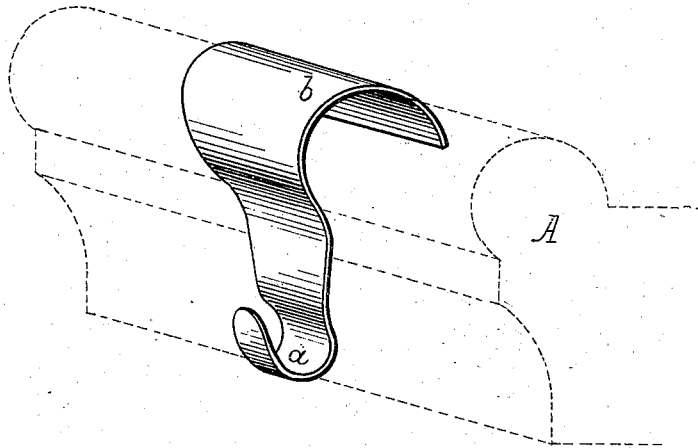


R. S. MERRILL.
PICTURE-HOOKS.

No. 194,708.

Patented Aug. 28, 1877.



Witnesses:

M. George
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Inventor:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RUFUS S. MERRILL, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

IMPROVEMENT IN PICTURE-HOOKS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **194,708**, dated August 28, 1877; application filed August 15, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RUFUS S. MERRILL, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Picture-Hooks; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which forms a part of this specification.

My invention relates to picture-hooks which are designed to engage and be movable on a horizontal rail or picture-rod molding placed, like a cornice, on the wall of a room near the ceiling.

Heretofore such hooks have been made of cast metal, and have been narrow or of little width—a construction objectionable on several accounts. The hook is expensive; and it is so formed that it hangs from a single point on the molding, thus concentrating in one spot all the strain of the weight which it sustains.

It has been my object to make a hook not open to these objections. This I first accomplished by making the hook of wire, and forming it at the rail end with divergent or spread-apart hook-arms, to engage and take an extended bearing on the picture-rod molding.

A hook of this kind is not here claimed, inasmuch as I have already made it the subject of a separate application for Letters Patent, filed in the United States Patent Office on or about the 13th day of July, 1877, and now allowed.

Since then I have still further improved the construction of the hook, the said improvement, which forms the subject of this application, being as follows:

I make the hook of sheet metal, bent or struck up in the form of a double hook. The piece of metal of which the hook is formed is of triangular form approximately, the apex portion being bent in one direction to form the narrow hook that receives the picture cord

or wire, and the base portion being bent in the opposite direction to form a broad hook that will take an extended bearing on the picture-rod molding.

I thus obtain in sheet metal a picture-hook, with a narrow hook for the picture and a broad extended hook for the molding—a hook that differs from my wire hook heretofore referred to, in that at the broad end the hook takes a continuous bearing throughout its width on the rail which it engages, thus distributing evenly and perfectly the strain over all the part of the rail or molding included between the two sides of the hook; and, further, in that it requires fewer operations to bend and bring it to the proper shape, thus requiring less time and labor for its manufacture.

The accompanying drawing represents, in perspective, a sheet-metal picture-hook made in accordance with my invention.

It is composed of a single piece of sheet metal, wide at the upper end and narrow at the lower end, bent into **S** shape approximately, so as to form at the lower end the narrow hook *a*, which receives the picture cord or wire, and at the upper end the wide hook *b*, which engages and takes extended bearing on the molding or rail **A**, (represented in dotted lines,) the bearing being continuous throughout the width of the hook.

The hook can be made easily and cheaply, and can be made highly ornamental with little increased cost.

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

A sheet-metal picture-hook made in the form of a double hook from a single sheet of metal, broad at the molding or rail-hook end and narrow at the opposite end, as shown and set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I hereunto affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

RUFUS S. MERRILL.

Witnesses:

ARTHUR R. SWAN,
JAMES A. BOUVÉ.