Jan. 13, 1925.

1,522,489

D. D. BOLEN ET AL

TOBACCO STICK

Filed Nov. 13, 1923

Fig. 1.

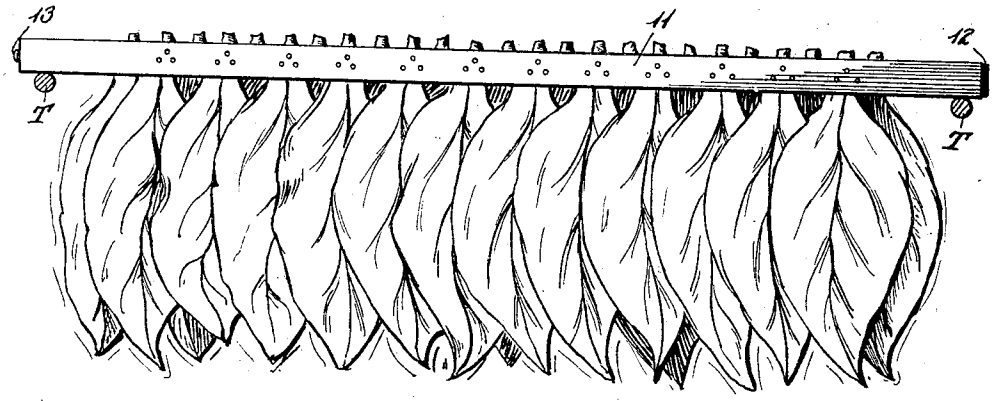


Fig. 2.

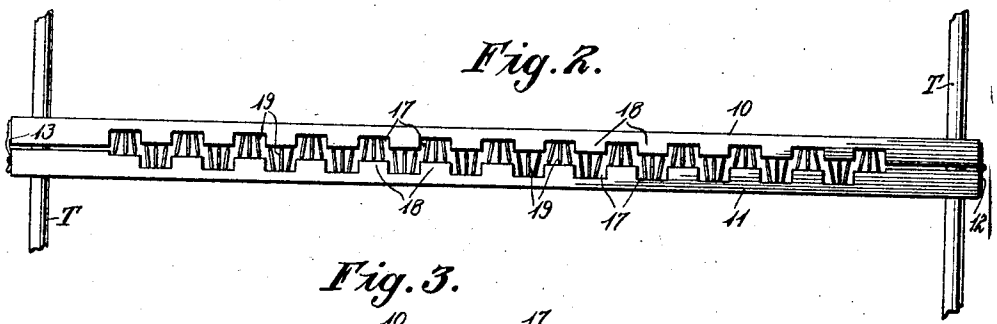


Fig. 3.

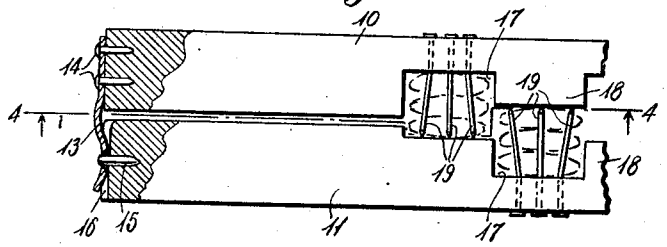


Fig. 5.

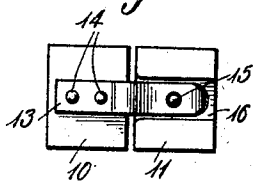
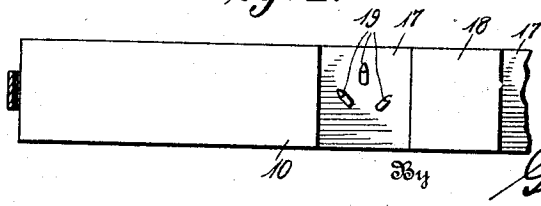


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DAVID D. BOLEN AND HERBERT VAN KEUREN, OF FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA.

TOBACCO STICK.

Application filed November 13, 1923. Serial No. 674,525.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, DAVID D. BOLEN and HERBERT VAN KEUREN, citizens of the United States, residing at Florence, in the county of Florence and State of South Carolina, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Tobacco Sticks, of which the following is a specification.

Our invention relates to improvements in tobacco sticks, and has for its particular object to provide a device of this character which will facilitate the fastening of the tobacco leaves in place, thereby offering the possibility of reducing the time now consumed in this phase of tobacco curing.

Heretofore numerous types of tobacco sticks have been employed, all of which required some time for fastening the tobacco leaves upon the stick previous to the placing of the leaves in the drying house. In fact, in this particular art, a tobacco grower's production capacity has, in most instances, been limited by his inability to handle the tobacco after the same has been cut. In other words, owing to the difficulty of obtaining sufficient labor, he has found it impossible to employ sufficient help to prepare and handle the tobacco in the drying season.

In practice the tobacco leaves, after they have been cut, are attached one way or another to tobacco sticks, the leaves being suspended therefrom, and then hung in the drying house whereupon they are cured. The labor and time incident to the attachment of these leaves to the tobacco sticks has been a serious handicap to the tobacco growers, and has been one of the most important items of expense.

It is therefore the particular object of our invention to provide a tobacco stick which may be easily and quickly manufactured at a minimum cost, and which will offer the possibility of quickly and easily fastening the tobacco leaves thereto, whereupon the time normally consumed in this operation will be so materially reduced as to make the same negligible.

Another object of our invention is to provide a tobacco stick to which the leaves may be securely attached without liability of the same becoming disconnected, even after shrinkage takes place in the curing stage of the tobacco. Our invention furthermore offers the possibility of securely holding the leaves and at the same time minimizing the amount of metal in contact with the leaves, thus insuring a satisfactory and perfect curing of the stems.

With the above and other objects in view, our invention consists in the novel combination, construction and arrangements of parts, all of which will be made more apparent hereinafter as this description proceeds, especially when considered in connection with the accompanying drawings, wherein;

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a tobacco stick constructed in accordance with our invention;

Fig. 2 is a top plan view thereof;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged fragmentary end view of the stick, partly in section;

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary sectional view, taken substantially on the plane indicated by the line 4—4 in Fig. 3; and,

Fig. 5 is an end elevation of the stick.

Referring now particularly to the drawings, it will be noted that the stick consists of a pair of complementary sections, 10 and 11, preferably hinged together as at 12, whereby they may be swung open, thus exposing the normally adjacent faces thereof, for a purpose to be later referred to. Secured to the free ends of the stick sections, 10 and 11, is a securing means for holding the sections in closed position, this fastening means consisting preferably of a spring latch member 13, secured to one of the stick sections by means of fastening means 14, and engaging a fastening stud 15 projecting from the other stick section. For guiding the spring fastening member 13 into engagement with the fastening stud 15, when the stick sections are swung together, we provide a groove 16 in the end of the stick section 11, which slidingly guides the spring latch 13 into engagement with the fastening stud 15.

The adjacent faces of the two stick sections are each provided with a plurality of spaced recesses 17, separated by projections 18, these projections and recesses being so arranged upon the opposed faces of the stick sections that the projections on one stick section lie adjacent to the recess on the other stick section as clearly illustrated in Fig. 2.

Projecting outwardly from each recess is a plurality of spikes or prongs 19, these spikes being inclined slightly in an upward direction so that liability of disengage-

ment with the stems of the tobacco leaves is minimized.

In practice the stick sections 10 and 11 are swung open and positioned upon a table or the like, with the spikes or pins extending upwardly. It is then an easy matter to cause the stems of the tobacco leaves to engage the pins, and owing to the fact that a plurality of pins are arranged in each recess, particular care need not be exercised in order to insure the engagement of the tobacco stem with at least one or more of the pins. In practice several leaves will be suspended from the set of pins arranged in each recess, the length of the pins and the diameter of the recess being so dimensioned as to properly accommodate a fixed number of leaves.

After the stick has been filled with leaves, the sections thereof are brought together and fastened by means of the fastening means arranged at the free ends thereof, whereupon the pins, now having tobacco leaves suspended thereon, are brought up into engagement with the corresponding projection on the opposed stick section, whereupon a disengagement of the tobacco leaves from the stick is prevented. It is then the practice to hang the tobacco by resting the tobacco stick on the tier poles or supports T of the drying house.

Owing to the fact that the ends of the pins or spikes 19 engage the opposed projections 18, liability of the tobacco leaves becoming disengaged because of shrinkage during the drying, is eliminated.

It will be noted that inasmuch as both of the sticks are preferably formed of wood, that the only metal in engagement with the leaves or stems is the pins 19, which in itself is quite advantageous, as the curing of the tobacco is thereby unaffected.

Owing to the co-operation between the pins and projections, the tobacco may be securely retained in place with a minimum number of pins. Furthermore, by providing the plurality of spaced recesses, the positioning of the leaves upon the stick is facilitated because of the fact that they may be easily aligned and distributed, owing to the fact that the width of the recesses is only slightly greater than the customary maximum width of the tobacco stem.

From the foregoing, it will therefore be apparent that we have produced a tobacco stick which is extremely simple in construction and operation, thus offering the possibility of manufacturing the same at a minimum cost and affording means of reducing to a great extent the time now required in securing the tobacco leaves to the sticks.

One form of the invention has been illustrated and described herein in some detail, but it will be apparent to those skilled in this particular art that various modifications may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention, and therefore reservation is made to make such changes in the details of construction and combination of parts as may come within the purview of the accompanying claims.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim is:

1. A tobacco stick comprising a pair of bars hinged together at one end, releasable fastening means for securing the other ends of said bars together, the opposing faces of said bars being formed with a plurality of recesses and projections and a plurality of pins extending upwardly from said recesses.

2. A tobacco leaf curing stick comprising a pair of bars hinged together at one end, a releasable catch for securing the free ends of said bars together, the opposed faces of said bars being each provided with a plurality of recesses separated by a plurality of projections and a plurality of tobacco leaf securing spikes extending upwardly from each recess, the ends of said spikes normally engaging an opposed projection on the opposite bar.

3. A tobacco leaf curing stick comprising a pair of bars, means hingedly connecting said bars at one end, a releasable spring catch for securing the bars together at the other end thereof, each bar being formed with a plurality of recesses separated by a plurality of projections, the projections and recesses on said bars being arranged on opposed faces of said bars with the recesses of one bar arranged adjacent the projections on the other bar and a plurality of tobacco stem engaging spikes projecting outwardly from each recess with the ends thereof engaging the opposed projection when the bars are in closed position.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures.

DAVID D. BOLEN.
HERBERT VAN KEUREN.