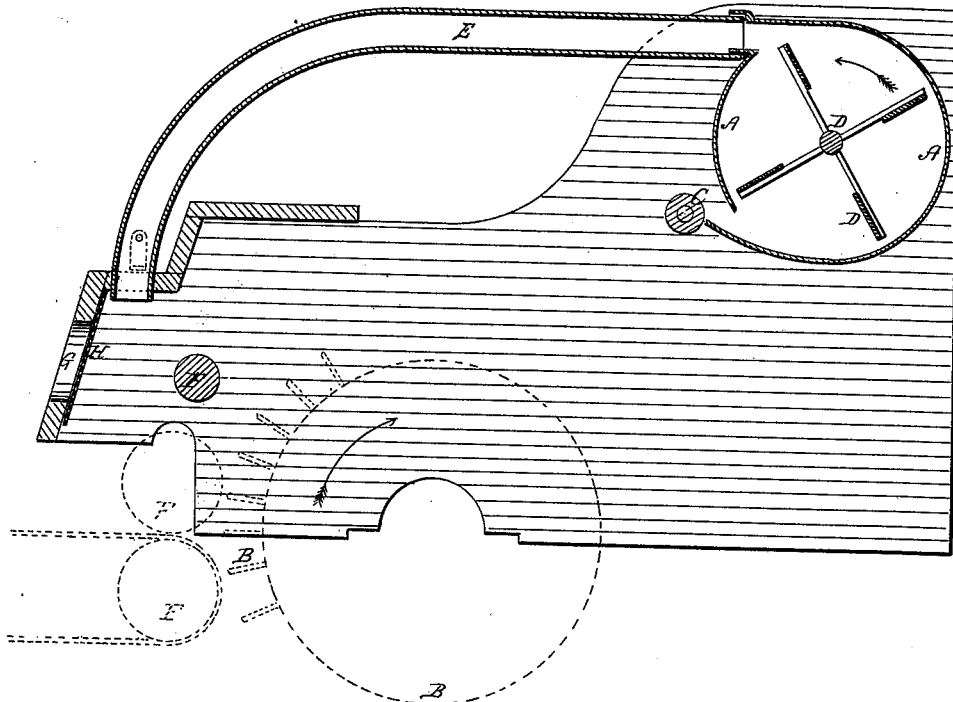
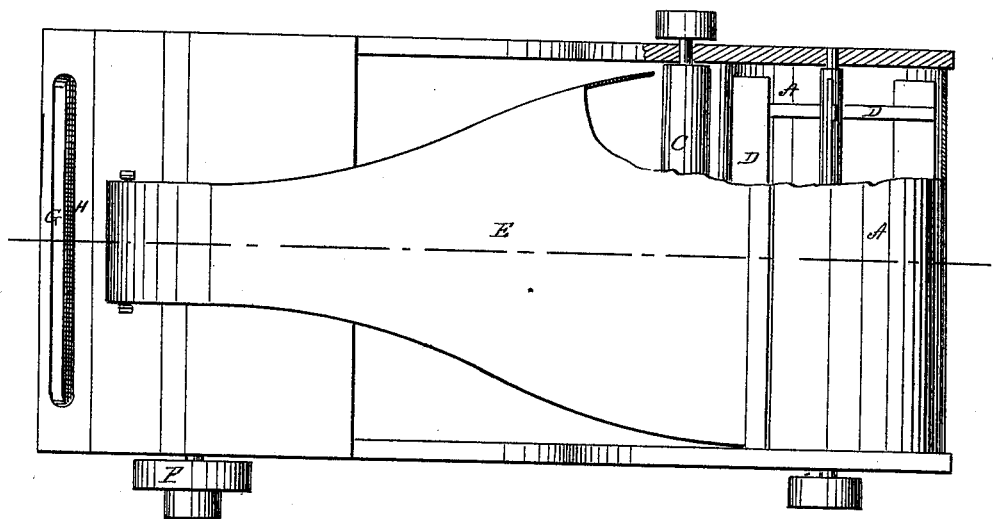


J. T. SLACK.  
Machine for Picking Rags or Waste.  
No. 214,462.      Patented April 15, 1879.

*Fig: 1.*



*Fig: 2.*



*Witnesses:*  
*Cas. Nida*  
*H. L. Watterberg*

*Inventor:*  
*John T. Slack*  
*by J. M. Thompson,*  
*Attorney.*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN T. SLACK, OF SPRINGFIELD, VERMONT, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF HIS  
RIGHT TO WILLIAM H. H. SLACK, OF SAME PLACE.

## IMPROVEMENT IN MACHINES FOR PICKING RAGS OR WASTE.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **214,462**, dated April 15, 1879; application filed  
January 29, 1879.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHN T. SLACK, of Springfield, in the county of Windsor and State of Vermont, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Machines for Picking Rags or Waste; and that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, making part of this specification.

This invention is in the nature of an improvement in machines for picking rags or waste; and the invention consists in a machine for picking rags or waste constructed with a receptacle located at the back of the picking-cylinder, and at such a height and distance from the cylinder as will enable it to catch the scraps of rags, yarn, &c., that are thrown upward and backward by the cylinder as it revolves in an unpicked condition.

Within the receptacle is a fan or blower, constructed to revolve and force the unpicked scraps of yarn, &c., through a conduit and return them to the feed-apron directly in front of the feed-rolls, and thence again to the action of the picking-cylinder, to be picked.

In the accompanying sheet of drawings, Figure 1 is a longitudinal section of my improvement for rag-picking machines; and Fig. 2, a plan or top view of same, partly in section.

Similar letters of reference indicate like parts in the two figures.

In machines for picking rags and waste for the manufacture of shoddy, &c., it is a common thing, as the cylinder revolves, that pieces or scraps of yarn, rags, &c., are thrown off by the revolving of the cylinder before they are properly picked by it, and in this state are carried out of the machine, where they are assorted or removed by hand from the shoddy, &c., that has been thoroughly picked. To obviate this difficulty, I place a receiver or receptacle, A, at such a height above and at such a distance in the rear of the picking-cylinder B as to enable it to catch such unpicked pieces of yarn, &c., as they are thrown upward and backward by the revolving picking-

cylinder B, so that as such pieces or scraps are in this way thrown off by the action of the picking-cylinder they are caught by one or more rolls, C, which, as they revolve, assist in carrying such scraps, &c., into the receptacle A. Within the receptacle is placed a fan-blower, D, and from the receptacle passes a conduit or tunnel, E. This tunnel extends from the receptacle to and immediately in front of the feed-apron ordinarily used in such machines, and directly in front of the feed-roll F of the machine.

Now, my improved rag and waste picker, constructed as I have described it, is operated as follows: The rags, yarn, &c., to be picked or to be converted into shoddy are fed onto the ordinary feed-apron by the feed-roll F, and pass under the action of the picker-cylinder B. As this picker-cylinder revolves, pieces of unpicked rags, yarn, &c., are thrown upward by the action of the cylinder and caught by the roll C, which conveys them into the receptacle A, whence they are blown, by the action of the blower D, through the conduit E back to the feeding-apron and feeding-roll F, to be again passed to the action of the picking-cylinder, and so on until all the material passing through the machine is thoroughly picked.

At the terminus of the conduit E, at the front of the feed-roll H, is placed an air-vent, G, covered by a screen, F, so that the action of the blower will be somewhat lost at the front end of the conduit, and not scatter the pieces of scrap, &c., as they issue from the conduit, the screen preventing the scraps from being carried outward.

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

1. A machine for picking rags or waste, constructed with a receptacle placed to receive from the picking-cylinders unpicked scraps of yarn, rags, &c., and return them to the action of the picking-cylinders, substantially as and for the purpose described.

2. In a machine for picking rags or waste, a receptacle for receiving unpicked scraps

from the picking cylinders, in combination with a blower placed therein and a conduit, substantially as and for the purpose described.

3. In a machine for picking rags or waste, a conduit constructed to convey unpicked scraps or pieces of yarn, &c., to the feeding-apron and picking-cylinders, substantially as and for the purpose described.

4. In a machine for picking rags or waste,

in combination with a roll and a receptacle for receiving unpicked pieces of yarn, and a blower and conduit, an air-vent protected by a screen, substantially as and for the purpose described.

JOHN T. SLACK.

Witnesses:

CHARLES C. JOHNSON,  
GEORGE F. FLETCHER.