

J. Agnew,

Bale Tie.

No. 21,305.

Patented Aug. 31, 1858.

Fig. 1.

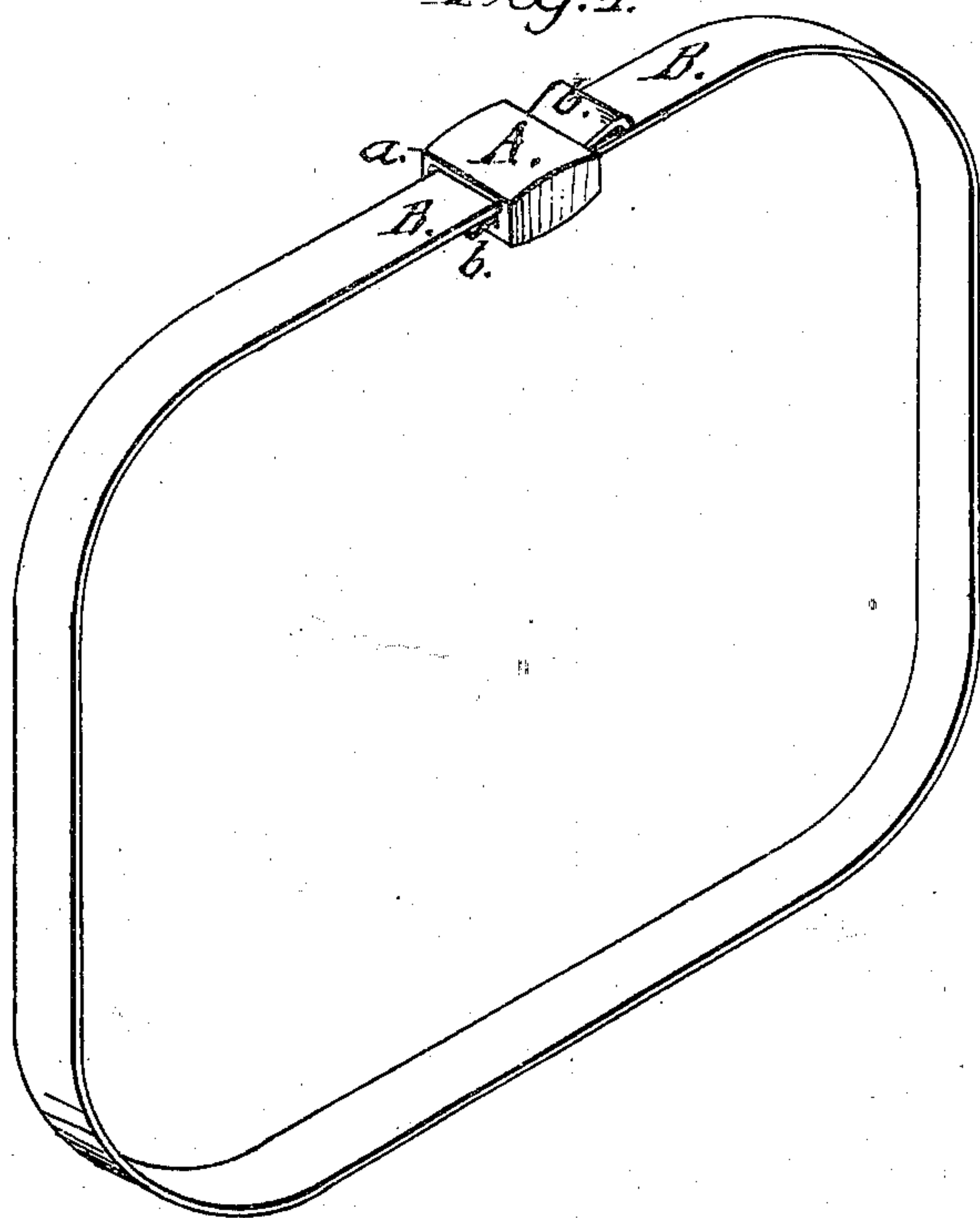
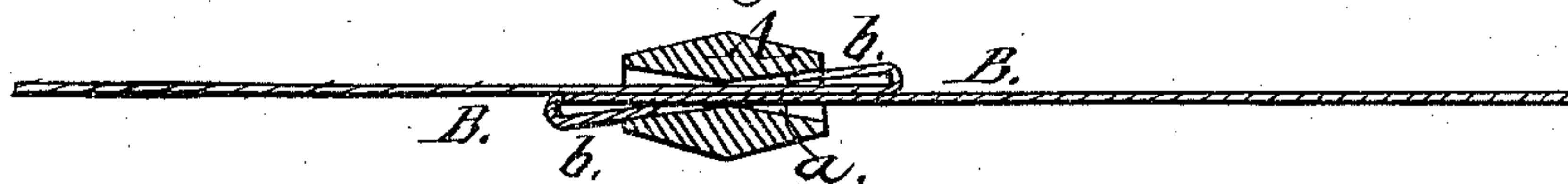


Fig. 2.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN AGNEW, OF COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA.

IMPROVEMENT IN COUPLINGS FOR BALE-HOOPS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 21,305, dated August 31, 1858.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN AGNEW, of Columbia, in the district of Richland and State of South Carolina, have invented a new and Improved Coupling or Fastening for Securing Together the Ends of Metal Bale-Hoops; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my invention. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section of the same.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the two figures.

This invention consists in having a small metal casting with a longitudinal slot in it of double-taper form, as hereinafter shown, and having the ends of the hoops doubled or bent over in loop form, so that the same may bind or become wedged in the casting, forming a perfect coupling or fastening, as hereinafter described.

To enable those skilled in the art to fully understand and construct my invention, I will proceed to describe it.

A represents a metal socket of cast metal—at least that would be the cheapest and most preferable material. The socket may be about three-quarters of an inch in length and a trifle wider than the hoops the ends of which are to be fastened together. This socket has a longitudinal slot or opening, *a*, in it, which slot is of double-taper form—that is to say, the opening *a* is gradually enlarged from its center to its outer ends, as shown clearly in Fig. 2.

B B represent the two ends of a metal hoop, such as are used for baling purposes. The opening *a* is sufficiently wide to allow the ends of the hoop to pass through, and also of sufficient dimensions in the opposite direction to allow the two ends of the hoop to pass through.

The device is used as follows: The hoops are placed in the press-box, as usual, and when the article is sufficiently compressed the ends B B of each hoop are passed through the opening *a* of its socket A. The ends are then bent by means of pliers in loop form or doubled, as shown at *b*, and when the bale thus bound is relieved of the pressure it will expand sufficiently to bind the loops in the enlarged ends of the opening *a*. The loops *b* of course form four thicknesses of hoop, which form too thick a mass to be drawn through the narrow central part of the opening *a*, and consequently they will become wedged in the orifices of the opening *a*. This will be clearly understood by referring to the drawings.

This invention is extremely simple, and may be constructed at a trifling cost. The fastening formed by it cannot possibly fail, and the connection may be made with the greatest facility.

I am aware that the ends of bale-hoops have been passed through slotted plates and bent so as to form hooks; but this plan differs essentially from mine. In the former case the bent ends are liable to break off, as the strain is sustained by a single thickness of hoop, whereas in my invention the loops, which do not serve in the capacity of hooks, but rather of wedges, are well calculated to resist any strain to which they may be subjected.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The socket A, provided with the double-taper opening *a*, in connection with the loops *b* at the ends B B of the hoops, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

JOHN AGNEW.

Witnesses:

JOHN M. McDONALD,
JAMES C. KENNETH.