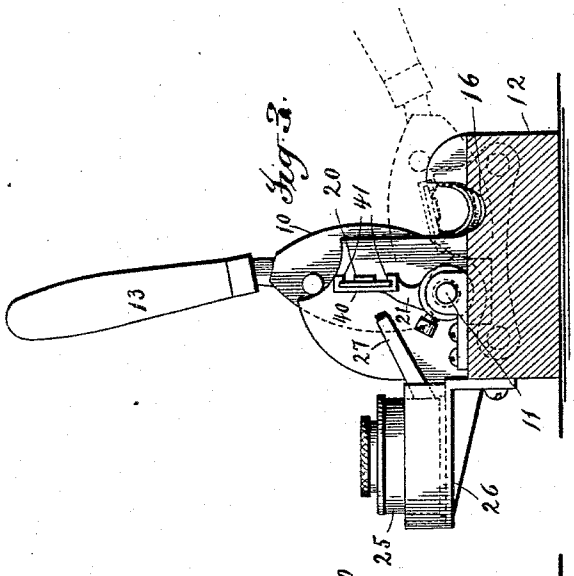
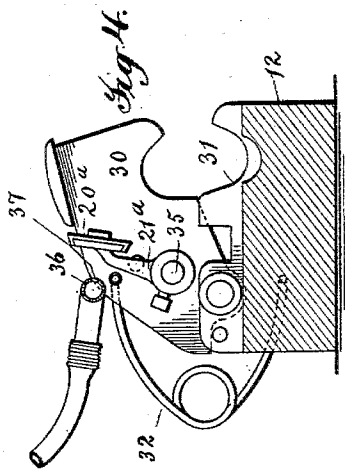
(No Model.)

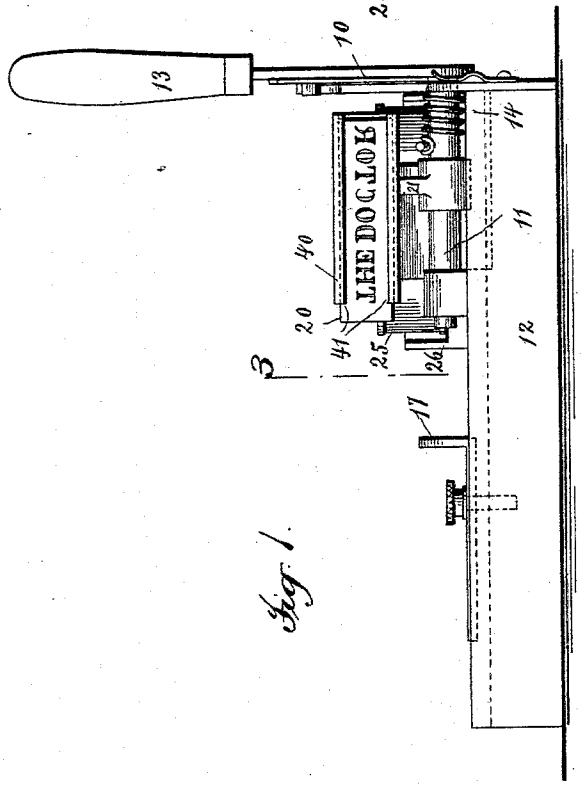
A. SCHWARZ.

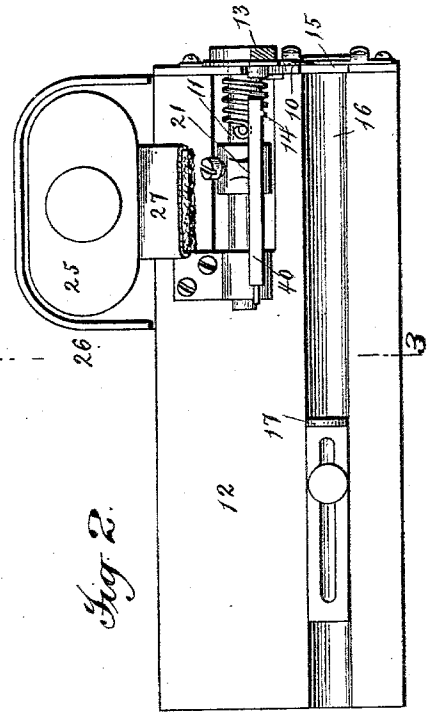
CIGAR BRANDING AND CUTTING MACHINE.

No 563,622. Patented July 7, 1896.









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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ADOLPH SCHWARZ, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

CIGAR BRANDING AND CUTTING MACHINE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 563,622, dated July 7, 1896.

Application filed October 5, 1895. Serial No. 564,723. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ADOLPH SCHWARZ, a citizen of the United States, residing at New York, county of New York, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Cigar Branding and Cutting Machines, fully described and represented in the following specification and the accompanying drawings, forming a part of the same.

It has for some time been customary to brand cigars by means of a heated plate having in relief the name or other symbol or design which is to be impressed on the wrapper of the cigar. Heretofore this branding has been accomplished by means of branding-machines, in the use of which various and important difficulties have been met with.

In order to avoid injuring the wrapper of the cigar by the pressure of the branding-plate, it is necessary that the cigar be branded while the wrapper is moist, as, if the wrapper be allowed to become too dry, the letters of the branding-plate will pierce the wrapper or the wrapper will otherwise be cracked or broken by the pressure of the plate. The machines of one of the classes heretofore in use are designed to brand a large number of cigars at once or in rapid succession, and it is impracticable with these machines to brand each cigar immediately on its being finished and while the wrapper is still moist, there being necessarily, on the contrary, a considerable average interval from the time a cigar is finished until it is branded, so that, as the wrappers dry very quickly, many of them become so dry by the time the cigars reach the branding-machine as to be injured in the operation of branding. As a matter of fact, a very considerable percentage of cigars are spoiled in this operation of branding as heretofore carried on, as, if the wrapper of the cigar is broken, the cigar must be re-covered and the wrapper lost. When it is considered that the wrapper is generally the most expensive part of the tobacco entering into a cigar, it will be understood that the loss thus occasioned is very considerable. Further, the use of these machines introduces an additional step into the manufacture of cigars, involving an additional handling of each cigar and the employment of at least one extra hand, thus further increasing the cost of manufacture. It will thus be seen that the process of branding with machines of this kind increased the cost of manufacturing cigars by the cost of the additional step introduced into the manufacture, and also by the loss due to the great number of cigars which had their wrappers destroyed in the process. It should also be observed that the injury to the wrapper may be such as not to be observable and yet be sufficient to destroy the draft of the cigar; and such cigars getting on the market injure the reputation of the maker and the brand.

Attempts have also heretofore been made to brand cigars by providing cigar-cutters with branding-plates in such a manner that the cigars will be branded at the same time that their ends are trimmed or cut off; but the branding-plate has been so arranged that the part of the cigar which it is most necessary shall be kept moist is subjected to the drying action of heat as soon as it is placed in position on the cutter, with the result that when the branding-plate is pressed against the cigar the wrapper will likely have become too dry to be branded without injury.

The object of the present invention is to avoid these difficulties and enable cigars to be branded while the wrapper is still moist and without introducing any extra step into the manufacture and without entailing any extra work, thus enabling the branding to be done without adding appreciably to the cost of making the cigar.

To these ends, I combine with the ordinary cigar-cutter for cutting off the ends of cigars as they are made a branding-plate which is pressed against the cigar, preferably, by the same movement by which the cutter-blade is moved to cut off the end of the cigar, and which is so arranged that it may be heated without heating the support for the cigar, or the cigar as it lies on the support, all as will be hereinafter more fully described and pointed out in the claims.

For a full understanding of the invention, a detailed description will now be given of a construction embodying the same in a preferred form, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a cigar-cutter embodying the invention. Fig. 2 is a plan

view. Fig. 3 is a section taken on line 3 of Figs. 1 and 2; and Fig. 4 is a similar sectional view showing the invention as applied to another form of cutter and showing a gas-burner for heating the branding-plate, instead of a lamp, as shown in the other views.

Referring to Figs. 1, 2, and 3 of the drawings, 10 is a cutting-blade carried by an axle or shaft 11, mounted in suitable bearings on a block 12, and which blade is operated by means of a handle 13 and is held in its normal elevated position by means of a spring 14. The blade when depressed acts in conjunction with a stationary blade 15 to cut off the end of a cigar which has been placed on the support formed by the upper face of the block 12, which is formed with a groove or channel 16, a movable stop 17 being provided to aid in positioning the cigars in the groove 16. All of the above is common in machines of this class.

In providing such a cigar-cutter with a branding-plate in accordance with my invention the branding-plate, as 20, is preferably carried by the shaft 11, preferably by means of a bracket 21, which is preferably adjustable on the shaft 11 both longitudinally of the shaft for the purpose of adjusting the brand lengthwise of the cigar, the shaft being long enough to allow of such adjustment, and circumferentially of the shaft to provide for adjusting the pressure on the cigar and for adjusting the machine for branding cigars of different thicknesses. The branding-plate will thus be carried down against the cigar which has been placed in the groove 16 when the cutting-blade 10 is depressed for the purpose of cutting off the end of the cigar, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 3, and when the blade and connecting parts are returned to their normal position the branding-plate will be carried up to the position shown in full lines in Fig. 3, where it may be heated without heating the block 12 or the cigar as it lies in the groove 16. When it is desired merely to cut the ends of cigars without branding them, the bracket 21 may be moved on shaft 11, so as to carry the branding-plate out of operative position, as will be readily understood.

Any suitable means may be provided for heating the plate 20. As shown in Figs. 1 to 3, there is provided a lamp 25, resting on a bracket 26, and having a broad wick-tube 27, which extends forward toward the branding-plate, so that the flame will heat the plate when said plate is in its normal position.

In the construction shown in Fig. 4 the movable cutting-blade 30 is pivoted to a stationary cutting-blade 31, which is secured to the end of the block 12, a spring 32 serving to hold the movable blade in its normal position, as shown in said figure, and the branding-plate 20^a is carried by a bracket 21^a, adjustably secured on a rod 35, carried by and projecting inwardly from the movable blade 30, so that, as the blade 30 is depressed, the branding-plate will be carried down with it to engage and press the cigar in the groove 16. In this figure an arrangement for heating the branding-plate by means of gas is shown, a pipe 36 being supported parallel with the branding-plate and having perforations 37 on the side toward the branding-plate, so that the gas-jets will be projected toward the branding-plate when it is in its elevated position.

It is desirable that the branding-plate may be removed and others substituted, so that the same machine may serve for cigars of different brands, and for this purpose, in the construction shown in Figs. 1, 2, and 3, the supporting-bracket is provided with a supporting-plate 40, having turned edges 41, between which the branding-plate may be slid into position and by which it is held, or, as shown in Fig. 4, the edges of the branding-plate may be turned to embrace the edges of a flat supporting-plate, or the branding-plate may be otherwise removably supported.

It will be seen that by my invention a cigar may be branded at the same time and by the same operation by which the end of the cigar is cut off and while the wrapper is still moist, and consequently without danger of breaking or injuring the wrapper, and the operation is, furthermore, not attended with any increase in the cost of manufacture.

It will be understood that the invention may be employed for branding cigars of all sizes and kinds, including the so-called "all-tobacco cigarettes," and with cutters of any suitable form, whether designed to cut one or both ends of the cigar. It will also be understood that other forms of cutters may be provided with branding-plates in accordance with the present invention, and that the details of mounting and securing the plates may be varied, as may be found necessary or desirable.

What is claimed is—

1. The combination with a cutting-blade and a support for the cigar, of a branding-plate, and means for moving the branding-plate into contact with and pressing it against the side of the cigar away from the support as the cutting-blade is depressed, substantially as described.

2. The combination with a cigar-cutter, of a branding-plate arranged to be moved into contact with and pressed against the unsupported side of the cigar, substantially as described.

3. The combination with a cutting-blade and a shaft by which the cutting-blade is carried, of a branding-plate carried by said shaft, substantially as described.

4. The combination with a cutting-blade and a shaft by which the cutting-blade is carried, of a branding-plate, and a support for the branding-plate carried by said shaft and adjustable circumferentially thereof, substantially as described.

5. The combination with a cutting-blade

and a shaft by which the cutting-blade is carried, of a branding-plate, and a support for the branding-plate carried by said shaft and adjustable longitudinally and circumferentially thereof, substantially as described.

6. The combination with a cutting-blade and a shaft by which the cutting-blade is carried, of a branding-plate, a support for the branding-plate carried by said shaft and adjustable circumferentially thereof, and means for heating the branding-plate, substantially as described.

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

ADOLPH SCHWARZ.

Witnesses:
A. L. KENT,
A. V. BOURKE.