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Wm. T. Snedden's Needle Gun.

PATENTED JUN 27 1871

Fig. 1 Side View.

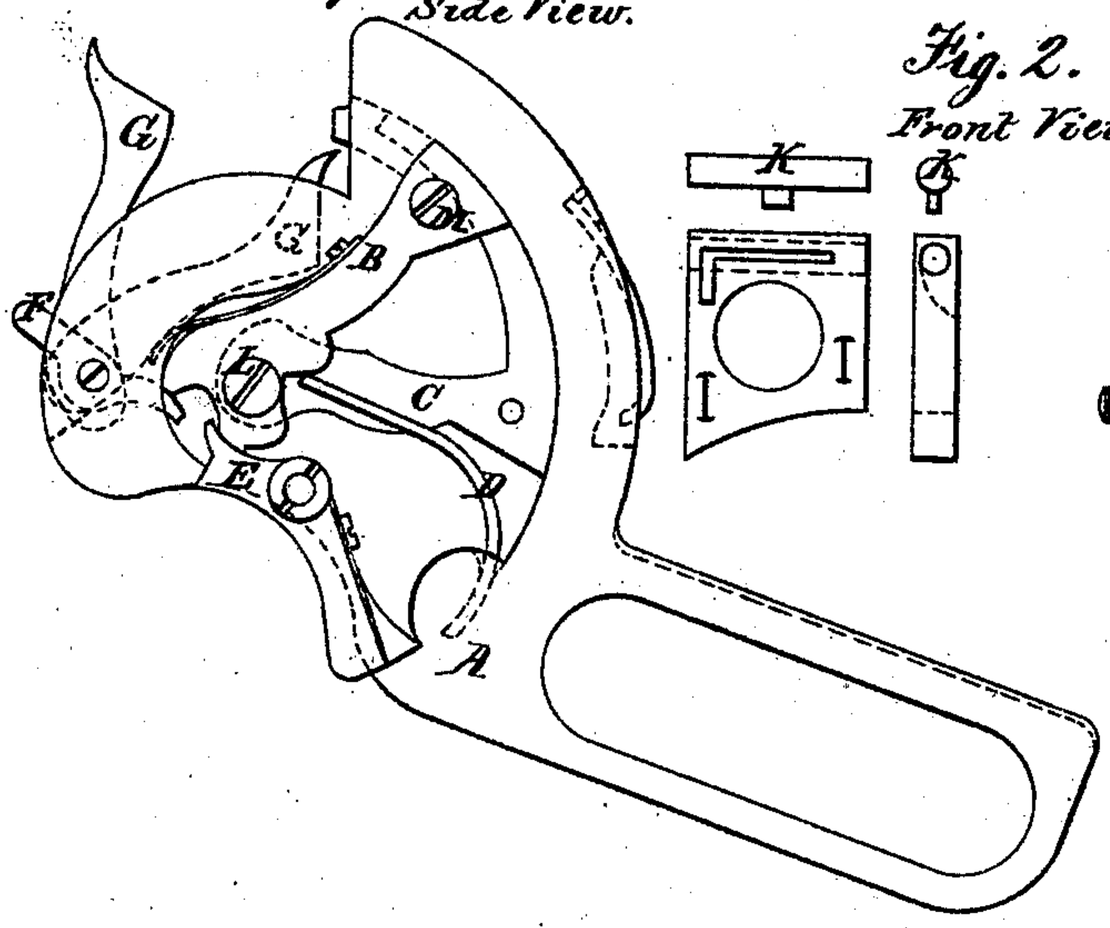


Fig. 2. Front View

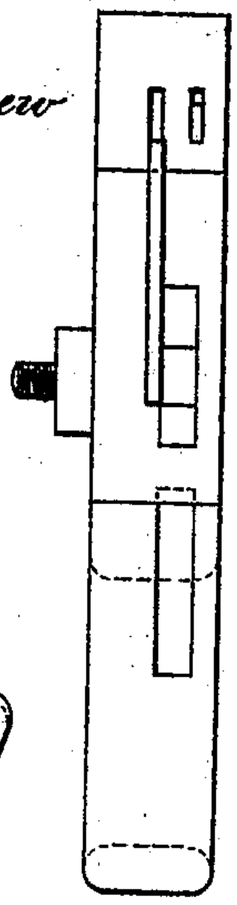


Fig. 4.

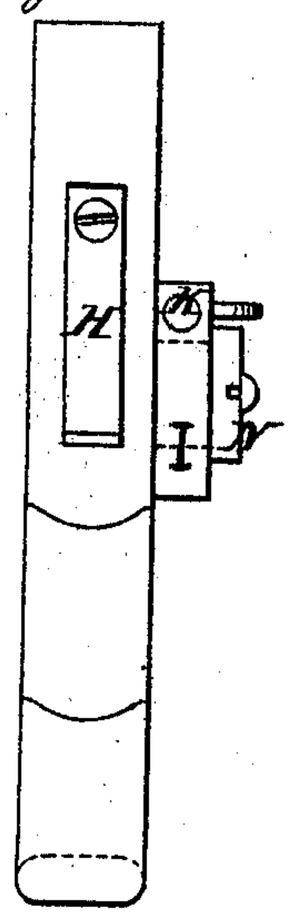
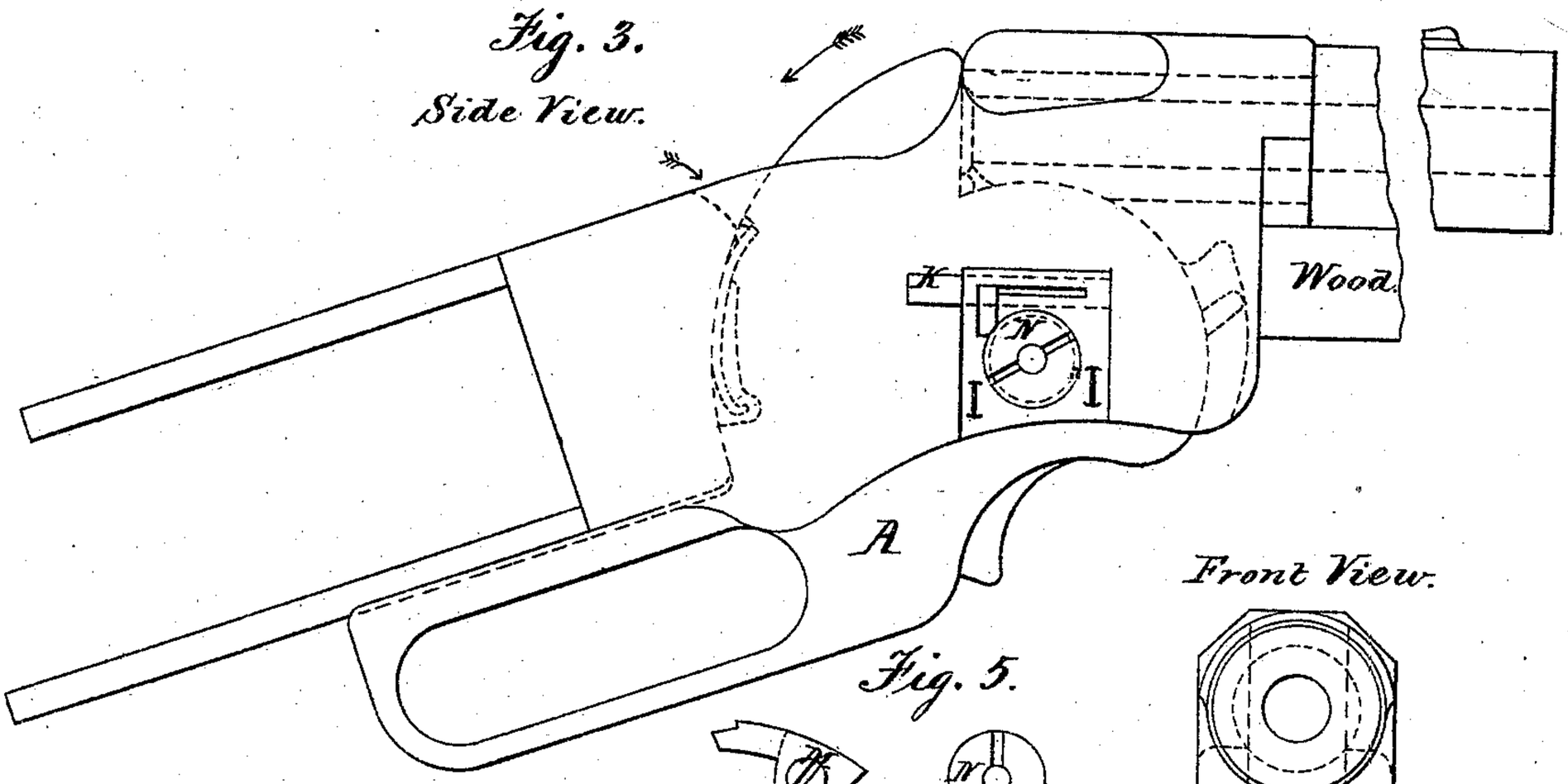


Fig. 3. Side View.



Front View.

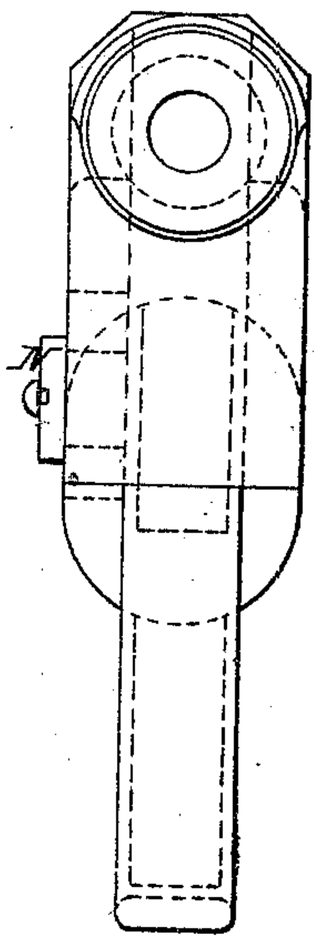
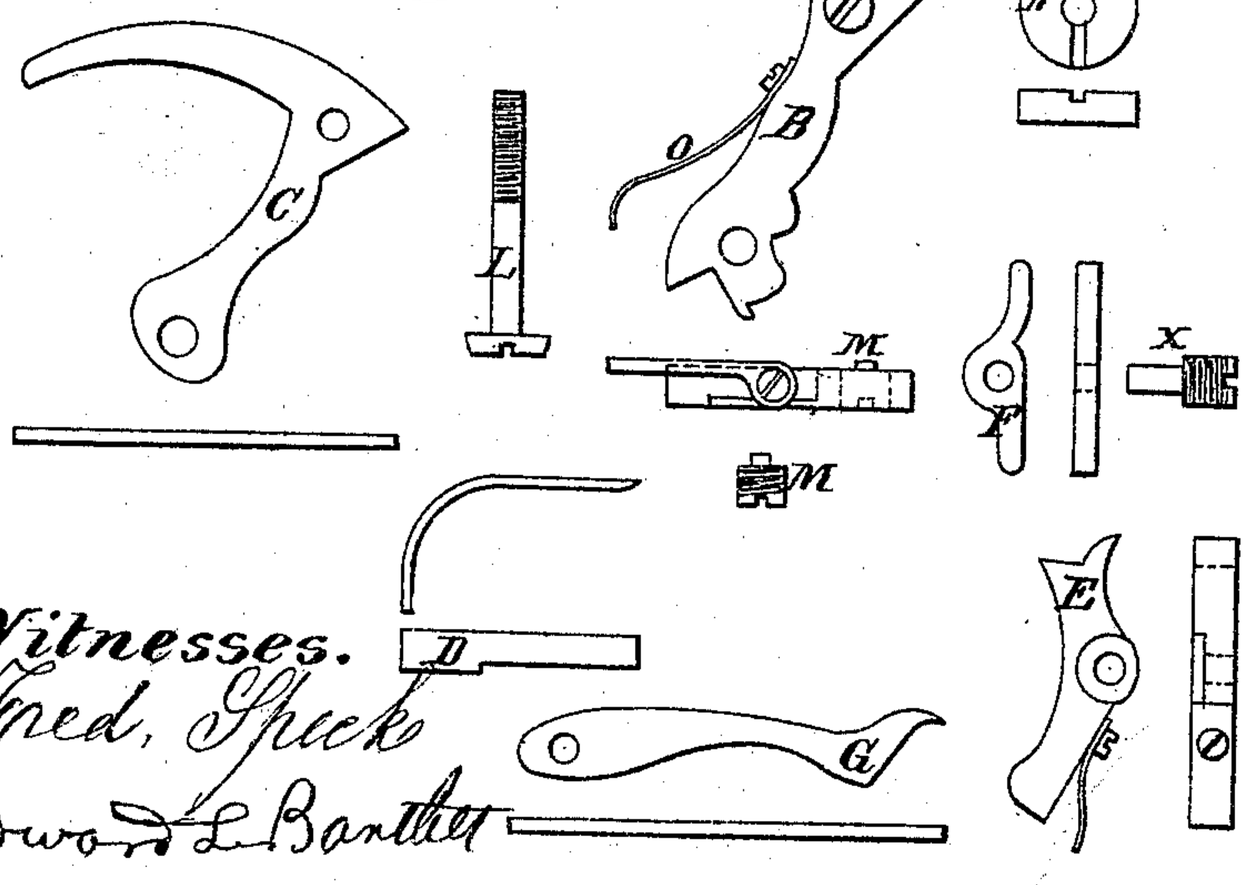


Fig. 5.



Witnesses.

Fred. Speck

Edward L. Bartlett

Inventor:

Wm T. Snedden.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM TAIT SNEDDEN, OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN BREECH-LOADING FIRE-ARMS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 116,364, dated June 27, 1871.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM TAIT SNEDDEN, of Johnstown, in the county of Cambria and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain Improvements in Needle-Guns and Breech-Loading Fire-Arms, of which the following is a specification:

My invention relates to the combination and arrangement of a hammer, knife, springs, trigger, pawl, retractor, and other apparatus hereafter more minutely described, within a breech-block of different form from any now in use, with an external metallic block and a spring in the periphery, the whole being made part of and connected with a gun-stock and gun-barrel of common form, for the purpose of firing a metallic or paper cartridge; the object being to simplify the parts and arrangement of the firing apparatus, and also to make the breech-block readily removable from the weapon.

Figure 1 is a side view of breech-block, exposing external machinery. Fig. 2 is a front view of the breech-block, showing the retractor and cocking-pawl. Fig. 3 is a view of the other side of breech-block, being the external part, showing external metallic block. Fig. 4 is a rear view of breech-block, showing friction-spring in its periphery. Fig. 5 is side and front view of stock or breech-frame, showing interior of the same as fitted for and used in combination with breech block.

A in Fig. 1 is the rotary or vibratory breech-block, which is placed within a mortise in the breech-frame, and is held in position by the block I and its interior bolt K. B is the hammer for exploding metallic cartridges, and is attached to the breech-block A by means of a screw, L, passing through said breech-block and re-appearing at N, which screw L is the common center of said hammer and knife C. C is a knife or needle, used for exploding paper cartridges by striking a priming in the rear of the ball. It is attached to the breech-block A by screw L, is independent of the spring D, and is carried backward and forward by means of a small screw, M, passing through the hammer B, which gives to it its motion. When not firing paper cartridges this knife C is detached by turning the screw M sufficiently to disengage said knife from the hammer. D is a spring bearing upon the base of the hammer B at one end, fitted against the rear of the breech-block at the other end, and held in position by a shoulder upon said breech-block. E is a trigger of common form. F is a cocking-pawl swinging upon a screw, X, one end of said pawl bearing upon the hammer, and the other projecting beyond the breech-block into a cavity within the breech-frame. Upon tilting the breech-block said cocking-pawl comes in contact with the breech-frame, and by bearing upon the hammer B cocks the same. G is a retractor for expelling the exploded metallic cartridge, operated by a spring, O, fitted upon the front edge of the hammer and pressing the retractor upward, which retractor engages the metallic cartridge, and, tilting the breech-block, withdraws the same. H in Fig. 4 is a friction-spring in the periphery of rear of breech-block, serving to hold the breech-block in position previous to firing or when carrying the weapon. I in Fig. 3 is a metallic block attached to the exterior of breech-block A at its center, and held in position by screw and nut N, (see Figs. 3 and 4,) for the purpose of holding the breech-block in position in such way as to allow it to swing within the frame. Within said metallic block I is a sliding bolt, K, Fig. 3, which holds the metallic block I in its place and allows the ready removal of the breech-block from the breech-frame.

In use of the weapon the breech-block A is tilted by throwing forward the handle, which is an extension of said block. This movement opens the breech, cocking the hammer B, and at the same time withdraws the exploded cartridge. The paper or metallic cartridge is inserted within the breech of the gun-barrel. The breech-block is then drawn back into position by the handle, and is held by the hand, the weapon being ready for firing. Upon pulling the trigger E the hammer B or knife C is released and thrown forward by spring D and the cartridge is exploded.

I claim as my invention—

1. The combination and relative arrangement of the operative parts herein shown and described, whereby the lock mechanism as well as cartridge-retractor are inclosed within the oscillating breech-block, as specified.

2. The metallic block I and sliding bolt K, in combination with the breech-block, for the pur-

pose of holding said breech-block in position within the frame and making the same readily removable, as set forth.

3. The combination and arrangement of the cocking-pawl F with the hammer B, the spring O, and retractor G, operating within the breech-block and breech-frame for the purpose of cocking the hammer and withdrawing the exploded shell by means of a vibratory motion of the breech block, as before described.

4. The combination of screw M with the hammer B and knife C, for the purpose of carrying the knife C backward and forward to explode paper cartridge.

WILLIAM TAIT SNEDDEN.

Witnesses:
CYRUS ELDER,
G. A. KNABLE.