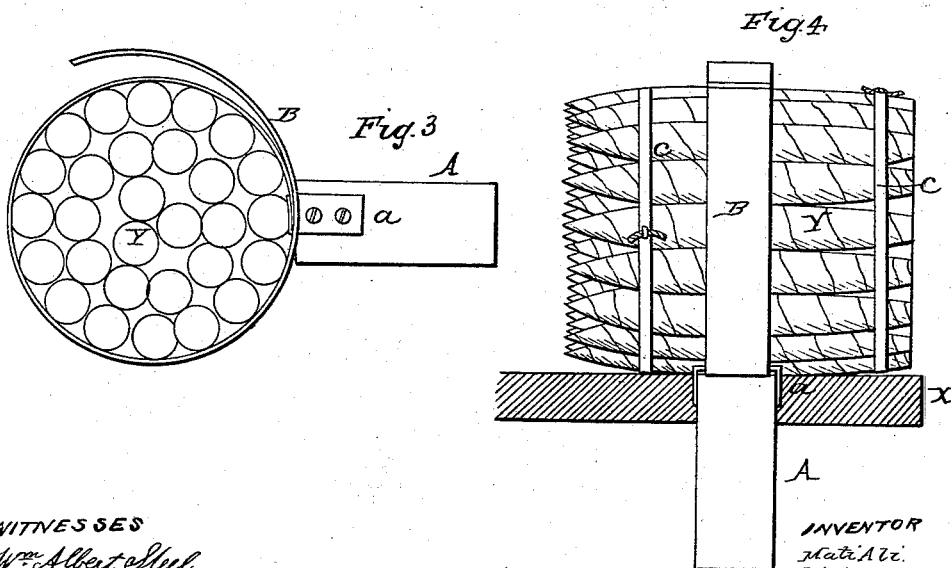
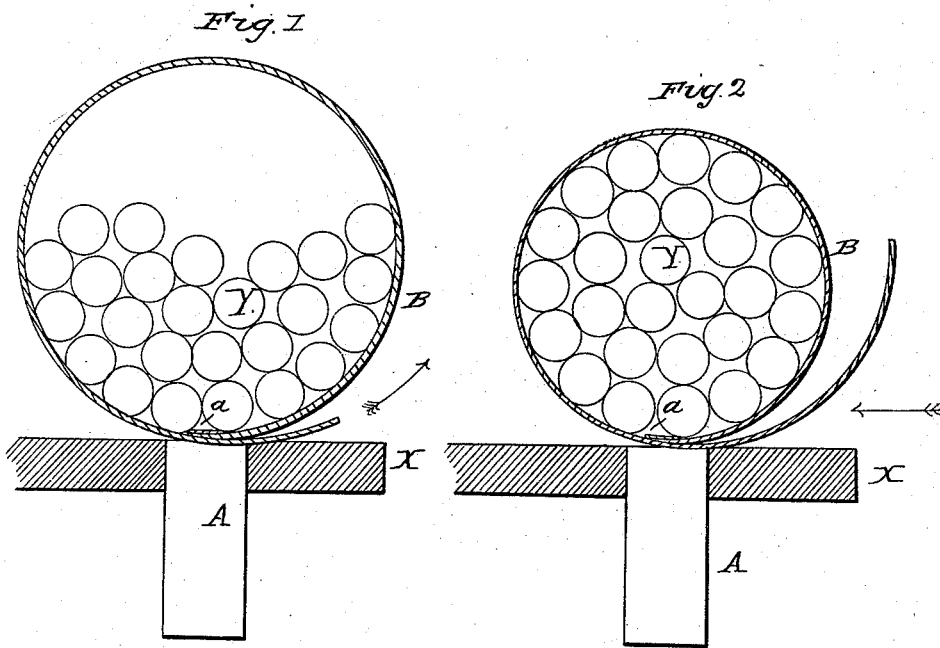


M. ALI.

Clamp for Packing Cigars.

No. 54,811.

Patented May 15, 1866.



WITNESSES  
Wm. Albert Steel.  
Charles Howson

INVENTOR  
M. Ali.  
by His Attorney  
J. Howson

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MATI ALI, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF  
AND WILLIAM MAYER, OF SAME PLACE.

## IMPROVEMENT IN CLAMPS FOR HOLDING CIGARS FOR TYING.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 54,811, dated May 15, 1866.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, MATI ALI, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, have invented a Clamp for Packing Cigars; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

My invention consists of a clamp, fully described hereinafter, for facilitating the packing of cigars in bundles.

In order to enable others to make and use my invention, I will now proceed to describe its construction and operation.

On reference to the accompanying drawings, which forms a part of this specification, Figures 1, 2, 3, and 4 are views illustrating my clamp for packing cigars.

A is a stem or block, to which is secured the staple-like plate *a*, and to the latter is secured one end of an elastic metal band, B, which is bent to an annular form, its opposite end being passed through a space, *x*, between the plate *a* and the end of the block A.

When it is desired to secure a number of cigars in a bundle the loose end of the band B is drawn through the opening *x* until its end projects but a short distance beyond the block. The latter is then introduced into an opening in a table, X, until the band rests against the top of the same. The cigars are now laid within the band, as shown in Fig. 1, and the end of the band is drawn through the opening *x* in the direction of the arrow, Fig. 1, until the cigars are compressed into a more compact bundle, as seen in Fig. 2. The block A is now withdrawn from the hole in the table, and the cigars so adjusted that one shall not project beyond another. This is done by turning the

bundle so that the cut ends of the cigars rest on the level surface of the table. After this the bundle is rendered still more compact by a further contraction of the band. The block A is now again inserted in the opening of the table, and a ribbon, *c*, is tied tightly round the bundle of cigars, near each end of the same, after which the band is loosened and the bundle withdrawn.

It has heretofore been customary to place two ribbons parallel to each other on a table, pile the cigars on the same, and then by tying the opposite ends of the ribbons together to collect the cigars into the bundle required. This operation requires tedious manipulation, as the cigars frequently slip from their places and require to be again arranged, while the ribbons are creased and soiled by too much handling.

By the use of the above-described clamp the cigars are quickly collected into a pack of the proper shape, and are firmly held in their places until secured by the ribbons, and I have found by experiment that an operator can pack three times as many bundles by the aid of the clamp as he can without it.

I claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

The within described clamp composed of the elastic band B and block A, constructed substantially as and for the purpose herein set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

MATI ALI.

Witnesses:

CHARLES E. FOSTER,  
JOHN WHITE.