

G. M. BARNEY.  
Machine for Affixing Postage-Stamps.  
No. 214,232. Patented April 15, 1879.

Fig 1

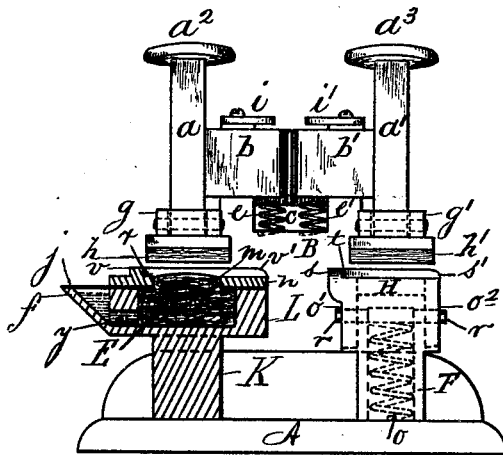
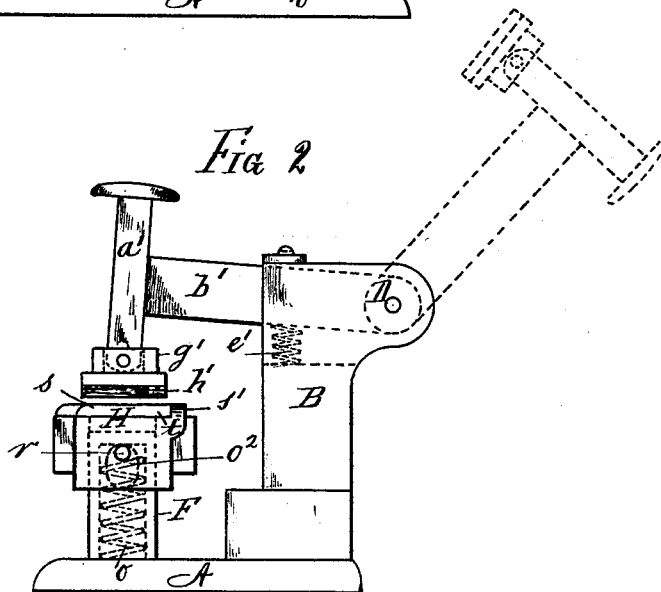


Fig 2



Witnesses  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## IMPROVEMENT IN MACHINES FOR AFFIXING POSTAGE-STAMPS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **214,232**, dated April 15, 1879; application filed April 8, 1878.

### *To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, GEORGE M. BARNEY, of Springfield, county of Hampden, and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Machine for Wetting and Affixing Postage-Stamps to Letters and Circulars, which invention is clearly set forth in the annexed specification and in the accompanying drawings.

It is well known that it is an inconvenient and comparatively slow operation to wet and affix one by one a large number of stamps to letters and circulars, especially to the latter, of which many thousands require to be stamped at one time.

The object of my invention is to greatly facilitate the labor of stamping objects designed for transmission by mail, or of affixing gummed stamps to other papers, and to make said operation easy and rapid.

Referring to the drawings, which consist of two figures, Figure 1 is a front elevation of my stamping-machine; and Fig. 2 is side elevation, showing one of the arms of the machine thrown back.

In Fig. 1 the box containing the wetting device and its standard is shown in section to more clearly illustrate it.

A is the base of the machine, with a rear vertical standard, B, to which are hinged at D two pad-holding levers, *b b'*, to the front ends of which are attached the vertical bars *a a'*. Said bars are surmounted by heads *a<sup>2</sup> a<sup>3</sup>*, and on their lower ends are hung, so they can have a slight oscillating movement from front to rear, and vice versa, two pad-holders, *g g'*, on the under side of which are attached two pads, of rubber or other yielding material, *h h'*.

Attached to the top of standard B are two stops, *i i'*, so attached thereon that one end of either one can be swung around, one over each lever *b b'*, or off from them.

Set in the base of a slot, *c*, in standard B, in which levers *b b'* work side by side, are two springs, *e e'*, upon which said levers rest to keep them up in a partially-elevated position.

Attached vertically to base A, under pad-holder *g'*, is a hollow standard, F, in the interior of which is a coiled spring, *o*, resting on base A.

On two sides of standard F, over the top of spring *o*, are formed two oblong holes, *o<sup>1</sup>* and *o<sup>2</sup>*.

A stamp-box, H, of such size as to allow of laying therein such stamps as it may be desirable to affix, the bottom of which is the top face of standard F, is fitted to move up and down on said standard, resting on the top of spring *o*, by means of a pin, *r*, passing from side to side of said stamp-box through the oblong holes *o<sup>1</sup> o<sup>2</sup>*. On two sides of said stamp-box is formed a raised border, *s s'*, so as to leave a flat margin, *t*, between said border and the interior of said stamp-box.

Fixed also to base A, by the side of standard F, is a second standard, K, under pad-holder *g*.

Standard K is surmounted by a sponge-box, L, on the top face of which is secured, by screws, a plate, *n*, in which is a rectangular opening, *m*; and on the top of said plate *n*, on two sides of said opening *m*, is a raised border, *v v'*, leaving a flat margin; *x*, between it and opening *m*.

Projecting out on one side of standard K is a water-bowl, *f*, and lying over it, secured between plate *n* and sponge-box L, is a flexible cover, *j*.

Through the side of sponge-box L next to water-bowl *f* is a water-passage, *y*.

E is a sponge or other absorbent material, secured in sponge-box L under plate *n*, sponge E being of such dimensions as will cause it to, when saturated with water, swell up and project above the upper face of plate *n* through opening *m* therein.

The operation of my machine is as follows, viz: Sufficient water is put into water-bowl *f* to thoroughly saturate sponge E. Stop *i* is turned off from over lever *b*, and the latter lifted up, as shown by dotted lines in Fig. 2, for the purpose of ascertaining if the upper part of sponge E is sufficiently wet. Having so found it, lever *b* may be returned to its place, and stop *i* be turned over the top of said lever. The operator then throws back lever *a'*, turning away stop *i'*, and lays a number of stamps into the stamp-box H, with their gummed surfaces uppermost, brings back lever *b'*, replaces stop *i'* over it, and then taking an envelope he holds it face side down, with the corner upon which it is desired to affix the stamp inserted between pad *h* and plate *n*, pushing the envelope up into the corner formed by the raised border *v v'*. While

the envelope is in this position the operator strikes upon head  $a^2$  on bar  $a$ , thus suddenly driving pad  $h$  against the envelope, and so pressing it against sponge E as to wet a spot thereon about the size of a stamp. After head  $a^2$  has been so struck, spiral spring  $e$ , under lever  $b$ , operates to raise said lever, and stop  $i$  prevents it from being thrown clear over back by the rebound. Pad-holder  $g$ , by being hung, as described, on the end of bar  $a$ , is permitted to strike flatly against the envelope to insure the requisite even surface-pressure to properly wet the opposite side of it.

After the envelope has been wet, as just described, the same corner of it that was just inserted between the before-mentioned pad and sponge is inserted in like manner between pad  $h'$  and the stamp-box H, its corner pressed against border  $s s'$ . In this position the wetted spot on the envelope is brought directly over the stamps lying with their gummed faces upward in said stamp-box, and, by striking upon head  $a^3$ , pad  $h'$  is driven down suddenly against the envelope, carrying it forcibly against the stamp lying on the top, and properly affixing it to the wet spot on the envelope.

It will be seen that the stamp-box is carried down by said blow, while the stamps remain solidly in a fixed position on the top of standard F, and do not yield to the blow which drives pad  $h'$  against the envelope. Stamp-box H, being properly adjusted to rise and fall on the standard F, is, by the falling pad, caused to recede against spring  $o$  by the ar-

rangement of pin  $r$  and oblong holes  $o^1 o^2$ , heretofore described, and as soon as the blow has been given to affix the stamp the stamp-box is lifted up to again inclose the stamps by spring  $o$  and the action of the pad  $h'$ . Its holder  $g'$ , bar  $a^1$ , lever  $b'$ , spring  $e'$ , and stop  $i'$  are the same as have been described as pertaining to like parts operating to press down the envelope to wet it.

It is not necessary that the wetting and stamp-affixing devices be both embodied in one machine or attached to a common base or frame, as the operation of each device is separate and distinct from the other; but it is less costly to construct the machine combining both, as shown and described herein.

What I claim as my invention is—

1. The combination of base A, with its standard B, standard K, sponge-box L, water-bowl  $f$ , plate  $n$ , with its opening  $m$  and raised border  $v v'$ , sponge E and pad  $h$ , pad-holder  $g$ , bar  $a$ , spring  $e$ , lever  $b$ , and stop  $i$ , substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. The combination of lever  $b'$ , spring  $e'$ , stop  $i'$ , base A, standard B, bar  $a^1$ , pad-holder  $g'$ , pad  $h'$ , stamp-box H, with its raised borders  $s s'$ , pin  $r$ , spring  $o$ , and hollow standard F, with its oblong holes  $o^1 o^2$ , substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

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