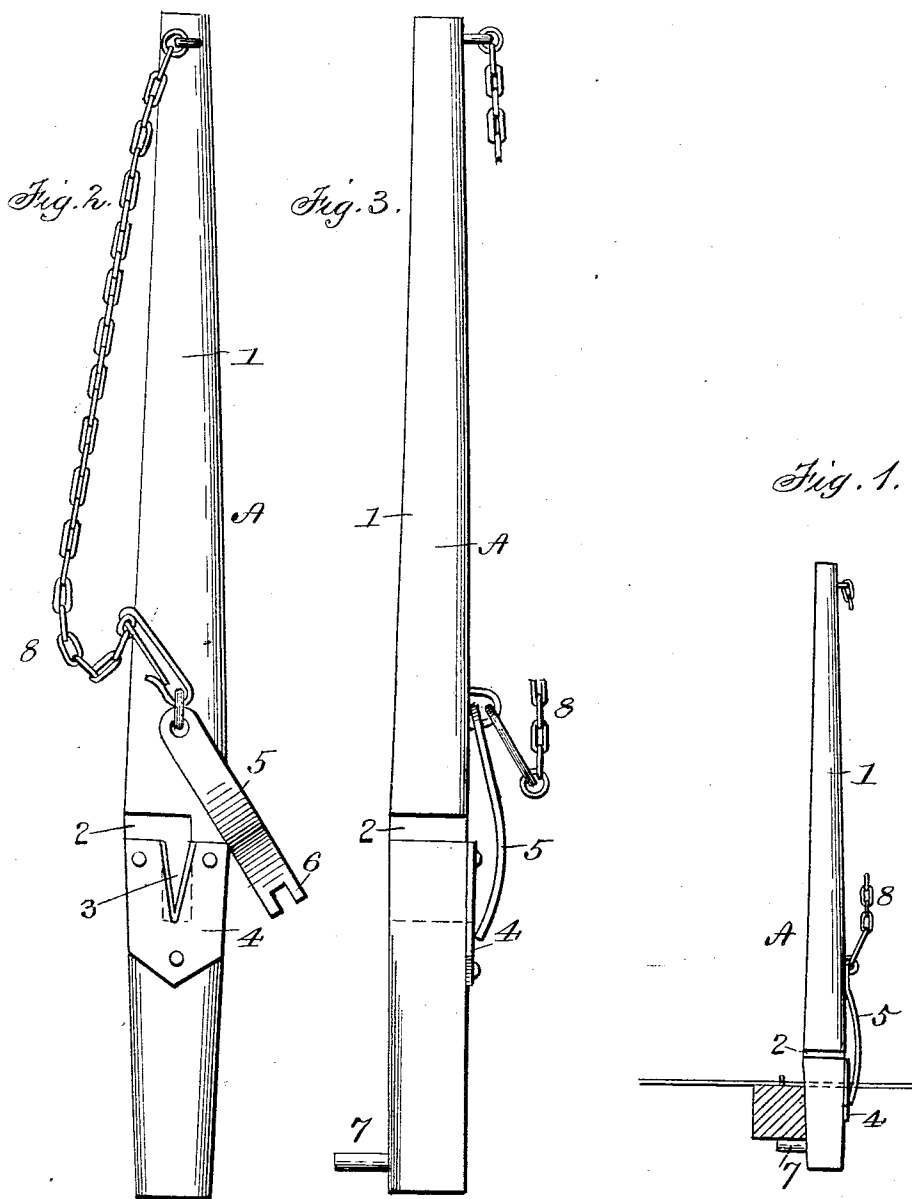


(No Model.)

W. C. HUDSON.
WIRE STRETCHER.

No. 561,891.

Patented June 9, 1896.



Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM C. HUDSON, OF JASPER, ARKANSAS.

WIRE-STRETCHER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 561,891, dated June 9, 1896.

Application filed February 26, 1896. Serial No. 580,780. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM C. HUDSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Jasper, in the county of Newton and State of Arkansas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Wire-Stretchers; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention has relation to improvements in wire-stretchers of that class or kind adapted to stretch and hold the strands in a wire fence, and the object is to provide an implement for the uses stated which is convenient in manipulation, is of simplified construction, and expeditious and useful in effecting the purpose.

I have fully and clearly illustrated my invention in the accompanying drawings, wherein—

Figure 1 is a view showing the application of the stretcher as in use for stretching the wire of a fence. Fig. 2 is a front view in elevation with the tongue removed. Fig. 3 is a similar view showing the complete device.

A designates a substantial lever consisting of a piece of strong wood of such dimensions as may suit it to stand the strain to which it may be subjected. This lever is preferably made with a tapering handle portion 1 and having the lower portion made rectangular in cross-section. At a determined distance from the lower end of the lever is formed a transverse slot or mortise 2, extending substantially one-half the distance across the width of the lever and of such size as to readily take in the wires of the fence. This slot 2 opens into a vertically-arranged tapering slot 3, extending downward and adapted to have the wire to be stretched forced down in the taper and held therein. To preserve the slot from wear and abrasure and to strengthen the implement at that point, a metal plate 4, formed with a tapering slot alining with the tapering slot in the implement, is rigidly secured to the face of the lever, as shown in the drawings. Above the slot in the lever is hung a curved tongue 5, having an open-end slot 6 in its free end, the base of which stands adjacent to the bottom of the slot in the imple-

ment. The tongue may be forced over and down upon a wire arranged in the tapering slot and prevent it from escaping. On the inner face of the lever at the lower end is inserted a strong metal stud 7, the purpose of which is to set against the adjacent edge of a post and prevent the lever from slipping back when power is applied to stretch the wire. To the hand end of the lever is fastened one end of a chain 8, the province of which is to hold the lever tight in position until a staple is driven over the wire by fastening the chain around the post or to a wire of the fence that has already been stretched.

The use of my improved wire-stretcher may be as follows: The wire to be stretched is inserted in the tapering slot of the lever and the tongue pushed down over it to keep it from escaping or becoming loose. The lever then is placed against the post with the stud against the opposite edge, and then by moving the lever the wire is stretched.

It will be perceived from the foregoing description, taken in connection with the drawings, that the wire stretched can be tacked to the post to which the lever is applied, and that the application of the lever is readily made and the wire tightened expeditiously.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A wire-stretcher, comprising a lever formed with a transverse slot across its lower portion and a vertically-arranged and downward-extending tapering slot leading therefrom, a metal plate secured to the lever formed with a tapering slot in alinement with the vertical slot in the lever, a tongue hinged to the lever, formed at its free end with an open-end slot, the base of which lies adjacent to the base of the slot in the lever and a metal lug secured in the end of the lever at right angles to the face thereof, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

2. A wire-stretcher, comprising a lever formed with a transverse slot across its lower portion and a vertically-arranged and downward-extending tapering slot leading therefrom, a metal plate secured to the lever formed with a tapering slot in alinement with the vertical slot in the lever, a tongue hinged to the

lever, formed at its free end with an open-end
slot, the base of which lies adjacent to the
base of the slot in the lever, and a metal lug
secured in the end of the lever at right an-
5 gles to the face thereof, and a chain secured
to the hand end of the lever, substantially as
and for the purpose specified.

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

WILLIAM C. HUDSON.

Witnesses:

W. C. YOUNG,
J. C. HENSLEY.