

J. L. TUCKER.
Perforating Canceling-Stamp.

No. 217,173.

Patented July 1, 1879.

Fig. 1.

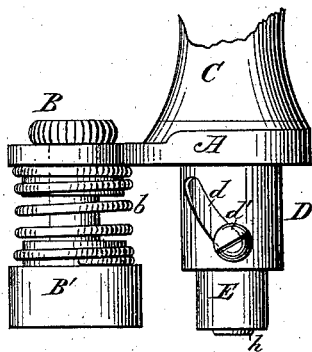


Fig. 3.

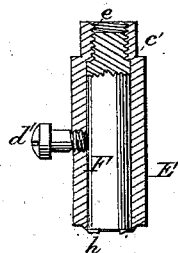


Fig. 2.

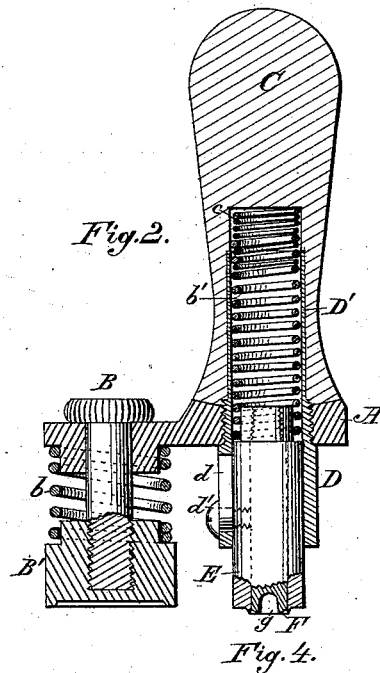
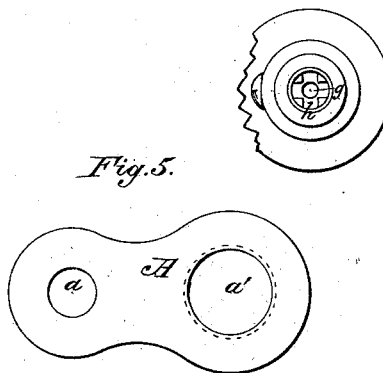


Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.



Attest:
H. H. Schott,
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Inventor:
John L. Tucker
per J. P. Parker & Co.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

JOHN L. TUCKER, OF MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE, ASSIGNOR OF TWO-THIRDS HIS RIGHT TO HANSON C. CANNEY AND ADOLPHE L. TREMBLAY, OF SAME PLACE.

IMPROVEMENT IN PERFORATING CANCELING-STAMPS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **217,173**, dated July 1, 1879; application filed May 7, 1879.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN L. TUCKER, of Manchester, in the county of Hillsborough and State of New Hampshire, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Perforating-Stamps; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

The object of this invention is to improve that class of hand canceling-stamps usually called "perforating-stamps," which are used for the purpose of destroying postage and other revenue stamps, in order to prevent the possibility of their being again used; and a further object is to imprint the postmark at the same time that the stamp is canceled by a single application of the instrument, thus avoiding the loss of time incurred by printing the postmark and canceling the stamp with separate instruments; and the invention consists in the construction and arrangement of the canceling devices, as will be hereinafter fully described, and then specifically pointed out in the claims.

Figure 1 is a side of the stamp and canceler, showing their position relatively to each other. Fig. 2 shows a vertical section of the devices for stamping and canceling, and the handle by which they are operated. Fig. 3 is a vertical section through the canceler, showing the method of adjusting the rotating cutter used for perforating the stamp to be canceled. Fig. 4 presents an end view of the canceling devices, showing the relative positions of the cutting parts. Fig. 5 is a plan of the plate to which the handle and operative parts of the implement are attached.

The implement consists of a metallic plate, A, perforated with circular openings *a a'* near each end. Through one of these openings passes the stem B, provided at one end with a milled head and at the other with a screw-thread that enters the stamp B'. This stamp is employed for the purpose of printing the

postmark upon the letter or other package, and is provided with suitable type and interchangeable figures for such use in the ordinary manner. Surrounding the stem B is a spirally-coiled spring, *b*, which gives sufficient elasticity to the stamp B' to prevent imperfect impressions should it not strike the paper in a perfectly vertical direction.

Through the screw-threaded orifice *a'* in the plate passes a cylindrical shell, D, provided with a screw-thread corresponding to that of the orifice *a'*, so that when the shell is screwed into the plate the two shall be firmly connected. This shell has a thin prolongation, D', which extends upward into the handle C, and serves not only to secure the handle and plate together, but forms a case which incloses the spiral spring *b'*, the stiffness of which may be increased, if desired, by adding to it a coil of smaller wire, as shown at *c* in Fig. 2. The lower end of the spring *b'* is coiled around and rests in a recess, *c'*, formed in the top of the hollow cylinder E, the exterior surface of which is turned to fit loosely the interior of the shell D. In one side of this shell is formed a spiral slot, *d*, through which passes the set-screw *d'*. It is therefore apparent that if the cylinder E be reciprocated within the shell a rotary movement will be imparted to it corresponding in extent to the length and pitch of the slot *d*.

Within the upper end of the hollow cylinder E is formed a screw-thread, *e*, of less diameter than the rest of the tube, as shown by Fig. 3 of the drawings. A cutting-die, F, is placed within the cylinder E, its upper end being provided with a screw-thread corresponding to the thread *e* in the hollow cylinder E, so that the two may be adjustably united.

The lower end of the cutting-die F has a central hole or recess, *g*, bored into it, so that an annulus is formed around it which is divided by two cross-cuts into four cutting-points, which, when the instrument is pressed upon the paper, enter and tear out a circular piece, the periphery of which is cut by the annular cutter *h*, encircling the die, and formed upon the lower end of the cylinder E.

The adjustment of the cutting end of the

die with relation to the annular cutter *h* is accomplished by screwing the die into the cylinder until the cutters are in the proper relation to each other, when they are fixed by the set-screw *d'*, the end of which bears against the die *F*, thus holding them firmly in place.

The method of operating the instrument is similar to that of the ordinary hand-stamp used for postmarking letters, care being taken in using it to see that the canceler is brought down upon the stamp to be canceled at each stroke, while the marking-stamp will perform its function without any special care. The flat surface of the lower end of the hollow cylinder *E* surrounding the circular cutter acts as a stop to prevent the instrument from removing anything more than a portion of the stamp, thus preventing all danger of injury to the letter or its envelope.

I am aware that instruments have been heretofore invented which were capable of applying the postmark and canceling the stamp simultaneously, and do not, therefore, broadly claim such a combination; but

What I do claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is as follows:

A canceling-stamp consisting of a rotating cutting and tearing die, acting within an annular rotating cutter, in combination with a marking-stamp for applying the postmark to letters, substantially as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I hereunto affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JOHN L. TUCKER.

Witnesses:

JAMES E. DODGE,
B. P. CILLEY.