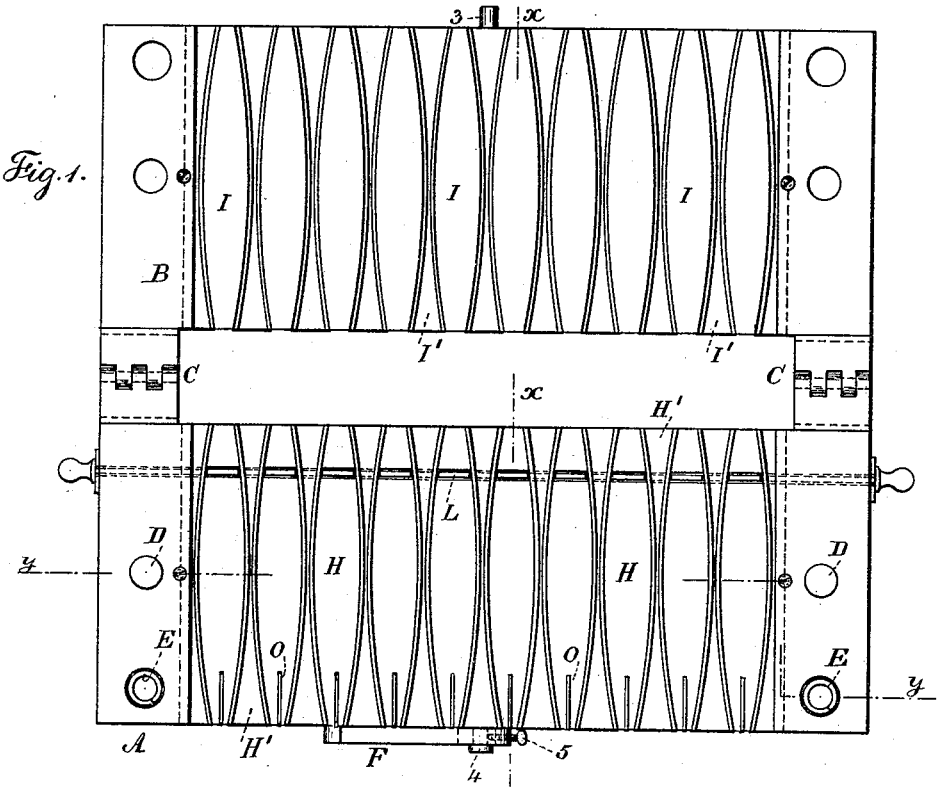
(No Model.)

J. PRENTICE.

CIGAR MOLD.

No. 493,292. Patented Mar. 14, 1893.

Fig. 1.



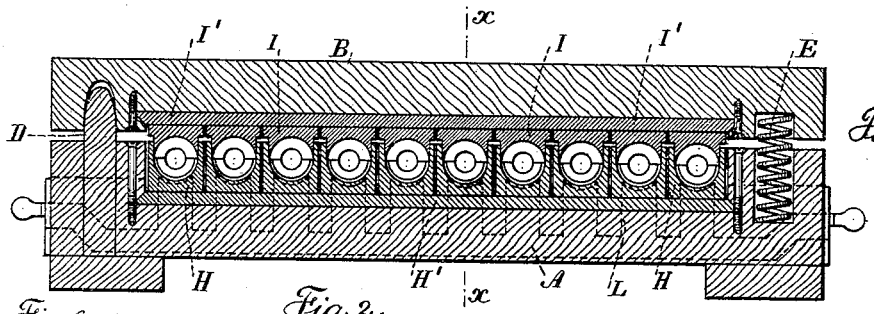


Fig. 3.

Fig. 6

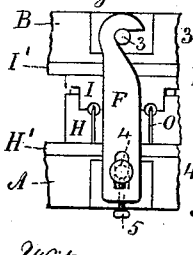


Fig. 2.

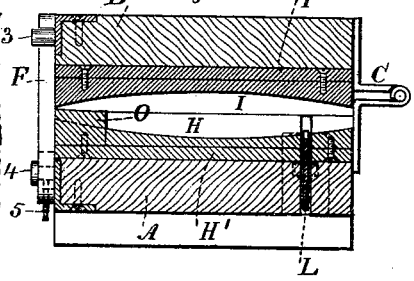
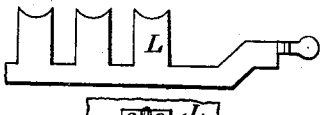


Fig. 4.



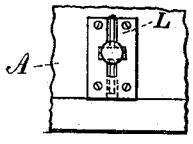


Fig. 5.

Witnesses.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN PRENTICE, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

CIGAR-MOLD.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 493,292, dated March 14, 1893.

Application filed June 22, 1891. Renewed August 11, 1892. Serial No. 442,773. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN PRENTICE, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city and State of New York, have invented an Improvement in Cigar-Molds, of which the following is a specification.

Molds in which bunches of tobacco leaves are placed forming the body or fillers of the cigars, have heretofore been constructed in ranges. The base range of the molds has recesses with concave bottoms and correspond in outline to the shape of the bunch, and the upper or follower range of molds has been made with downwardly projecting followers corresponding in outline to the molds and concave under surfaces, so that when the base portions of the molds are filled with the bunches of tobacco, the upper portion of the mold with the followers can be closed down, and the two parts of the mold are clamped together to hold the tobacco in shape while the bunches are drying. After this has been done the two parts of the mold have to be separated, and difficulty often arises in doing this, especially in consequence of the moisture swelling the wood of the molds, and often the parts of the mold have to be pried apart before the bunches can be taken out, and in so doing the molds are frequently injured. To avoid these difficulties I hinge the two parts of the mold together and apply springs near the ends of the base so as to raise up the follower and open the molds. This lessens the time consumed in removing the cigar bunches, or fillers, and this is still further facilitated by a lifter that is acted upon by the workman to raise the entire line of bunches out of the molds, thereby avoiding the risk of injury to the bunches, from removing them by a knife as heretofore usual.

In the drawings Figure 1. is a plan view showing the ranges of molds as open. Fig. 2. is a cross section at the line x, x, and Fig. 3. is a longitudinal section at the line y, y, Fig. 1. Fig. 4. is a detached view of one end of the lifter and Fig. 5, is an end view of the lifter and guide plate for same and Fig. 6, is a detached view of the hook.

The base A is of the desired size for the reception of the proper number of molds, and the follower B corresponds in size to the base, and these two parts are hinged together near the ends of the hinges C, which are made L shape, so that the pins of the hinges are at a sufficient distance from the back edges of the base and follower respectively for the parts to be opened with facility, and usually there are guide pins D near the ends to bring the parts properly into line with each other as the follower is closed down upon the molds, and in the base A near the ends, there are springs E which are sufficiently powerful to separate the parts of the molds with facility when the fastening F is opened. I prefer to make this fastening F in the form of a hook, catching at its open end over the stud 3, and at its lower end the stud 4, is in a slot, and a screw 5, is provided at the end of the slot for adjusting the operative length of the hook, so that the molds can be closed together more or less tightly, the length of the hook being adjusted to vary the pressure upon the tobacco and prevent the bunches being subjected to too great a pressure while in their moist condition.

The molds H, are fastened upon the plate H′ which is received upon the base A and the ends of the plate H′ are beveled to pass into corresponding recesses in the base A so that the molds and plate can be slipped out for the insertion of a plate and molds of different shapes, and the upper molds I. or followers are similarly connected to the plate I′, which is beveled at its ends and slips in between guides at the ends upon the follower B. This mode of construction is very convenient for the cigar maker, because it is only necessary to change the molds and their attaching plates in making use of the same base and follower with cigar molds of different shapes.

The tobacco is to be bunched and laid into the molds as usual, and the followers brought down and the proper pressure applied sufficiently to consolidate the tobacco and give shape to the bunches while drying, previous to removal from the molds, and I prevent the injury heretofore likely to arise to the tobacco in lifting the bunches out of the molds by a knife by employing the lifter next described. Across in the bottom part of each mold H, and preferably near the butt or larger end of

the bunch, is a slot into which is introduced a lifter L in the form of a narrow bar, preferably with projecting ends by which it can be lifted, and the slots in the molds are sufficiently deep for the lifter L. This bar L has a range of upward projections as seen in Fig. 4, there being a projection for each mold to raise the cigar bunch up from the bottom of the mold and loosen the same, so that the operator can lift each bunch out with freedom, by pressing the finger against the end thereof and raising such end. This greatly facilitates the removal of the bunches from the molds and lessens the risk of injury.

In consequence of the lifters L being in the form of upward projections, one to each mold, there are mortises in each mold, and the plate H′ is not entirely cut through and the molds are capable of removal and change as heretofore described.

In the bottom of each mold H, and near the smaller end thereof, a thin blade or cutter O, is permanently inserted, the same standing up from the bottom of the mold the distance required to properly cut into the tobacco of the bunch longitudinally.

I claim as my invention—

1. The combination with the base and follower, and the cigar molds connected respectively to the base and follower, of hinges extending out from the base and follower for connecting them at one side, and a hook for holding the parts of the molds together at the other side when closed, and an adjusting screw acting against the attaching stud for varying the operative length of the hook, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination with the base and follower, of molds and plates, to which the molds are fastened, and which plates are beveled at the ends and received into similar guides and are removable from the base and follower respectively and hinges for connecting the base and follower and a hook for holding the parts when closed, substantially as set forth.

3. The combination with the base and follower, of hinges for connecting the parts together, molds and removable plates adapted to be received by the base and follower respectively and to which plates the ranges of molds are connected, a lifter occupying a slot running transversely of the molds in the base and having upward projections one for each mold and passing through mortises in the plate, and in the molds, substantially as set forth.

4. The combination with the base and follower, of hinges for connecting such base and follower, molds and plates to which the molds are connected, and which plates are removable from the base and follower respectively, springs for separating the molds, and a hook or connecting device for the molds when closed, substantially as set forth.

Signed by me this 8th day of June, 1891.

JOHN PRENTICE.

Witnesses:
GEO. T. PINCKNEY,
WILLIAM G. MOTT.