

(No Model.)

J. E. HIGGINS.

MEAT CLAMP.

No. 302,403.

Patented July 22, 1884.

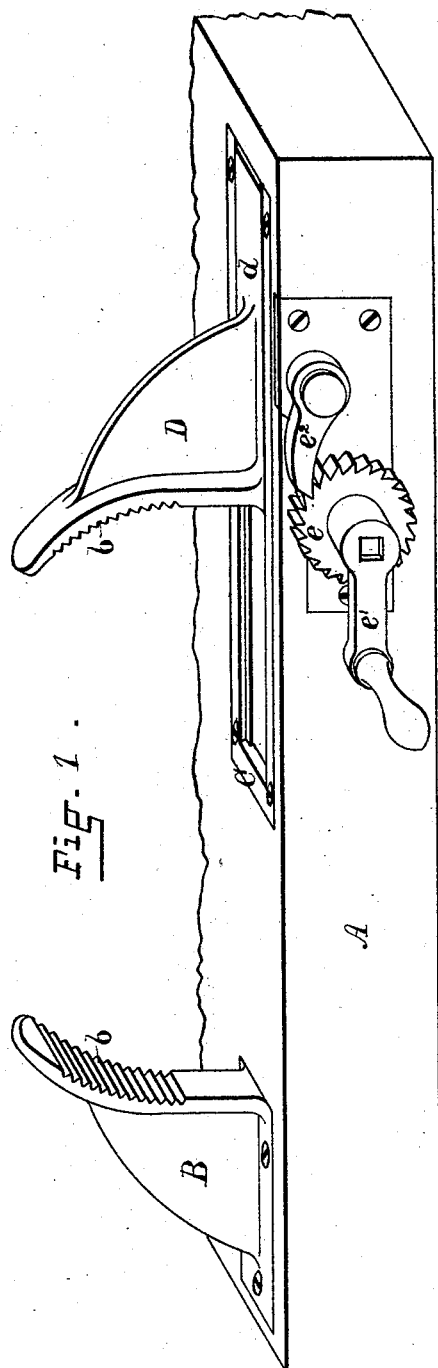


FIG. 1.

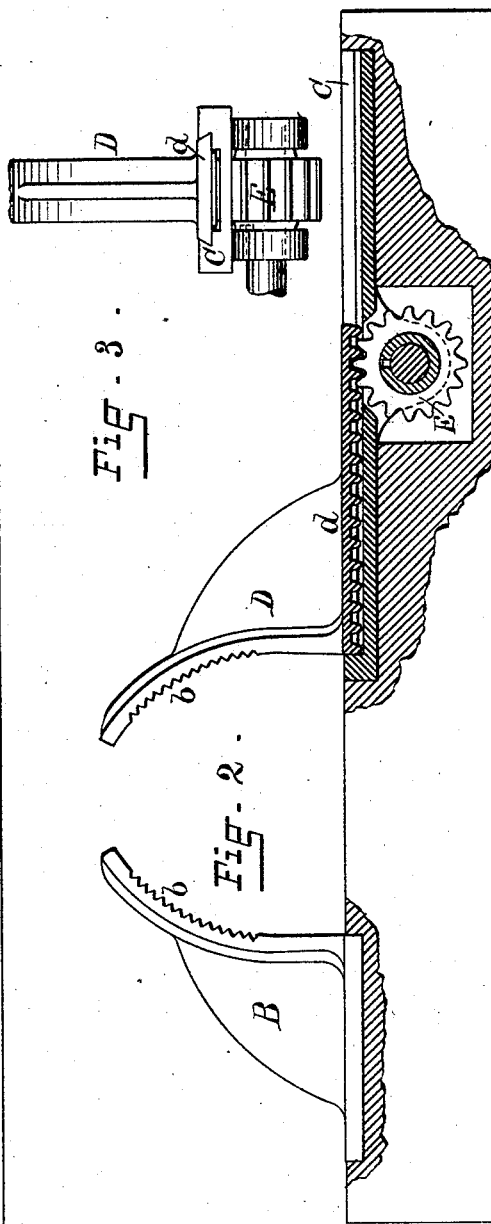


FIG. 3.

FIG. 2.

WITNESSES:

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES E. HIGGINS, OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND.

## MEAT-CLAMP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 302,403, dated July 22, 1884.

Application filed November 12, 1883. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JAMES E. HIGGINS, of the city and county of Providence, and State of Rhode Island, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Meat-Clamps; and I hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification.

This invention has reference to devices for securing joints of meat, so that slices can be readily cut from the same; and the invention consists in the peculiar and novel construction of a base or platform having a fixed curved abutment at one end, and an adjustable sliding clamp provided with a rack and pinion, and a latch for securing the same, as will be more fully set forth hereinafter.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the improved clamp. Fig. 2 is a sectional view of the same. Fig. 3 is an end view of the sliding clamp and the plate in which it is secured.

In the drawings, A is the base. B is the fixed curved abutment secured to the base A. C is a slotted plate secured to the base A, in which the sliding clamp D is held by the dovetail projection *d* entering a corresponding way formed in the plate C. The abutment B and clamp D are provided with the serrations or teeth *b b*, so as to enter the meat and firmly hold the same. The rearward projection *d* is provided at its lower surface with rack-teeth, into which the pinion E gears, the shaft of the pinion E has the ratchet-gear *e* secured to it, and is provided with the crank *e'*. A pawl, *e''*, enters the ratchet-wheel and holds the same against rotation in one direction.

The operation of the device is as follows: A joint of meat is placed between the abutment B and the clamp D. The crank *e'* is now turned to force the clamp against the meat and compress the same between the two curved abutments. The pawl *e''* holds the ratchet *e* and the gear E, and thereby secures the sliding

clamp D, thus firmly holding the meat, so that slices may be cut from the same with great facility. I do not, however, wish to confine myself to this exact construction, as the device may be modified, one modification being to provide the rearward extension *d* of the sliding clamp on its upper surface with ratchet-teeth and place a hinged pawl so as to engage with the same, thereby dispensing with the ratchet-wheel *e*. A practically useful device can thus be constructed, in which the sliding clamp D is pushed against the meat by the hand and retained in this position by the hinged pawl. By the use of the crank, rack, and pinion, the force exerted is, however, much greater, and the meat can be more firmly secured.

It will be seen that by the peculiar arrangement and construction of the movable clamp and its operative connections the entrance of pieces of meat or grease or dirt between the parts is prevented, which renders the device especially applicable for the purpose above set forth.

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

1. The combination, with the base A, provided with the slotted plate C and with the fixed clamp B, of the movable clamp D, having the rack, the pinion E, ratchet-wheel *e*, pawl *e''*, and handle *e'*, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

2. The combination, with the base A, having the fixed clamp B and the slotted plate C, of the movable clamp D, having a rack and a pawl for controlling the movement of said clamp, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

JAMES E. HIGGINS.

Witnesses:

J. A. MILLER, Jr.,  
M. F. BLIGH.