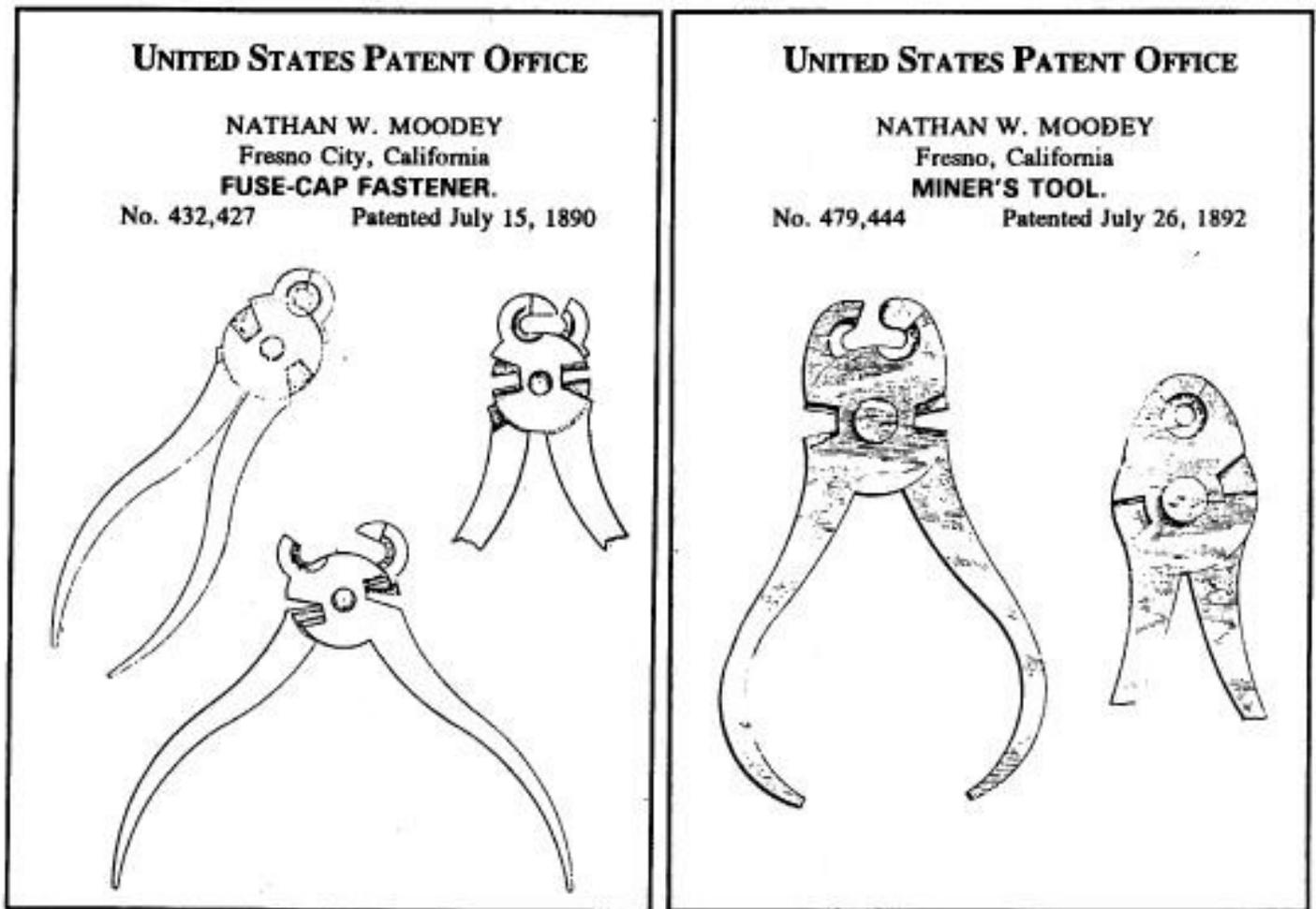


The Moodey Patented Cap Crimper

by Mark Bohannon



On September 5, 1889, Nathan W. Moodey, of Fresno, California, filed an application in the United States Patent Office for a Fuse-Cap Fastener. On July 15, 1890, his patent application was granted. This was the first of two cap crimper patents granted to Nathan Moodey.

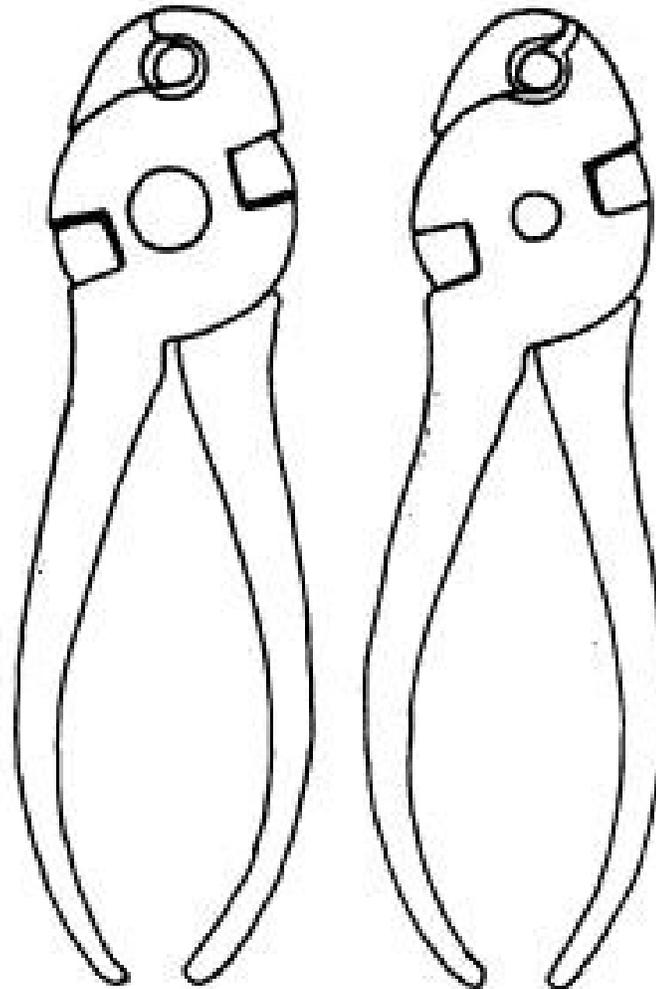
Nathan Moodey applied for his second patent on October 20, 1891. This patent-for a Miner's Tool-was granted on July 26, 1892. This patent was essentially an expound version of his first patent. The main improvement consisted of substituting the tongue and groove feature of aligning the jaws with a beveled cutter or knife blade and a V shaped notch. This new feature not only kept the crimper's jaws aligned, but also functioned as a fuse splitter. The V-shaped notch also served as a holder for the fuse, supporting it so that the cutter or knife blade could split the fuse through the center.

I consider the Moodey patented cap crimper as the predecessor to all of the latter cap crimpers. At present, there are only three examples of this crimper known. Two with the July 26, 1892 patent date and one with the earlier July 15, 1890 patent date. But all three are identical in appearance.

Many of the cap crimpers produced following Moodey's patents incorporated many of his main features-especially the fuse cutting notches on each side of the crimper and the V shaped notch for splitting the fuse at the end of the crimper.

Nathan Moodey's patented cap crimpers (left) along side two later Moodey style crimpers.
Errol Christman (left) and Mark Bohannon (middle and left) collections.

Line drawing showing the Moody patented cap crimper and the stampings found on the three known examples. (Errol Christman, John Johnson, and Graham Living collections)



FRONT

PAT'D JULY 28 '32

MOODY'S PATENT
PAT. JULY 18TH '80

BACK

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