

J. HOWELL.
Ironing-Board.

No. 197,371.

Patented Nov. 20, 1877.

Fig. 1.

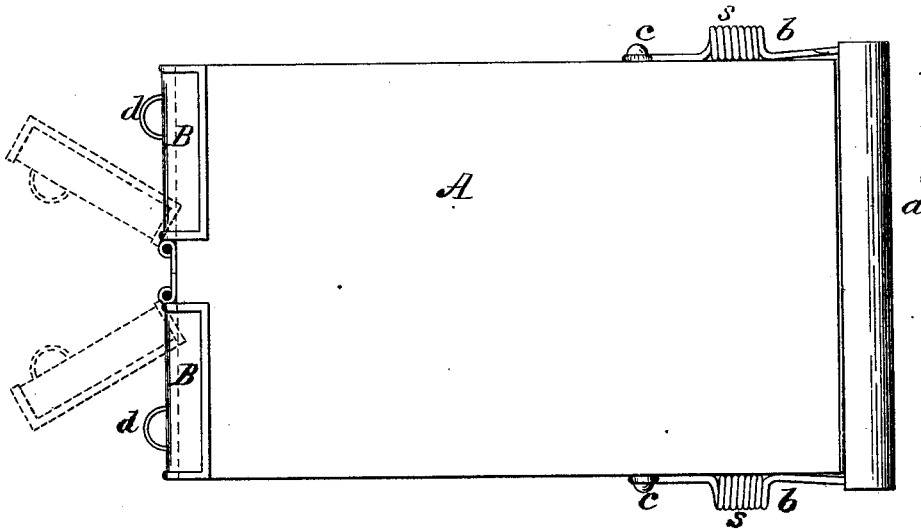
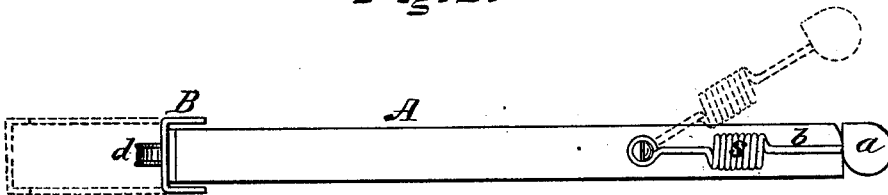


Fig. 2.



Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSIAH HOWELL, OF MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN IRONING-BOARDS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **197,371**, dated November 20, 1877; application filed August 24, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSIAH HOWELL, of McKeesport, in the county of Allegheny and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Ironing-Boards; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and use it, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a top view, the dotted lines showing the open positions of the clips; and 2, a side edge view.

This invention relates to the construction of ironing-boards; and consists in a plain flat rectangular board, having on one end a pivoted spring clamp and stretcher, and on the other two hinged U-shaped clips, moving in the plane of the board, as hereinafter more fully described and claimed.

A designates the board, which is plain and rectangular. A clamp is pivoted at one end, consisting of the end bar *a*, closely hugging the end of the board, to which it is pivoted by means of the two wires *b*, attached to the pivots *c* on the edges of board A, and each coiled into a spring, *s*, along the edges of the board. The wires are clinched into the extremities of the end board. The springs permit the end bar to yield, to allow different thicknesses of material to be accommodated.

The edges of board A may be rounded off, to facilitate the drawing down of the end bar, and the end bar may be rounded also. The springs will always draw the bar *a* very tightly against the board A.

At the other end of board A, I attach, by hinging, two clips, B B, consisting of U-shaped pieces, formed to embrace the board end. They are hinged at or near the middle line of the board, in such manner as to move in the plane of the board. They may, if desired, be provided with handles *d*. I prefer sheet metal for the clips, though they may be made of other material.

In use, the article is placed on the board, and clips B B being closed on it, hold that

end firmly and smooth. Before closing down the bar *a* at the other end the article is drawn over it, passed around under, and then bar *a* is drawn down to its position at the end of the board. This stretches the article, and causes it to present a smooth, even surface for ironing.

By such construction a very cheap and durable board is produced. Being plain and rectangular, it requires no shaping or forming whatever, as it can be simply sawed off in lengths, and the clamp and clips attached. It may be covered with a layer or two of cloth, or not, and so can be used either as an ironing-board or as a polishing-board.

I have a special object in view in the provision of the two clamps B B, hinged to the board near the middle of one end. They are to be used in attaching shirts to the board. By turning them lengthwise of the board the shirt may be drawn over the latter, and the clamps passed through the neck-opening, after which they may be turned back into place and made to clamp the shirt at the shoulders.

I claim as my invention—

1. The improved ironing-board, consisting of the rectangular board A, pivoted spring clamping-bar *a*, having the side springs *s*, and the two hinged clips B B, U-shaped in cross-section, moving in the plane of the board, and attached to the board near the middle of one end, so that when opened they will pass through the neck portion of a shirt, all combined and operating substantially as described and shown.

2. The combination, with an ironing-board, of the two hinged clamps B B, attached to the middle part of one end, and opening in the plane of the board, so as to be insertible through the neck-opening of a shirt, substantially as described and shown.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 14th day of August, 1877.

JOSIAH HOWELL.

Witnesses:

JOSEPH DOUGHERTY,
A. J. BROWN.