

ENGINEERING INVENTIONS.

A car starter has been patented by Mr. Phillip Listeman, of Collinsville, Ill. An arm is pivoted approximately concentric with the car wheel, and on its axis this arm having a pawl or clutch arranged to engage the periphery of the wheel, with other novel features, making a device by which the weight of the car may be utilized in starting it.

A car coupling has been patented by Mr. J. Baptist Butts, of Philadelphia, Pa. The draw head has a full bell-shaped mouth, with aperture near the mouth to receive a coupling pin operated in a special manner, the coupling being adapted to couple with any other kind of coupling, whether higher or lower, being also readily operated from the top or sides of the cars, and calculated to couple them automatically.

A wedge for mining coal has been patented by Messrs. James O. Watson and Conrad A. Sipe, of Fairmont, West Va. It consists of a cylinder formed of two independent sections, each with a tapering groove, forming a central rectangular recess, in connection with a rectangular shaped wedge having a longitudinal threaded aperture, with other novel features, whereby the use of powder and other explosives may be done away with in breaking down coal.

MECHANICAL INVENTIONS.

A sawing and grinding machine has been patented by Mr. Thomas E. Goodwin, of Nashville, Tenn. It is a combination machine, consisting of a rectangular frame, with ways, standards, main shaft, fly wheel, treadle, grindstone, and saw, with other novel features, designed to be run either by hand or foot for use as a cross cut or rip saw or as a grinding machine.

A motor has been patented by Mr. Bartholomew McCabe, of Buffalo, N. Y. The object of this invention is to provide simple and efficient mechanism for converting reciprocating into rotary motion, in machines driven by treadles, as well as steam engines, a shaft with ratchet wheel and loose pulleys carrying pawls to engage the ratchet wheel, and cords or cables connected with reciprocating mechanism extending around the loose pulleys, with other novel features.

AGRICULTURAL INVENTIONS.

A hay loader has been patented by Mr. Adolf Lasack, of Oxford Junction, Iowa. It has shifting devices suspended within siderakes, in combination with crank shafts, connections, and gear wheels, whereby the hay is moved steadily and continuously up the elevator as rapidly as it is gathered by the rakes.

A mowing machine cutter has been patented by Mr. William T. Decker, of Lehigh Tannery, Pa. The cutter bar has a series of revoluble studs with eccentric edges, eccentric washers on the studs, the studs being secured in holes in the cutter bar at suitable distances for receiving the cutter sections, the latter having apertures and shoulders for engagement by the fasteners, making an effective device for securing the cutter sections.

MISCELLANEOUS INVENTIONS.

A child's tray has been patented by Mr. Thomas Cousins, of Norwalk, Conn. It is a combination of an upper with an under or subsidiary tray, wherein is a plate in a fixed and protected position, and provision is made to receive a drinking vessel, the under tray receiving anything that happens to be spilled.

A land scraper and leveler has been patented by Mr. Ernst Sell, of Canon City, Col. It is designed to be used in working ordinary roads, in grading roadbeds of railways, and in leveling lands for farming, the invention covering various novel features of construction and combination of parts, and the machine being simple, strong, and durable.

A strike sander for brick machines has been patented by Mr. Henry C. Hill, of Haverstraw, N. Y. Combined with the receiving table and the strike table is a sand trough, enabling the attendant to sand the strike without moving from his place or turning around, it also serving as a convenient receptacle for the strike when the attendant wishes to lay it down.

A combined door plate and letter slip alarm has been patented by Mr. Frederick Sanderson, of Chicago, Ill. It is a device applicable to any door, sounding an alarm at once on the deposit of the mail, and is also adapted to serve as a door plate, the invention covering certain peculiarities of the construction and arrangement.

A fireplace has been patented by Mr. Josiah T. Reaves, of Bently, Miss. This invention covers a protector of back plate and side plates hinged thereto, to protect the brick or stone work from injury from heat or by contact with the fuel or poker, and to improve the heating qualities by facing the fireplace with iron.

A can-filling machine has been patented by Mr. John B. Hodapp, of Mankato, Minn. It is for filling fruit, vegetable, and meat cans, automatically and evenly, pressing down the charge compactly, and delivering the filled cans to their reception table, the invention providing a novel construction and combination of parts in a machine for this purpose.

Shears form the subject of a patent issued to Mr. William E. Lant, of Lancaster, Pa. By this invention shears are made especially adapted for cutting button holes, there being a stop pin for limiting the motion of the shear blades and a gauge for regulating the distance of the button hole from the edge of the garment.

A washing machine has been patented by Mr. James C. McCandless, of Barnard, Mo. It has suspended semicircular rubbers, and when the machine is operated by means of its handle, these rubbers, though moving in opposite directions, have at the same time a rotary reciprocating motion, whereby the washing is speedily and effectively performed.

A hoisting and lowering apparatus has been patented by Mr. Augustus Ise, of Evanston, Wyoming Ter. It has a pulley block, a top pulley to run upon a horizontal line or rail, a central pulley, and two guide pulleys, with other novel features, being designed more especially for elevating and lowering goods, but also adapted for use as a fire escape or for transferring goods and persons from one place to another in a building.

Practical Chemist.

A young American gentleman, educated at some of the best institutions in France and Germany, is desirous of obtaining a permanent situation in some large manufacturing establishment in this country. He has been employed for the last three years in large works in Moscow, Russia, and is now temporarily engaged as the chemist in a large New England establishment. Fancy woolen and calico print manufacturers would find this party skilled in the production of new colors. His address may be had at the office of this paper.

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The charge for insertion under this head is One Dollar a line for each insertion; about eight words to a line. Advertisements must be received at publication office as early as Thursday morning to appear in next issue.

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Curtis Pressure Regulator and Steam Trap. See p. 45. If an invention has not been patented in the United States for more than one year, it may still be patented in Canada. Cost for Canadian patent, \$40. Various other foreign patents may also be obtained. For instructions address Munn & Co., SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN patent agency, 361 Broadway, New York.

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Mr. O. Frink, 234 Broadway, New York, publishes a neat little pamphlet describing the common forms of hernia or rupture, and explaining how all cases can be quickly cured by FRINK'S RUPTURE REMEDY. A copy will be mailed, in a plain, sealed envelope, to any address upon request.

Best Automatic Planer Knife Grinders, Pat. Face Plate Chuck Jaws. Am. Twist Drill Co., Laconia, N. H.

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Friction Clutch Pulleys. D. Frisbie & Co., N. Y. city.

Tight and Slack Barrel Machinery a specialty. John Greenwood & Co., Rochester, N. Y. See illus. adv., p. 28.

Catarrah Cured.

A clergyman, after years of suffering from that loathsome disease, catarrah, and vainly trying every known remedy, at last found a prescription which completely cured and saved him from death. Any sufferer from this dreadful disease sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Dr. Lawrence, 212 East 9th St., New York, will receive the recipe free of charge.

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Notes & Queries

HINTS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Names and Address must accompany all letters, or no attention will be paid thereto. This is for our information, and not for publication. References to former articles or answers should give date of paper and page or number of question. Inquiries not answered in reasonable time should be repeated; correspondents will bear in mind that some answers require not a little research, and, though we endeavor to reply to all, either by letter or in this department, each must take his turn. Special Written Information on matters of personal rather than general interest cannot be expected without remuneration. Scientific American Supplements referred to may be had at the office. Price 10 cents each. Books referred to promptly supplied on receipt of price. Minerals sent for examination should be distinctly marked or labeled.

(1) F. F. writes: I still fail in lacquering polished brass. It has a dull appearance after lacquering, not clear and bright, like the new gas fixtures we have from New York, etc. What is the cause? A. The dullness arises from the want of heat to melt the lacquer after the brush has gone over the piece. The heat should be raised by putting the piece back into the oven for a few minutes, and allow the heat to increase to above 212° or until the surface looks clear. The lacquer should not be too thick; it should be thinned down with 95 per cent alcohol to a semi-transparent or amber color as you look through it in the bottle. A steam coil is probably the best means of heating the work. A stove oven is good if it is large enough to hold the work. A few trials with thin lacquer and continuing the heat after lacquering will give you entire success. Muddy lacquer should not be used for metal.

(2) G. F. C.—You may polish brass pipe readily by hand. Use the finest flour of emery paper, with a little oil, until the surface comes to an even finish. Then rub with rotten stone and oil on a piece of soft leather, and finish with dry whiting and a rag. All parts must be clean and free from oil when ready for lacquering. Use thin shellac varnish; thin with 95 per cent alcohol, and let it stand a few hours to settle, when the pure lacquer may be poured off. Warm the brass work to the temperature of boiling water, and apply the lacquer with a camel's hair brush.

(3) W. F. H. writes: I am thinking of becoming an electrical engineer, but want some information and advice as to the opportunities in that line for a young man. A. The opportunities for a young man to acquire electrical engineering experience are as good as in most professional business. If you are not posted in electrical work, you will have to begin at the bottom and work up. Wishes do not make a profession. You will have to study hard and work harder to gain a paying position. There are many electricians and electrical supply establishments in the great city near which you live, where you may readily get with a little intelligent and persistent inquiry, acquire a knowledge of what is required and how to go to work, but first get books from your library or the Philadelphia libraries, and glean some information as to the general principles of electrical work. You will find much that is interesting in back numbers of SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT.

(4) J. M. E. writes: Say 1 pound weight will turn a sewing machine after it has been started, how heavy must a weight be, attached to necessary gearing, to run the sewing machine one hour and 6,000 revolutions, the weight having 30 inches fall? A. The descent in feet per minute of the weight required to move the machine at the required velocity should be multiplied by the whole time in minutes, and this product divided by the distance in feet of the required fall of the weight, for the answer as to the whole weight in pounds; to this must be added enough to overcome the friction of the necessary gearing. So that if it takes 1 pound descending 2 1/2 feet to maintain 100 revolutions per minute, then 2 1/2 feet x 60 = 60 pounds x 1 = 60 lbs. weight to run the machine 1 hour, to which must be added the weight to overcome friction of gear. In case the initial weight is more than 1 or a unit, the quotient should be multiplied by the initial weight.

(5) A. W. W. asks how flowers can be preserved in their natural colors. A. Dip the flowers in melted paraffine, withdrawing them quickly. The liquid should be only just hot enough to maintain its fluidity, and the flowers should be dipped one at a time, held by the stalks and moved about for an instant to get rid of air bubbles. Fresh cut flowers, free from moisture, make excellent specimens in this way.

(6) E. E. T. asks what size should an air pump be for a marine engine 5 x 5, with surface condenser. A. One-eighth the capacity of the steam cylinder, or 12 cubic inches.

(7) W. E. L. asks: Why is it that a steam whistle, when steam is first turned on, strikes the pitch an octave above its natural or fundamental note? A. This is not a general phenomenon of whistles. The eccentric pitch is due to the position of the valve and amount of water or air preceding the steam, or the wetting of the bell by the water first ejected.

(8) J. P. McL.—For drying hickory for mallets: Heat in a steam box until the sap is boiled out, then transfer to a dry room or box heated to nearly 200°, and allow to cool slowly.

(9) J. F. H. asks if old daguerreotypes that have faded can be restored. A. They cannot be fully restored, but they may be improved by flowing over them a weak solution of hyposulphite of soda or cyanide of potassium to clean them, afterward gilding them as described in the article on the subject on page 47, current volume of SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN.

(10) D. A. D. and S. H. ask for the recipe for a blackboard preparation. A. Take 1/2 gallon shellac varnish, 5 ounces lampblack, 3 ounces powdered iron ore or emery; if too thick, thin with alcohol. Give three coats of the composition, allowing each to dry before putting on the next; the first may be of shellac and lampblack alone.

(11) J. B. B. asks: 1. Is there any radical difference between an electric dynamo and a motor? A. There is generally no radical difference. A good dynamo generally is a good motor. 2. Would not any dynamo be converted into a motor by exciting the field magnets with an independent current? A. The terminal binding screws should receive the battery connection. Simply exciting the field magnets will not effect the result.

TO INVENTORS.

An experience of forty years, and the preparation of more than one hundred thousand applications for patents at home and abroad, enable us to understand the laws and practice on both continents, and to possess unequalled facilities for procuring patents everywhere. A synopsis of the patent laws of the United States and all foreign countries may be had on application, and persons contemplating the securing of patents, either at home or abroad, are invited to write to this office for prices, which are low, in accordance with the times and our extensive facilities for conducting the business. Address MUNN & CO., office SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, 361 Broadway, New York.

INDEX OF INVENTIONS

For which Letters Patent of the United States were Granted

January 25, 1887,

AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE.

[See note at end of list about copies of these patents.]

Alarm. See Clock alarm.	
Amalgams by electrolysis, manufacturing, A. S. Hickley.....	356,640
Ammonia from coal, process of and apparatus for obtaining, Young & Belby.....	356,610
Animal exterminator, J. B. Payne.....	356,498
Animal trap, Golding & Wright.....	356,635
Arch or beam, P. M. Bruner.....	356,708
Automatic brake, G. H. Poor.....	356,500
Awl, pegging, W. H. Shattuck.....	356,666
Axle lubricator, F. W. Wurster.....	356,519
Axle nut, adjustable, T. H. Donlon.....	356,710
Baling press, M. T. Brown.....	356,445
Baling press, G. S. Lay.....	356,481
Bandage and truss, combined suspensory, J. Paten.....	356,497
Bar. See Grate bar. Saddle bar.	
Bath. See Cabinet bath.	
Bath tub, portable, S. D. Freeman.....	356,562
Bearing, A. Bannatyne.....	356,521
Beer, transporting, Gunther & Fowler.....	356,714
Bell and burglar alarm, combined door, A. W. Thomas et al.....	356,606
Berth, self-leveling, B. F. Merrill.....	356,658
Blasting cap, J. R. France.....	356,712
Bicycles, combined oil can, wrench, and tool for, D. C. Wilgus.....	356,566
Bit. See Bridle bit.	
Board. See Ironing board.	
Boiler furnace, steam, J. Ashcroft.....	356,675
Bolt. See Chain bolt.	
Book, transfer, E. B. Hutchinson.....	356,715
Boot or shoe tip, W. H. Huntington.....	356,471
Boots (and shoes, machinery for making metallic shanks for, C. T. Stetson.....	356,735
Boots, machine for making metallic shanks for, C. T. Stetson.....	356,734
Box. See Fare box. Paper box.	
Brake. See Automatic brake. Car brake.	
Branding or marking animals, apparatus for, W. Ellinger.....	356,459
Brick kiln, W. E. & W. Hinchliff.....	356,536
Brick machines, device for securing tempering knives in pugging shafts of, J. H. Chambers.....	356,571
Brick machines, strike sander for, H. C. Hill.....	356,565
Bridle, M. Stapleton.....	356,608
Bridle bit, H. Pfander.....	356,646
Burial casket, G. S. Parker.....	356,690
Bustle and making same, R. Mongar.....	356,659
Button, collar, I. Steinauer.....	356,559
Button locating and shoe-fly cutting machine, T. E. Keavy.....	356,716 to 356,718
Cabinet bath, A. Pauly.....	356,545
Can. See Creaming can.	
Candies, toy confections, etc., manufacture of, W. E. Coleman.....	356,450
Car brake, A. L. Kirkland.....	356,589
Car brake, automatic, W. O. Cooke.....	356,622
Car coupling, J. B. Butts.....	356,569
Car coupling, R. C. Dobbs.....	356,686
Car coupling, I. N. Gillock.....	356,685
Car coupling, J. A. Richard.....	356,601
Car coupling, J. D. Ripson.....	356,663
Car coupling, M. M. Sanford.....	356,506
Car motor, tram, W. C. Carrick.....	356,570
Car, railway, W. D. Mann.....	356,653
Car starter, P. Listeman.....	356,598
Car starter and brake, J. C. Mitchell.....	356,491
Car, street, P. F. Milligan.....	356,489
Carriages, device for operating folding heads of, G. N. & W. Hooper.....	356,470
Cartridge belt, J. Nosworthy.....	356,493
Caster, trunk, J. Loos.....	356,493
Casting metallic articles, mould for, C. E. Stevens.....	356,609
Chain bolt, E. T. Schoonmaker.....	356,556
Chair. See Commode chair.	
Chuck, drill, C. L. Butler.....	356,616
Churn, C. C. Davis.....	356,625
Churn, A. F. Morey.....	356,604
Churn dashers, operating, I. W. Stuart.....	356,737
Cigar ash guard, S. S. Burr.....	356,615
Cigar lighter, pocket, C. W. Weiss.....	356,613
Clamp. See Cloth clamp.	
Clock alarm, electric, Smith & Jones.....	356,606
Cloth clamp for gilding machines, etc., A. S. Dimsmore.....	356,455
Clothes sprinkler, W. Bartholomew.....	356,440
Clothes wringer, H. C. Hopkins, Jr.....	356,641
Collars and cuffs, making, H. C. Curtis.....	356,624
Coloring matter from alpha diazo beta-naphthylamine sulphonic acid, red, Vollbrecht & Mengching.....	356,672
Colter, G. W. Minor et al.....	356,490
Comb. See Curry comb.	

Commode chair, F. U. Martin..... 356,654  
 Cotton gin, D. W. Gaskill..... 356,468  
 Coupling. See Car coupling.  
 Creamer, centrifugal, Hansen & Brunn..... 356,466  
 Creaming can, J. Turner..... 356,511  
 Cultivator, P. Frichette..... 356,631  
 Cultivator, S. Irwin, Jr..... 356,586  
 Cultivator, A. Robertson..... 356,504  
 Cultivator, Wainwright & Royall..... 356,608  
 Cultivator, W. A. Worden..... 356,674  
 Cultivator, wheel, C. C. Stover..... 356,560  
 Cultivator, wheeled, W. P. Brown..... 356,613  
 Curry comb, McPherson & Sweet..... 356,543  
 Cutter. See Mowing machine cutter. Tobacco cutter.  
 Dead centers, device for overcoming, S. T. Short-ess..... 356,558  
 Desk, writing, F. A. Coffin..... 356,449  
 Door lock, sliding, F. S. Mason..... 356,724  
 Door spring, W. Gillilan..... 356,638  
 Drill. See Rock drill.  
 Ejector, fluid, C. M. & C. E. Kemp..... 356,647  
 Electric cut-out, J. Fuchs..... 356,632  
 Electric machine, dynamo, S. H. Short..... 356,667  
 Electric motor, P. Diehl..... 356,576  
 Electrical elevator, N. P. Otis..... 356,496  
 Elevator. See Electrical elevator.  
 Elevator cages, automatic bell alarm for, Flaughler & Scott..... 356,461  
 Engine. See Gas engine.  
 Engine, P. F. Hubner..... 356,588  
 Envelope moistening instrument, H. Detamble..... 356,575  
 Extractor. See Staple extractor. Stump extractor.  
 Fare box, J. W. Greer..... 356,465  
 Feed regulator, boiler, B. H. Blood et al..... 356,676  
 Fence machine, J. M. Henley..... 356,534  
 Fence post, H. W. Wilson..... 356,517  
 Fences, machine for wiring picket, J. C. Haag..... 356,638  
 Fences, stay piece and guard for wire, S. F. Duncan..... 356,711  
 Fences, wire fastener for hedge, Leber & Neiman..... 356,721  
 Fiber, apparatus for separating vegetable from animal, Allen & Potter..... 356,611  
 Fifth wheel, S. T. Worley..... 356,701  
 Fire escape, S. A. Anderson..... 356,436  
 Fire escape, F. Landgraf..... 356,550  
 Fire escape, G. Larkin..... 356,591  
 Fish hook, H. C. Pennell..... 356,499  
 Fish hook, gang, A. Pfaff..... 356,661  
 Fish, machine for cutting, W. S. Moses..... 356,725  
 Floors, laying hollow concrete fireproof, P. M. Bruner..... 356,704  
 Folding table, S. S. Case..... 356,618  
 Frame. See Umbrella frame.  
 Fruit boxes, machine for making, B. Kemper..... 356,478  
 Fruit gatherer, C. E. Cook..... 356,451  
 Furnace. See Boiler furnace.  
 Gauge. See Micrometer gauge.  
 Galvanic cell, N. W. Perry..... 356,727  
 Garment supporter, H. A. Seymour..... 356,665  
 Gas compressor valves, buffer for, M. L. Mitchell..... 356,597  
 Gas engine, J. Charter..... 356,447  
 Gas, manufacturing, W. P. Lane..... 356,720  
 Gas, process of and apparatus for manufacturing, J. J. Johnston..... 356,587  
 Gas, process of and apparatus for manufacturing, heating, J. J. Johnston..... 356,477  
 Gas, process of and apparatus for manufacturing illuminating, J. J. Johnston..... 356,476  
 Gas regulator, S. R. Firth..... 356,634  
 Gate, G. W. McLain..... 356,632  
 Gate, E. B. Russell..... 356,602  
 Governor, J. E. Hugon..... 356,644  
 Grader wheels, speed attachment for road, W. L. Heller..... 356,584  
 Grate bar, C. Hoffmann..... 356,537  
 Guard. See Cigar ash guard.  
 Hairpins, machine for making, W. H. Jackson..... 356,539  
 Halter trimming, M. R. Dowlin..... 356,627  
 Hame fastener, metallic, J. H. D. Everett..... 356,628  
 Harness pad, A. A. Allen..... 356,435  
 Harness pad, W. R. Empey..... 356,683  
 Harness straps, die for cutting, F. B. Raymond..... 356,662  
 Harvester, X. H. Martinent..... 356,655  
 Harvesting machine, J. W. McAlister..... 356,456  
 Hat, A. B. Waring..... 356,673  
 Hay loader, A. Lasack..... 356,541  
 Hay rake, horse, Mast & Startzman..... 356,536  
 Heater. See Siphon pipe heater.  
 Heel nail, F. F. Raymond, 2d..... 356,549  
 Heel nail and using the same, F. F. Raymond, 2d..... 356,550  
 Heel nailing machine, F. F. Raymond, 2d..... 356,553, 356,554  
 Hoisting machine, O. Crosby..... 356,526  
 Holder. See Ladder holder. Necktie holder. Pen and pencil holder. Sleeve holder.  
 Hook. See Fish hook. Snap hook.  
 Hoop. See Wire hoop.  
 Hopper, W. R. Fee..... 356,561  
 Ice cream, apparatus for forming and dividing bombs or shells made of, S. Julien..... 356,588  
 Indicator. See Navigator's position indicator.  
 Injector, steam, J. Desmond..... 356,632  
 Inlaying, I. Chalifoux..... 356,523  
 Insulated ball joint, J. A. Bunnell..... 356,614  
 Iron. See Wagon wear iron.  
 Ironing board, J. G. Breckenridge..... 356,568  
 Ironing machine, G. L. Shorey..... 356,604  
 Jack. See Lifting jack.  
 Jars, cover fastening for fruit, W. Werts..... 356,565  
 Joint. See Insulated ball joint. Stovepipe joint.  
 Kiln. See Brick kiln.  
 Kitchen utensils known as cook's tongs, W. E. Melhorn..... 356,657  
 Knee protector, S. Rauh..... 356,502  
 Knife. See Table knife.  
 Ladder holder and scaffold bracket, combined, J. A. Dudley..... 356,457  
 Lamp, F. A. Lavercombe..... 356,480  
 Lamp for burning petroleum and light oils, L. Sepulchre..... 356,507  
 Lamps, insect catching attachment for, J. S. Zell..... 356,629  
 Lamps, supporting frame for electric, Fairbanks & Coughlin..... 356,580  
 Lantern, tubular, C. Bergener..... 356,442  
 Latch, J. Romig..... 356,636  
 Lathe, J. J. Brewis..... 356,478  
 Lathe, L. W. Spencer..... 356,509  
 Leather embossing machine, J. Boyle..... 356,477  
 Level, spirit, H. N. Jasper..... 356,445  
 Life preserver, C. Leduc..... 356,492  
 Lifting jack, J. S. Black..... 356,443  
 Lifting jack, S. E. Mosher..... 356,498  
 Lightning rod, C. H. Grimes..... 356,531  
 Line fastener, J. Loch..... 356,691  
 Lock. See Door lock.  
 Locomotive, electric, H. Erhardt..... 356,579  
 Locomotives, exhaust mechanism for, I. F. Wallace..... 356,562  
 Machine table, L. D. Howard..... 356,642  
 Match machine, L. Kittinger..... 356,719

Match making machine, C. Martin..... 356,485  
 Measure, scoop or spoon, H. Wettstein..... 356,514  
 Medicine, tonic pill, S. Loyd..... 356,728  
 Micrometer gauge, F. Mossberg..... 356,726  
 Mill. See Roller mill.  
 Mining coal, wedge for, Watson & Sipe..... 356,564  
 Mining machine, M. F. McNelly..... 356,488  
 Mining machine, S. B. Stine..... 356,693  
 Mirror, P. Wiederer..... 356,515  
 Motor. See Car motor. Electric motor.  
 Motor, B. McCabe..... 356,542  
 Mowing machine cutter, W. T. Decker..... 356,574  
 Music boxes, governor for, J. F. Brown..... 356,702  
 Musical instrument, mechanical, G. B. Kelly..... 356,630  
 Musical instrument, mechanical, R. W. Pain..... 356,599  
 Nail. See Nail nail.  
 Nail making, distributing, and driving device, F. F. Raymond, 2d..... 356,582  
 Nail plate feeder, D. Jones..... 356,646  
 Nail strip and forming nails, F. F. Raymond, 2d..... 356,581  
 Navigator's position indicator, H. O. Rittenhouse..... 356,503  
 Necktie holder, G. Gros..... 356,686  
 Necktie or cravat fastening, J. K. Cleary..... 356,680  
 Nozzle, F. Moore..... 356,598  
 Oil can stopper and spout, R. Dreyer..... 356,539  
 Organ, reed, J. W. Trainer..... 356,700  
 Pad. See Harness pad.  
 Paint, mixed, H. E. A. Saale..... 356,505  
 Panel, lathing, A. Sommer..... 356,738  
 Paper bags, machine for making, F. C. Belcher..... 356,441  
 Paper box, J. P. Buckingham..... 356,522  
 Paper filtering stones or tiles, machine for manufacturing, L. Snell..... 356,508  
 Pen and pencil holder, N. Clement..... 356,524  
 Pencil, addition, C. R. Thompson..... 356,561  
 Photographic cameras, adjustable plate holder for, E. B. Barker..... 356,567  
 Picket guide and support, J. C. Haag..... 356,687  
 Picture and print, transformation, Reid & Jameson..... 356,685  
 Pinchers, C. Morrill..... 356,492  
 Pipe welding machine, C. P. Higgins..... 356,468  
 Planing machine, wood, H. A. Lee..... 356,482  
 Plaque, F. M. Dammon..... 356,454  
 Plier, hair spring, T. Reeve, Jr..... 356,729  
 Plow, W. M. Brunson..... 356,705  
 Plow, J. W. Piver..... 356,458  
 Plow blades, manufacture of, C. M. French..... 356,530  
 Plow for cultivating corn or cotton, E. F. Castleberry..... 356,446  
 Pool rack and ball spotter, combined, G. Henkel (r)..... 10,801  
 Post. See Fence post.  
 Pot. See Tea pot.  
 Press. See Baling press.  
 Press, D. B. Cooke..... 356,681  
 Press, J. B. & O. B. Johnson..... 356,475  
 Printers' galleys, lock-up for, E. M. Grover..... 356,532  
 Protector, See Knee protector.  
 Pulley sheave, F. B. Torrey..... 356,670  
 Pump, steam, J. Uhri..... 356,671  
 Pyrotechnic package, C. B. Linton..... 356,611  
 Rack, G. H. Adams..... 356,520  
 Railway switch or other casting, W. Wharton, Jr..... 356,680  
 Railway switch plate, C. H. Twist..... 356,607  
 Railways, cross tie for cable, H. Martin..... 356,595  
 Rake. See Hay rake.  
 Regulator. See Boiler feed regulator. Gas regulator.  
 Retouching table, Dunham & Hoffman..... 356,577  
 Rice pounder, P. Rahm..... 356,501  
 Rock drill, J. C. Githens..... 356,464  
 Rod. See Lightning rod.  
 Roller mill, G. Cottrell..... 356,623  
 Roofs and other structures, means for use in the glazing of, J. D. Mackenzie..... 356,452  
 Saddle bar, L. Rolleston..... 356,664  
 Safes, vaults, etc., bolt work for the doors of, O. E. Pillard..... 356,547  
 Sand paper, utilizing refuse, D. Mathews..... 356,457  
 Sash weights, metal mould for, C. E. Stevens..... 356,736  
 Saw set, Flater & Davis..... 356,460  
 Saws, adjustable guide for band, C. Gall..... 356,462  
 Sawing and grinding machine, T. E. Goodwin..... 356,558  
 Scraper and leveler, land, E. Sell..... 356,557  
 Scraper, pot, J. T. Demarest..... 356,527  
 Screen. See Window screen.  
 Seeding machine, A. E. Ball..... 356,498  
 Semaphore, Cox & Black..... 356,573  
 Sewer, J. H. Clark..... 356,448  
 Sewing machine, C. Kohler..... 356,590  
 Sewing machines, attachment holder for, F. Egge..... 356,468  
 Sewing machines, buttonhole cording attachment for, J. S. Collins..... 356,621  
 Sewing machines, throat plate for, F. T. Strobeck..... 356,510  
 Siphon pipe heater, G. E. Dixon..... 356,456  
 Sleeve holder and finger guard, combined, S. C. Brown..... 356,479  
 Slide rest, F. R. Cross..... 356,709  
 Snap hook, J. Hickey..... 356,467  
 Soldering machine, J. F. Ross..... 356,730  
 Soldering machine, can-cap, J. G. Hodgson..... 356,469  
 Sower, broadcast seed, G. Stevenson..... 356,638  
 Spring. See Door spring. Vehicle spring.  
 Sprinkler. See Clothes sprinkler.  
 Square and gauge attachment for rules, T. G. F. Hall..... 356,533  
 Stamp, hand, L. K. Scotford..... 356,732  
 Stanchion, cattle, J. Priest..... 356,728  
 Staple extractor, F. Squier..... 356,697  
 Stenographer's practice sheet, W. L. Jenkins..... 356,474  
 Stopper. See Oil can stopper.  
 Stove, J. F. Hess et al..... 356,486  
 Stove hood, T. H. Landley..... 356,722  
 Stove, J. E. Courtright..... 356,708  
 Stovepipe joint and thimble lock, E. G. Cameron..... 356,706  
 Strainer, milk, P. S. Ryan..... 356,555  
 Strap. See Trunk strap.  
 Stump extractor, R. B. Montgomery..... 356,693  
 Supporter. See Garment supporter.  
 Suspender connection, F. B. Brown..... 356,444  
 Switch. See Railway switch.  
 Syringe, fountain, R. Parker..... 356,544  
 Table. See Folding table. Machine table. Retouching table.  
 Table knife, A. W. Cox..... 356,452, 356,453  
 Tack driver, F. Chase..... 356,420  
 Tack making machine, F. Chase..... 356,419  
 Tank. See Water closet flushing tank.  
 Tea pot, T. Loughran..... 356,484  
 Telephone, E. H. Johnson..... 356,688, 356,689  
 Telephone, mechanical, G. W. Lord..... 356,594  
 Tennis net, J. P. Helfenstein, Jr..... 356,639  
 Tobacco cutter, P. E. Shirk..... 356,603  
 Tongs, grapping, J. E. Ford..... 356,730  
 Toy, A. T. Rousseau..... 356,731  
 Traction wheel, H. W. Hyde..... 356,472  
 Trap. See Animal trap.  
 Tray, child's, T. Cousins..... 356,572  
 Truck, hand, W. C. James..... 356,473  
 Trunk strap, R. H. Douglas..... 356,628  
 Tub. See Bath tub.

Tug, hame, C. C. Bauder..... 356,612  
 Umbrella, etc., C. A. M. Kremer..... 356,479  
 Umbrella frame, J. Willis..... 356,516  
 Valve, electric, W. S. Johnson (r)..... 10,802  
 Valve gearing, N. W. Twiss..... 356,512  
 Valve, safety, Crosby & Meady..... 356,525  
 Vehicle, spring, E. H. Carpenter..... 356,617  
 Vehicle spring, E. B. Lake..... 356,649  
 Vehicle, two-wheeled, C. W. Noyes..... 356,494, 356,495  
 Velocipede, E. Redman..... 356,600  
 Ventilating wheel or fan, compound, J. E. Barney..... 356,439  
 Vessels, convertible anchor and freight hoisting apparatus for, T. Wilson..... 356,738  
 Vise, hand, S. Joel..... 356,540  
 Wagon wear iron, C. E. Hewitt..... 356,687  
 Wall paper or other fabric, Baer & Kraemer..... 356,437  
 Washing machine, S. H. Kerr..... 356,648  
 Water closet flushing tank, H. J. Frost..... 356,713  
 Wheel. See Fifth wheel. Traction wheel. Ventilating wheel.  
 Wheel, G. W. Howell..... 356,643  
 Windmill, L. M. Godfrey..... 356,634  
 Window screen, M. H. Walsh..... 356,563  
 Window shade fixture, J. F. Hickey..... 356,535  
 Wire hoop, J. C. Durling..... 356,578  
 Wringer. See Clothes wringer.

**DESIGNS.**  
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 Surplus by Ct. and Mass. standard, 5,349,870.36  
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