

(No Model.)

J. A. STEPHENS.  
CARPET STRETCHER AND TACKER.

No. 492,771.

Patented Feb. 28, 1893.

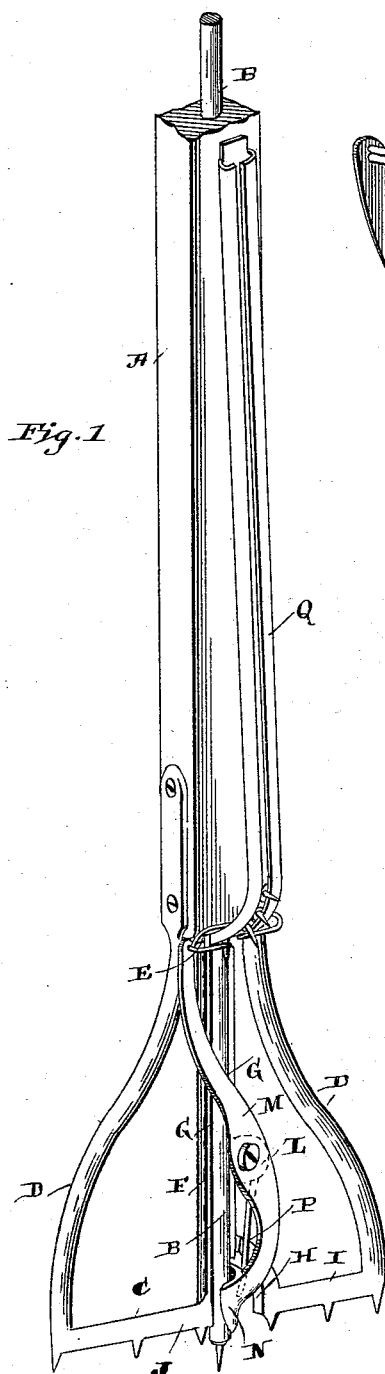


Fig. 1

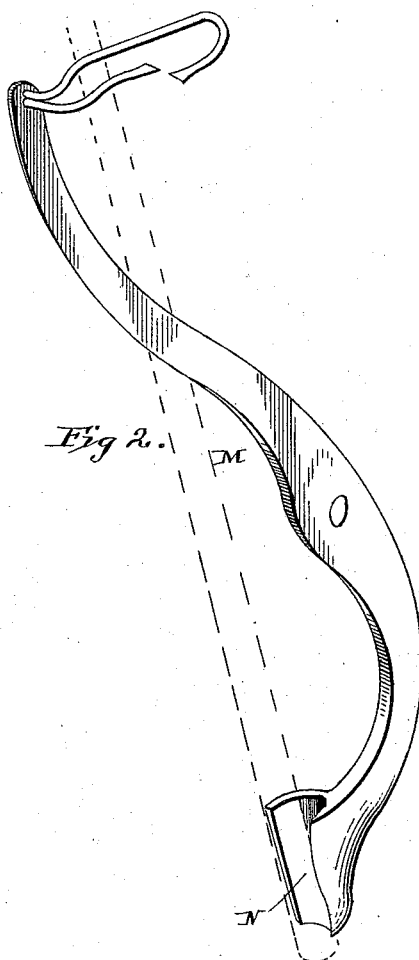


Fig. 2.

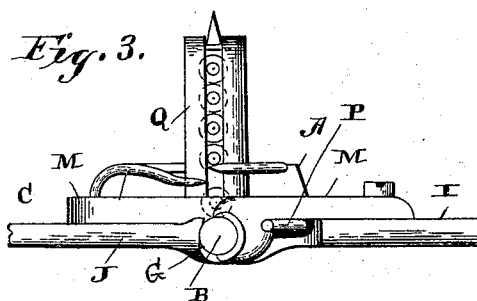


Fig. 3.

Witnesses  
*Geo. E. Truch.*  
*Edw. A. Fitzgerald.*

Inventor  
*Jesse A. Stephens*  
*A. G. Adamson*

Attorney

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JESSE ALLEN STEPHENS, OF MUNCIE, INDIANA, ASSIGNOR OF TWO-THIRDS TO  
GEORGE N. HIGMAN AND MICHAEL E. VANDERCOOK, OF SAME PLACE.

## CARPET STRETCHER AND TACKER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 492,771, dated February 28, 1893.

Application filed March 30, 1892. Serial No. 427,128. (No model.)

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

Be it known that I, JESSE ALLEN STEPHENS, of Muncie, in the county of Delaware and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Carpet Stretchers and Tackers; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and use it, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to improvements in combined carpet stretchers and tackers; and it consists in the construction and arrangement of parts which will be fully described hereinafter and particularly referred to in the claim.

The object of my invention is to provide a carpet stretcher of the construction hereinafter described, whereby the tacks are held in a magazine tube and automatically fed in front of the hammer rod by the movement of the rod, which operates a pivoted jaw, the inner end of this pivoted jaw or lever, carrying a feeding device for automatically allowing one tack to drop at a time in front of the hammer rod.

In the accompanying drawings:—Figure 1 is a perspective view of a stretcher and tacker which embodies my invention. Fig. 2 is a detached perspective view of the lever carrying a jaw at its outer end, and a feeding device at its inner end. Fig. 3 is an end view of the lower end of the device.

A indicates a handle of any suitable length, through which a hammer rod B passes, and freely reciprocates. The stretcher head C consists of the side pieces D, which extend upon opposite sides of the lower end of the handle, and are secured thereto by means of screws, and these are connected at the lower end of the handle by a cross piece E, thus forming a jaw or socket for the lower end of the handle as shown.

Extending centrally through the stretcher head is a rib or web F, which is provided with a central longitudinal groove G, which forms a trough to receive the hammer rod, and through which the tacks are fed. One side of the lower end of this trough is cut away as shown at H,

and has an arm extending outward and downward therefrom, to which the toothed portion I is connected at one end, the other end of this toothed portion being connected with the side piece D. At the opposite side of this trough, and connected thereto is another toothed portion J, and by means of these toothed portions the carpet is stretched in the ordinary manner. A lug L extends laterally from the trough, and upon this lug a lever M is pivoted between its ends so as to swing across the face of the trough. The lower end of this lever is provided with a tapering grooved jaw N, which co-acts with the lower portion of the trough to form a grip in which the tacks are successively held until driven by the hammer. The outer end, or jaw of this lever M is held normally against the tack by means of a spring P, which has its inner end secured in the said lug and its outer end resting against the jaw as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1.

Secured to the upper side of the handle A is a magazine tube Q, which has its lower end curved inward as shown, so that the tacks placed therein are delivered to the trough in the proper position to be driven. The lower or delivery end of this magazine tube is directly over the groove in the central web as illustrated, so that the tacks in the tube pass therefrom into the groove of the web.

The upper end of the lever M is provided with a feeding device which consists of a wire having one end bent around behind the tube and then in front thereof and another wire which extends from the opposite side of the tube also in front of the groove in the tube. Owing to this construction, the end of one wire being below the other as shown, when the hammer rod is raised from the position shown the lever is moved by the spring P, which moves the upper wire from under the tacks, and allows one of them to drop upon the lower wire, and when the lever is forced in the opposite direction by the hammer rod engaging the lower end thereof, the upper wire is brought in contact with the next tack, and the tack which rested upon the lower wire is allowed to fall upon the hammer rod. When the said hammer has its lower end drawn within the handle this lower tack drops from

the rod into the trough and falls to the grip at the lower end of the trough to be driven by the hammer. As one side of the central web is cut away as before described, the jaw of the lower end of the lever M forms that side of the groove, and thus prevents the tack from dropping through the cut away portion, and holds the tack in position to be driven into the floor through the carpet as will be understood.

By means of the construction above described, I produce a carpet stretcher with an automatic tack feeding attachment, and a means for holding and driving the tack after it is fed. The lever as before described feeds the tacks at its upper end, and is constructed at its lower end to form a part of the lower end of the feeding groove and to hold the tack while it is being driven.

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

A combined carpet stretcher and tacker comprising a handle, a stretcher head secured at the lower end thereof and having a longitudinal trough for feeding the tacks, a magazine tube communicating with the upper end of the trough, a lever pivoted between its ends and extending diagonally across the said feeding trough, its upper end at one side of the trough and carrying a feeding device which extends across the lower end of the magazine tube, its lower end being at the opposite side of the said feeding trough and forming therein with a jaw, and a hammer rod moving in the said trough to engage the lower end of the said lever for operating it, substantially, as specified.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

JESSE ALLEN STEPHENS.

Witnesses:

C. E. CRANDALL,  
A. H. HAMILTON.