

ter of the wire fixes the fineness. No. 36 wire has a diameter of 5 mils, or 200 to the inch. Allowing for space, this would give a setting of 100 to 150 "threads to the inch." Your other queries are indefinitely put that they cannot be answered definitely. A coil once punctured is practically irreparable, except by rewinding. The current which can be used on a coil depends on the size of the primary wire. Counter E.M.F. helps to prevent too strong a current passing. You can allow, as just said, 150 turns of No. 36 wire to the inch. A foot square of tinfoil gives two square feet of surface. A coil made by an amateur giving a 2 inch spark shows good practice. Experience is very requisite in making large coils.

(6844) L. J. H. asks : 1. To what resistance should field magnets be wound to be in proportion to armature, or what resistance should armature have, to be in proportion to field? A. See answer to preceding query. 2. How much resistance in ohms has an armature wound with 1,500 feet of No. 26 wire? A. The resistance of that wire is about 61 ohms; on an armature it is one quarter this amount, because it is wound in parallel. When the armature is rotating, counter E.M.F. is generated, which produces an effect equivalent to resistance in its action on the current.

(6845) O. R. says : Can you inform me through SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN (in your Notes and Queries) in what manner I can stamp a name on to polished and crocused steel, by using rubberstamp? What acids I am to use. A. For etching brands and marks on polished steel surfaces, such as saws, knife blades, and tools, where there are many pieces to be done alike, procure a rubber stamp with the required design made so that the letters and figure that are to be bitten by the acid shall be depressed in the stamp. Have a plain border around the design, large enough to allow a little border of common putty to be laid around the edge of the stamped design to receive the acid. For ink, use resin, lard oil, turpentine and lampblack. To 1/4 pound of resin put 1 teaspoonful lard oil; melt, and stir in a tablespoonful of lampblack; thoroughly mix, and add enough turpentine to make it of the consistency of printer's ink when cold. Use this on the stamp in the same manner as when stamping with ink. When the plate is stamped, place a little border of common putty around and on the edge of the stamped ground. Then pour within the border enough acid mixture to cover the figure, and let it stand a few moments, according to the depth required, then pour the acid off. Rinse the surface with clean water; take off the putty border, and clean off the ink with the turpentine. Use care not to spill the acid over the polished part of the article. For the acid, use 1 part nitric acid, 1 part hydrochloric acid, to 10 parts water by measure. If the effervescence seems too active, add more water.

(6846) J. C. W. says : We have as great an evil here in the Johnson grass as the Russian thistle in the Northwest. I saw a notice published not long since that one of the great trunk railroads was trying to destroy the weeds and grass along its track with electricity. Was this a success? If so, about what current was used and how often applied? It seems that if the smallest sprig of root of the Johnson grass be left in the ground, it will grow and multiply faster than microbes. As yet all our efforts to destroy it seem but cultivation. If electricity will kill it in any practical method of application, about what current would be necessary? About what would the dynamo to give such a current weigh, and about what would it cost? How many revolutions per minute would be required to give such current? A. Answer by the Assistant Botanist United States Department of Agriculture: Johnson grass is propagated largely by its perennial roots, and the chief difficulty in eradicating it is in killing those roots. The roots are killed by direct exposure to frost or to the drying effect of the sun; therefore, repeated plowing during the summer drought or during open winters will effect their destruction. This method can best be applied to sandy soils. Close grazing by sheep will weaken the Johnson grass, so that it can the more easily be destroyed by cultivation. Heavy seeding with cow peas will also choke it out to a considerable extent. Small patches may be economically destroyed by the application of carbolic acid. If the Johnson grass has become well established over a considerable area of heavy clay land, and makes sufficient growth to produce good hay crops, the most economical method is to use the land as a permanent meadow, cutting one or two crops of grass each year, and top dressing and harrowing about once in two years. [We doubt the possibility of getting satisfactory results by the application of electricity.—ED.]

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INDEX OF INVENTIONS

For which Letters Patent of the United States were Granted

April 28, 1896,

AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE.

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

Accumulating brake, P. Otto.....	559,198
Addressing machine, J. S. Duncan.....	559,036
Adjustable table, I. F. Brown.....	559,162
Advertising device, street railway car, A. C. Morrison.....	559,104
Animal bit, W. B. Benson.....	559,319
Autobarp, G. B. Durkee.....	559,124
Automatic sprinkler, C. O. Yale.....	559,346
Axle box, G. M. Kornode.....	558,963
Axes, eccentric mounting for electric vehicle, E. W. G. C. Hoffmann.....	558,975
Axes, manufacture of railway car, P. Weber.....	559,239
Axes, means for automatically lubricating vehicle, W. W. Souther.....	559,076
Bakelite, see Paper bag.....	559,141
Bar machine compartment, Lorenz & Honiss.....	559,202
Bat tie, W. B. Scoville.....	559,202
Balot box, R. L. Jones.....	559,198
Basin fixture, wash, C. H. Moore.....	559,198
Basket, C. J. Ast.....	559,250
Beam clamp, adjustable, A. B. Carl.....	559,025
Bed support, A. J. Robinson.....	559,198
Bedstead attachment, Maurermaier & Wunderlich.....	559,169
Belt pin, G. P. Farmer.....	559,005
Bench drill and lathe, combined self feeding, J. B. Taylor.....	559,005
Bicycle, L. Julig.....	559,102
Bicycle, C. O. E. Mathern.....	559,293
Bicycle frame, R. M. Keating.....	559,175
Bicycle pedal toe oil, Stone & Hanna.....	558,381
Bicycle stand, O. Seely.....	559,312
Bicycles, mud and dirt protector and screen for, J. H. Fletcher et al.....	559,083
Billard cut locking device and rack, A. Nelson.....	559,193
Blower, See Animal bit, W. C. Cox.....	559,075
Blowing engine, Good & Marichal.....	559,084
Boiler, See Electric boiler.....	559,084
Boiler furnace, T. Laney.....	558,367
Boiler tube ferrule, F. Hohfelder.....	558,355
Bookcase, revolving, B. Brower.....	559,161
Book, manifold memorandum, W. W. O'Hara.....	559,145
Book, memorandum, J. H. Dickson.....	559,123
Boot or shoe toe cap, A. Seaver.....	559,311
Boots or shoes, apparatus for heating or pressing out webs about toes of, J. F. Ames.....	559,115
Bottle labeling machine, F. C. H. Strasburger.....	559,002
Bottle stopper, T. W. Howson.....	559,079
Bottle stopper, O. H. Nienaber.....	559,195
Box, See Axe box, Balot box, Music box.....	559,195
Box, See Axe box, Balot box, Music box.....	559,195
Bracket, See Curtain roll bracket.....	559,195
Brake, See Accumulating brake, Car brake, Wagon brake.....	559,195
Brake beam, F. L. Lamkey.....	558,965
Brake block, L. C. Lambert.....	559,234
Brick machine, A. E. Bigelow.....	559,094
Bridge, T. C. H. Falls.....	559,210
Bruckle and hook, combined back band, J. W. Cronan.....	559,027
Burner, See Gas burner, Lamp burner, Stove burner.....	559,195
Button, detachable cuff, W. H. Glines.....	559,077
Caisson and constructing same, F. Baldwin.....	559,116
Calendar pad, memorandum, R. Spurgin.....	559,315
Camera, panoramic, H. G. Wood.....	559,246
Car brake mechanism, J. W. Rice.....	558,344
Car brake, safety, W. F. Condon.....	559,121
Car, combined freight and dumping, H. J. Schmick.....	559,222
Car coupling, H. L. Boyer.....	559,095
Car coupling, H. C. Bubou.....	559,322
Car coupling, J. Timms.....	559,005
Car coupling, Van Dorn & Seaman.....	559,283
Car fender, P. Dunwald.....	559,269
Car fender, S. A. Politsky.....	559,082
Car fender, J. J. Renahan.....	559,084
Car fender, R. Wilkinson.....	559,029
Car fender, street, C. A. Hallqvist.....	559,047
Car fender, street, C. E. Wingate.....	559,047
Car fender, folding, C. O. Hood.....	559,022
Carburetor, Fair & Avery.....	559,051
Card pocket case, playing, W. F. Howard.....	559,135
Carding engine, doffer comb, R. W. Wilson & McDonald.....	559,285
Carding machine, stop web mechanism, Bradbury & Cart, spreading, R. Stone.....	559,222
Carving machine, G. W. Hodges.....	559,051
Case, See Bookcase, Bottle packing case, Card pocket case, Glove case, Show case.....	559,051
Cash and parcel carrier, L. G. Bostedo.....	559,394
Caster, Johnson & Adcock.....	559,320
Castings, process of and apparatus for manufacturing steel, F. W. Hawkins.....	558,947
Centrifugal machine, A. Heberer.....	559,050
Chair, See Invalid chair.....	559,050
Check and shade holder, J. B. Newman (reissue).....	11,535
Checks, advice and safety attachment for bank, M. Feintuch.....	559,099
Chlorophyllin and preparing it, E. Fischer.....	559,247
Circuit breaker, M. J. Griffith.....	559,280
Clamp, See Beam clamp, Floor and ceiling clamp.....	559,195
Cliping machine, J. A. Milliken.....	558,070
Clipper regulator, Woodrum & McCabe.....	559,170
Clothes drier, C. Fowler.....	559,057
Clothes stick, W. J. Coskley.....	559,103
Clothes stuffer, thrashers, etc., feeder for, O. Creagan.....	559,095
Clutch, E. Carleton.....	559,261
Clutch, electrically controlled, F. A. Weller.....	559,240
Clutch, friction, A. C. Rice.....	559,094
Coal crusher, Evans & Morgan.....	559,272
Coal hole cover, safety, H. M. Carpenter.....	559,184
Cocks, etc., fastening and stop for gas, J. A. Hamilton.....	559,173
Coffee, tea, etc., apparatus for obtaining infusions of, K. Mezger.....	559,339
Coil cases, manufacture of, R. L. Chope.....	559,263
Collar, horse, H. Clarke.....	559,072
Collar point turning machine, A. E. Grant.....	559,272
Commode, W. H. Stoltz.....	559,109
Compass, draw hinging, J. W. Kaiser.....	559,177
Cooker, steam, G. A. Griffith.....	559,183
Cooker, steam, J. W. Lee, Jr.....	559,157
Cooking elevating system, pneumatic, I. T. Washburne.....	559,237
Couch, R. V. Wicks.....	559,042
Coupling, See Car coupling.....	559,042
Create or kill apparatus for pasteurizing and cooling, C. B. Petersen.....	559,185
Crown for bridge work, detachable porcelain, W. L. Mason.....	559,180
Crusher, See Coal crusher.....	559,185
Cultivator, wheel, W. S. Sobe.....	559,095
Curtain fixture, W. H. Kruckman.....	559,103
Curtain roll bracket, adjustable, R. T. Green.....	559,103
Cycle, elevated track, W. H. Martin.....	559,330
Desk top, adjustable, F. W. Hill.....	559,330
Detachable holder, A. W. Rothschild.....	559,310
Dish cleaner, T. E. Jones.....	559,061
Door check, liquid, G. W. Wright.....	559,156
Dough moustering machine, J. W. Ruzer.....	559,087
Dough twisting machine, N. E. Drake.....	559,223
Draught equalizer, C. P. Houtman.....	559,286
Drawing instrument, L. Picard.....	559,041
Dredging machine, W. T. Uri.....	559,154
Drier, See Clothes drier, Grain drier.....	559,154
Dome, See Bell jar.....	559,154
Dowbar attachment, A. D. Stentiford.....	559,228
Dowbar, See Bell jar.....	559,228
Drawing instrument, L. Picard.....	559,041
Dressing machine, W. T. Uri.....	559,154
Duster, See Clothes drier, Grain drier.....	559,154
Elevator, shafts, device for operating vertically sliding doors of, Liddell & Dashields, Jr.....	559,180
Endoscopic instrument, J. W. Daily.....	559,122
Engine, See Blowing engine, Gas engine, Tractor engine.....	559,122
Exercising apparatus, G. C. Edwards.....	559,270
Glasses, M. Bergsjo.....	559,320
Fare register, Boyd & Gierding.....	559,321
Fastener, string, C. C. Pine.....	559,114
Feeding device, H. C. Warren.....	559,012
Felt water regulator for steam boilers, automatic, D. Almy.....	559,157
Fence stay, L. J. Woolsey.....	559,049
Fence wire stay, J. E. Jones.....	559,114
Fence wire stay, A. Sloan.....	559,049
Fender, See Car fender.....	559,226
Fiber machine for preparing vegetable, T. Villamor.....	559,009
Filter, J. A. Bowden.....	559,096
Filter, A. H. Wright.....	559,249
Finishing machine, G. H. Derby.....	559,186
Fire escape, Percival & Astley.....	559,264
Fire extinguisher, W. R. Johnston.....	559,081
Fireproof floor construction, C. F. T. Kandeler.....	559,167
Flag or banner attachment, M. Ernst.....	559,052
Floor and ceiling clamp, M. K. Bennett.....	559,265
Fluid compressor, rotary, I. T. Dyer.....	559,184
Fog dispersing apparatus, F. Frey.....	559,040
Foundation timbers from rot means for protecting, L. Nerreter.....	559,194
Frying pan, Z. T. Hall.....	559,172
Furnace, See Boiler furnace.....	559,172
Garbage, etc., apparatus for cremating, O. D. McClellan.....	558,975 to 558,977
Garbage, etc., apparatus for treating, O. D. McClellan.....	559,324
Garlic, means for automatically lubricating vegetable, W. W. Souther.....	559,076
Gas, apparatus for manufacturing, Hoyt & Speer.....	559,287
Gas engine, E. P. Parsons.....	559,201
Gasoline, J. M. Worth.....	559,072
Gate tie, W. B. Scoville.....	559,202
Gate, See Car gate, Safety gate, Swing gate.....	559,072
Ballot box, R. L. Jones.....	559,192
Basin fixture, wash, C. H. Moore.....	559,198
Basket, C. J. Ast.....	559,250

Glove case, Vess & Kennedy.....	559,098