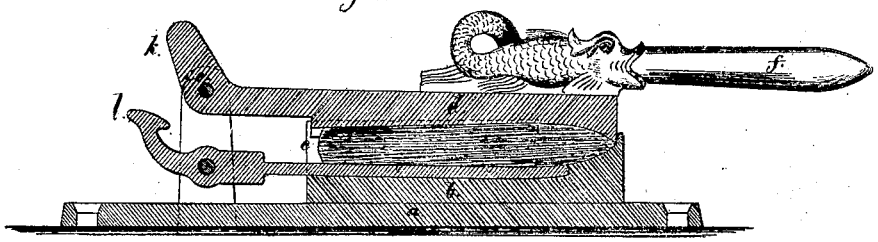
JOHN PRENTICE.

Improvement in Cigar-Molds.

No. 115,101. Patented May 23, 1871.

Fig. 1.



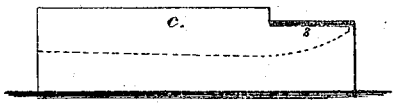


Fig. 4.

Fig. 2.

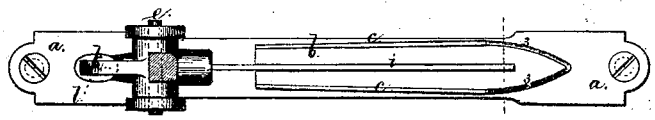


Fig. 3.

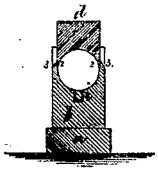
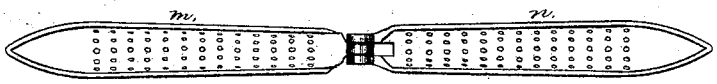


Fig. 6.

Fig. 5.



Witnesses

Chas. H. Smith

Jas. D. Walker

John Prentice

Samuel W. Terrell atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN PRENTICE, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNOR TO LOUIS PRENTICE, OF SAME PLACE.

IMPROVEMENT IN CIGAR-MOLDS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 115,101, dated May 23, 1871.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN PRENTICE, of the city and State of New York, have invented and made an Improvement in Cigar-Molds; and the following is declared to be a correct description thereof.

In Letters Patent No. 85,764 a mold is shown for cigars or bunches to retain the moist tobacco and give a proper shape to the cigars or bunch, and molds have been made for cutting and shaping both the cigar filler or bunch and the cigar itself.

This invention is an improvement upon the aforesaid patent, and consists in combining with the shaping-mold a cutter that acts to form the tip end of the bunch and a lifter to remove the tobacco from this mold, so that it may be taken and inserted into a mold that retains it in the proper shape until sufficiently dry to be handled with ease while the wrapper is being placed thereon, and which molds may also be used for keeping the cigar itself in a proper shape while being dried.

In the drawing, Figure 1 is a longitudinal section of the mold as closed. Fig. 2 is a plan of the lower mold. Fig. 3 is a cross-section of the mold as closed. Fig. 4 is a side view of the lower mold. Fig. 5 is a plan open, and Fig. 6 is a cross-section closed, of the mold in which the cigar or bunch is placed while drying, the latter figure being in an enlarged size.

The bed *a* of the machine receives the lower half *b* of the mold, at the sides of which are flanges *c c*, forming a trough adapted to receive and hold the loose tobacco, while the upper half *d* of the mold is being brought down upon said tobacco to compress the same into shape. This mold *d* is mounted upon a center pin, *e*, so as to be swung by a handle, *f*, of any suitable shape.

The operator, by experience, becomes familiar with the amount of tobacco required for making the cigar or bunch, and places the same between the flanges *c c*, and none of the tobacco requires to be cut off at this point; but in order to give a proper shape to the end or tip of the cigar the tobacco is cut off between the knives or cutting-edges that are made at 2 and 3, upon the V-shaped or pointed ends of the molds *b* and *d*. One or both of these edges 2 and 3 may extend more or less along the molds *b d* and be inclined so as to act with a shearing cut, or they may come together like dies or nippers to pinch off the surplus tobacco. These molds may be made of any suitable material and detachable, so that different sizes may be used in the same machine; or they may be made in groups of two or more together; and the knives or cutting-edges 2 3 should be separate and attached by screws, so that they can be replaced or sharpened.

In the bottom of the mold *b* a groove is formed, into which the lifting-finger *i* is laid, and in a normal position the upper surfaces coincide; but when the mold is opened the finger *i* is raised by the heel or cam *k* upon the rear end of the lower portion of the mold *d*, taking the rear end *l* of the lever carrying the lifting-finger *i*. The cigar bunch or filling is taken from the molds aforesaid and laid in the molds *m n*, so as to dry sufficiently for handling.

The molds *m n* are made of pewter or other suitable material, and hinged together at one end, and made with a cavity of the same shape but somewhat larger than the space between the molds *b d;* and I find that an elastic band, *p*, is preferable for holding the molds together while the cigar or filling is being dried.

The mold should be perforated with numerous small holes, so as to allow of the escape of vapor and the more rapid drying of the cigar or filling. These perforations may be made in the metal of the mold in any convenient manner.

I find that a mold for holding the cigar itself, when completed, may be advantageously made out of perforated sheet-tin, the same being light and cheap. The cavity of these molds *m n* being larger than that of the molds *b d* the filling can expand sufficiently to allow of the cigar smoking easily; whereas, if the filling were retained in the mold *b d* it would be too much consolidated. The elastic band allows the mold to yield slightly, according to the expansive power of the cigar or filling, thus rendering the density of the cigar uniform.

The inner edges of one of the molds should be beveled or inclined, as shown at *o o*, in order that there may not be any feather produced by the pressure of the molds on the

cigar or filling, and the cigar or filling should be placed in the molds *m n* with the cut edges of the filling not in line with the division between the molds *m n*.

I claim as my invention—

1. The flanges *c c* at the sides of the mold *b*, in combination with the mold *d* and the cutters 2 and 3 for shaping the tip, as and for the purposes specified.

2. The lifting-finger *i*, applied to and combined with the molds *b d*, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

3. The molds *m n*, of a shape to receive the filling or cigar, and hinged together, in combination with an elastic band, for applying the necessary pressure to the cigar or filling, substantially as set forth.

4. The molds *m n*, made with beveled inner edges at *o*, for the purposes set forth.

5. The mold *m n*, made of metal perforated with numerous small holes to facilitate the drying of the cigar or filling, substantially as set forth.

Signed by me this 8th day of February, A. D. 1871.

Witnesses: JOHN PRENTICE.

CHAS. H. SMITH,

GEO. T. PINCKNEY.