

(No Model.)

R. W. WALKER,

GUARD FINGER.

No. 346,568.

Patented Aug. 3, 1886.

Fig. 1.

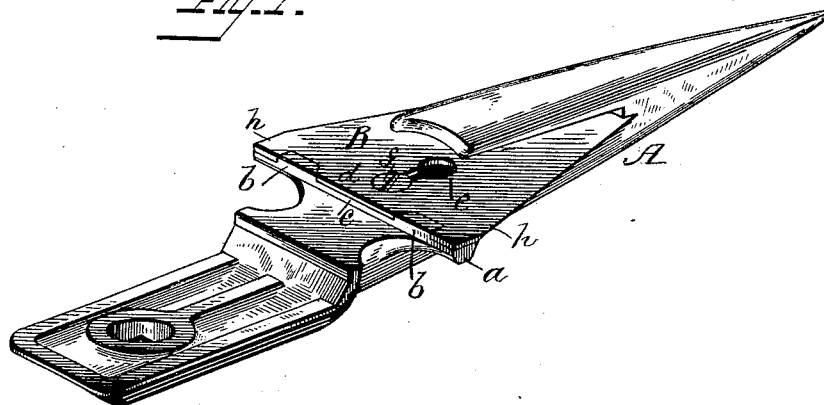


Fig. 2.

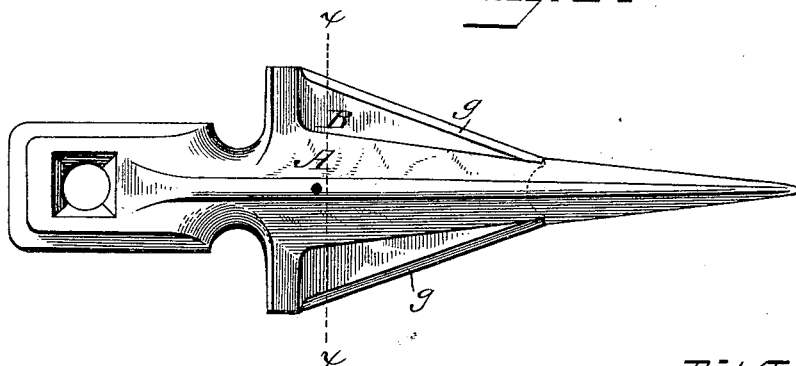


Fig. 3.

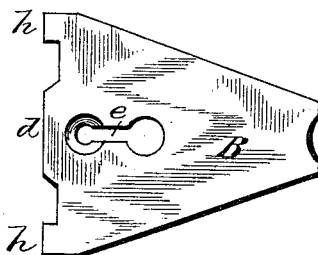
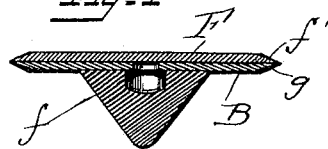


Fig. 4.



Witnesses
Wm. H. Steiden.
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By *his* Attorney *Chas. H. Fowler*

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RANDALL W. WALKER, OF OXFORD, NEW YORK.

GUARD-FINGER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 346,568, dated August 3, 1886.

Application filed September 18, 1885. Serial No. 177,483. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RANDALL W. WALKER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Oxford, in the county of Chenango and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Guard-Fingers; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a perspective view of my invention; Fig. 2, an under side plan view, and Fig. 3 a detail plan view, of the ledger-plate. Fig. 4 is a section on the line *x x* of Fig. 2.

The present invention has relation to certain new and useful improvements in guard-fingers for harvesters; and the object thereof is to provide a simple and effective means of detachably connecting the ledger-plate to the finger, whereby it can be readily removed therefrom for sharpening, and quickly replaced and secured in position.

A further object of the invention is to form the ledger-plate of the same width as the reciprocating cutters of the harvesters, and have the knife-edges of the blade of the same angle to correspond with the cutting-edges of the cutters or reciprocating knives, whereby a more perfect shear cut is obtained, and consequently rendering the joint operation of the fingers and reciprocating cutters more effective.

The above object I attain by the construction substantially as shown in the drawings, and hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, A represents a guard-finger, which may be of any of the usual forms, the cross-bar *a* thereof having lugs *b* a suitable distance from the ends of the bar. The inner ends of the lugs *b* are beveled in opposite directions to form a space, *c*, between the lugs, to receive a correspondingly-formed heel, *d*, at the rear end of the ledger-plate B. This plate B is formed with what I term a "lock-slot," *e*, the forward end of the slot having an opening of the form and size to correspond with that of the head

of a screw, *f*, bolt, or other like fastening, used to secure the ledger-plate in position, the lock-slot being mortised at its rear end to receive the head of the screw.

When it is desired to remove the plate B, the fastening or screw *f* is loosened sufficiently to allow the rear end of the plate to be raised above the plane of the lugs *b*, after which the plate is moved back until the head of the screw is over and on a line with the opening in the forward end of the slot, when the plate may be disconnected from its fastening and removed from the guard-finger. The ledger-plate may be replaced in like manner, and when in position and the fastening screwed down until the head thereof is seated in the mortise of the slot, the heel of the plate fitting in the space between the lugs and extending around and abutting against the outer ends thereof, holds the plate stationary and prevents it from working loose, as well as taking the strain off of the fastening.

As will be noticed, the plate B is not only formed with the heel *d*, but ears or projections *h*, which abut against the outer ends of the lugs *b*, as above described.

The ledger-plate is of a size to correspond with the knives F, (see Fig. 4,) and is sharpened from the under side, as seen at *g*. The cutters F are beveled from the upper side, as seen at *f'*, Fig. 4.

By constructing the ledger-plate of a width equal to the width of the knives on the reciprocating bar a nice clean shear cut is obtained, such ledger-plate being capable of use on most all guard-fingers, and being also made detachable.

I am aware that ledger-plates have been secured between projections at each end, and that cutters have been secured to their bars by locking-slots and screws; but in the latter case intermediate cutters could not be removed without first removing the prior ones of the series. I provide a guard-finger with a ledger-plate having projections at each end, and the ledger-plate secured to the finger by a single screw which operates in a locking-slot in the plate. To remove the ledger-plate for sharpening or other purpose, it is only necessary to loosen the screw sufficiently to

allow the plate to pass over the projections *b*.
In this combination lies the novelty of this
invention.

What I claim as new is—

- 5 The combination, with the finger A, having
projections *b*, and with the single securing-
screw *f*, of the ledger-plate B, having locking-
slot *e*, with the enlarged openings at each end,
the rear one being countersunk, and recesses
10 to receive the said projections *b*, whereby the
ledger-plate may be removed by loosening the

screw until the plate may pass the projections
b, and without removing the screw, as set
forth.

In testimony that I claim the above I have 15
hereunto subscribed my name in the presence
of two witnesses.

RANDALL W. WALKER.

Witnesses:

WM. O. NASH,
M. M. ROWLEY.