

Description

This invention pertains to wire nails, as used in pneumatically powered nail-driving tools, and to strips of such nails, as collated by adhesively applied tapes or other collating media. Moreover, it pertains to machines as used to make such nails.

Typically, as used in pneumatically powered or combustion-powered nail-driving tools, wire nails having D-shaped or variant heads are collated by adhesively applied tapes or other collating media to form a strip. The shanks of the collated nails are oriented in closely spaced, parallel relation to one another and, except at one end of the strip, the head of each nail overlies the head of another nail.

Various strips of collated wire nails having D-shaped heads are exemplified in Lingle U.S. Patent No. 3,152,334, Leistner U.S. Patent No. 3,861,526, and Shelton et al. U.S. Patent No. 3,966,042. Powers U.S. Patent No. 3,359,582 discloses a die assembly for making a wire nail having such a head. Similar strips of collated wire nails having variant heads are exemplified in Juiffs U.S. Patent No. 2,940,081 and Becht U.S. Patent No. 3,481,459. None of the D-shaped or variant heads disclosed in the foregoing patents defines a complete circle when viewed axially.

For reasons of aesthetics and performance, it would be highly desirable to have a strip of collated nails wherein the shanks of the nails are in closely spaced, parallel relation to one another and wherein, except at one end of the strip, the head of each nail would overlie the head of another nail, but wherein the head of each nail would define a complete circle when viewed axially.

One such system is disclosed in DE-A-2,748,862, in which the heads of the nails are at an acute angle to the shanks.

According to a first aspect of this invention, a wire nail having a head and a shank integral with the head, the shank being formed with a tip and having an axis, and the head having a circumferential edge defining a complete circle; is characterized in that the centre of the head is radially offset from the axis of the shank.

Preferably, the head has a lower portion defining a tangent plane, which is oriented normally to the axis of the head, and at an acute angle relative to the axis of the shank.

A wire nail according to this invention may have structure providing a locating datum indicating where the shank is located after such nail has been driven into a substrate in such manner that the shank is concealed. The locating datum facilitates removal of the wire nail from the substrate, via a nail-prying tool having a forked tip, by indicating in what direction the forked tip can be effectively inserted beneath the head so that the nail-prying

tool can apply substantially equal leverage to opposite sides of the head.

Thus, in a preferred embodiment of such a nail, a top portion of the head has two planar surfaces spaced from the shank, namely a first surface providing the datum and a second surface intersecting the first surface along a line extending across the head. The first surface is oriented at an obtuse, included angle (e.g. about 168°) relative to the second surface and the second surface is oriented at a right angle relative to the axis of the head.

A lower portion of such a nail may have a cavity, which is bordered by an annular rib where the shank adjoins the head. The cavity tends to contact with a substrate, into which the nail is driven, so as to stabilize the nail head in a lateral sense.

In some embodiments, a lower portion of the head defines a tangent plane, which is oriented at a right angle relative to the axis of the head, and at an acute angle relative to the axis of the shank, preferably an acute angle in a range from about 75° to about 85°. Advantageously, because of the acute angle, the wire nail may have greater holding capability.

It is a preferred feature of a wire nail according to this invention that the shank is formed with a keyway, which defines a flat surface providing an orienting datum for orienting such nail and similar nails with their shanks in parallel relation to one another and with their heads offset in a common direction.

Thus, in a preferred embodiment, the flat surface of the keyway is parallel to the axis of the shank. Moreover, such surface may conform to a parallelogram having two axially extending sides and two transversely extending sides, and such sides may define two acute angles and two obtuse angles.

As contemplated by this invention, a strip of similar, collated, wire nails is made by adhesively applying tapes to the shanks of such nails for collating such nails, or by suitably applying other collating media thereto, to collate such nails with their shanks oriented in closely spaced, parallel relation to one another, and with their heads offset in a common direction relative to their shanks, so that the head of one such nail overlies the head of the next nail.

Moreover, the keyways noted above collectively define an open channel extending along the strip. The open channel may be advantageously used to guide the strip through a nail-feeding magazine having, on one wall, a lateral rib fitting into the open channel.

By way of background, an important use of the keyways in collating the nails is disclosed in a pending application filed simultaneously herewith,

EP-A-0,481,636.

According to a second aspect of this invention, a machine for making a nail from a wire of a malleable metal including means including two gripping elements for gripping the wire between the gripping elements in such manner that one end of the wire projects from the gripping elements, the wire defining an axis where gripped,

is characterised by means for forming a head on the wire by deforming some of the malleable metal including the projecting end in such manner that the head has a circumferential edge in radially offset relation to the axis when the wire is viewed axially.

It is preferred that each of the gripping elements has a recess where the projecting end projects. The recesses collectively define a cavity having an axis in radially offset relation to the axis defined by the wire where gripped. Preferably, moreover, the nail head-forming mechanism includes a punch adapted to deform some of the malleable metal including the projecting end into a shape defined by the punch and by the cavity. Furthermore, the recess of each of the gripping elements may include an annular channel, whereupon the annular channels coact to define an angular rib on the malleable metal deformed by the punch into such shape.

Thus, in a preferred embodiment of a combination of the aforementioned mechanisms, the punch has a cylindrical tip defining an axis and being movable axially into the cavity. One end of the cylindrical tip has two planar surfaces intersecting at a vee extending across the cylindrical tip, namely a first surface and a second surface. The first surface is oriented at an obtuse, included angle (e.g. about 168°) relative to the second surface and the second surface is oriented at a right angle relative to the axis of the punch. The first surface leads the second surface when the cylindrical tip is moved axially into the annular recess and is designed to deform some of the malleable metal including the projecting end laterally.

Particular embodiments of nails and machines in accordance with this invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

Figure 1 is a plan view of a portion of a strip of collated wire nails according to a preferred embodiment of this invention;

Figure 2, on a slightly enlarged scale compared to Figure 1, is a sectional view taken through one of the wire nails, along line 2-2 of Figure 1, in a direction indicated by arrows;

Figure 3 is a sectional view taken through the same nail, along line 3-3 of Figure 2, in a direction indicated by arrows;

Figure 4 is an elevational view of the strip shown in Figure 1 with portions of the shanks of the wire nails, between the tips of such nails and two collating tapes, having been omitted;

Figure 5 is a fragmentary, elevational view of one of the wire nails and the collating tapes, as taken from one side of the strip shown in Figures 1 and 4

Figure 6 is a sectional view taken through the strip, along line 6-6 of Figure 4, in a direction indicated by arrows;

Figures 7 through 12, on a somewhat smaller scale compared to Figures 1, 4, 5, and 6, and Figure 13, on an intermediate scale, are sequential, fragmentary views of one of two gripping elements and an associated punch, as used to form a head on wire used to form a wire nail according to the preferred embodiment of this invention;

Figure 13 is a cross-section illustrating a portion of the punch, the head being formed, and an adjacent portion of the wire;

Figure 14 is a sectional view taken through the nail being formed, along line 14-14 of Figure 13, in a direction indicated by arrows;

Figure 15 is a sectional view taken through the gripping elements, the punch, and the nail being formed, along line 15-15 of Figure 13, in a direction indicated by arrows;

Figure 16 is a fragmentary, elevational view of one of the gripping elements, namely the gripping element not shown in Figure 13, as taken in an axial direction relative to a wire when and where gripped by the gripping elements;

Figure 17 is an elevational view of the gripping element shown in Figure 16, as taken to show its gripping face;

Figure 18 is a greatly enlarged detail taken from Figure 16;

Figure 19 is a greatly enlarged detail taken from Figure 17;

Figure 20 is a fragmentary, partly exploded view of the strip of collated wire nails, as associated with a nail-feeding magazine of a nail-driving tool. The nail-feeding magazine is shown in a simplified representation;

Figure 21 is a fragmentary, cross-sectional view taken through the nail-feeding magazine, so as to show one such nail being fed through the nail-feeding magazine;

Figure 22 is a fragmentary, cross-sectional view taken along line 22-22 in Figure 21, in a direction indicated by arrows;

Figure 23 is a fragmentary, perspective view of one such nail, as driven into a wooden board, and as associated with a nail-prying tool having a forked tip;

Figure 24 is a fragmentary, elevational view of a wire nail according to an alternate embodiment of this invention, as used to join two wooden members, which are shown in cross-section;

Figure 25 is a fragmentary, elevational view of the nail shown in Figure 24, as taken from a different side; and

Figure 26 is a fragmentary, elevational view of a wire nail according to a simplified embodiment of this invention, as used to join two wooden members, which are shown in cross-section.

A strip S of collated wire nails 10, each according to a preferred embodiment of this invention, is shown in Figures 1, 4, 5, and 6.

An exemplary nail 10 is described below. The nail 10 has a unique head 12, by which the nail 10 is distinguished from wire nails known heretofore, and other unique features.

The nail 10 has a shank 14 integral with the head 12. The shank 14 defines an axis and has a tip 16. Preferably, as shown, the tip 16 conforms to the unique tip disclosed in Sygnator U.S. Patent No. 4,927,309, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference. Alternatively, the shank 12 may have a conventional tip (not shown) having four facets.

It is a feature of this invention that the head 12 has a circumferential edge 20 conforming to a complete circle and defining an axis in radially offset relation to the axis of the shank 14. Thus, in other words, the head 12 is radially offset in one direction relative to the shank 14.

As contrasted with the D-shaped and variant heads disclosed in the various patents noted in the third paragraph above, the head 12 defines a complete circle when viewed axially. Thus, the head 12 offers a better appearance when viewed axially. Also, the head 12 may offer greater holding capability when the wire nail 10 is used to join two substrates, such as wooden boards.

The head 12, at a top portion, has two planar surfaces spaced from the shank 14, namely a first surface 22 and a second surface 24. The second surface 24 intersects the first surface 22 along a crest 26, which extends across the head 12, which has a small radius (approximately 0.093 inch (2.4mm)) and which is shorter than a diameter of the complete circle defined by the circumferential edge 20 of the head 12. The first surface 22 is oriented at an obtuse, included angle of about 168° relative to the second surface 24 and the second surface 24 is oriented at a right angle relative to the axis of the shank 14.

As shown in Figure 24, the first surface 22 provides an indicating datum indicating where the shank 14 is located after the wire nail 10 has been driven into a wooden board B or some other substrate (not shown) in such manner that the shank

14 is concealed. The datum provided by the first surface 22 facilitates removal of the wire nail 10 from the board B or other substrate, via a nail-prying tool having a forked tip T, by indicating in what direction the forked tip T can be effectively inserted beneath the head 12 so that the nail-prying tool can apply substantially equal leverage to opposite sides of the head 12.

The shank 14 is formed with a keyway 28 defining a flat surface 30, which is parallel to the axis of the shank 14 and to the direction of radial offset of the head 12 relative to the shank 14, and which is spaced axially from the head 12. The flat surface 30 conforms to a parallelogram having two longer, axially extending sides 32, 34, and two shorter, transversely extending sides 36, 38. These longer and shorter sides define two acute angles (e.g. about 34° each) and two obtuse angles (e.g. about 146° each) as shown.

The keyway 28 is bounded by two flat surfaces 40, 42, which respectively intersect the flat surface 30 at the shorter sides 36, 38. The flat surface 40 is bounded by the side 36 and by a curved edge 44 and is oriented at an angle of about 45° relative to the axis of the shank 14. The flat surface 42 is bounded by the side 38 and by a curved edge 46 and is oriented at an angle of about 45° relative to the axis of the shank 14 and at a right angle relative to the flat surface 40.

The keyway 28 provides a datum for orienting the collated nails 10 with their shanks 14 in parallel relation to one another and with their heads 12 offset in a common direction relative to their shanks 14.

At a lower portion, the head 12 of the nail 10 has a cavity 50, which is bordered by an annular rib 52 except where the shank 14 adjoins the head 12. As contrasted with a head (not shown) that is planar at its lower portion, the head 12 tends to be less prone to separating from the shank 14, particularly if the head 12 is struck at a localized region spaced from the shank 14, e.g. where suggested by a wide arrow in Figure 2. Moreover, the cavity 50 tends to coact with a substrate, into which the nail 10 is driven, so as to stabilize the nail head 12 in a lateral sense.

At the annular rib 52, the lower portion of the head 12 defines a tangent plane, which is oriented at a right angle relative to the axis of the head 12, and at a right angle relative to the shank 14. The preferred embodiment shown in Figures 1 through 6 and other views may be thus distinguished from an alternate embodiment shown in Figures 24 and 25, and from a simplified embodiment shown in Figure 26.

As shown in Figures 4, 5, and 6, the collated nails 10 of the strip S are collated via conventional collating tapes 62, 64, applied adhesively to op-

posite sides of the shanks 14 of the collated nails 10, in parallel relation to the flat surfaces 30 defined by the keyways 28 on the shanks 14 of the collated nails 10. The collating tapes 62, 64, are oriented at an acute angle (e.g. about 36°) relative to a plane normal to the axes of the shanks 14 of the collated nails 10 so as to be substantially parallel to the shorter sides 36, 38, of such flat surfaces 30.

The nails 10 in the strip S are collated in such manner that their shanks 14 are oriented in closely spaced, parallel relation to one another, whereby their shanks 14 may be nearly contiguous to one another. The nails 10 in the strip S are collated in such manner that their heads 12 are offset in a common direction relative to their shanks 14 and in such manner that, except at one end of the strip S (its right end in Figure 4) where the nail 10 to be first or next driven is located, the head 12 of each nail 10 overlies the head 12 of another nail 10.

Collectively, as shown, the keyways 28 on the shanks 14 of the collated nails 10 define an open channel 66, which extends along the strip S. As shown in Figures 20, 21, and 22, the open channel 66 is useful in guiding the strip S through a nail-feeding magazine 70 having two opposed walls 72, 74, and other structures (not shown) of known types to a pneumatically powered or combustion-powered nail-driving tool (not shown) of a known type.

The wall 72 facing the keyways 28 has an integral, lateral rib 76 fitting into the open channel 66, whereby the rib 76 guides the strip S as the strip S is fed through the nail-feeding magazine 70.

As explained above, an important use of such keyways in collating such nails is disclosed in the aforementioned, copending application, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

Manufacture of an exemplary nail 10 is described below. The wire nail 10 is formed from a wire of a malleable metal, such as carbon steel, which is preferred. The wire nail 10 can be effectively formed in a nail-making machine of a known type, such as a Wafios Model N51 Nail-Making Machine, as available commercially from Wafios Maschinenfabrik GmbH & Co. KG of Reutlingen, Federal Republic of Germany. Such a nail-making machine employs coactive wire-gripping and head-forming mechanisms. It is contemplated by this invention that, in such a nail-making machine, improved wire-gripping and head-forming mechanisms are employed in a coactive combination.

The wire-gripping mechanism comprises two gripping elements 100, 102, which are made from tool steel, and which are arranged for relative movement toward and away from each other. The gripping element 100 is stationary and the gripping element 102 is movable. The gripping elements

100, 102, are adapted to grip a wire W (from which the wire nail 10 is made) in such manner that one end W' of the wire W projects from the gripping elements 100, 102. The gripping elements 100, 102, respectively have semi-cylindrical channels 104, 106, which are shaped to receive the wire W when the movable element 102 is moved into contiguous relation to the stationary element 100. The wire W defines an axis where gripped and the projecting end W' projects axially.

The gripping elements 100, 102, respectively have recesses 110, 112, where the projecting end W' of the wire W projects. The recess 110 communicates with the semi-cylindrical channel 104. The recess 112 communicates with the semi-cylindrical channel 106. Collectively, the recesses 110, 112, coact to define a cavity, which has an axis in radially offset relation to the axis defined by the wire W where gripped.

The recess 110 includes an annular channel 114. The recess 112 includes an annular channel 116. When the recesses 110, 112, coact to define the cavity, the annular channels 114, 116, correspond to the annular rib 52 of the head 12 of the nail 10 being made.

The semi-cylindrical channel 106 of the movable element 102 is interrupted by a nub 120, which is integral with the movable element 102, and which is shaped to form the flat surface 30 and the flat surfaces 40, 42, along a portion of the wire W to become the shank 14 of the wire nail 10 being made. The nub 120 forms these surfaces by deforming some of the malleable material of the wire W, as the movable element 102 is moved into contiguous relation to the stationary element 100. The nub 120 has a flat surface 122 corresponding to the flat surface 30, a flat surface 124 corresponding to the flat surface 40, and a flat surface 126 corresponding to the flat surface 42.

The head-forming mechanism comprises a punch 130, which is made from tool steel, and which is adapted to deform some of the malleable metal including the projecting end W' of the wire W into a shape defined by the punch 130 and by the cavity defined by the recesses 110, 112, namely into the shape of the head 12 of the wire nail 10 being made.

The punch 130 has a cylindrical tip 132, which defines an axis, and which conforms closely to the cavity defined by the recesses 110, 112, and which is movable axially into such cavity. The end of the cylindrical tip 132 has two planar surfaces, namely a first surface 134 and a second surface 136 intersecting the first surface 134 at a vee 138 extending across the cylindrical tip 132. The vee 138 has a slight radius (e.g. approximately 0.093 inch 2.4mm) and is shorter than a diameter of the cylindrical tip 132. The first surface 134 is oriented at an obtuse,

included angle of about 168° relative to the second surface 136 and the second surface 136 is oriented at a right angle relative to the axis of the punch 130. Thus, as shown at sequential stages in Figures 7 through 13, the first surface 134 leads the second surface 136 and is designed to deform some of the malleable metal including the projecting end W' of the wire W laterally, whereby the deformed metal fills inner reaches of the cavity defined by the recesses 110, 112.

When the projecting end W' of the wire W is formed into the head 12 of the wire nail 10' being made, the first surface 22 of the head 12 conforms closely to the first surface 134 of the end of the cylindrical tip 132 of the punch 130. Moreover, the second surface 24 of the head 12 conforms closely to the second surface 136 of the end of the cylindrical tip 132 of the punch 130. Furthermore, the annular rib 52 of the head 12 conforms closely to the annular channels 114, 116.

An alternate embodiment of this invention is disclosed in Figures 24 and 25, in which primed reference numbers are used to designate elements similar or analogous to elements designated by similar, unprimed reference numbers in Figure 1 and other views.

Thus, as shown in Figures 24 and 25, a wire nail 10' according to the alternate embodiment of this invention has a head 12', which conforms to the head 12 of the wire nail 10. Also, the wire nail 10' has a shank 14', which is similar to the shank 14 of the wire nail 10 except as explained herein. Thus, the shank 14' has a keyway 28' with flat surfaces 30', 40', 42', which correspond respectively to the keyway 28 with flat surfaces 30, 40, 42, on the shank 14 of the wire nail 10. Also, the shank 14' is formed with a tip 16', which conforms to the tip 16 of the wire nail 10 and to the unique tip disclosed in the Sygnator patent noted above.

At a lower portion, the head 12' of the wire nail 10' defines a tangent plane, which is oriented at a right angle relative to the axis of the head 12', but at an acute angle relative to the axis of the shank 14'. Preferably, as shown, the acute angle is in a range from about 75° to about 85° . Advantageously, as compared to the preferred embodiment described above, the wire nail 10' may have greater holding capability when driven through an upper substrate B₁, such as a wooden board, into a lower substrate B₂, such as a wooden board.

A wire nail 10'' according to a simplified embodiment of this invention is shown in Figure 26, as driven through an upper substrate B₁, such as a wooden board, into a lower substrate B₂, such as a wooden board. In Figure 24, double-primed reference numbers are used to designate elements similar or analogous to elements designated by similar, unprimed reference numbers in Figures 1

through 6 and other views.

The wire nail 10'' has a head 12'', which defines an axis, and a shank 14'', which defines an axis, and which is joined integrally with the head 12''. The head 12'' is similar to the heads of wire nails (not shown) in common use. The shank 14'' is similar to the shanks of such nails. The wire nail 10'' has a tip (not shown) similar to the tips of such nails. However, the wire nail 10'' is similar to the wire nail 10' described above and differs from wire nails in common use in that, at a lower portion, the head 12'' defines a tangent plane, which is oriented at a right angle relative to the axis of the head 12'', but at an acute angle relative to the axis of the shank 14''.

Claims

1. A wire nail (10, 10', 10'') having a head (12, 12', 12'') and a shank (14, 14', 14'') integral with the head (12, 12', 12''), the shank (14, 14', 14'') being formed with a tip (16, 16') and having an axis, and the head (12) having a circumferential edge (20) defining a complete circle; characterised in that the centre of the head (12, 12', 12'') is radially offset from the axis of the shank (14, 14', 14'').
2. A wire nail according to claim 1, having means (22) for providing a datum indicating where the shank (14, 14', 14'') is located after said nail has been driven into a substrate in such manner that the shank (14, 14', 14'') is concealed.
3. A wire nail according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the head (12) has an upper portion with two planar surfaces, namely a first surface (22) and a second surface (24) intersecting the first surface along a crest (26) extending across the head (12, 12', 12''), the first surface (22) being oriented at an obtuse, included angle relative to the second surface (24), the second surface (24) being oriented at a right angle relative to the axis of the shank (14, 14', 14''), the first surface (22) providing a datum indicating where the shank (14, 14', 14'') is located after the nail has been driven into a substrate in such manner that the shank (14, 14', 14'') is concealed.
4. A wire nail according to claim 3, wherein the included angle is about 168° .
5. A wire nail according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the head (12') has a lower portion defining a tangent plane, which is oriented normally to an axis of the head (12') and at an acute angle relative to the axis of the



included angle of about 168° relative to the second surface 136 and the second surface 136 is oriented at a right angle relative to the axis of the punch 130. Thus, as shown at sequential stages in Figures 7 through 13, the first surface 134 leads the second surface 136 and is designed to deform some of the malleable metal including the projecting end W' of the wire W laterally, whereby the deformed metal fills inner reaches of the cavity defined by the recesses 110, 112.

When the projecting end W' of the wire W is formed into the head 12 of the wire nail 10 being made, the first surface 22 of the head 12 conforms closely to the first surface 134 of the end of the cylindrical tip 132 of the punch 130. Moreover, the second surface 24 of the head 12 conforms closely to the second surface 136 of the end of the cylindrical tip 132 of the punch 130. Furthermore, the annular rib 52 of the head 12 conforms closely to the annular channels 114, 116.

An alternate embodiment of this invention is disclosed in Figures 24 and 25, in which primed reference numbers are used to designate elements similar or analogous to elements designated by similar, unprimed reference numbers in Figure 1 and other views.

Thus, as shown in Figures 24 and 25, a wire nail 10' according to the alternate embodiment of this invention has a head 12', which conforms to the head 12 of the wire nail 10. Also, the wire nail 10' has a shank 14', which is similar to the shank 14 of the wire nail 10 except as explained herein. Thus, the shank 14' has a keyway 28' with flat surfaces 30', 40', 42', which correspond respectively to the keyway 28 with flat surfaces 30, 40, 42, on the shank 14 of the wire nail 10. Also, the shank 14' is formed with a tip 16', which conforms to the tip 16 of the wire nail 10 and to the unique tip disclosed in the Sygnator patent noted above.

At a lower portion, the head 12' of the wire nail 10' defines a tangent plane, which is oriented at a right angle relative to the axis of the head 12', but at an acute angle relative to the axis of the shank 14'. Preferably, as shown, the acute angle is in a range from about 75° to about 85° . Advantageously, as compared to the preferred embodiment described above, the wire nail 10' may have greater holding capability when driven through an upper substrate B₁, such as a wooden board, into a lower substrate B₂, such as a wooden board.

A wire nail 10'' according to a simplified embodiment of this invention is shown in Figure 26, as driven through an upper substrate B₁, such as a wooden board, into a lower substrate B₂, such as a wooden board. In Figure 24, double-primed reference numbers are used to designate elements similar or analogous to elements designated by similar, unprimed reference numbers in Figures 1

through 6 and other views.

The wire nail 10'' has a head 12'', which defines an axis, and a shank 14'', which defines an axis, and which is joined integrally with the head 12''. The head 12'' is similar to the heads of wire nails (not shown) in common use. The shank 14'' is similar to the shanks of such nails. The wire nail 10'' has a tip (not shown) similar to the tips of such nails. However, the wire nail 10'' is similar to the wire nail 10' described above and differs from wire nails in common use in that, at a lower portion, the head 12'' defines a tangent plane, which is oriented at a right angle relative to the axis of the head 12'', but at an acute angle relative to the axis of the shank 14''.

Claims

1. A wire nail (10, 10', 10'') having a head (12, 12', 12'') and a shank (14, 14', 14'') integral with the head (12, 12', 12''), the shank (14, 14', 14'') being formed with a tip (16, 16') and having an axis, and the head (12) having a circumferential edge (20) defining a complete circle; characterised in that the centre of the head (12, 12', 12'') is radially offset from the axis of the shank (14, 14', 14'').
2. A wire nail according to claim 1, having means (22) for providing a datum indicating where the shank (14, 14', 14'') is located after said nail has been driven into a substrate in such manner that the shank (14, 14', 14'') is concealed.
3. A wire nail according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the head (12) has an upper portion with two planar surfaces, namely a first surface (22) and a second surface (24) intersecting the first surface along a crest (26) extending across the head (12, 12', 12''), the first surface (22) being oriented at an obtuse, included angle relative to the second surface (24), the second surface (24) being oriented at a right angle relative to the axis of the shank (14, 14', 14''), the first surface (22) providing a datum indicating where the shank (14, 14', 14'') is located after the nail has been driven into a substrate in such manner that the shank (14, 14', 14'') is concealed.
4. A wire nail according to claim 3, wherein the included angle is about 168° .
5. A wire nail according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the head (12'') has a lower portion defining a tangent plane, which is oriented normally to an axis of the head (12'') and at an acute angle relative to the axis of the



shank (14).

6. A wire nail (10',10'') according to claim 1, in which the head (12',12'') has a lower portion defining a tangent plane, which is oriented normally to the axis of the head (12',12''), and at an acute angle relative to the axis of the shank (14',14'').
7. A wire nail according to claim 6, wherein the acute angle is in a range from about 75° to about 85°.
8. A wire nail according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the head (12) has a lower portion having a cavity (50), which is bordered by an annular rib (52) except where the shank (14) adjoins the head (12).
9. A strip of similar, collated, wire nails (10) in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, the nails (10) being collated by means (62,64,70) applied to the shanks (14) to hold the shanks in parallel relation to one another, with the heads (12) offset in a common direction relative to their shanks (14), so that the head of one nail (10) overlies the head of its neighbour (10).
10. A wire nail or a strip of wire nails in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, wherein the shank (14) of the or each nail (10) is formed with a keyway (28), which defines a flat surface (30) providing a datum for orienting the nails in a parallel relationship to one another with their heads offset in a common direction and with the keyways (28) of the orientated nails defining an open channel (68).
11. A wire nail or a strip of wire nails according to claim 10, wherein the flat surface (30) or the or each nail (10) is parallel to the axis of the shank or shanks (14).
12. A wire nail or a strip of wire nails according to claim 11 or 12, wherein the or each flat surface (30) is formed as a parallelogram having two axially extending sides and two transversely extending sides.
13. A wire nail according to claim 12, wherein the sides define two acute angles and two obtuse angles.
14. A machine for making a nail (10) from a wire (W) of a malleable metal including means including two gripping elements (100,102) for gripping the wire (W) between the gripping

elements (100,102) in such manner that one end (W') of the wire projects from the gripping elements (100,102), the wire (W) defining an axis where gripped,

characterised by means (130) for forming a head (14) on the wire (W) by deforming some of the malleable metal including the projecting end (W') in such manner that the head (14) has a circumferential edge in radially offset relation to the axis when the wire is viewed axially.

15. A machine according to claim 14, wherein each of the gripping elements (100,102) has a recess (112) where the projecting end (W') of the wire (W) projects, the recesses (112) coacting to define a cavity having an axis in radially offset relation to the axis defined by the wire (W) where gripped, and wherein the head-forming means comprises a punch (130) adapted to deform some of the malleable metal including the projecting end (W') into a shape defined by the punch (130) and by the cavity (112).
16. A machine according to claim 15, wherein the punch (130) has an axis and has a cylindrical tip (130) being movable into the recess (112) and having an end (132) with two planar surfaces, namely a first surface (134) and a second surface (136) intersecting the first surface at a vee (138) extending across the cylindrical tip (130), the first surface (134) being oriented at an obtuse, included angle relative to the second surface (136), the second surface being oriented at a right angle relative to the axis of the punch (130), the first surface (134) leading the second surface (136) when the cylindrical tip (130) is moved axially into the cavity (112) and constituting the means for deforming some of the malleable metal including the projecting end (W') laterally.
17. A machine according to claim 16, wherein the included angle is about 168°.
18. A machine according to claim 15, 16 or 17, wherein the recess (112) of each of the gripping elements (100,102) includes an annular channel, the annular channels coacting to define an annular rib on the malleable metal deformed by the punch into the shape defined by the punch and by the cavity.

Patentansprüche

1. Drahtnagel (10, 10', 10'') mit einem Kopf (12, 12', 12'') und einem Schaft (14, 14', 14'') ein-



- stückig mit dem Kopf (12, 12', 12''), wobei der Schaft (14, 14', 14'') mit einer Spitze (16, 16') geformt ist und eine Achse aufweist und der Kopf (12) einen Umfangsrand (20), der einen vollständigen Kreis bildet, aufweist, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Mitte des Kopfes (12, 12', 12'') von der Achse des Schafts (14, 14', 14'') radial beabstandet ist.
2. Drahtnagel nach Anspruch 1, gekennzeichnet durch ein Mittel (22) zur Schaffung eines Datums, welches anzeigt, wo sich der Schaft (14, 14', 14'') befindet, nachdem der Nagel in ein Substrat derart eingetrieben ist, daß der Schaft (14, 14', 14'') verdeckt ist.
 3. Drahtnagel nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der Kopf (12) einen oberen Abschnitt mit zwei ebenen Flächen aufweist, nämlich eine erste Fläche (22) und eine zweite Fläche (24), die die erste Fläche entlang einem quer über den Kopf (12, 12', 12'') verlaufenden Kamm (26) schneidet, wobei die erste Fläche (22) unter einem stumpfen, eingeschlossenen Winkel relativ zur zweiten Fläche (24) orientiert ist, die zweite Fläche (24) unter einem rechten Winkel zur Achse des Schafts (14, 14', 14'') orientiert ist, und die erste Fläche (22) ein Datum aufweist, welches anzeigt, wo der Schaft (14, 14', 14'') nach dem Einschlagen des Nagels in ein Substrat derart, daß der Schaft (14, 14', 14'') verdeckt ist, liegt.
 4. Drahtnagel nach Anspruch 3, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der eingeschlossene Winkel etwa 168° beträgt.
 5. Drahtnagel nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der Kopf (12') einen unteren Abschnitt hat, der eine Tangentialebene definiert, welche normal zu einer Achse des Kopfes (12') und in spitzem Winkel zu der Achse des Schafts (14) orientiert ist.
 6. Drahtnagel (10', 10'') nach Anspruch 1, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der Kopf (12', 12'') einen unteren Abschnitt hat, der eine Tangentialebene definiert, welche normal zu der Achse des Kopfes (12', 12'') und in einem spitzen Winkel zu der Achse des Schafts (14', 14'') orientiert ist.
 7. Drahtnagel nach Anspruch 6, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der spitze Winkel in einem Bereich von etwa 75° bis etwa 85° liegt.
 8. Drahtnagel nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der Kopf (12) einen unteren Abschnitt mit einem Hohlraum (50) aufweist, wobei der Hohlraum von einer ringförmigen Rippe (52) begrenzt ist, außer wo der Schaft (14) an den Kopf (12) angrenzt.
 9. Streifen von gleichartigen, geordneten Drahtnägeln (10) nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Nägel (10) durch ein auf die Schäfte (14) angewendetes Mittel (62, 64, 70) geordnet sind, um die Schäfte in zueinander paralleler Anordnung zu halten, wobei die Köpfe (12) in einer gemeinsamen Richtung relativ zu ihren Schäften (14) versetzt sind, so daß der Kopf eines Nagels (10) über dem Kopf seines Nachbarn (10) liegt.
 10. Drahtnagel oder Streifen von Drahtnägeln nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der Schaft (14) des oder jedes Nagels (10) mit einer Keilnut (28) geformt ist, welche eine flache Fläche (30) definiert, die ein Datum zum Ausrichten der Nägel in zueinander paralleler Anordnung schafft, wobei ihre Köpfe in eine gemeinsame Richtung versetzt sind und die Keilnuten (28) der ausgerichteten Nägel einen offenen Kanal (68) definieren.
 11. Drahtnagel oder Streifen von Drahtnägeln nach Anspruch 10, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die flache Fläche (30) des oder jedes Nagels (10) parallel zur Achse des Schafts oder der Schäfte (14) ist.
 12. Drahtnagel oder Streifen von Drahtnägeln nach Anspruch 11 oder 12, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß jede flache Fläche (30) als Parallelogramm mit zwei sich axial erstreckenden Seiten und zwei sich transversal erstreckenden Seiten geformt ist.
 13. Drahtnagel nach Anspruch 12, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Seiten zwei spitze Winkel und zwei stumpfe Winkel bilden.
 14. Maschine zum Herstellen eines Nagels (10) von einem Draht (W) aus einem verformbaren Metall mit einem zwei Greifelemente (100, 102) aufweisenden Mittel zum Greifen des Drahtes (W) zwischen den Greifelementen (100, 102) derart, daß ein Ende (W') des Drahtes über die Greifelemente (100, 102) hervorsteht, wobei der Draht (W), wo er gegriffen ist, eine Achse definiert, gekennzeichnet durch Mittel (130)



zum Formen eines Kopfes (14) an den Draht (W) mittels Verformen von dem verformbaren Metall einschließlich dem hervorstehenden Ende (W') derart, daß der Kopf (14) axial zum Draht gesehen einen zur Achse radial beabstandeten Umfangsrand aufweist.

15. Maschine nach Anspruch 14, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß jedes der Greifelemente (100, 102) eine Ausnehmung (112) aufweist, wo das hervorstehende Ende (W') des Drahtes (W) hervorsteht, wobei die Ausnehmungen (112) zur Bildung eines Hohlraums mit einer Achse, die zu der durch den Draht (W), wo er gegriffen ist, definierten Achse radial beabstandet ist, und daß das Kopfformungsmittel einen Stempel (130) zum Verformen von verformbarem Metall einschließlich dem hervorstehenden Ende (W') in eine durch den Stempel (130) und den Hohlraum (112) definierte Gestalt aufweist.

16. Maschine nach Anspruch 15, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der Stempel (130) eine Achse und eine zylinderförmige Spitze (130) aufweist, wobei die Spitze in die Ausnehmung (112) bewegbar ist und ein Ende (132) mit zwei ebenen Flächen hat, nämlich eine erste Fläche (134) und eine zweite Fläche (136), die die erste Fläche unter Bildung eines quer zur zylinderförmigen Spitze (130) verlaufenden V (138) schneidet, wobei die erste Fläche (134) unter einem stumpfen, eingeschlossenen Winkel relativ zur zweiten Fläche (136) orientiert ist, die zweite Fläche unter einem rechten Winkel zur Achse des Stempels (130) orientiert ist, und die erste Fläche (134) der zweiten Fläche (136) voreilt, wenn die zylinderförmige Spitze (130) axial in den Hohlraum (112) bewegt ist, sowie das Mittel zum Verformen des verformbaren Metalls einschließlich dem lateral hervorstehenden Ende (W') bildet.

17. Maschine nach Anspruch 16, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der eingeschlossene Winkel etwa 168° beträgt.

18. Maschine nach Anspruch 15, 16 oder 17, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Ausnehmung (112) jedes der Greifelemente (100, 102) einen ringförmigen Kanal aufweist, wobei die ringförmigen Kanäle zusammenwirken zur Bildung einer ringförmigen Rippe auf dem verformbaren Metall, welches durch den Stempel in eine durch den Stempel und Hohlraum definierte Gestalt deformiert ist.

Revendications

1. Clou métallique (10, 10', 10'') présentant une tête (12, 12', 12'') et une tige (14, 14', 14'') d'un seul tenant avec la tête (12, 12', 12''), la tige (14, 14', 14'') étant pourvue d'un bout (16, 16') et présentant un axe, et la tête (12) présentant un bord circonférentiel (20) définissant un cercle complet; caractérisé en ce que le centre de la tête (12, 12', 12'') est décalé radialement de l'axe de la tige (14, 14', 14'').
2. Clou métallique selon la revendication 1, présentant un moyen servant à fournir une donnée indiquant l'emplacement auquel est situé la tige (14, 14', 14'') après un enfoncement dudit clou dans un substrat qui masque la tige (14, 14', 14'').
3. Clou métallique selon la revendication 1 ou 2, dans lequel la tête (12) présente une partie supérieure pourvue de deux surfaces planaires, à savoir une première surface (22) et une seconde surface (24) intersectant la première surface le long d'une crête (26) s'étendant sur la tête (12, 12', 12''), la première surface (22) étant orientée en formant un angle inclus, obtus par rapport à la seconde surface (24), la seconde surface (24) étant orientée à angle droit par rapport à l'axe de la tige (14, 14', 14''), la première surface (22) fournissant une donnée indiquant l'emplacement auquel est située la tige (14, 14', 14'') après un enfoncement du clou dans un substrat qui masque la tige (14, 14', 14'').
4. Clou métallique selon la revendication 3, dans lequel l'angle inclus est d'à peu près 168°.
5. Clou métallique selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel la tête (12') présente une partie inférieure définissant un plan tangent, qui est orienté à angle droit par rapport à un axe de la tête (12') et forme un angle aigu par rapport à l'axe de la tige (14).
6. Clou métallique (10', 10'') selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la tête (12', 12'') présente une partie inférieure définissant un plan tangent qui est orienté perpendiculairement à l'axe de la tête (12', 12'') et forme un angle aigu par rapport à l'axe de la tige (14', 14'').
7. Clou métallique selon la revendication 6, dans lequel l'angle aigu est compris dans une plage allant d'à peu près 75° à à peu près 85°.



8. Clou métallique selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel la tête (12) présente une partie inférieure comportant une cavité (50) qui est délimitée par une nervure annulaire (52), à l'exception de l'endroit ou la tige (14) rejoint la tête (12).

9. Bande de clous métalliques (10) assemblés, analogues, selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, les clous (10) étant assemblés par des moyens (62, 64, 70) appliqués sur les tiges (14), afin de maintenir les tiges

parallèles entre elles, avec les têtes (12) décalées dans une direction commune par rapport à leurs tiges (14), de manière que la tête d'un chou (10) recouvre la tête de son voisin (10) immédiat.

10. Clou métallique ou bande de clous métalliques selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel la tige (14) du, ou de chaque, chou (10) est pourvue d'une rainure de clavette (28), qui définit une surface plane (30) fournissant une donnée servant à orienter les clous en relation parallèle les uns par rapport aux autres, leurs têtes étant décalées dans une direction commune et les rainures de clavette (28) des clous orientés définissant un canal ouvert (68).

11. Clou métallique ou bande de clous métalliques selon la revendication 10, dans lequel la surface plane (30) du, ou de chaque, chou (10) est parallèle à l'axe du ou des tiges (14).

12. Clou métallique ou bande de clous métalliques selon la revendication 11 ou 12, dans lequel la, ou chaque, surface plane (30) a la forme d'un parallélogramme pourvu de deux côtés s'étendant en direction axiale et de deux côtés s'étendant en direction transversale.

13. Clou métallique selon la revendication 12, dans lequel les côtés définissent deux angles aigus et deux angles obtus.

14. Machine de fabrication d'un clou (10) à partir d'un fil (W) en métal malléable, comprenant des moyens comportant deux éléments de saisie (100, 102) servant à saisir le fil (W) entre les éléments de saisie (100, 102), de manière qu'une extrémité (W') du fil fasse saillie depuis les éléments de saisie (100, 102), le fil (W) définissant un axe lorsqu'il est saisi, caractérisée par un moyen (130) servant à former une tête (14) sur le fil (W) en déformant une certaine quantité du métal malléable, y compris la

tête (W') saillante, de manière que la tête (14) présente un bord circonférentiel en relation décalée radialement par rapport à l'axe, lorsque le fil est observé en vue axiale.

15. Machine selon la revendication 14, dans laquelle chacun des éléments de saisie (100, 102) présente une cavité (112) dans laquelle l'extrémité (W') saillante du fil (W) fait saillie, les cavités (112) coopérant de façon à définir une cavité présentant un axe en relation décalée radialement par rapport à l'axe défini par le fil (W) lorsqu'il est saisi, et dans lequel le moyen de formage de tête comprend un poinçon (130) adapté de façon à déformer une certaine quantité du métal malléable, y compris la tête (W') saillante, en vue d'obtenir une forme définie par le poinçon (130) et par la cavité (112).

16. Machine selon la revendication 15, dans laquelle le poinçon (130) présente un axe et un bout cylindrique (130) pouvant se déplacer dans la cavité (112) et a une extrémité (132) pourvue de deux surfaces planaires, à savoir une première surface (134) et une seconde surface (136) coupant la première surface en formant un V (138) s'étendant sur le bout cylindrique (130), la première surface (134) étant orientée en formant un angle obtus par rapport à la seconde surface (136), la seconde surface étant orientée à angle droit par rapport à l'axe du poinçon (130), la première surface (134) guidant la seconde surface (136) lorsque le bout cylindrique (130) est déplacé axialement dans la cavité (112) et constituant le moyen servant à déformer latéralement une certaine quantité du métal malléable, y compris la tête (W') saillant latéralement.

17. Machine selon la revendication 16, dans laquelle l'angle inclus est d'à peu près 168°.

18. Machine selon la revendication 15, 16 ou 17, dans laquelle la cavité (112) de chacun des éléments de saisie (100, 102) comprend une gorge annulaire, les gorges annulaires coopérant afin de définir une nervure annulaire sur le métal malléable déformé par le poinçon en la forme définie par le poinçon et par la cavité.