D. A. FERRIS.
Flooring-Jack.

No. 209,390. Patented Oct. 29, 1878.

Fig. 1.

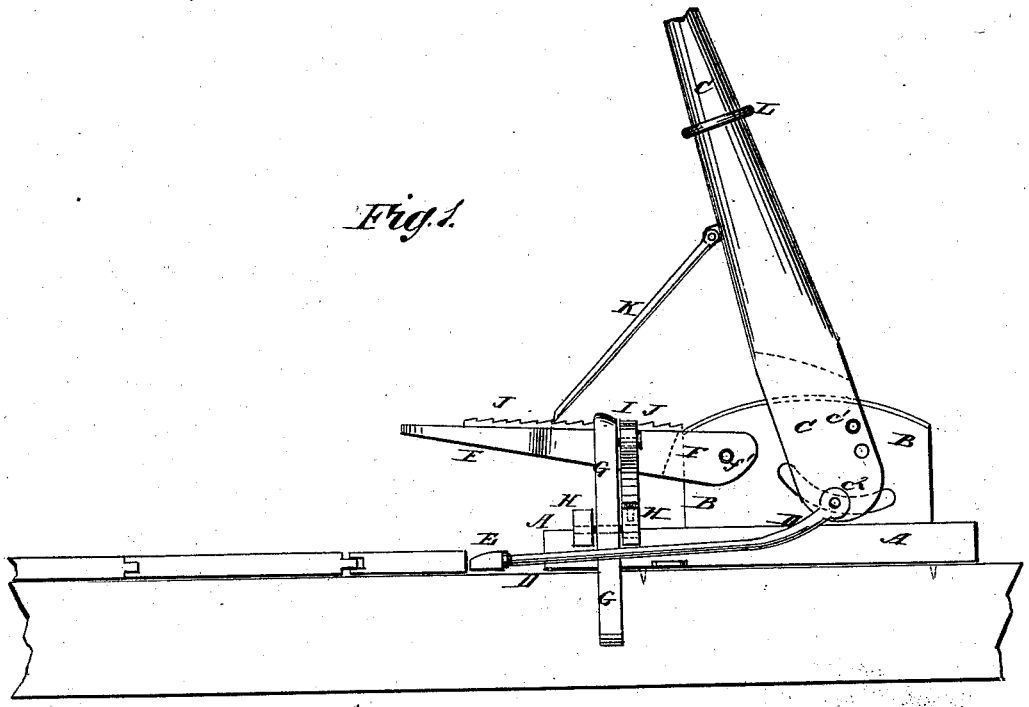


Fig. 2.

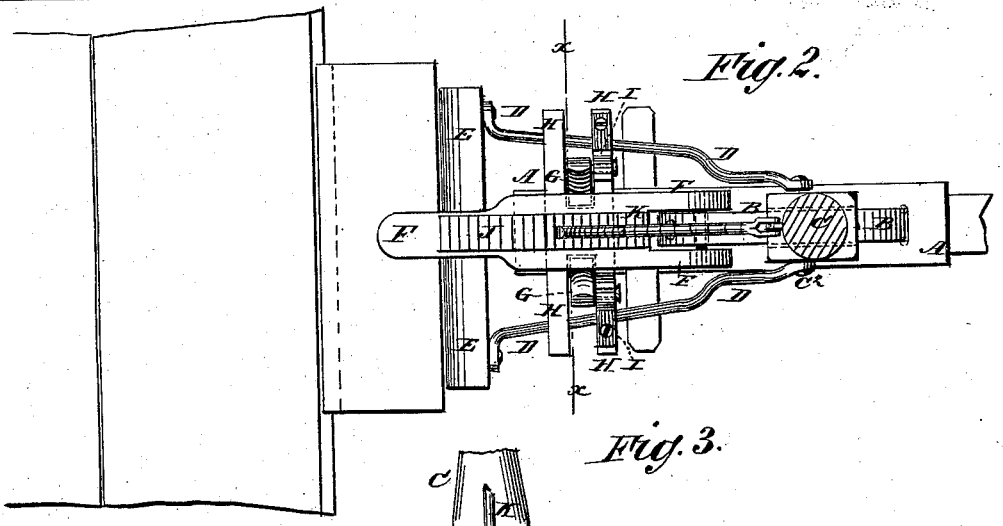
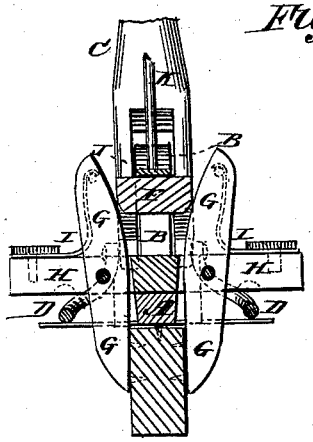


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DAVID A. FERRIS, OF TIOGA CENTRE, NEW YORK.

IMPROVEMENT IN FLOORING-JACKS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **209,390**, dated October 29, 1878; application filed August 28, 1878.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DAVID ADDISON FERRIS, of Tioga Centre, in the county of Tioga and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Flooring-Jack, of which the following is a specification:

Figure 1 is a side view of my improved flooring-jack, illustrating its use. Fig. 2 is a top view of the same, the hand-lever being shown in cross-section. Fig. 3 is a detail cross-section of the same, taken through the line *x x*, Fig. 2.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

The object of this invention is to furnish an improved implement for forcing flooring-planks together when laying floors, and which shall be simple in construction, convenient in use, and powerful in operation, forcing the planks tightly to their places.

The invention consists in the combination of the hand-lever, the push-rods and their cross-bar, the foot-lever, the clamping-levers, and the springs with each other, and with the base-bar and its plank; and in the combination of the ratchet-bar and the pawl with the foot-lever and the hand-lever, for locking the clamping-levers and the said hand-lever in place, as hereinafter fully described.

A represents a bar of wood, of convenient size, and provided with points upon its lower side to enter the upper edge of the joists, upon which the floor is to be laid, to prevent the said bar from slipping upon the said joists. To the rear upper part of the bar A is attached the lower edge of a strip of plank, B.

C is the hand-lever, the lower part of which is slotted to receive the plank B, and is pivoted, at a little distance from its lower end, to the said plank by a pin or bolt, c^1. To the lower end of the lever C is pivoted, by a pin or bolt, c^2, which passes through a curved slot in the plank B, the rear ends of two rods, D. The forward ends of the rods D are rigidly attached to the end parts of a cross-bar, E, which is designed to rest against the edge of the floor-plank to be forced into place, or against a block placed against the said edge.

F is a foot-lever, the rear end of which is slotted to receive the forward end of the plank B, and is pivoted to the said plank by a pin or bolt, f'.

The foot-lever F, when turned down, rests between the beveled upper ends of two levers, G, which are pivoted to and between two cross-bars, H, attached to the upper forward part of the base-bar A.

The lower ends of the levers G project downward upon the opposite sides of the joist, and have points attached to their inner edges to prevent them from slipping.

With this construction, when the foot-lever F is pressed downward the levers G clamp the joist, and thus hold the machine from slipping back when applying pressure. When the foot-lever F is raised the upper ends of the clamping-levers G are forced toward each other, withdrawing their lower ends from the joist, by two springs, I, attached to one of the cross-bars H, and connected with the upper ends of the said clamping-levers G.

To the upper side of the foot-lever F is attached a toothed bar, J, with the teeth of which engages the end of the pawl K, the other end of which is pivoted to the hand-lever C, so as to hold the floor-plank in place until it is nailed.

This device is only needed when one man is employed in laying the floor. When two or more men are employed the pawl and ratchet-bar K J need not be used, as one man can hold the plank in place while another is nailing it.

When the pawl K is not in use it may be turned up along the lever C, and secured in place by a ring, L, slipped down upon the said lever C and the said pawl K.

The rods D and cross-bar E are kept from swinging down below the base-bar A, when the machine is being used, by the cross-bar M, attached to the base-bar A, and upon the end parts of which the said rods D rest.

Having thus fully described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. The combination of the hand-lever C, the rods D, the cross-bar E, the foot-lever F, the ratchet-bar J, the pawl K, the clamping-levers G, and the springs L with each other, and with the base-bar A and the plank B, substantially as herein shown and described.

2. The combination of the ratchet-bar J and the pawl K with the foot-lever F and the hand-lever C, for locking the clamping-levers G and the said hand-lever C in place, substantially as herein shown and described.

DAVID ADDISON FERRIS.

Witnesses:

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