O. ROELECKE.

SPLITTING AND BUNDLING WOOD.

No. 195,651. Patented Sept. 25, 1877.

Fig. 1.

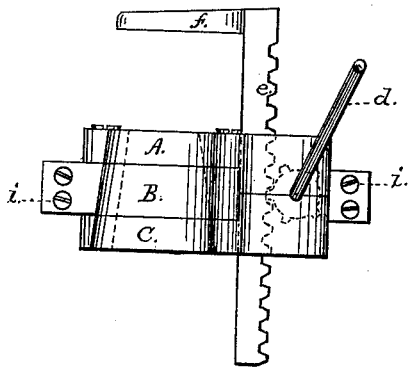


Fig. 2

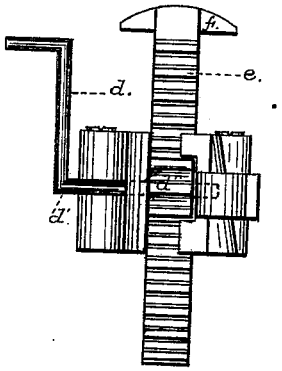


Fig. 3.

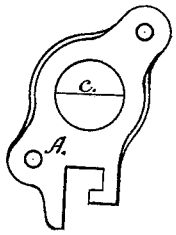


Fig. 4.

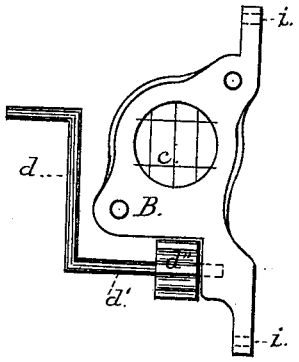
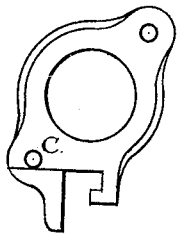


Fig. 5.



WITNESSES:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

OSCAR ROELECKE, OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

IMPROVEMENT IN SPLITTING AND BUNDLING WOOD.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **195,651**, dated September 25, 1877; application filed July 2, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, OSCAR ROELECKE, of Baltimore, in the county of Baltimore and State of Maryland, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Machines for Splitting Kindling-Wood, which is fully set forth in the following specification and accompanying drawing.

The object of my invention is to provide a simple, effective, and inexpensive machine for domestic or household use, by which fire-wood that has been previously cut into suitable lengths may be split into sticks suitable for kindling fires.

Figure 1 is a front elevation of the machine. Fig. 2 is a transverse view. Fig. 3 is a plan view of top ring or frame. Fig. 4 is a plan view of middle ring or frame. Fig. 5 is a plan view of lower ring or frame.

In the drawing, A B C represent metal rings or frames of different sizes, placed one above the other, the smallest being on top and the largest at the bottom, and are secured together. The interior space from the bottom upward is tapering, as shown by the dotted line in Fig. 1. The ring or frame A has one knife or splitter, *e*, secured across the middle, the cutting-edge being up. The ring or frame B has let in or secured to it from its upper side two knives with edges parallel to the upper knife, and from its lower side has let in or secured to it three knives with edges in the transverse direction, or at right angles to the knives above.

The ring or frame C, in the present example, does not contain any knives, and in practice, when thus made, it would be possible to dispense with the lower ring or frame; but I do not confine my invention to this construction, as in practice I sometimes insert the three lower knives in the ring or frame C.

The crank *d* is attached to a short shaft, *d'*, turning in suitable bearings, and has keyed thereon a spur-wheel, *d''*, which gears into the teeth on a vertical sliding rack, *e*, having a cap, *f*, formed on or secured to its upper end.

The part or body containing the knives may be secured to the wall in some convenient place by the bolt-holes *i*; or it may be sustained by a stand or suitable frame, and thus be portable.

The operation of the machine is as follows: By means of the crank the cap *f* is raised until the piece of wood to be split can be placed endwise on the upper knife, and the cap is then lowered, forcing the wood down, the first knife splitting it in the center, and the two knives next below splitting it again, thus making four pieces, which are then split transversely by the three lower knives, whereby sixteen sticks of kindling may be made from one piece of wood.

It will be seen that, as the split end spreads and passes through, its increased bulk is accommodated by the enlargement of the interior at the lower end.

As it is manifest my machine would operate in substantially the same manner were the rings or frames A B C square instead of round in the interior space, I do not limit my invention and claims to a round or circular interior space.

Having described my invention, I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. In a kindling-wood splitter, the rings or frames A B, the smallest being uppermost, with knives secured therein, as described, and with the interior space tapering from the bottom upward.

2. In a machine for splitting kindling-wood, the rings or frames A B, having knives secured therein with cutting-edges up, and the vertically-sliding rack *e*, having cap *f*, operated by the spur-wheel *d''* and crank *d*, substantially as shown and described.

OSCAR ROELECKE.

Witnesses:
C. L. BUDDENBOHN, M. D.,
E. ALBRECHT.