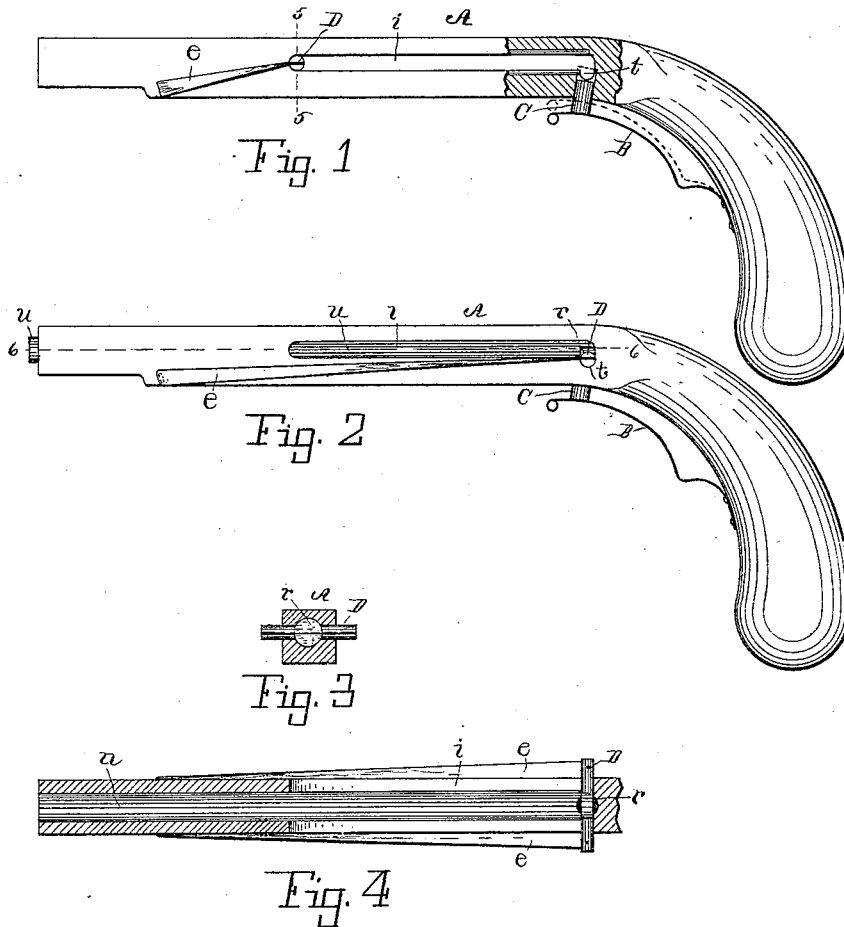


(No Model.)

C. C. COTTEN.  
SPRING GUN.

No. 457,812.

Patented Aug. 18, 1891.



Witnesses:

*Bellevue, Freeman*  
*E. H. Dunsen*

Inventor.

*Christopher C. Cotten*  
By *Lucius C. West*  
Att'y.

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHRISTOPHER C. COTTEN, OF ALBION, MICHIGAN.

## SPRING-GUN.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 457,812, dated August 18, 1891.

Application filed September 22, 1890. Serial No. 365,808. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CHRISTOPHER C. COTTEN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Albion, county of Calhoun, State of Michigan, have invented a new and useful Toy Pistol, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to that class of toy pistols which are provided with elastic cords on the sides of the barrel and a short bar attached to the free ends of said cords and passing through a slot in the sides of said barrel and with which bar the trigger engages to discharge the pistol, and it has for its object the combination of said bar with a peculiarly constructed vertically-playing trigger.

In the drawings forming a part of this specification, Figure 1 is a side elevation with part broken away and showing the pistol in the condition it is in after the discharge of the missile. Fig. 2 is an elevation showing the pistol cocked ready to fire. Fig. 3 is a section on line 5 5 in Fig. 1, and Fig. 4 is a longitudinal section on line 6 6 in Fig. 2 looking from a point above.

Referring to the lettered parts of the drawings, A is the barrel having a longitudinal hole or internal core *n*, Fig. 4. Somewhat back from the front end of the barrel the sides of said barrel are provided with longitudinal slots *i*, communicating with the internal core or hole *n* of said barrel. At the rear end of these slots, at the lower side, is formed a transverse notch *t*.

At *r* is a cross-bar, the ends D of which project through the slots *i* of the barrel A.

At *e* are elastic rubber straps attached at the rear ends to the free ends of the bar *r*, and are attached at the other end to the front end of the barrel, one on each side, as in Fig. 4.

Centrally and immediately beneath the notch *t* is a vertical hole leading down through the barrel, and in this hole is loosely placed a plug C, adapted to play up and down therein. Attached to the handle of the stock is a spring B, in a position to contact with the lower end of the plug at the free end of said spring and to hold it from dropping entirely out. The stock of the gun may be curved, as here shown, in the form of a handle of a pis-

tol or revolver, or it may represent the breech of a gun such as muskets and rifles are provided with. The parts C and B constitute the trigger, and as here made are very simple and easily operated and the plug C cannot drop out of the hole unless the spring B is sprung away for that purpose. The missile may consist of an arrow *u* inserted in the core of the barrel, or a ball may be used.

In the operation the bar *r* is carried back and caught into the notch *t*, which of course expands the elastic straps *e*, then the operator by pressing on the spring B forces it and the plug upward, as in dotted lines in Fig. 1, which action discharges the gun by forcing the bar *r* out of the notch *t*, at which time, owing to the elasticity of the straps *e*, which then contract, the bar *r* will be suddenly carried forward, throwing the missile out of the barrel with force. Each end of the slots *i* represent the limits of the movements of the bar *r*.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

In a toy pistol or gun in which elastic straps are employed for discharging the missile, the combination of the stock and barrel, the elastic straps and cross-bar at their ends, said barrel being provided with the transverse notch at the rear end of the core of the barrel and the vertical hole leading from said notch down through said barrel, the vertically-playing plug loose in said hole, and the spring attached at one end to the under side of the handle of the stock, the free end of said spring being in position beneath the vertical hole for said plug to rest upon, whereby said plug is prevented from dropping out of the hole and is forced up by a pressure of the finger on said spring, substantially as set forth.

In testimony of the foregoing I have hereunto subscribed my name in presence of two witnesses.

CHRISTOPHER C. COTTEN.

Witnesses:

PARKER MERRILL,  
BELLE C. FREEMAN.