle may rock; a flat connector plate fixedly secured medially between opposite sides thereof to the handle rearwardly a short distance from the fulcrum portion, said connector plate having openings at opposite sides of and in laterally spaced relation to the handle; a pair of identical, laterally spaced teeth carried by the connector plate, each tooth being of obtusely-angular form and including a proximal leg and a distal leg, the proximal legs of the teeth being in face-to-face contact with the connector plate and being formed with offsets at one end and extending through said openings of the connector plate, the distal legs of the teeth extending laterally from the handle in a direction opposite to that in which the fulcrum portion extends; and clamping means engaging the proximal legs with the connector plate, said clamping means being in spaced relation to said openings.

2. A wrecking tool comprising an elongated handle; a fulcrum portion rigid with and projecting laterally from the handle at one end of the handle, providing a fulcrum on which the handle may rock; a flat connector plate fixedly secured medially between opposite sides thereof to the handle rearwardly a short distance from the fulcrum portion, said connector plate having openings at opposite sides of and in laterally spaced relation to the handle; a pair of identical, laterally spaced teeth carried by the connector plate, each tooth being of obtusely-angular form and including a proximal leg and a distal leg, the proximal legs of the teeth being in face-to-face contact with the connector plate and being formed with offsets at one end and extending through said openings of the connector plate, the distal legs of the teeth extending laterally from the handle in a direction opposite to that in which the fulcrum portion extends; and clamping means engaging the proximal legs with the connector plate, said clamping means being in spaced relation to said openings, comprising a pair of clamping plates underlying the proximal legs of the respective teeth, and a pair of clamping bolts extending through each clamping plate, the bolts of each pair being disposed at opposite sides of an associated proximal leg and being extended through the connector plate, for clamping engagement of each proximal leg between the connector plate and a clamping plate.

3. A wrecking tool comprising an elongated handle; a fulcrum portion rigid with and projecting laterally from the handle at one end of the handle, providing a fulcrum on which the handle may rock; a flat connector plate fixedly secured medially between opposite sides thereof to the handle rearwardly a short distance from the fulcrum portion, said connector plate having openings at opposite sides of and in laterally spaced relation to the handle; a pair of identical, laterally spaced teeth carried by the connector plate, each tooth being of obtusely-angular form and including a proximal leg and a distal leg, the proximal legs of the teeth being in face-to-face contact with the connector plate and being formed with offsets at one end and extending through said openings of the connector plate, the distal legs of the teeth extending laterally from the handle in a direction opposite to that in which the fulcrum portion extends; and clamping means engaging the proximal legs with the connector plate, said clamping means being in spaced relation to said openings, said distal legs having free ends disposed in a common plane in which the free end of the fulcrum portion also lies, said plane being normal to said connector plate and being disposed transversely of the handle.

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