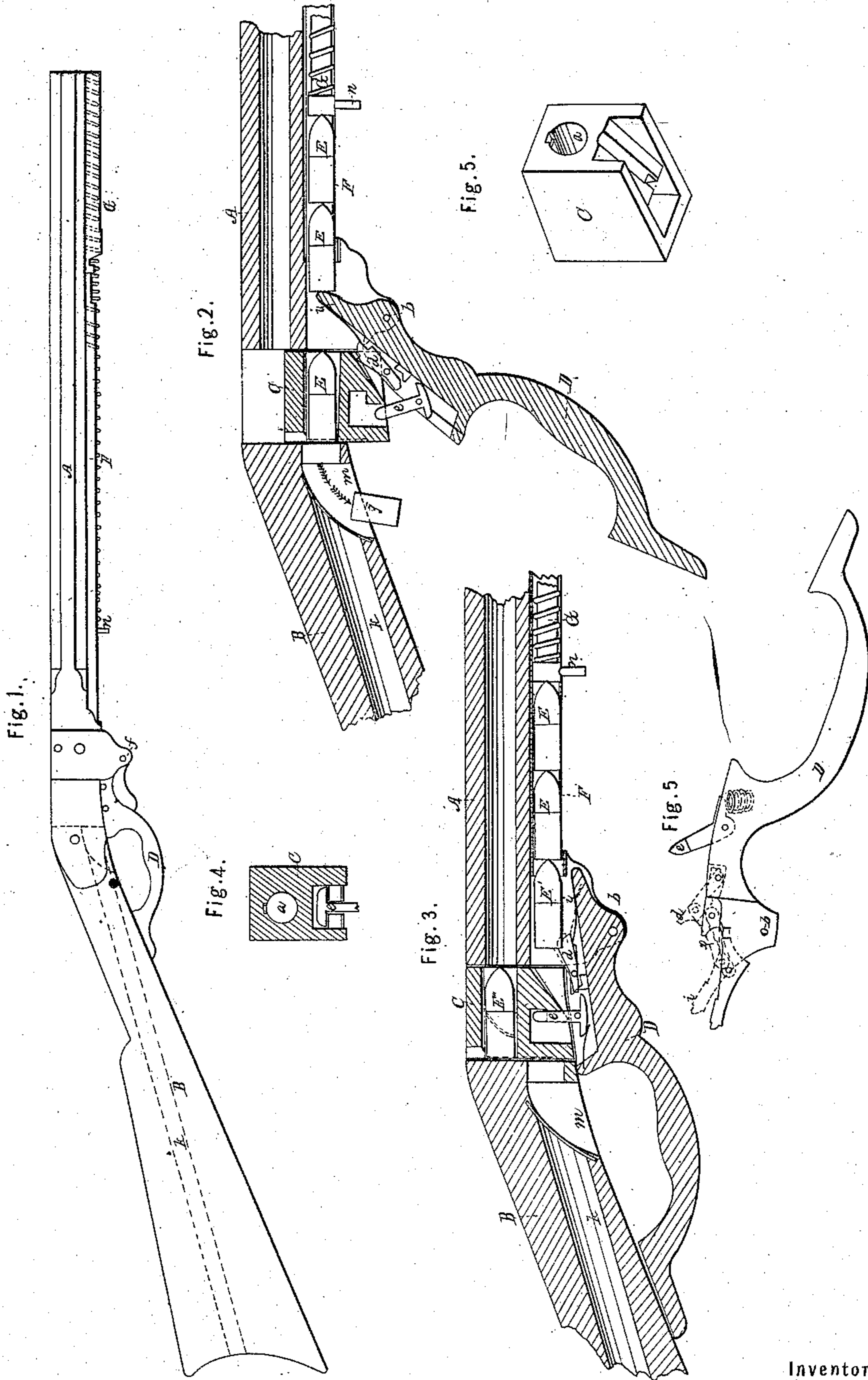


W. H. RICE.
SELF LOADING FIREARM.

No. 38,604.

Patented May 19, 1863.



Witnesses:

R. A. Phelps
Jermy W. Sigs

Inventor:

Wayne H. Rice

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WAYNE H. RICE, OF WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT.

IMPROVEMENT IN SELF-LOADING FIRE-ARM.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 38,604, dated May 19, 1863.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WAYNE H. RICE, of Windsor, county of Hartford, and State of Connecticut, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Fire-Arms; and I do hereby declare that the same is described and represented in the following specification and drawings, so as to enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same. I will therefore proceed to describe its construction and operation, referring to the drawings, in which the same letters indicate like parts in each of the figures.

This improvement relates to the mode of supplying fixed ammunition from the magazine into the slide-chamber by depressing and elevating said slide-chamber into line with the bore of the barrel, and of disposing of the cartridge-shell after the charge is fired therefrom.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a side view. Fig. 2 is a sectional side elevation, with the trigger-guard and slide-chamber dropped down, so as to receive its charge from the magazine. Fig. 3 is a sectional elevation, showing the slide-chamber brought up into line with the bore of the barrel by means of the trigger-guard D.

A is the barrel of the arm. B is the stock. C is the chambered slide. D is the lever trigger-guard. E is the fixed ammunition. F is the magazine for holding the fixed ammunition, and is arranged on the under side of the barrel. G is a spring-follower, for moving the ammunition in the magazine toward the slide-chamber.

a is the chamber in the slide C, and has a spring or other detent to act as friction or holder upon the cartridge to hold it in place in such cases as when it (the charge) enters the chamber *a* loosely.

The trigger-guard D is hung on a pivot, *b*, and has arranged on its upper edge a detent, *d*, to hold back the cartridge E' while the cartridge E'' is being discharged from the gun. It is also provided with a spring-dog, *e*, (its shape will be fully understood from the side and edge view in Figs. 3 and 4,) the use of which is to draw down the slide C to its proper position for receiving its charge from the magazine, at which point it unhooks itself from

the slide C, while the guard D is still moved further down, so that the extended end *i* of the lever-guard will enter between the first and second cartridges, E'' and E', in the magazine, and force the first one, E'', into the chamber *a* of the slide C, and at the same time expel the exploded shell *j* (when remaining in the said chamber *a*) either into the chamber *k* of the stock, or through the opening *m* in the under side of the stock, just back of the slide C.

Fig. 5 shows a modified view of the detent *d* and the extended end *i* of the lever-guard D, in which the extended portion *i* of the lever-guard D is jointed to the lever, the same as the detent *e*, and a uniformity of action is produced between the two (the arm *i* and the detent *e*) by a connecting-link, *x*, which causes the two to work together, thereby dispensing with the use of a spring.

I propose to use the common lock now in use, and therefore have omitted to describe or show one in this case. I have described the arrangement and the mode of its operation without describing in detail its shape and proportions, because these may be changed without changing either its arrangement or operation.

In using this arm I first compress the spring-follower G into its chamber at G' by means of the pin *n*, and secure it in that position by turning it into a notch provided therefor; then insert the charges or fixed ammunition; then unfasten the spring-follower and allow it to bear against the charges. Then the arm is ready to be discharged. By first dropping the trigger-guard lever D into the position shown at Fig. 2 and the dog *e* becomes detached from the slide C, when the chamber thereof is just in line with the magazine and continues its motion, while the extended end *i* of the guard-lever enters between the first and second cartridges, E'' and E', and forces the first into the chamber *a* of the slide C. Then by returning the guard-lever back to its place the detent *d* crowds back the charges in the magazine, and the dog *e* snaps into the catch of the slide, in readiness for a repetition of the loading operation, when the charge E'', Fig. 3, is fired from the gun.

I have endeavored to describe the construc-

tion and operation of my improvement so as to enable a person skilled to make the same therefrom.

I do not claim the cartridge-magazine beneath the barrel, or the self-loading sliding breech operated by the trigger-guard lever.

What I claim, therefore, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The arrangement or combination of the lever-guard D, with its extended arm *i*, detent *d*, dog *e*, with the slide C, substantially in the manner as and for the purpose described.

WAYNE H. RICE. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

R. H. PHELPS,
JEREMY W. BLISS.