No. 697,914. Patented Apr. 15, 1902.

P. GRIFFIN.

BRICK.

(Application filed May 20, 1901.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1,

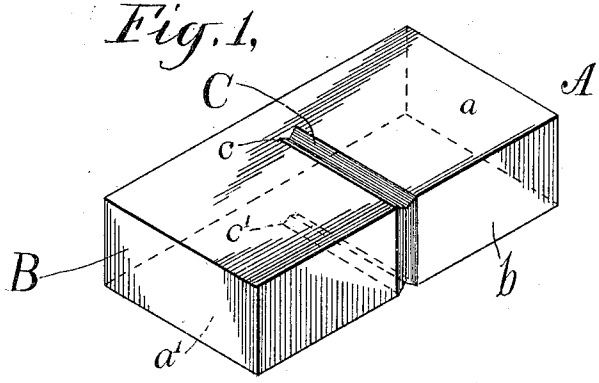


Fig. 2,

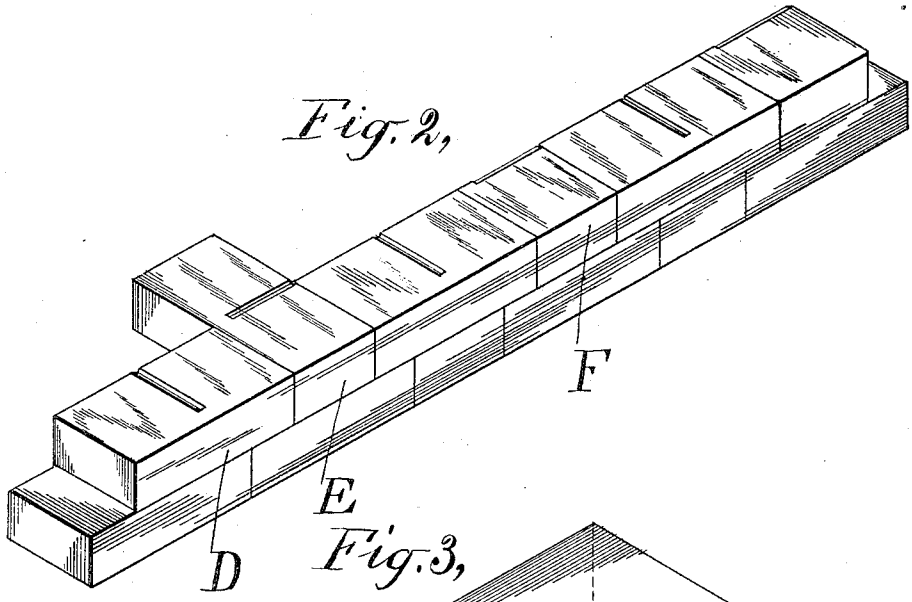
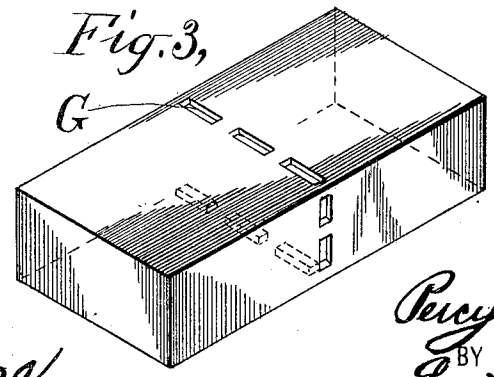


Fig. 3,



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BRICK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 697,914, dated April 15, 1902.

Application filed May 20, 1901. Serial No. 61,007. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, PERCY GRIFFIN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Tremont avenue, in the city of Orange, county of Essex, and State of New Jersey, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Bricks, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates to bricks, and has for its purpose to provide an ordinary building brick which shall be available for almost universal purposes—that is to say, in the ordinary wall construction, as is well known, certain of the bricks from the manner in which they are used are designated as "stretchers," "headers," "bonds," &c.; and my invention provides a brick which may be used for all these purposes and from its construction economizes to a great extent both in material and in labor.

In the drawings I have illustrated constructions embodying the features of my invention.

Referring to said drawings, Figure 1 illustrates in perspective a brick embodying my invention. Fig. 2 illustrates a portion of a wall structure employing bricks embodying my invention, and Fig. 3 illustrates a construction embodying a modification of the idea.

Like letters of reference refer to like parts in the several views of the drawings.

Referring to Fig. 1, A designates the brick, which has the upper and lower broad faces *a* and *a'*. The face or front edge of the brick is designated by the letter B, and the rear face or edge is designated by the letter *b*. As shown in this drawing, the brick exactly midway of its length is provided with a groove C. This groove, which may be of any shape, extends on the face *a* from a point *c* slightly in the rear of the upper edge of the face B in a straight line back to the rear face *b*, then vertically down the rear face *b*, and again forward on the face *a'* to a point *c'* somewhat to the rear of the lower edge of the front face B, thus forming a continuous groove around three sides of the brick at its median line and leaving the front face and the upper and lower broad surfaces for a short distance in the rear of the front face unaffected. This provides a brick which may be used as a stretcher or header, as D and E, or a semiheader F, respectively, in the wall structure shown in Fig. 2.

The economy and advantage of a brick made according to my invention will be apparent from the illustration shown in Fig. 2. It will be seen that by providing a brick with a weakened line of resistance along its central portion the bricklayer may take up any brick, and if it is to be used as a stretcher will at once lay it in position without further manipulation, and this is true if it is to be used for the purposes of bonding the face with the rear portions of the wall, as shown by the brick designated E in Fig. 2; or if it is desired to give the Flemish bonded appearance to the face and it is not necessary to bond the face to the rear portions of the wall the brick will be easily and quickly divided by the bricklayer and placed in position as a header or semiheader, one such being shown in the wall structure of Fig. 2 and designated by the letter F.

It is not important that the weakened line of resistance along the median line of the brick should be a continuous groove, as illustrated in the constructions shown in Figs. 1 and 2, as any means of weakening the brick so that it may be easily broken along a line midway of its length will be within the scope of the invention, so long as such weakened line leaves the brick with a clean outer face, so that the wall structure made of bricks according to my invention shall present exactly the same appearance as if made with the ordinary bricks.

In Fig. 3 I have illustrated a brick in which the weakened line of resistance consists of a series of recesses along the line midway of the length of the brick, these recesses being designated by the letter G.

When I use the term "plain outer surface" or "plain surface" in the claims it is to be understood that I mean a surface unprovided with grooves or recesses constituting the weakened line of resistance. So long as the bricks are not provided with this weakened line of recesses they may be ornamented or be of irregular surface and yet be "plain" within the meaning of the term as used in the claims.

What is claimed as new is—

1. A brick having a plain outer face and an upper and lower portion plain for a short distance back of the corner of the outer face, and a weakened or breaking line at its middle portion.

2. A brick having a plain outer face, a groove midway of the length of the brick, and extending around the other three sides but stopping short of the corner made by the outer face and the top and bottom surfaces.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

PERCY GRIFFIN.

Witnesses:

ERNEST HOPKINSON,

THOS. J. SURPLESS.