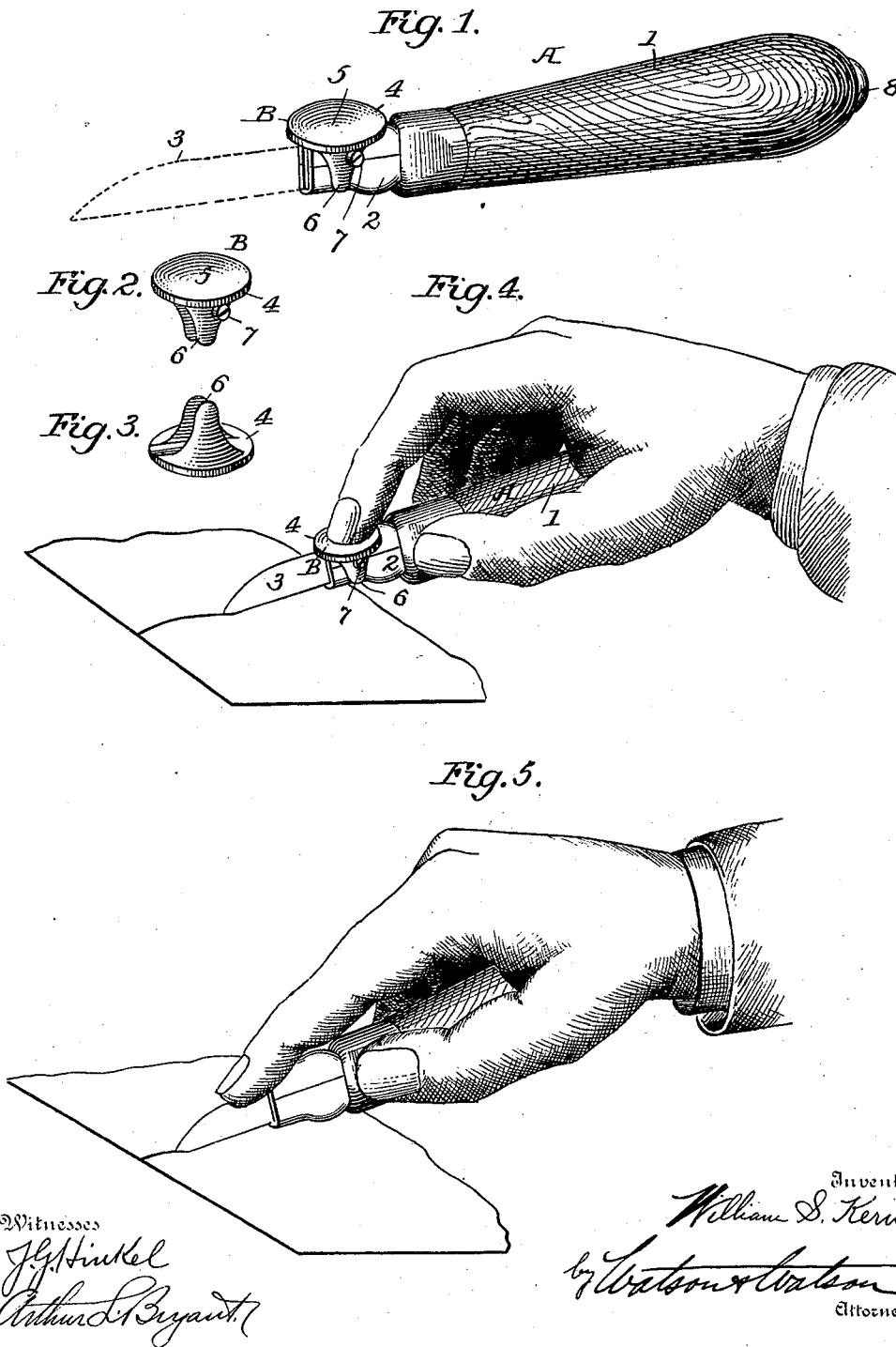


No. 649,059.

Patented May 8, 1900.

W. S. KERN.  
ATTACHMENT FOR KNIVES.  
(Application filed Feb. 3, 1900.)

(No Model.)



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM S. KERN, OF WILKES-BARRÉ, PENNSYLVANIA.

## ATTACHMENT FOR KNIVES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 649,059, dated May 8, 1900.

Application filed February 3, 1900. Serial No. 3,865. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM S. KERN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Wilkes-Barré, in the county of Luzerne and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Attachments for Knives, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an attachment for knives by means of which the hand of the operator is protected from injury and the cutting operation is facilitated. It is particularly adapted for use in connection with thin-bladed knives, such as are used in shops and factories for the purpose of cutting leather, cloth, &c., and popularly known as "cutters" knives. I shall therefore describe and illustrate my invention in connection with a knife of this description.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a knife with the finger-rest attached. Figs. 2 and 3 are upper and lower perspective views of the finger-rest. Fig. 4 is a similar view showing the manner of using the knife with the rest, and Fig. 5 is a similar view illustrating the manner in which the knife is ordinarily used.

Referring to Fig. 1 of the drawings, A indicates a knife of well-known form and very largely used for the purpose of cutting cloth, leather, &c. This knife consists of a handle 1, clamps 2, and a blade 3. (Indicated in dotted lines in said figure and in full lines in Figs. 4 and 5.) The clamps are tightened upon the blade by means of a screw 8 at the end of the handle. As the knife is well known and forms no part of my invention, further description of the knife itself is unnecessary. The blades used in knives of this kind have very thin edges, and it is customary in the use of the knife, particularly in cutting upon curves away from the operator, to place the forefinger upon the edge of the blade, as shown in Fig. 5, in order to secure the desired pressure and more perfect guidance of the blade. This results in continual cutting of the forefinger of the operator, and as the

pressure of said finger upon the blade cannot be very great it is necessary to grasp the handle more firmly than is desirable for the best results. For the purpose of cutting upon curves it is desirable to apply the pressure at the blade or at the forward end of the handle in order to permit the rear of the handle to swing around within the hand. If sufficient pressure cannot be applied at these points, then the handle must be grasped as before stated, and, as the knife and hand move together, the former can only be turned as far as the wrist-joint will permit. This is the situation as soon as the finger of the operator becomes sore. In order to overcome this difficulty, I arrange upon the clamps 2 a removable finger-rest B, having a circular top 4, hollowed out or dished toward the center, as shown at 5, and having a longitudinally-slotted shank 6 upon its under side. A set-screw 7 is arranged in one arm of the shank. The finger-rest is placed upon the clamp 2, as shown in Fig. 1, the clamp fitting within the slot and the head 4 resting upon the back of the clamp. The rest is secured in place by means of the set-screw 7. The set-screw prevents the rest from sliding upon the clamp, and the hollow or dished upper surface of the rest prevents the forefinger, which bears upon it, from slipping off. In practice the forefinger is placed upon the rest, as shown in Fig. 4, and the handle is supported by the remaining fingers, which extend beneath it. The forefinger gives the required pressure upon the knife-blade, and the handle need not, therefore, be grasped so tightly as where the finger-rest is not used. This permits the handle to be turned readily within the hand by the fingers which support it, and the cutting operation is thereby greatly facilitated, while at the same time the hand of the operator is protected from injury.

The rest may be applied to other forms of knives; but it is peculiarly adapted to use on knives of the kind described for the reasons mentioned.

Having described my invention, what I

claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

5 The combination with a knife having clamps for the blade extending forwardly of the handle, of a finger-rest having a slotted shank fitting over said clamps, said rest having a head, hollowed out or dished upon its upper surface and resting upon said clamps,

and means for securing said rest to the clamps, substantially as described. 10

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

WILLIAM S. KERN.

Witnesses:

JAMES COOL,  
S. R. SMITH.