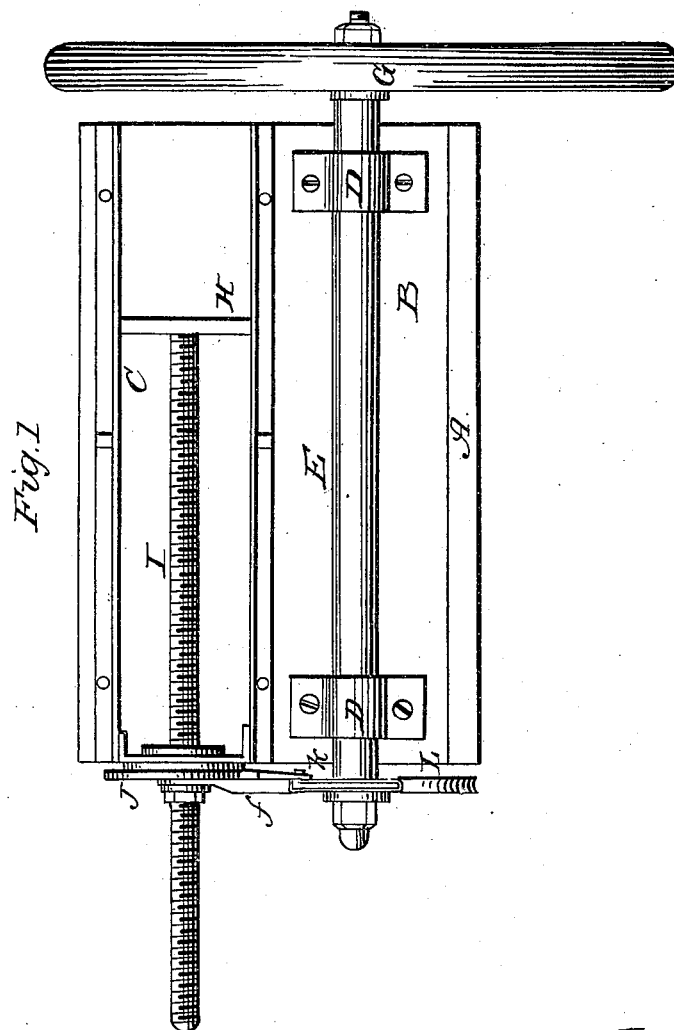


2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

RITTERHOFF, COLQUITT & MULCHAHEY.

No. 47,131.

Patented April 4, 1865.



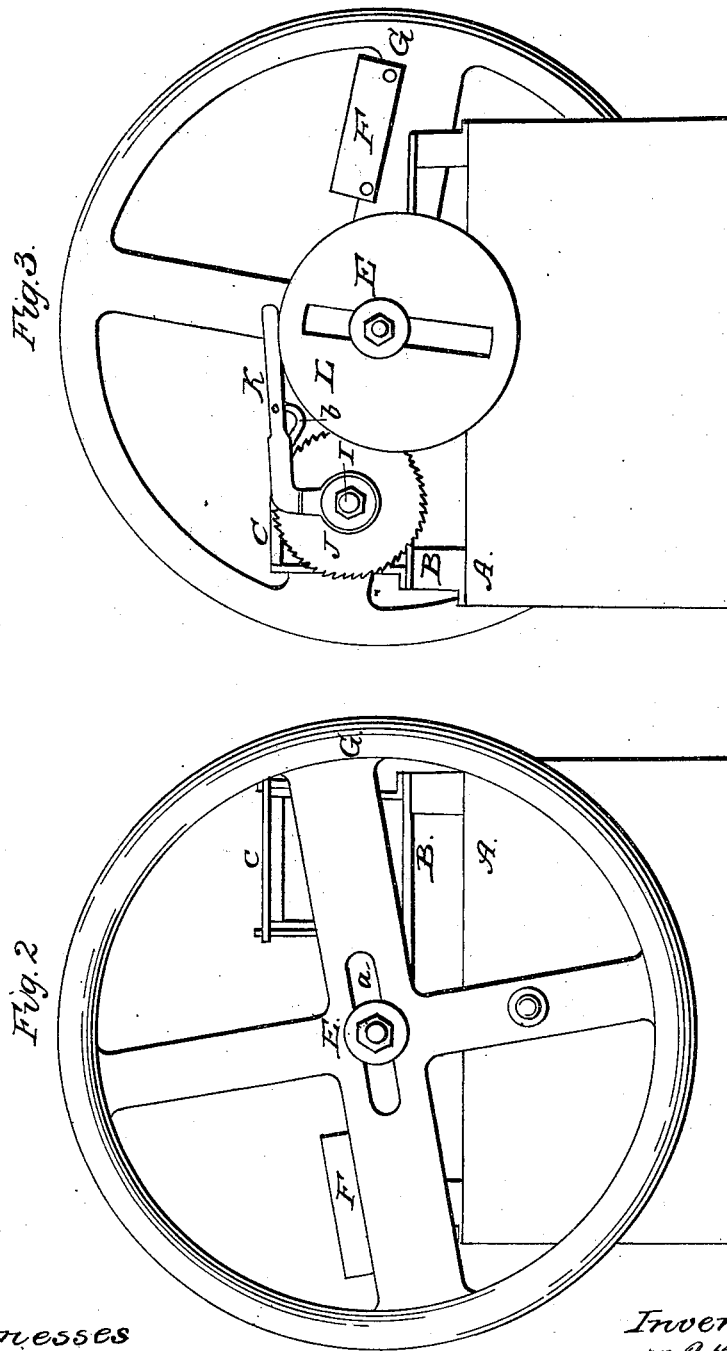
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Tobacco Cutter.

No. 47,131.

Patented April 4, 1865.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

F. W. RITTERHOFF, C. A. COLQUITT, AND WILLIAM MULCHAHEY, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPROVED MACHINE FOR CUTTING TOBACCO.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 47,131, dated April 4, 1865.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, F. W. RITTERHOFF, C. A. COLQUITT, and WILLIAM MULCHAHEY, of No. 189 Chatham street, in the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Machine for Cutting Tobacco; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a sectional plan or top view of our invention. Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the same. Fig. 3 is a rear elevation of the same.

Similar letters of reference indicate like parts.

This invention consists in the employment or use of a slotted adjustable eccentric, in combination with the plunger and feed-screw, in such a manner that by increasing or decreasing the throw of the eccentric the feed can be regulated, and the fineness of the cut can be adjusted with the greatest nicety.

A represents a frame, made of wood or any other suitable material, and provided with a platform, B, which supports the box C and journal-boxes D, that form the bearings for the shaft E.

The cutter or knife F is attached to a fly-wheel, G, which is mounted on one end of the shaft E, and revolves in close proximity to the throat of the box. The hub of the fly-wheel is provided with a slot, *a*, (see Fig. 2,) and said fly-wheel is secured to the shaft by means of a screw and nut, the same being made to pass through the slot in such a manner that the fly-wheel can be brought in an eccentric position, and by these means a shear cut can be given to the knife, which considerably facilitates the operation of cutting.

The material to be cut is placed in the box C, and it is fed toward the knife by means of a follower, H, which is secured to one end of the screw-rod I. This rod is tapped into a ratchet-wheel, J, which is situated close on the rear end of the box, and confined in such a manner that it can rotate freely in either direction, but that it is prevented from mov-

ing with the screw-rod in a longitudinal direction. By turning this ratchet-wheel in the direction of the arrow marked on it in Fig. 3 of the drawings the follower is moved toward the throat of the box, and the material to be cut is fed to the knife. The ratchet-wheel is turned by the action of a pawl, *b*, which is pivoted to a lever, K, and this lever is connected at one end to the screw-rod, so that it oscillates on the same freely in either direction, and its loose end rests on the periphery of a disk, L, which is secured to the end of the shaft E. This disk is slotted so that it can be brought in an eccentric position, and when it is adjusted in such a position and the shaft is rotated an oscillating motion is imparted to the lever K, the ratchet-wheel is turned in the direction of the arrow marked on it in Fig. 3 of the drawings, and the follower feeds the material to be cut toward the knife. By adjusting the throw of the eccentric the feed motion can be increased or decreased at pleasure, and the material in the box can be cut fine or coarse, as may be desirable.

It will be readily understood that by the slotted adjustable disk the motion of the lever K, and consequently the feed motion, can be adjusted with the greatest nicety and without loss of time, and a simple and durable machine is produced which is particularly valuable for dealers in tobacco. Every small dealer is thereby enabled to cut up his own tobacco to suit himself, and he is not made dependent upon large dealers who, with the present high-priced machines, have monopolized the manufacture of cut tobacco.

We claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

The slotted adjustable disk L, in combination with the lever K, ratchet-wheel J, screw-rod I, and follower H, constructed and operating substantially as and for the purpose described.

F. W. RITTERHOFF.
C. A. COLQUITT.
WM. MULCHAHEY.

Witnesses:

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C. L. TOPLIFF.