

J. L. KOBLER.  
FLOOR JACK.

Patented July 17, 1894.

[illegible]

A technical drawing of a mechanical component, possibly a bracket or a part of a machine. The component has a horizontal top flange with a central slot. The left end of the flange is labeled 'd'. The right end of the flange is labeled 'c'. The vertical support on the right is labeled 'b'. The main body of the component is a curved arm that extends downwards and to the right, ending in a hook-like shape labeled 'e'. A section line 'B-B' is drawn across the curved arm, indicating a cross-section.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN L. KOBLER, OF LE SUEUR CENTRE, MINNESOTA.

## FLOOR-JACK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 523,214, dated July 17, 1894.

Application filed November 7, 1893. Serial No. 490,223. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHN L. KOBLER, of Le Sueur Centre, in the county of Le Sueur and State of Minnesota, have invented a new and useful Improved Floor-Jack, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to an improved jack used to facilitate the placing of floor boards, sheathing or ceiling boards, and their retention in place until secured by nailing, and has for its object to provide a novel, simple and inexpensive device of the character indicated, which will afford means to conveniently and expeditiously force the tongues and grooves of flooring, siding or ceiling boards into close jointed connection, and enable the operator to retain a board in proper position while he nails it to the joists or like supports whereon said boards are placed.

To these ends my invention consists in the construction and combination of parts, as is hereinafter described and claimed.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a floor in part, and the improved jack shown in position for use on a loose board. Fig. 2 is a detached perspective view of the jack hook which is a feature of the invention. Fig. 3 is a detached perspective view of a lever that is conjunctively used with the novel feature of the device; and Fig. 4 is a transverse sectional view of flooring and the improvement in position for service, taken in the direction of the arrow 4 in Fig. 1.

In the work of locating and attaching the boards forming a floor, wainscot or ceiling, it is necessary that after the first board such as A, is secured upon the supporting joists or like timbers, the other boards be successively forced into place, and nailed to the joists.

The novel implement that is shown in the drawings, and which is well adapted for the purpose of pressing boards together edgewise, mainly consists of a metal bar B which is preferably made rectangular in cross section, and is bent edgewise at *a*, so as to produce two members an arm, and a hook limb that diverge at an angle less than ninety degrees. One end portion of the hook-like bar B, is

furnished with a rectangular loop, that is produced by bending the material upwardly at a right angle at *b*, and again at *c*, to dispose it in a plane parallel with the flat surface of the bar composing the hook limb of the device, and at a proper distance from *c* bending the bar end portion downwardly as at *d*, so as to provide two parallel limbs for the loop which are integral with other parts of the dog-clamp as for convenience the device B, is termed.

The looped portion of the dog-clamp, is proportioned in width between its parallel limbs so as to allow this part to be slid over the upper edge portion of a joist such as C, or this timber may represent an upright stud if the boards are used to sheath the wall of a room as wainscoting.

It is essential for the effective use of the dog-clamp B, that its end *e*, be pointed and this limb curved edgewise slightly inward or toward the looped end, the angular divergence of the lateral arm and hook limb of the dog-clamp being of such a degree, as will project the hook limb having the pointed end sufficiently toward the vertical plane of the limb at the bend *b* to cause the point *e*, to have a loose contact with the side of a joist C, or like timber, when the looped portion of the dog clamp is located upon said joist.

There is a lever D provided, which may be formed of wood or metal, having its lower portion flat on one side and from which projects a hook or staple *g*, the latter being placed near the end of the lever that is lowermost in service.

To prepare for use the floor clamp that is composed of the lever and dog clamp, the staple or hook *g*, is slid upon the dog clamp and located on its lateral arm near the angular bend *a* as indicated in Fig. 1, the lever D being upwardly projected.

The operation of securing the boards upon joists or other like timber supports is as follows: The floor dog is placed with its lever nearly upright and the looped end portion of the dog clamp upon and loosely embracing the sides of the joist C, near the outer edge of the loose floor board A', that is loosely engaged by its opposite edge with the secured floor board that is next to it. This will locate the lever D, in contact with the free edge of

the floor board A' a short distance above the point where said lever is shackled to the dog clamp B. The pointed end *e* of the hook limb will thus be brought loosely into contact with the side of the joist, so that pressure on the hook member engaged by the lever will force the point of the hook into the joist and afford a temporarily secured abutment for the lower end of the lever, that when drawn or pressed at its upper end toward the flooring will force the tongued and grooved edges of the loose and fixed boards into close engagement. When the loose floor board A', has been forced into place, it may be secured by nails diagonally driven into it at its outer edge, as indicated at *h*, in Fig. 1, the nail shown having been previously entered at its point in a diagonal position ready for driving through the board into the joist.

It will be seen, that by the use of the floor jack herein-before described, one person may readily secure flooring, sheathing or ceiling boards in place, by holding the lever firmly after the loose board has been forced into place, with one hand, and using a proper tool to drive the nail, with the other hand.

When the force applied to the lever D is relaxed, the hook limb will be loosened, and the entire device may be shifted away from the edge of the board it has been forced against, and as the latter is supported on a plurality

of joists, the floor jack may be changed from one joist to another to secure the board thereto, or more than one operator may work together to affix the flooring, and each be supplied with the improvement to expedite the work.

It will be evident that the improved floor jack may be employed to place in position and facilitate the attachment of boards that are true on their edges but are not tongued and grooved, and also that several boards may be forced one against the other at their edges at one time if this is desired.

Having thus fully described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

The herein-described floor jack, consisting of a lever and a clamp having a U-shaped loop at one end, one leg of the said loop being extended outwardly, forming a lateral arm to which the lever is shackled near one of its ends, and a dog formed integrally with the lateral arm and joining at its base with the outer end of said arm, the dog being disposed at an acute angle to the lateral arm, the pointed terminal of the dog extending into the plane of the loop, substantially as described.

JOHN L. KOBLER.

Witnesses:

JOHN C. HOUG,  
W. H. WILSON.