A. J. BAKER & J. W. SIMONTON.

Device for Detecting Counterfeit Coin.

No. 202,691. Patented April 23, 1878.

Fig. 1.

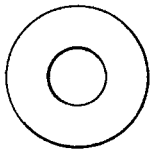
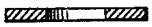


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

AARON J. BAKER, OF EDINBURG, AND JOHN W. SIMONTON, OF TAYLORSVILLE, INDIANA.

IMPROVEMENT IN DEVICES FOR DETECTING COUNTERFEIT COIN.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **202,691**, dated April 23, 1878; application filed January 7, 1878.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, AARON J. BAKER, of Edinburg, in the county of Johnson, and JOHN W. SIMONTON, of Taylorsville, in the county of Bartholomew, all in the State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Detecting Counterfeit or Spurious Coin and Metals; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of our invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

Figure 1 is a plan, and Fig. 2 a sectional view, of the invention.

This invention relates to improvements in devices for detecting spurious gold and silver coins, and in the improved construction of the same, and manner of applying the test, hereinafter more fully described, and particularly pointed out in the claim.

The invention consists of a circular or other suitably-shaped piece of zinc, provided with an opening in the center, the manner of operating the same being to place the test upon the coin to be tested and applying the tongue to the coin through the opening in the center of the piece of zinc, and if the coin is pure, or nearly so, a very perceptible electric shock, accompanied by a decided metallic taste, will be experienced, which shock and taste diminish in intensity in proportion as the coin is alloyed with the baser metals, it being a well-known fact that to produce galvanic action it is only necessary to form what is called a "galvanic circle"—that is, a certain order of substances capable of exciting electricity.

The electrical effects of a simple galvanic circle are in general too feeble to be perceived, except by very delicate tests. However, the tongue and other sensitive parts of the body, being very easily affected, afford a simple and convenient mode of putting the process in operation.

The most convenient shape for a coin-tester of this description is a disk having a central opening, the circular form having no projections to wear holes in the purse or pocket, and the central opening presenting the largest amount of surface in the most convenient manner for the purpose specified.

In this test, although the quantity of electricity set in motion is very small, it is quite sufficient to produce very considerable effects; hence the great desirability and convenience of the above manner of testing coins, involving no complicated balances or delicate instruments of any kind, it being easily operated by a child, or even those people deprived of sight, who could not use any of the tests ordinarily applied in such cases.

Having thus described our invention and the process involved of testing coins, what we claim as new and useful, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

A coin-tester consisting of a disk of zinc having an opening in the center, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

In testimony that we claim the foregoing as our own we hereby affix our signatures in presence of two witnesses.

AARON J. BAKER.
JOHN W. SIMONTON.

Witnesses:
ROBERT W. MEDKIRK,
PETER A. CANARY.