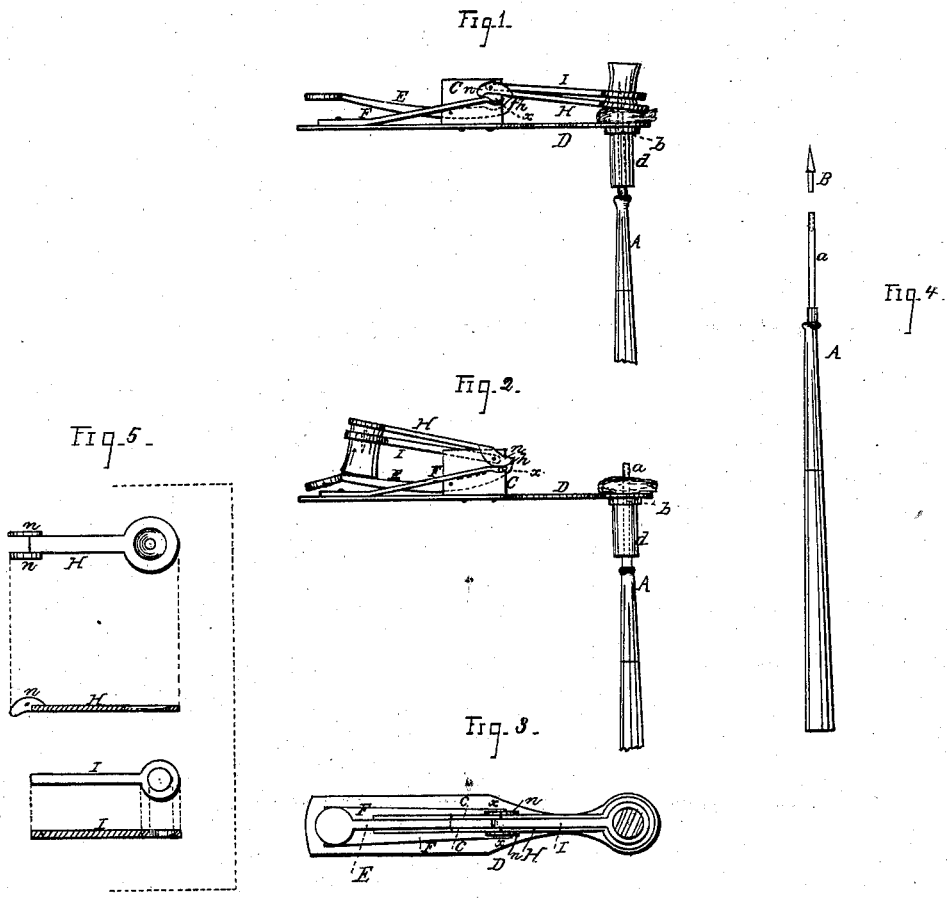


A. GIPPERICH.
Ear-Piercers.

No. 205,185.

Patented June 25, 1878.



WITNESSES -
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ADOLPHUS GIPPERICH, OF RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, ASSIGNOR TO MULFORD
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IMPROVEMENT IN EAR-PIERCERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 205,185, dated June 25, 1878; application filed
April 3, 1878.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ADOLPHUS GIPPERICH, of Richmond, in the county of Henrico and State of Virginia, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Ear-Piercers, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

The invention relates to instruments for piercing ears.

It consists in the employment of a piercer composed of a tubular needle having a detachable point, in connection with a clamping device, consisting of a guide-tube, a clamp, and a cushion to receive and retain the detachable point of the needle. The clamping device is operated by means of a lever, by actuating which it is attached or loosened, at will. The details of construction are fully set forth hereinafter.

The object of the invention is to afford a ready, safe, and effective means of piercing ears, and especially to insure the insertion of the piercer at right angles to the plane of the ear-lap, and exactly at the place that may be desired.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation of the invention, with the devices in position for piercing the ear. Fig. 2 is a similar view, showing the griper and cork-holder thrown back. Fig. 3 is a top view of the invention. Fig. 4 is a view of the needle or piercer. Fig. 5 shows plan and sectional views of the griper and cork-holder.

In the accompanying drawings, A represents the piercer or device for puncturing the ear, which consists of a handle, a haft or shank, and a tubular needle, *a*, the last named being adapted to receive the base of a steel point, B, one end of which is reduced so as to fit nicely into the needle *a*, the other end being sharp-pointed.

The clamping device or instrument for holding the ear consists of a plate of metal, D, at one end of which is provided an aperture, *b*, forming the outlet of the tube *a*, which is rigidly secured to the plate on the side removed from the pivot-stand and parts connected therewith. At the center of the plate is provided a slotted pivot-stand, C, at the lower portion of

which is pivoted the center of the lever E, the lower end of which is provided with a finger-rest. Opposite the finger-rest is rigidly secured to the plate D the lower end of the slotted spring F, the spring being extended upward upon either side of the pivot-stand, its arms terminating in curved seats X, adapted to receive the ears *n* when the griper H is thrown back, as hereinafter mentioned.

H is a griper, the lower end of which is divided, and provided on each side with the curved ears *n*, which are pivoted on each side of the pivot-stand, their points being in contact with the upper end of the spring F, and so disposed as to give the forward end of the griper a tension toward the plate D. The upper end of the griper H consists of a disk, flat upon one side and concave on the other, at the center of which is provided an aperture, which, when the griper is in position, is coincident with the aperture and tube at the upper end of the plate D. The upper end of the lever E is provided with a stud, *h*, which comes in contact with the lower portion of the griper H, and thus serves to actuate it. In the upper outer corner of the pivot-stand is pivoted the lower end of the cork-holder I, which is provided with an aperture to receive a cork or other substance, for the purpose of receiving and retaining the piercing-point when free.

In operation, a piece of cork is fitted into the cork-holder. The lever E is then partially depressed, which elevates the griper H, between which and the plate D the ear-lap is inserted. The lever E is now released, and the ear-lap is thus held securely between the plate D and the griper H. The needle *a*, provided with the detachable steel point B, is now inserted into the tube on the upper end of the plate D and forced entirely through the ear, the point being driven securely into the cork in the cork-holder I. The lever E is now fully depressed. This causes the griper H to be elevated until the points of its ears *n* pass over the shoulders near the seats X in the upper ends of the spring, which throws back and trips the griper and cork-holder, carrying the point B with the cork, the needle remaining in the ear-lap and the ears *n* rest-

ing and being securely held in the seats X. The wire of the ear-ring is now placed in the tubular aperture in the needle, protruding through the ear-lap, through which the needle is withdrawn, the ear-lap being held back by the portion of the plate adjacent to the aperture therein, and as it is withdrawn the needle carries with it the wire of the ear-ring, which is thus passed through the aperture in the ear.

While the tube *d* is a highly-important element, and one which greatly facilitates the ready manipulation of the piercer, it may be omitted without in any degree impairing the operation of the clamping mechanism. The same is true of the cork-holder I, in lieu of which a detached cushion or cork may be employed. It is plain, too, that the features and elements described may be otherwise modified in divers respects.

I do not therefore limit my claim to the exact construction and operation heretofore set forth; but

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

1. As a means of piercing ears, a needle having a detachable point, in combination with a receiving-cushion and a clamping device, having coincident apertures, between which the ear-lap is held, substantially as specified.

2. The plate D, provided with the aperture *b*, with or without the tube *d*, in combination with the griper H and cork-holder I, substantially as set forth.

3. The combination of the spring F, attached to the plate D, griper H, cork-holder I, and lever E, substantially as set forth.

4. The combination of the plate D, having the aperture *b* and tube *d*, griper H, spring F, and lever E, substantially as specified.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing improvement in ear-piercers, as above described, I have hereunto set my hand this 6th day of March, 1878.

ADOLPHUS GIPPERICH.

Witnesses:

JAMES E. TYLER,
CHAS. T. LOEHR.