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**Laurie**

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(54) **RETRACTABLE STAPLE REMOVER JAWS UTILIZING STAPLER MACHINE AS LEVER HANDLES**

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**Related U.S. Application Data**

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(60) Provisional application No. 60/111,970, filed on Dec. 11, 1998.

(51) **Int. Cl.**<sup>7</sup> ..... **B25C 11/00**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **227/63; 227/134**

(58) **Field of Search** ..... **227/63, 134, 76, 227/120, 121; 254/28; 7/160**

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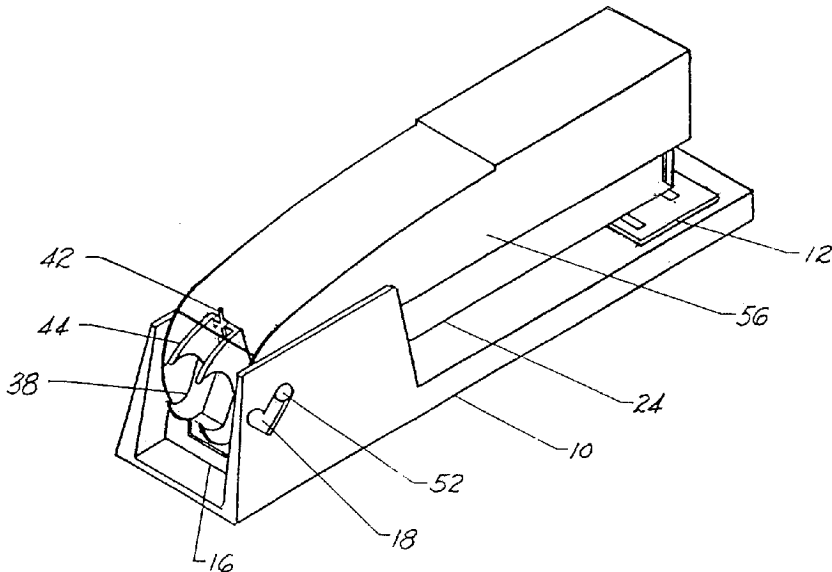
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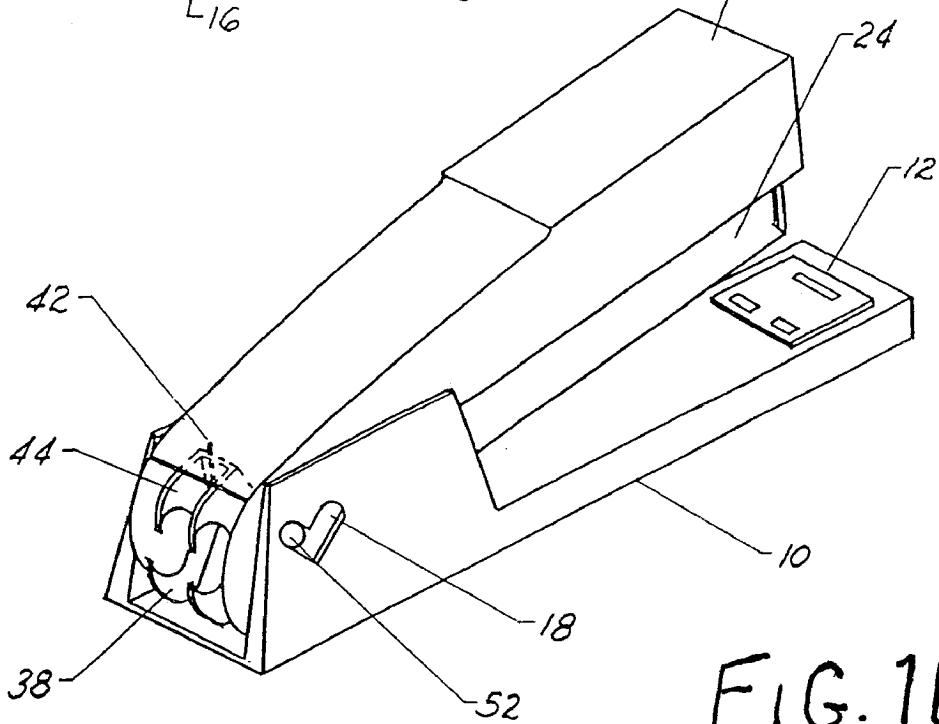
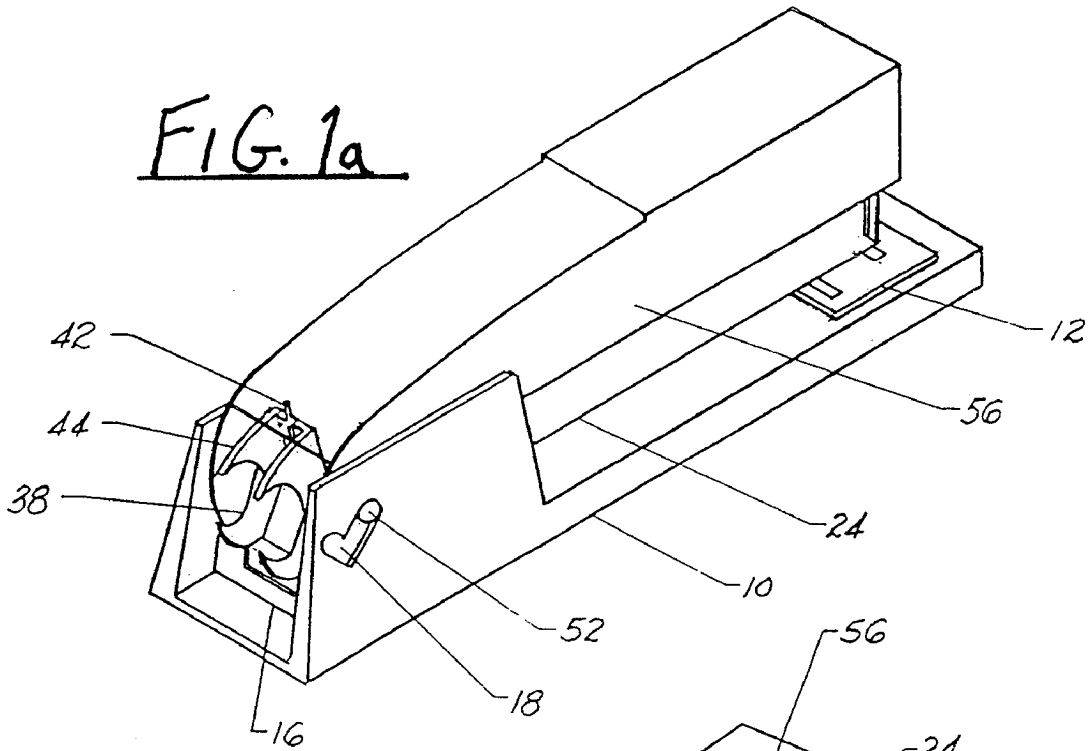
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A pivotally connected stapler machine is disabled as a staple ejecting apparatus and is converted into pivotally connected lever handles to operate the enabled double jawed staple remover. To disable the stapler machine and enable the staple remover, stapler machine magazine (24), magazine shroud (56) are pushed rearward on base (10) along the hinge pin guide track (18) enabling pivotally connected staple remover jaws consisting of bottom staple remover jaw (38) and top staple remover jaw (44) to open and close concurrently with the squeezing and releasing of the pivotally connected lever handles.

**16 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets**





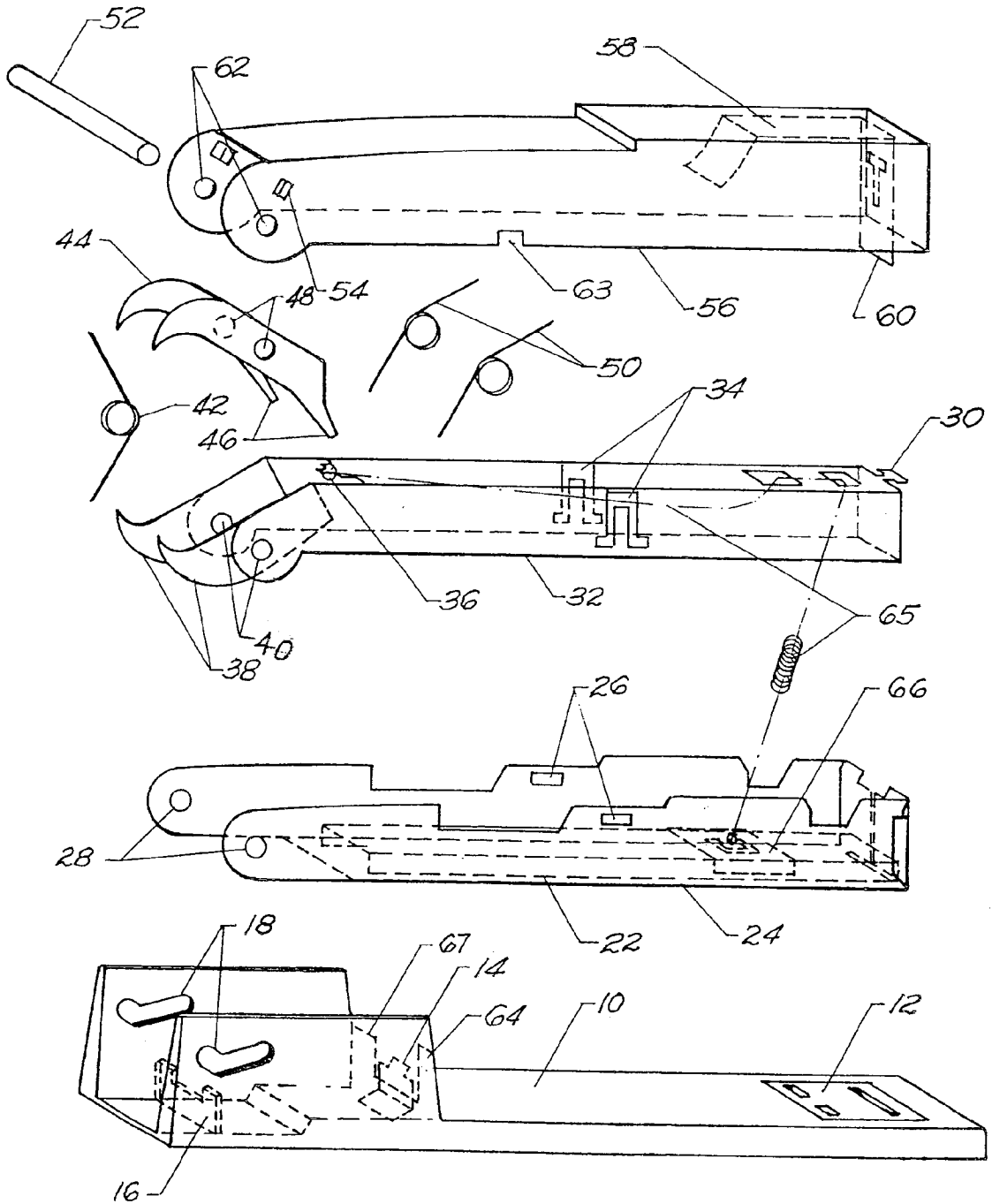


FIG. 2

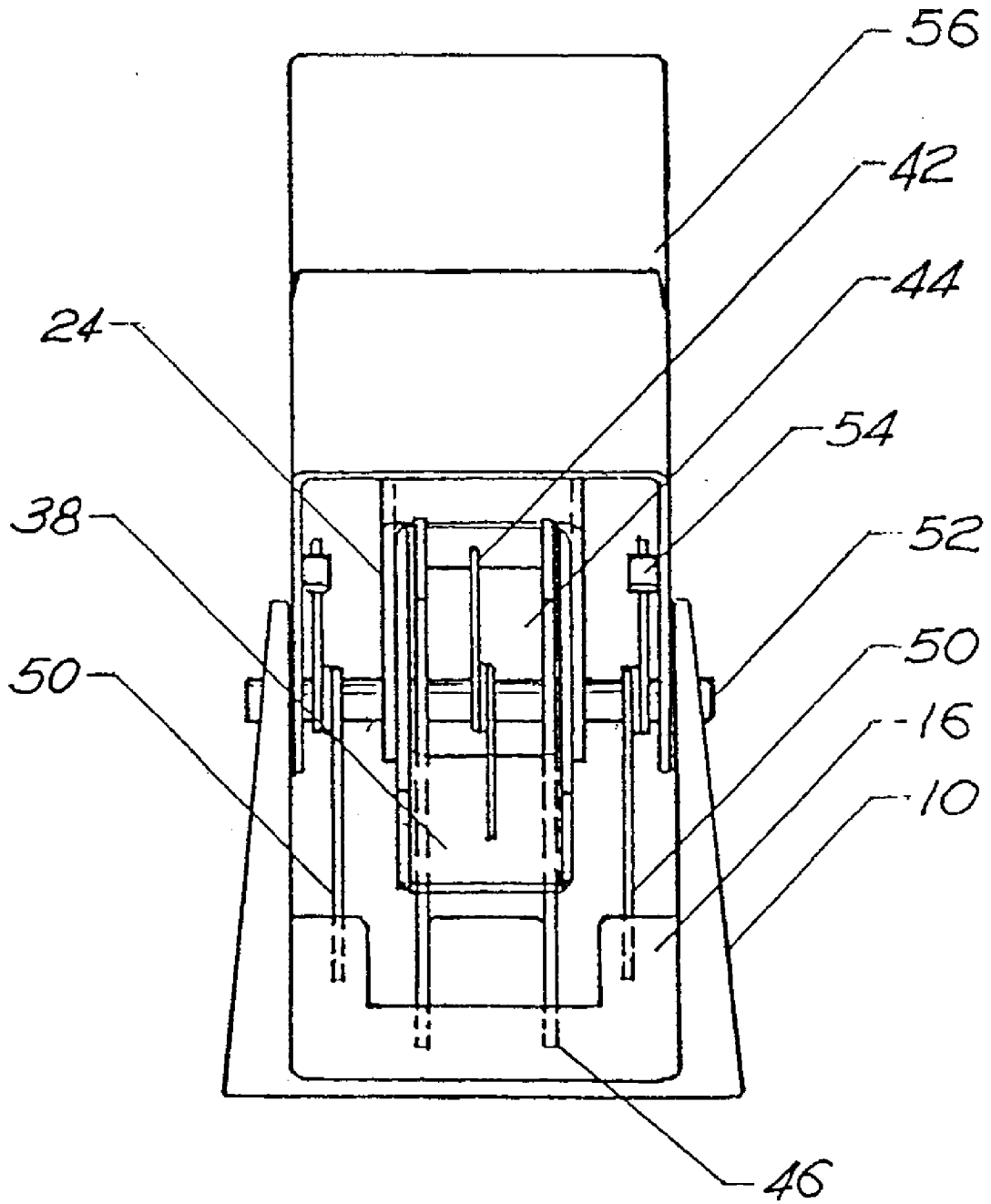


FIG. 3

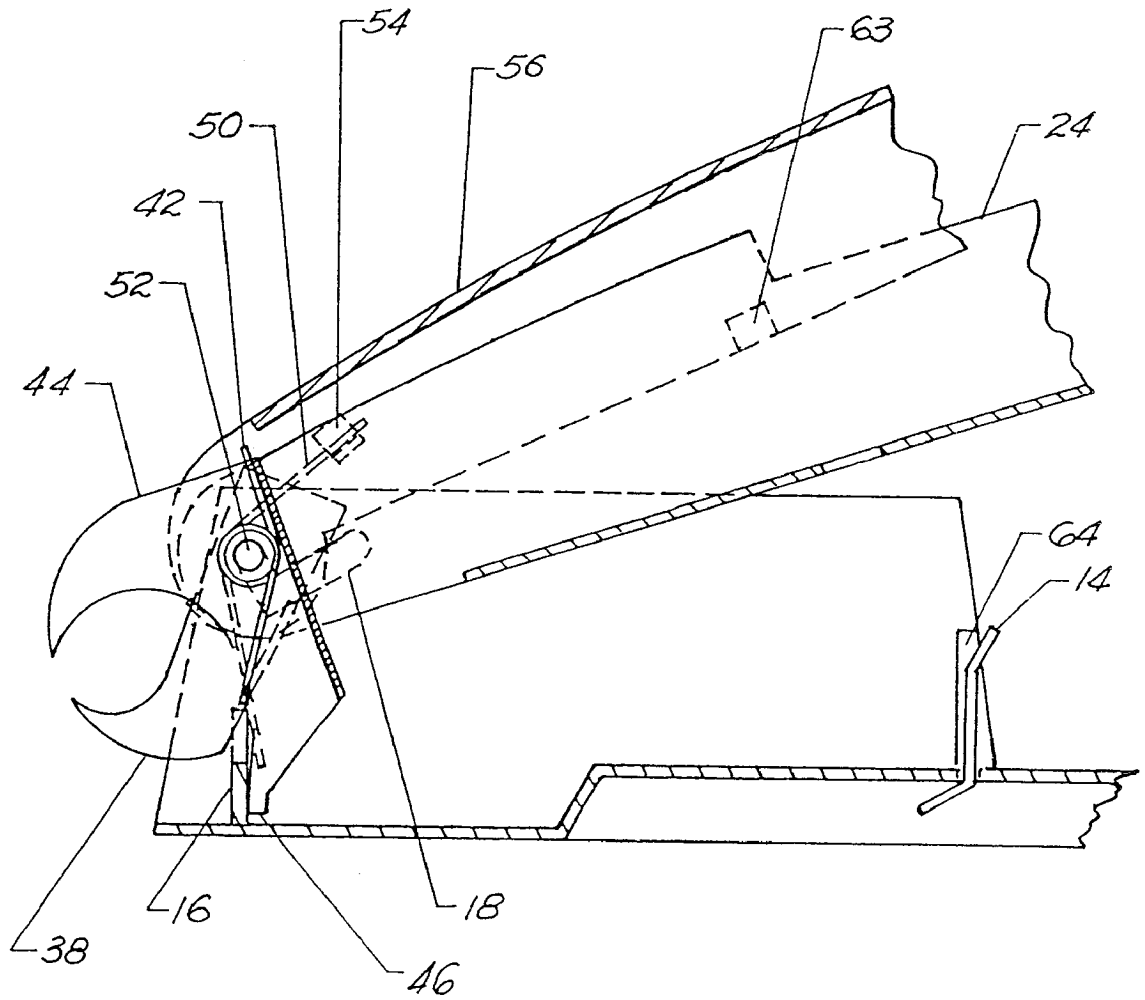


FIG. 4

**RETRACTABLE STAPLE REMOVER JAWS  
UTILIZING STAPLER MACHINE AS LEVER  
HANDLES**

CONTINUING APPLICATION

This application claims the benefit of Provisional Patent Application No. 60/111,970 filed Dec. 11, 1998; and a continuation U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/414,140, filed Oct. 7, 1999, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,0244,489.

BACKGROUND

1. Field of Invention

This invention relates to an office desktop type double jawed staple remover tool that removes staples from compiled paper packages.

2. Description of Proir Art

Offices and homes around the world use desktop staple machines for attaching multiple papers together creating compiled paper packages. The U shaped wire staples that holds these paper packages together often times have a need to be removed.

Thereafter, Inventors created several types of staple removers the most common place being are variations of the double jawed pinch type as described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,354,033 (1993) 4,903,945 (1990) 5,085,404 (1992) 4,944,491 (1990) 4,784,370 (1998) 4,921,216 (190) 4,674,727 (1987) 4,054,263 (1977) 3,974,999 (1976) 5,292,106 (1994) 5,284,322 (1993).

This type of staple remover has had the greatest success in the market place. However, there is one problem with this type of staple remover that one owning one has encountered. It is easily misplaced.

Inventors have tried to conveniently attach a staple remover to a stapler machine to overcome this problem. Whereas the combination of both entities have taken place in two ways. One way is to provide an attachment or housing means to a stapler machine as described in patents U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,672,635 (1972) and 3,563,513 (1971). In each case, the combination made the stapler machine cumbersome or awkward to the user.

The second type is a small staple removing pry bar attached to the bottom of a stapler machine as seen in Staples office supply catalogs and stores (No patent numbers available). This attached staple remover made the combination less cumbersome but still awkward. Another combination as seen in patent U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,184,765 (1993) provides a removable pry tool within the stapler machine.

The pry type method of removing staples is able to lift staples partially away from the paper package and the users fingers would need to complete the extraction.

Of these combinations, neither made a large improvement or impact in the staple remover market place.

All previous staple removers known suffer from a number of disadvantages:

- (a) Pinch type double jawed staple removers are easily misplaced.
- (b) Pinch type double jawed staple removers offer no additional leverage for removing staples that arc tougher to remove from thick compiled paper packages.
- (c) Pry type staple removers that are permanently attached to stapler machines are awkward to use.
- (d) Pry type staple removers can only remove a staple partially and needs to be fully extracted by users fingers.

- (e) Pry type staple removers that are removable from stapler machine are easily lost or misplaced.
- (f) Staple removers that are part of a housing attachment arc cumbersome or awkward to use.

SUMMARY INCLUDING OBJECTIVES AND ADVANTAGES

The double jawed staple remover tool described herein is attached and pivots on the hinged end of stapler machine. When staple remover is enabled the stapler machine is disabled and utilizes the disabled stapler machine as lever handles providing leverage to open and close staple remover jaws.

The double jawed staple removing tool is able to easily remove staples using the stapler machine as lever handles. The movement would be similar to using a pliers type tool.

This new staple removing tool is user friendly for visual contact on a busy paper cluttered desk and offers the user a more convenient, more comfortable and more powerful staple recover.

OBJECTIVES AND ADVANTAGES

Accordingly, several objectives and advantages of this invention arc:

- (a) To provide a staple remover that offers the user an easy, comfortable and stronger way of removing staples using pliers type leverage.
- (b) To provide a staple remover that is easy to locate on a busy office desk.
- (c) To provide a staple remover that can be part of a stapler machine without making the stapler machine cumbersome or awkward to use.
- (d) To provide a still easily marketable yet more efficient combination stapler machine and staple remover.
- (c) To attach a proven successful staple remover to a staple machine.

Still further objectives and advantages will become apparent from a consideration of the ensuing description and accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIGS. 1a +b shows overall perspective views of the retractable double jawed staple remover apparatus in two positions, stapler machine enabled (shown top) and staple remover enabled (shown below).

FIG. 2 is a detailed exploded view of the retractable double jawed staple remover embodiments as well as stapler machine embodiments in their perspective views.

FIG. 3 is a rear end view (hinge side) of stapler machine where the retractable double jawed staple remover resides.

FIG. 4 is a detailed enlarged cross section view taken at center of enabled retractable double jawed staple remover.

DRAWING REFERENCE NUMERALS

- 10 base
- 12 anvil
- 14 stapler magazine latch
- 16 leg and spring stop
- 18 hinge pin guide track
- 22 stapler magazine staple guide track
- 24 stapler machine magazine
- 26 spring bar latch hole
- 28 magazine hinge pin holes

30 spring bar guide pin  
 32 spring bar  
 34 spring bar latch  
 36 spring hook  
 38 bottom staple remover jaw  
 40 spring bar and bottom jaw pin holes  
 42 torsion spring for top and bottom jaws  
 44 top staple remover jaw  
 46 top jaw legs  
 48 top jaw pin holes  
 50 lever handle torsion spring  
 52 hinge pin  
 54 torsion spring eyes  
 56 magazine shroud  
 58 spring bar spring  
 60 drive plate and spring bar guide  
 62 stapler magazine shroud pin holes  
 64 stapler magazine stop  
 65 staple push plate spring  
 66 staple push plate  
 67 magazine base guide

#### EMBODIMENT—DESCRIPTION

As shown in FIG. 1/4, FIG. 2/4, FIG. 3/4 and FIG. 4/4  
 embodiments; base 10, anvil 12, stapler magazine latch 14,  
 stapler magazine staple guide track 22, stapler machine  
 magazine 24, spring bar latch hole 26, spring bar guide 30,  
 spring bar latch 34, spring bar 32, spring hook 36, hinge pin  
 52, magazine shroud 56, spring bar spring 58, drive plate  
 and spring bar guide 60, staple push plate spring 65, staple  
 push plate 66, magazine base guide 67 arc used for operation  
 of a stapler machine. Whereas this application is not sub-  
 mitted for a staple machine, all embodiments of a staple  
 machine are labeled for two reasons:

First, so it is understood that the stapler machine will be  
 fully functional with the retractable staple remover jaws  
 attached.

Second, so that these embodiments can be referred to as  
 necessary either now or in the future because the same  
 embodiments are converted to lever handles for operating  
 the double jawed staple remover when enabled. However,  
 for less confusion, only base 10, stapler magazine  
 24-magazine shroud 56 will usually be referred to in this  
 application as lever handles for operating double jawed  
 staple remover. Base 10 being one half of the lever handles  
 providing operating leverage for one half of the staple  
 remover jaws. As mentioned above representing embodi-  
 ments for other half of lever handles are magazine 24-shroud  
 56 providing operating leverage to operate the other half of  
 staple remover jaws. Both lever handles pivot on hinge pin  
 52 that provides a leverage fulcrum point for criss X cross  
 effect in operating top staple remover jaw 44 and bottom  
 staple remover jaw 38.

As shown in FIG. 1/4 the apparatus as shown in top view  
 is used as a standard stapler machine. As shown in FIG. 1/4  
 bottom view the staple remover is enabled by pushing the  
 stapler machine magazine 24-magazine shroud 56 rearward  
 on the base 10 to expose and enable the top staple remover  
 jaw 44 and bottom staple remover jaw 38 at the rear of the  
 stapler machine. The movement rearward of magazine  
 24-shroud 56 is possible by sliding the hinge pin 52 along  
 the hinge pin guide track 18 until the hinge pin 52 is in the  
 staple remover mode seat at the end of guide track 18.

As shown in FIG. 3/4 and FIG. 4/4 the operating embodi-  
 ments; base 10, top jaw legs 46, lever handle torsion spring  
 50, hinge pin 52, top staple remover jaw 44, torsion spring

for top and bottom jaws 42, stapler machine magazine 24,  
 magazine shroud 56, spring bar 32, bottom staple remover  
 jaw 38 actively work to open and close staple remover jaws.

As shown in FIG. 2/2 and FIG. 4/4 stationary embodi-  
 ments that also are needed for this invention are: hinge pin  
 guide track 18, leg and spring stop 16, torsion spring eyes  
 54, stapler machine stop release notch 63, stapler magazine  
 stop 64, stapler magazine shroud pin holes 62, magazine  
 hinge pin holes 28, top jaw pin holes 48, spring bar and  
 bottom jaw pin holes 40. These stationary embodiments  
 anchor the active embodiments of the double jawed staple  
 remover and disable or enable the stapler machine.

As shown in FIG. 4/4 top staple remover jaw 44 and  
 bottom staple remover jaw 38 are operable to open and close  
 by squeezing and releasing magazine 24-shroud 56, and  
 base 10. The movement is similar to how a user would  
 squeeze and release a pair of spring loaded pliers.

Also as shown in FIG. 4/4 the stapler machine magazine  
 24 will not be able to eject any staples when the staple  
 remover is enabled. As indicated the magazine shroud 56 is  
 stopped on contact of stapler magazine stop 64 prior to being  
 able to eject staples. When the stapler machine is enabled  
 again the stapler magazine stop release notch 63 bypasses  
 the stapler magazine stop 64 and allows the stapler machine  
 magazine 24 to release staples.

#### EMBODIMENT—OPERATION

The open and close movement of the double jawed staple  
 remover when enabled happens when the user of staple  
 machine that houses the double jawed staple remover con-  
 verts the operating embodiments of the stapler machine.  
 These converted embodiments; base 10, stapler magazine  
 24-magazine shroud 56 are used as lever handles providing  
 leverage to operate the jaws of the staple remover.

As shown in FIG. 1/4 (top view) a standard type stapler  
 machine similar to Swingline model 767 (no patent numbers  
 available) shows bottom staple remover jaw 38 and top  
 staple remover jaw 44 residing obscured inside the rear of  
 enabled stapler machine.

To disable the staple machine the user slides hinge pin 52  
 with the pivotally connected stapler magazine 24-magazine  
 shroud 56 along the hinge pin guide track 18 to rear of base  
 10, concurrently as shown in FIG. 1/4 (bottom view) and  
 FIG. 4/4 the double jawed staple remover is enabled.

As shown in FIG. 4/4 once the stapler machine magazine  
 24-magazine shroud 56 are engaged on hinge pin guide track  
 18 to rear of base 10, the pivotally connected top jaw legs  
 46 makes contact with leg and spring stop 16. The move-  
 ment upward of base 10 created by squeezing magazine  
 24-shroud 56 and base 10 together pushes leg and spring  
 stop 16 to move top jaw legs 46 upward. The movement  
 upward of leg 46 pivots extraction end of top staple remover  
 jaw 44 downward toward extraction end of bottom staple  
 remover jaw 38.

The bottom staple remover jaw 38 as shown in FIG. 2/4  
 is permanently attached to the spring bar 32 so it can pivot  
 concurrently on hinge pin 52. One half of the lever handles,  
 stapler machine magazine 24-magazine shroud 56 conceals  
 spring bar 32 and incorporates spring bar 32 as part of the  
 operating lever. This concealed connection becomes the  
 leverage for pivoting extraction end of bottom staple  
 remover jaw 38 upward toward extraction end of top staple  
 remover jaw 44 when the lever handles are being squeezed.

So that the user of the double jawed staple remover needs  
 only one hand to operate the apparatus, lever handle torsion

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springs 50 arc used to repel the lever handles (base 10 away from stapler machine magazine 24-magazine shroud 56). Torsion spring for top and bottom staple remover jaws 42 are used to push extraction end of bottom staple remover jaw 38 and top staple remover jaw 44 away from each other. This spring action combination enables the user to need one movement in squeezing the lever handles together. When releasing the squeezing movement the jaws of the staple remover are reopened. As shown in FIG. 4/4 bottom jaw 38 and top jaw 44 are in open position and magazine 24-shroud 56 and base 10 arc enabled to extract staples prior to squeezing movement.

The lever handle torsion springs 50 are attached to magazine shroud 56 by torsion spring eyes 54 and threaded at center on hinge pin 52 as shown in FIG. 3/4. The lever handle torsion springs 50 becomes active and creates tension when stapler machine magazine 24-magazine shroud 56 are pushed rearward on base 10 along the hinge pin guide track 18. This movement enables lever handle torsion springs 50 to sit against leg and spring stop 16 where the high ends of the leg and spring stop 16 pushes on unconnected end of lever handle torsion spring 50. This contact creates tension on the torsion springs 50 and provides resistance for the double jawed staple remover lever handles.

All pivoting components as shown in FIG. 3/4 and FIG. 4/4 for stapler machine as well as staple remover share the same hinge pin 52. The hinge pin 52 is threaded through hinge pin guide track 18, magazine hinge pin holes 28, spring bar and bottom jaw pin holes 40, top jaw pin holes 48, lever handle torsion springs 50, torsion spring for top and bottom jaws 42, stapler magazine shroud pin holes 62.

Once staple remover is enabled, the stapler machine will become disabled and unable to eject staples. The disabling of the stapler machine happens when magazine shroud 56 makes contact with stapler magazine stop 64 as indicated in FIG. 4/4. The stapler magazine stop release notch 63 will bypass the stop 64 for the stapler machine to function again after the stapler machine magazine 24-magazine shroud 56 are push forward on base 10 enabling the stapler machine.

#### CONCLUSIONS, RAMIFICATIONS AND SCOPE

Accordingly, it can be seen that the double jawed staple removing tool is an inexpensive, innovative and convenient way of combining two apparatuses by using embodiments of one apparatus to provide operating means for the other. As shown in this application the stapler machine is rendered disabled and becomes the operating lever handles that open and close jaws of the retractable double jawed staple remover. Although the description above contains many specificities, these should not be construed as limiting the scope of the invention but as merely providing illustrations of some of the presently preferred embodiments of this invention. Various other embodiments and ramifications are possible within its scope. For example, the stapler machine when acting as lever handles can operate other type of tools that are jawed such as: Hole Punch, Pliers, etc.

Thus the scope of the invention should be determined by the appended claims and their legal equivalents, rather than by the examples given.

What is claimed is:

1. A combination stapling machine and tool, comprising: a stapler, comprising:
  - a base lever having first and second ends;
  - a staple driving lever, for driving a staple onto said base lever, said staple driving lever having first and second ends; and

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a pin, around which said staple driving lever and said base lever pivot when said staple driving lever is driving said staple onto said base lever, said pin located proximate said second ends of said levers; and

a double jawed tool, comprising first and second jaws, said first and second jaws movable between an open and a closed state, wherein said first and second jaws move from said open state to said closed state when said first end of said staple driving lever and said first end of said base lever pivot around said pin in a direction toward each other.

2. A combination stapling machine and tool as recited in claim 1, wherein said movability of said first and second jaws is a pivoting around said pin of said stapler.

3. A combination stapling machine and tool as recited in claim 2, said pin having a first staple driving position and a second double jawed tool working position.

4. A combination stapling machine and tool as recited in claim 3, wherein said pin is selectively slidable between said first and second positions.

5. A combination stapling machine and tool as recited in claim 4, further comprising a latch located and operable between said base lever and said staple driving lever, said latch having a latched and a released state, wherein said double jawed tool is operable when said latch is in said released state, and said double jawed tool is inoperable when said latch is in said latched state.

6. A combination stapling machine and tool as recited in claim 4, said double jawed tool further comprising at least one spring for biasing said first and second jaws to their open state, when said pin is in said second position so as to allow for single handed use of said combination stapling machine and tool by a user.

7. A combination stapling machine and tool as recited in claim 4, wherein said double jawed tool is concealed within said second end of said combination stapling machine and doubled jawed tool when said pin is in said first position.

8. A combination stapling machine and tool as recited in claim 4, wherein said stapler is operable when said pin is in said first position, and said double jawed tool is operable when said pin is in said second position.

9. A combination stapling machine and tool as recited in claim 4, wherein said stapler is only operable when said pin is in said first position, and said double jawed tool is only operable when said pin is in said second position.

10. A combination stapling machine and tool as recited in claim 2, wherein said interaction of said inactive end and said stop causes said active end to interact with said second jaw when said staple driving lever and said base lever pivot around said pin in a direction toward each other.

11. A combination stapling machine and tool as recited in claim 1, said base lever having a stop attached thereto, located proximate said double jawed tool, and said first jaw of said double jawed tool having an active end and an inactive end, said active end interacts with said second jaw of said double jawed tool when said double jawed tool operates, and said inactive end interacts with said stop when said double jawed tool operates.

12. A combination stapling machine and tool as recited in claim 1, wherein said double jawed tool is a staple remover.

13. A combination stapling machine and tool, comprising: a stapler, comprising:
 

- a base lever;
- a staple driving lever, for driving a staple onto said base lever;
- a pivot point, around which said staple driving lever and said base lever pivot when said staple driving lever is driving said staple onto said base lever; and



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a first biasing means for helping to pivot said base lever and said staple driving lever away from each other around said pivot point, when said tool is in operation; and

a double jawed tool capable of single-handed operation by a user of the combination device, comprising:  
first and second jaws, said first and second jaws pivotable between an open and a closed state; and  
a second biasing means for helping to pivot said first and second jaws between said open state and said closed state, in cooperation with said first biasing means;

wherein said double jawed tool is single hand operable by said user due to the biasing effects of said first and

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second biasing means in respectfully forcing said stapler levers and said jaws apart against a closing force being asserted against said levers by said user.

14. A combination stapling machine and tool as recited in claim 13, said first biasing means comprising at least one spring element.

15. A combination stapling machine and tool as recited in claim 14, wherein said at least one spring element is a pair of complimentary working springs.

16. A combination stapling machine and tool as recited in claim 13, said second biasing means comprising at least one spring element.

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