(No Model.)

W. H. SHEAR.

POLICE NIPPERS.

No. 303,953. Patented Aug. 19, 1884.

Fig. 1.

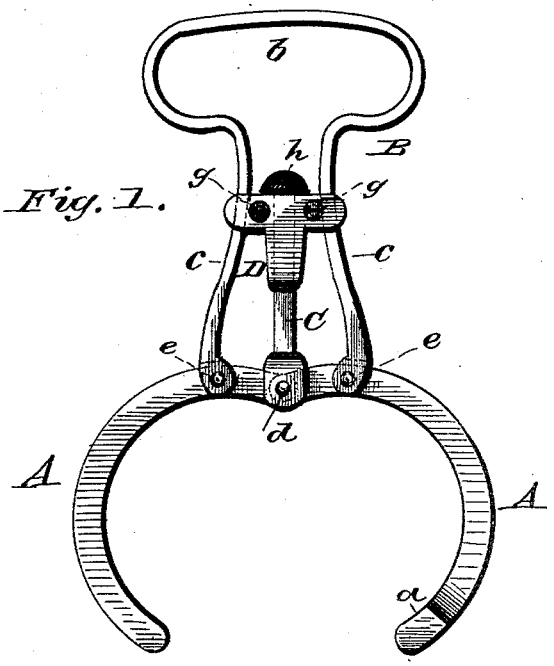


Fig. 2.

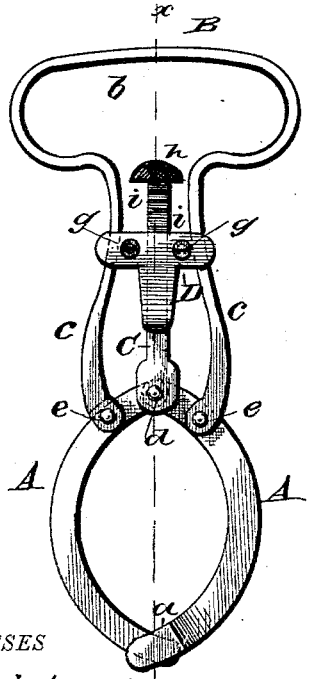
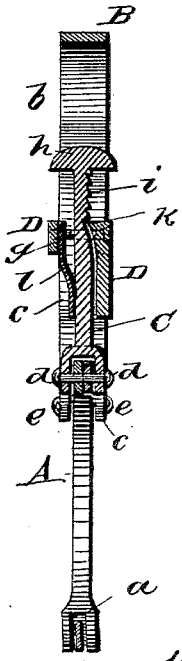


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES

Phil. Dietrich.

T. R. Keyworth.

INVENTOR

Wm. H. Shear

by

Manahan & Ward. Attorneys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM H. SHEAR, OF MORRISON, ILLINOIS.

POLICE-NIPPERS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 303,953, dated August 19, 1884.

Application filed March 14, 1884. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM H. SHEAR, a citizen of the United States, residing at Morrison, in the county of Whiteside and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Police-Nippers; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as 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 or figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention has reference to police-nippers, and pertains more especially to certain novel mechanism for clasping and holding such nippers in position.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a plan view of my invention with the jaws open. Fig. 2 is the same with the jaws closed. Fig. 3 is a view of the same in section taken on line *x x*, Fig. 2.

A A are the jaws which inclose the wrist of the offender, and are pivoted at their inner ends, at *d*, in the end of the slide C. In the outer end of one of the jaws A is formed the recess *a*, which engages the outer end of the opposing jaw A, and thus the outer ends of both jaws A, when engaged, are held from lateral displacement. The junction of the jaws A A with the slide C forms their pivotal point for opening and closing, being further regulated in reference thereto as hereinafter described.

B is the handle, formed of the elliptic *b*, conveniently shaped for grasping, and having arms *c c* pivoted, respectively, at *e* on the jaws A, outside of the pivotal point *d* of the latter. The handle B is manufactured of good spring-steel, and acts as a spring upon the jaws A to keep the same closed. However, the attachment of the arms *c c*, respectively, to the jaws A is in such relation to the pivotal point *d* of such jaws that when the jaws A are fully extended, as in Fig. 1, the pivotal point *d* is slightly inside of a line drawn from *e* to *e*, and therefore the spring action of the handle B tends to hold the jaws A in the extended position shown in Fig. 1; but the closing of the jaws A moves the pivotal point *d* toward the handle B and outside the line of the points *e e*, when the spring of the handle B, exerted through its arms *c c*, closes the jaws A A instantly and tends to hold the same in such closed position. But as a spring sufficiently strong to hold the jaws A A closed under all circumstances would be too rigid for convenient use, and perhaps too severe on the culprit, I have devised and added the following mechanism for holding the jaws A A in position for use.

D D are plates placed transversely and opposite to each other on the arms *c c* of the handle B by being seated in slight recesses in the edges of such arms. The plates D are held in position by screws *g g*, which, passing between the arms *c c* and the slide C, connect the plates D D in such way as to prevent their movement longitudinally in the arms *c c*, while permitting such arms a free lateral movement in order to a proper control of the jaws A A. The slide C, connected to the pivotal point *d* of the jaws A A, extends outwardly between the plates D D, and is provided with a head, *h*, at its outer extremity as a point of engagement for the operator's thumb. On the upper surface of the slide C is formed the series of ratchets *i i*, fitted to engage a spur or lip, *k*, on the inner face of one of the plates D D, when the jaws A A are partially or wholly closed, and prevent the opening of the jaws A A until such ratchet is disengaged. The interval between the plates D D is slightly greater than the diameter of the slide C, so that a spring, *l*, on the plate D opposite to the one having the spur *k* acting upon the slide C, forces the latter against the plate D having the spur *k*, and causes the ratchets *i i* to engage such spur. In this condition the jaws A A are rigidly held from opening. When it is desired to open the jaws A A, the operator, by placing his thumb on the head *h* of the slide C, forces the ratchets *i i* out of engagement with the spur *k*, and by direct forward pressure forces the jaws outwardly to the limit of their extension. When intended for use, the jaws A A are distended to the limit of their outward action, as shown in Fig. 1, in which position such jaws are held by the spring-arms *c c*. The jaws thus extended are placed upon the offender's wrist, and by a slight pressure upon the outside of such

jaws they are sprung together, as shown in Fig. 2, and encircle the wrist of the person arrested.

The advantages of my invention are numerous and obvious. One very important advantage over nippers heretofore used is that while in the case of such others, (like the chain-twisters, for instance,) if the officer, in the scuffle with an offender, should lose his hold, the nipper would become detached, in my invention the nipper remains in place until formally detached. My device, while not so severe or dangerous as the chain-twister, is much more secure and reliable. Again, but one hand is necessarily employed in attaching or releasing my invention—a matter of much importance, particularly in a scuffle, where ordinarily the officer has both hands employed.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

1. The combination of the jaws A A, handle B, having arms *c c*, plates D D, spring *l*, and slide C, substantially as shown, and for the purpose described.

2. The jaws A A, in combination with the handle B, having spring-arms *c c*, such jaws being pivoted together at one end, and such spring-arms being so pivotally attached to such jaws, respectively, that the pivotal junction of such jaws in the opening and closing of the latter passes between the pivotal ends of such arms, whereby the action of such spring-arms is to hold such jaws either open or closed, as may be desired, substantially as shown, and for the purpose specified.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM H. SHEAR.

Witnesses:
WALTER N. HASKELL,
WILLIAM MANAHAN.