

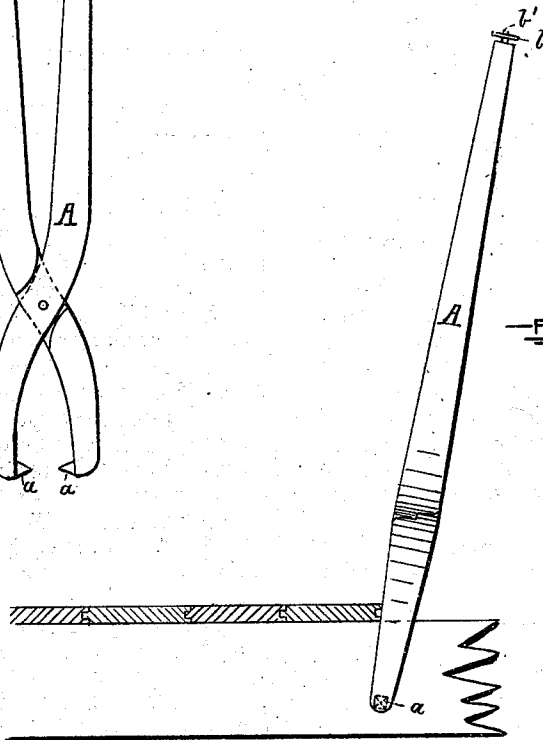
E. J. HOUSTON.
Flooring-Tongs.

No. 135,916.

Patented Feb. 18, 1873.



—FIG. I.—



—FIG. II.—

—WITNESSES:—

Geo. H. Howard.

W. C. Brooks

—INVENTOR:—

Edward J. Houston

By his Attorney.

J. H. Chapman

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD J. HOUSTON, OF NACOOCHEE, GEORGIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN FLOORING-TONGS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **135,916**, dated February 18, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD J. HOUSTON, of Nacoochee, in White county, State of Georgia, have invented a certain improved device for carpenters' use in laying or setting flooring or ceiling plank, to take the place of the dogs and wedges in common use, of which improved device the following is a specification; and I do hereby declare that the same is a full, clear, and exact description of my said invention, reference being had to the accompanying drawing and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

My invention relates to means whereby a pair of tongs of nearly ordinary construction is adapted to be used as a lever for forcing up the tongued and grooved planks to their place together.

In the accompanying drawing forming a part of this specification, Figure 1 is a front view of the tongs having my improvements thereupon. Fig. 2 shows the mode of using my invention.

Similar letters of reference indicate similar parts of the invention.

A represents the tongs, having upon the inner side of their jaws, which are spread some distance apart, the projections or points

a. When it is desired to use the tongs their jaws are placed, near the end of the plank, over, so as to straddle the joist or studding, the points *a* being pressed into the sides thereof. The handles are then clamped together by means of the perforated plate *b* hinged to one handle, and the pin *b'* inserted within the other. The tongs are then thrown forward as a lever against the plank, moving upon the points *a* as fulcrums, and the tongued and grooved plank is forced and fitted together.

I am aware of the patents granted to Thos. S. Urie, September 19, 1871, No. 119,203, and E. K. Purdy, October 13, 1868, No. 82,985, the devices shown in both of which I disclaim; but

I claim as my invention—

The flooring-tongs A herein shown and described, constructed with points *a* and clamping device *b b'*, and used in the manner substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto signed my name.

EDWARD J. HOUSTON.

Witnesses:

JAMES WEST,
M. I. WEST.