(Model.)

J. M. RICKETTS.

SCREW DRIVER.

No. 306,862. Patented Oct. 21, 1884.

Fig. 1.

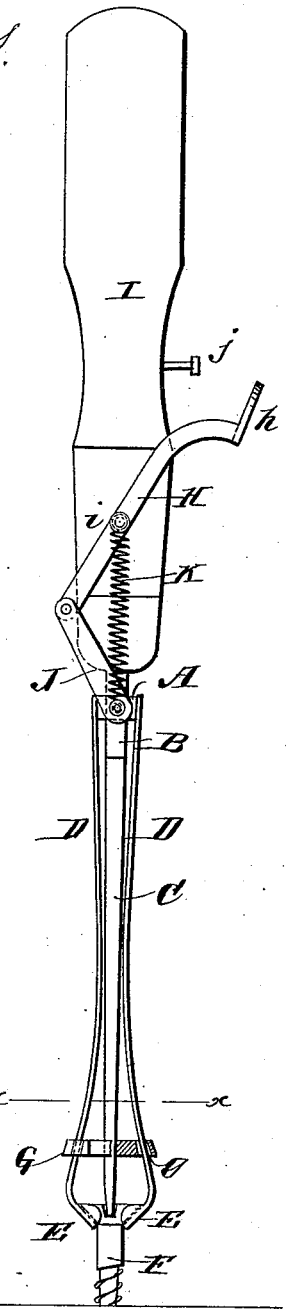

Fig. 2.

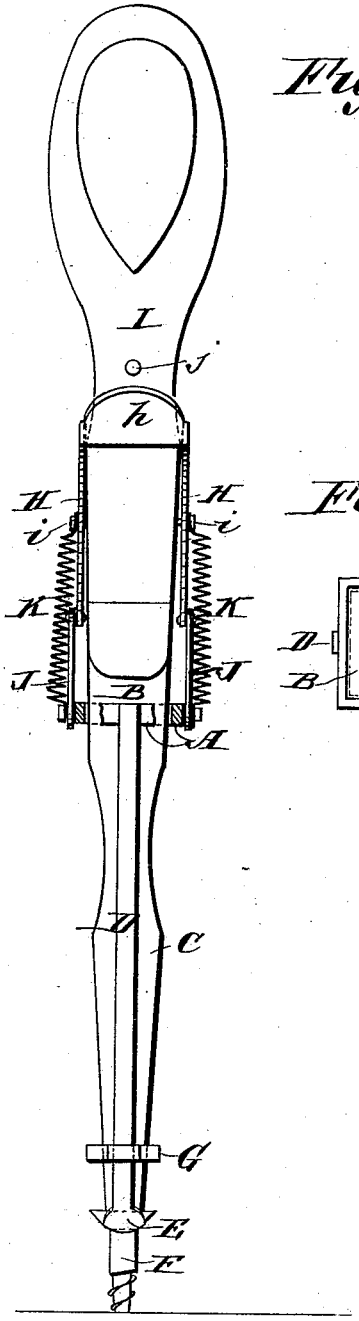

Fig. 3

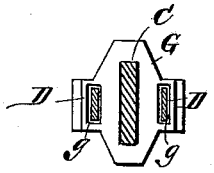

Fig. 4.

WITNESSES:

Frances McArdle.

C. Sedgwick

INVENTOR:

J. M. Ricketts

BY

Munn & Co

ATTORNEYS.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES M. RICKETTS, OF CHARLESTON, ILLINOIS.

SCREW-DRIVER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 306,862, dated October 21, 1884.

Application filed March 4, 1884. (Model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES M. RICKETTS, of Charleston, in the county of Coles and State of Illinois, have invented a new and Improved Screw-Driver, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

The object of my invention is to provide a screw-driver with an attachment for holding screws upon the end of the same.

My invention consists in a pair of jaws formed at the ends of two arms held to slide longitudinally on the blade of a screw-driver and attached at their inner ends to a frame adapted to slide upon the shank of the blade.

My invention further consists in a guide-frame for the arms of the jaws adapted to be placed upon the outer end part of the blade of the screw-driver.

My invention further consists in a U-shaped lever adapted to be pivoted to the handle of the screw-driver near the ferrule, and having its free ends connected by bars with the sliding frame carrying the jaws.

My invention also consists in springs attached at their inner ends to the pivots of the U-shaped lever, and at their outer ends to the frame carrying the jaws, all as will be hereinafter fully described, and pointed out in the claims.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 is an edge elevation of a screw-driver provided with my screw-holding attachment, parts being broken away. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the same, parts being broken away and others shown in section. Fig. 3 is a section on the line *x x* of Fig. 1, showing the guide; and Fig. 4 is a plan view of the frame to which the jaws are attached.

A rectangular frame, A, adapted to fit over and slide easily upon the shank B of a screw-driver blade, C, has attached at each longer side by a steel or other arm, D, jaws E, adapted to fit under the head of a wood-screw, F. A rectangular frame, G, adapted to be placed upon the tapering outer end part of the screw-driver blade, so as to remain in place thereon, has formed in or upon its longer sides guide-slots *g* for the arms D. These arms D are bent outward, as shown, at about their middle, and the guide-slots *g* in the frame G are correspondingly inclined outward from the blade of the screw-driver, whereby, when the frame A is moved downward with the arms D, the jaws will be moved outward as well as downward from the point of the screw-driver blade.

A U-shaped lever, H, having a finger-piece, *h*, formed upon its cross-bar, is adapted to be pivoted to the lower part of the handle I of the screw-driver above the ferrule by tacks or small nails *i*, driven through holes near the center of the said lever, or a pin can be passed through the handle. Short connecting-bars J are pivoted to the free ends of the lever H, and to the shorter sides of the frame A spiral springs K are attached at one end to the pivots connecting the bars J to the frame A, and are adapted to have their other ends connected to the pivots of the lever H. A tack or other pin, *j*, is to be driven into the handle I beneath the finger-piece *h* for a stop to limit the inward movement of that end of the lever H, so that the pivots of the said lever and of the connecting-bars J cannot be brought quite into line, to insure the return movement of the jaws toward the point of the screw-driver by the springs K after said jaws have been pushed downward and outward to receive the head of a screw by the inward movement of the finger-piece of the lever H. The frames A and G, with the attached jaws, U-shaped lever, springs, &c., are passed over and upon the screw-driver blade and handle. The U-shaped lever is then secured to the handle by the tacks *i*, which tacks are also passed through loops on the free ends of the springs, the stop-tack is driven into the handle, and the screw-driver is ready for use.

In use the finger-piece H is pressed inward or toward the handle, which throws the jaws E downward and outward from the point of the screw-driver. A screw, F, is then placed in the jaws and the lever H released, whereby the jaws are drawn inward and upward by the action of the springs K, the slot in the head of the screw-driver passed upon the point of the screw-driver, and the screw held firmly upon the screw-driver point. The screw can

then be placed in any desired place without trouble, and driven in the usual manner. When the screw is nearly driven home, or so as to be firmly fixed in the wood, the lever H can be again depressed, whereby the screw-driver can be removed from the head of the screw. Upon releasing the lever the springs K draw the jaws E inward upon the screw-driver blade into such position that the point of the blade projects beyond the jaws sufficiently to permit the driver to be used to drive the screw home, or by a quick, sudden jerk upon the screw-driver the jaws will be detached from the head of the screw. The springs will then draw back the jaws beyond the point of the screw-driver, as before described. This attachment can be made in different sizes for different sizes of screw-drivers.

I do not limit myself to the exact details of construction and arrangement as shown and described, as the same may be varied within the scope of my invention.

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

1. In an attachment for holding screws upon the point of a screw-driver, a rectangular frame adapted to be placed upon the lower or point end of a screw-driver, the said frame having outwardly-inclined guide-slots for the outwardly-bent lower arms of the jaws of said attachment, substantially as specified.

2. The combination, with a screw-driver, of a frame adapted to slide upon the blade of the screw-driver, jaws attached to the said frame and bent outwardly at their lower ends, a guide-frame having outwardly-inclined slots and adapted to be placed upon the lower end of the screw-driver, a U-shaped lever pivoted upon the handle of the screw-driver and connected with the sliding frame, and of retracting-springs, substantially as specified.

3. The combination, with a screw-driver, of jaws D E, attached to a frame, A, adapted to slide upon the shank of the screw-driver blade, the guide G, having outwardly-inclined slots, through which the outwardly-bent lower ends of the arms of the jaws pass, a lever mechanism for moving the said jaws longitudinally and outwardly, and of springs for retracting the said jaws, substantially as specified.

4. The combination, with the screw-driver I C, of the U-shaped lever H, the frame A, connected to the lever H, the jaws D E, secured to the frame A, the guide G, and the spring K, substantially as specified.

5. The combination, with the screw-driver I C, of the lever H, the frame A, the jaws D E, attached to the said frame A, the arms D of the jaws being bent outwardly, the guide G, having outwardly-inclined slots *g*, the springs K, and the connecting-bars J, substantially as specified.

6. The combination, with the screw-driver I C, of the U-shaped lever H, pivoted to the handle I, the stop-pin *j* in said handle, the frame A, the bars J, the springs K, connected to the pivots of the lever H and to the frame A, the jaws D E, and the guide G, provided with the guide-slots *g*, substantially as specified.

JAMES M. RICKETTS.

Witnesses:
I. WINTER,
C. E. WINTER.