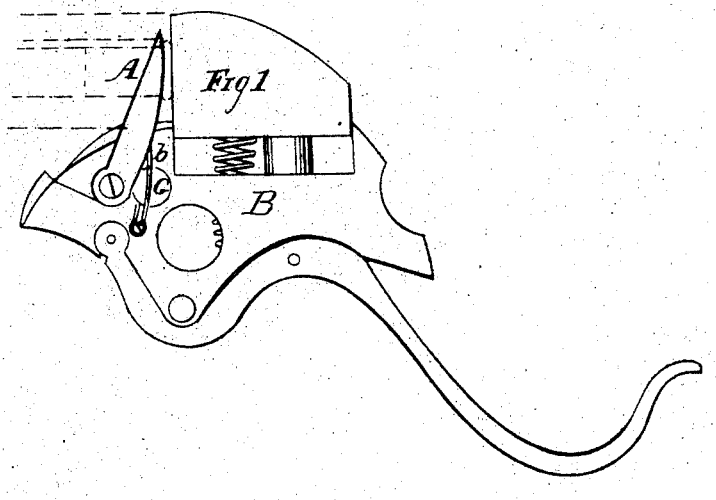
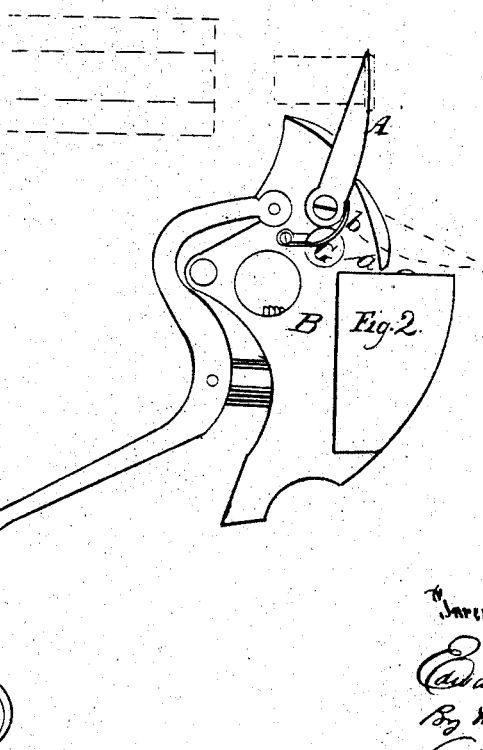
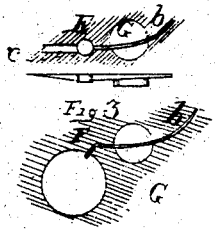
E. Stabler,
Magazine Gun.

No. 45356. Patented Dec. 6. 1864.







Witnesses.
E. Comstock
D. D. Tolen

To Inventor
Edward Stabler
By his attys
Smith & Doelger

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD STABLER, OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND.

IMPROVEMENT IN CARTRIDGE-RETRACTOR FOR MAGAZINE FIRE-ARMS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **45,356**, dated December 6, 1864.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD STABLER, of Montgomery county and State of Maryland, have invented a new and Improved Mode of Introducing by Hand the Single Cartridge into Breech-Loading Guns and Rifles; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description of the same as used and applied to my Spencer repeating hunting-rifle, though not intended to be confined to that particular form of breech-loader, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

The nature of my invention consists in so improving the Spencer gun that it can be loaded with a single cartridge by hand without exhausting or in any respect interfering with the ammunition contained in the magazine.

To enable others skilled in the art to construct and use my invention, I will proceed to describe it.

As now made the Spencer and similarly-constructed magazine-guns are not intended to be loaded except by cartridges fed in from the magazine.

Figure 1 represents the mechanism of the Spencer gun with the parts in position for firing, the barrel with a cartridge inserted being shown in red lines. Fig. 2 represents the same with the parts rotated so as to open the breech of the barrel and remove the shell of the exploded cartridge, ready for reloading.

In order to make the arm operate as intended, it is necessary that the retractor A should move forward into the recess provided for it in the rear portion of the barrel, so that when a cartridge is inserted the retractor shall be in front of the flange on the cartridge, for the purpose of removing the same after the arm has been fired.

When the arm is loaded from the magazine this is readily accomplished by the mechanism as originally constructed; but when it is desired to load the arm by the insertion of a single cartridge by hand, without using the magazine, it cannot be effected with certainty, or without difficulty and delay, for the reason that as now constructed the retractor A will, after effecting the removal of the empty shell, fall back against the shoulder *a* of block B, as shown in red in Fig. 2.

If a cartridge be inserted by hand while the parts are in this position, it is obvious that the retractor A, instead of being in front of the flange of the cartridge, as it should be, will remain in the rear of the same, in which position it will prevent the closing of the breech, and render a premature explosion of the cartridge almost certain to occur by its coming in contact with the same when an attempt is made to close the breech.

To remedy this difficulty I provide a spring, *b*, which is so located as to operate upon the retractor A and throw it forward to the position shown in Fig. 2, in which case a cartridge can be inserted by hand, and the retractor A kept in front of the cartridge-flange, as is necessary.

In case a spring is used, as shown in the drawings, it should be so formed and located that even when extended to its full length, as shown in Fig. 1, its extreme point shall not extend beyond the periphery of block B.

The spring may be secured in place by a screw, as shown, or by means of a pin instead of the screw, the latter being prevented from falling out by the wall of the frame in which block B works.

Another and better method of securing the spring in place is shown at E, Fig. 3. In this case a circular head or enlargement is made upon the lower end of the spring, which is fitted into a corresponding recess of proper shape and size in the side of B. The advantage of this plan is, that both screw and pin are dispensed with; and by cutting a slight recess in the side of B, on either side of the enlargement *c* on the spring, the point of a knife can be inserted under the spring, and the latter be at once removed from its seat without the use of a screw-driver or any other implement than such as almost every person is universally provided with.

At F, Fig. 3, another method of attaching the spring is shown, consisting simply of a slit cut in the side of B, into which the spring may be pressed, it being bent, as shown, to

correspond with the shape of the slit, which will thus hold it firmly in place, and prevent it from sliding either up or down.

G represents a recess cut in the side of B, partially in the rear of the spring, for the purpose of preventing any particles of dirt or other object from getting behind the spring and obstructing its movements.

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

In combination with the retractor A, the spring *b*, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

EDWD. STABLER.

Witnesses:
JOS. PECK,
WM. RYAN.