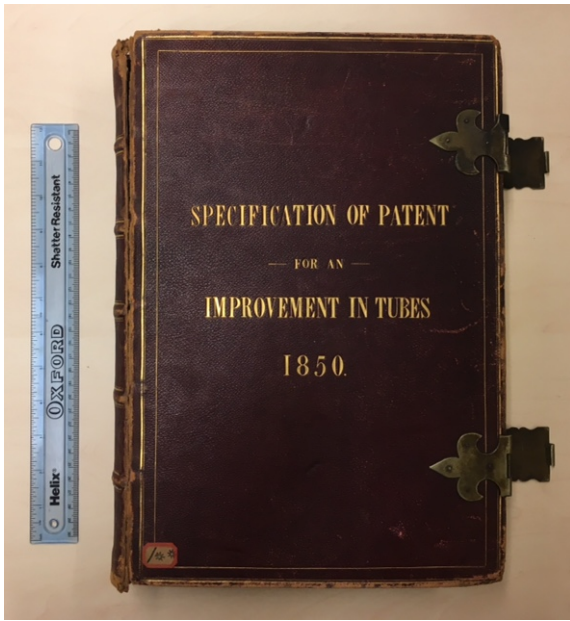


Tubes: A Wealth of Trouble - Some Additional Images

The original of the enrolled 1850 "anti-weld" tube patent and its first and last pages - all images courtesy of the British Library. It was presumably donated by Richard Bissell Prosser to the Patent Office Library before his death in 1918.



To all to whom these Presents shall come I, Richard Prosser of Birmingham Civil Engineer do greeting. Whereas I said by Petition humbly presented unto the present Most Excellent Majesty Queen Victoria that I had invented certain Improvements in Machinery and an apparatus for manufacturing tubular tubes which Improvements in Machinery are in part applicable for other purposes where pressure is required, also Improvements in the mode of applying tubular tubes in steam boilers or other vessels requiring tubular tubes to be applied within them, and the said Majesty being willing to give encouragement to all arts and inventions that may be for the public good was graciously pleased by Her Majesty's Letters Patent under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland bearing date at Westminster the seventh day of April one thousand eight hundred and fifty in the thirteenth year of the said Majesty her heirs and assigns to give and grant unto me the said Richard Prosser my executors administrators and assigns her special license full power sole privilege and authority that I or they by myself or themselves or by any or their special servants or agents or assigns should agree with and receive during the term of fourteen years from the date of the said Letters Patent should and lawfully might make use exercise and vend my said invention within that part of the said Majesty's Dominions called England her Dominion of Wales and Towns of Berwick upon Tweed in such manner as to me my executors administrators and assigns shall seem meet and that I or they shall enjoy the whole profit and advantage arising by reason of the said invention during the said term of fourteen years. And whereas the said Letters Patent contain a proviso obliging me the said Richard Prosser particularly to devise and ascertain the manner of my said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed by an instrument in writing under my hand and seal and to cause the same to be enrolled in the said Majesty's High Court of Chancery within six calendar months

conical interior of the hole, for that purpose the hoop is left open at one part of its circumference with an interlocking joint at that open part in manner hereinbefore described in order that such joint may permit a very small contraction to take place in the diameter of the hoop during the act of forcing it into the conical hole and by such contraction of the hoop to cause it to grasp firmly around the cylindrical end of the tube when the conical exterior of the hoop becomes tightly fitted into the conical interior of the hole. By withdrawing such hoop from its place in the conical hole the tube can be drawn out endways through the hole so as to remove it from the boiler or other vessel.

In witness whereof I the said Richard Prosser have hereunto set my hand and seal this seventh day of October one thousand eight hundred and fifty.

Richard Prosser

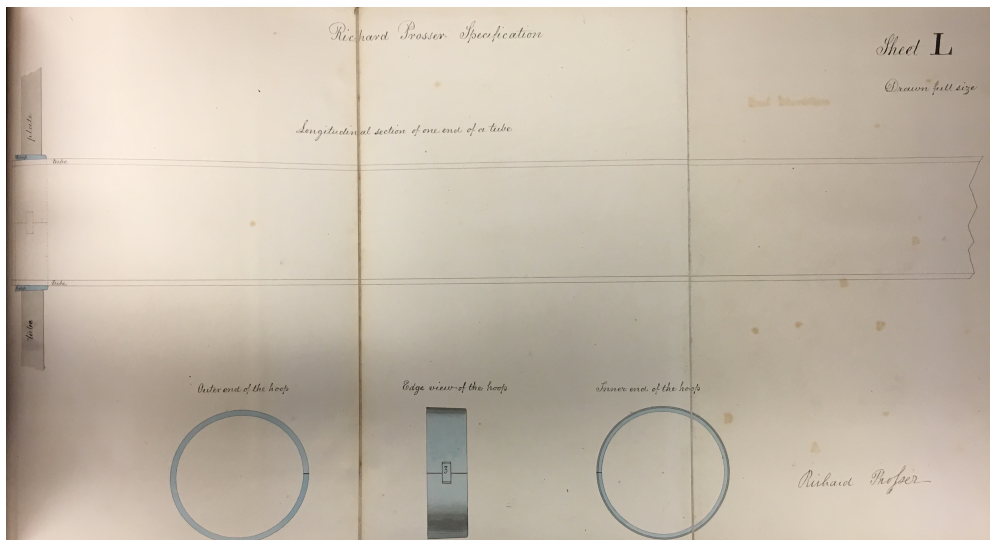
All and acknowledged by the said Richard Prosser party hereto at my house in Birmingham in the County of Warwick the seventh day of October one thousand eight hundred and fifty - before me.

Wm. Henry
 Notary Extraordinary in Chancery.

Enrolled in Her Majesty's High Court of Chancery the seventh day of October in the year of our Lord 1850 (being first duly sworn) according to the tenor of the Statute made for that purpose.

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The final drawing which is missing from the printed version - note Richard's signature.



Richard Bissell Prosser's note inserted within the front cover of the patent.

20. 7. 1850.
Prosser

This is the original Specification of Richard Prosser's Patent for the manufacture of tubes, dated 11 April 1850. No. 13,035. When presented for enrolment the officials were at first inclined to refuse it, on the ground that it was not in the usual form, but my father refused to take it back, and in the end it was enrolled as appears from the Certificate at the end.

The patent is for the manufacture of anti-welded tubes, as they were called, that is, tubes with a longitudinal unwelded and unbrazed joint; tightness being maintained by simple contact. These tubes were of course, only suitable for use where the pressure was not great, such for instance as boiler tubes. I once heard my father say that he spent £14,000 in bringing out this patent, which was a considerable failure.

The machinery described in this patent

displays great ingenuity. On sheets J, J. K, may be seen drawings of the steam-hydraulic press, of which my father was I believe, the first & true inventor, though he has never had the credit of it. On Sheet K a steam-hydraulic sawing machine is shown. The specification may be more conveniently studied in the printed copy.

R. B. Prosser
 18/9/01.

November 1852 shipping invoice from R. Prosser & Co. Birmingham to Thomas Prosser & Son New York - kindly donated to us by Jody Behrbaum (bought by her on eBay).

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P. Prosser & Co. Liverpool Nov 12 1852

Wm. Prosser & Son New York

Dear Sirs I beg to remit upon you with the enclosed Bills of Lading & proceeds' notes of charges on 15 128 Bbls Iron Tubs shipped by J. J. & Co. to your port, also 148 Iron Tubs shipped by J. J. & Co. to your port - amount - There should be 130 Bbls in the bill but my man says only 128 were red. at the Bureau - I have however filled up the bill of Lading for 130 Bbls leaving 2 in dispute. You find to have been duly advised at the time that only 128 Bbls came to hand.

Yours truly
 R. Prosser & Co.
 W. Roberts


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Charges on 128 Bbls Iron Tubs shipped by the undersigned on board the E. L. Northern master for New York consigned to Messrs. Prosser & Son there for J. J. & Co. Birmingham

To Custom &c. Entry Dues &c	0.9.0
To Portage & Wharfe	1.7.6
To Bills of Lading	0.1.2
To Commission on 128 Bbls Iron Tubs 1/2	16.0
E. L. Paid Nov 9 1852	£ 2.13.8
J. J. & Co. W. Roberts	

Charges on the 148 Iron Tubs shipped by the undersigned on board the J. J. & Co. master for New York consigned to Messrs. Prosser & Son there for J. J. & Co. Birmingham

To Custom &c. Entry Dues &c	.7.0
To Portage & Wharfe	1.1.0
To Bills of Lading	.1.2
To Commission on 148 Bbls 1/2	18.6
E. L. Paid Nov 11 1852	£ 1.14.8
J. J. & Co. W. Roberts	


 P. Prosser & Co. Liverpool
 Wm. Prosser & Son New York
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