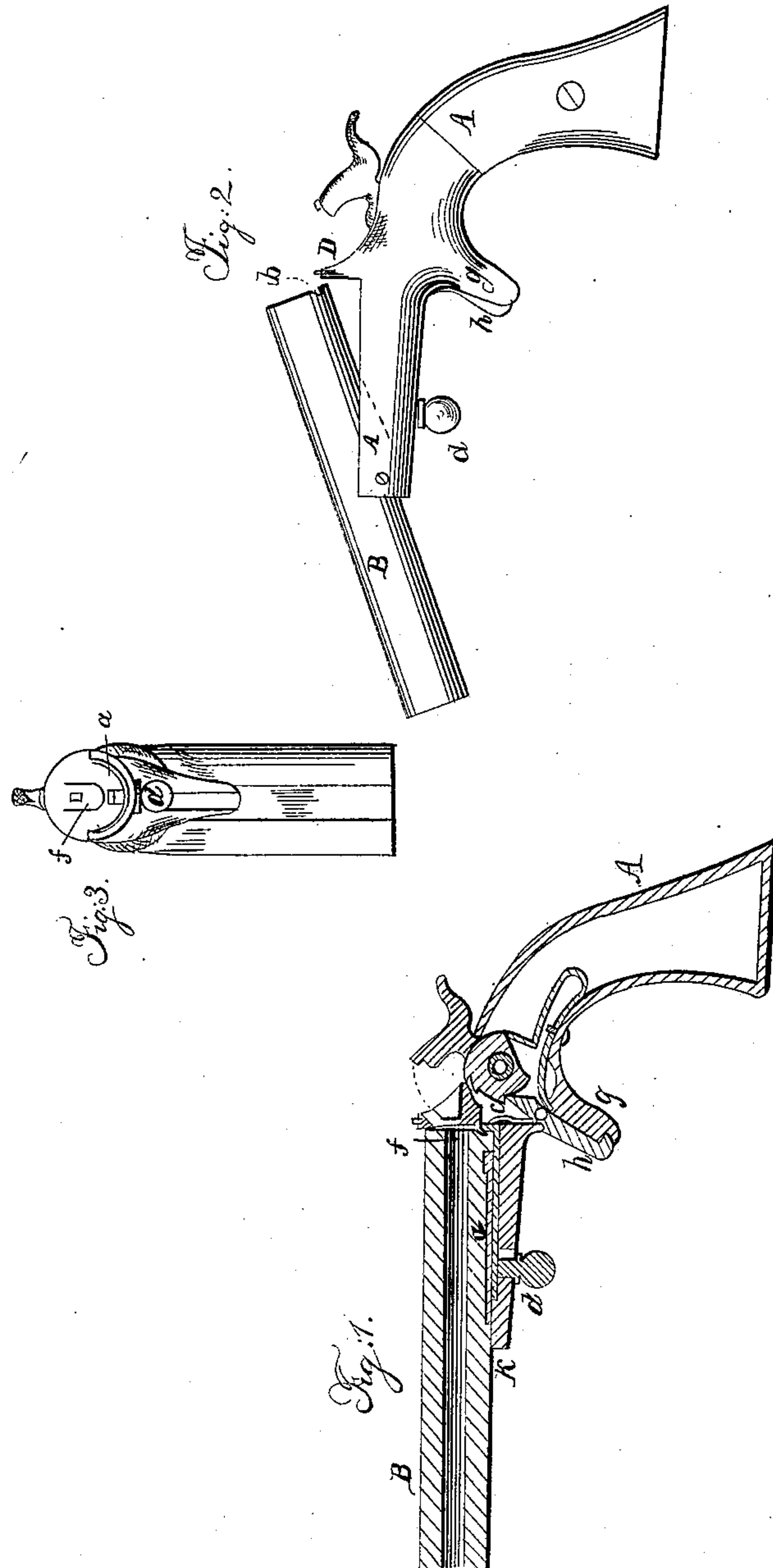


WESSON & HARRINGTON.

Breech-Loading Fire-Arm.

No. 25,926.

Patented Oct. 25, 1859.



Witnesses. } *J. Russell*
 } *J. J. Hallen* *J. Wesson & H. S. Harrington.*

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

F. WESSON AND N. S. HARRINGTON, OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS.

IMPROVEMENT IN BREECH-LOADING FIRE-ARMS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 25,926, dated October 25, 1859.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, F. WESSON and N. S. HARRINGTON, of the city and county of Worcester, and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Breech-Loading Pistols, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents a longitudinal sectional elevation of a pistol embracing our improvements. Fig. 2 represents a side elevation of the same with the breech of the barrel raised in position to receive the cartridge, and Fig. 3 represents a front elevation of the stock with the barrel removed.

Our improvements in fire-arms relate to that class of breech-loaders in which the breech of the barrel is elevated to receive the charge, and in which the cartridge used is made with a projecting flange around its base. The breech-loaders of this class as heretofore constructed, the arrangement of the mechanism for locking the barrel to the stock, and for releasing and elevating it to insert the charge, is complicated, cumbersome, and expensive in its construction, on which account the application of the principle of elevating the breech of the barrel to receive the charge has been found to be inapplicable to that description of small fire-arms with a concealed trigger or a trigger inclosed in a projection of the stock—such as are carried in the pocket or belt—as in these arms it is essential for convenience that all parts should be simple in their construction and arrangement, and that the operating parts to which the hand is applied should be compact, convenient to the grasp, and at the same time protected by the form of the stock, so as not to be liable to catch in the pocket or belt in drawing the arm.

Among other modes adopted for locking the barrel, the longitudinal trigger-guard has been arranged to slide on the under plate of the stock and the front end to pass through this plate and extend a short distance above the lower edge of the barrel, and is provided with prongs or bolts which enter the breech and lock it to the stock; but this arrangement of the locking mechanism is not well adapted to the pocket-pistol, as they cannot be well used

with the longitudinal guard without being too cumbersome, and, moreover, it is objectionable to connect the locking mechanism with the guard, as the finger is liable to slip from the trigger in firing and strike the rear of the guard, by which the rear will be elevated at the same time the trigger is drawn. To overcome this and other defects in the releasing and holding mechanism of the barrel to the stock is the object of one part of our petition.

Our invention consists in arranging a spring-bolt in the hollow of the stock on the under side of the barrel, the shank of which extends forward and is provided with a projecting knob at a convenient distance from the trigger to be grasped by the trigger-finger and drawn back to release the barrel; and our invention also consists in combining with a locking-bolt a spring arranged on the under side of the barrel and acting upon the stock, so as to elevate the breech when the bolt is withdrawn.

The object of another part of our improvement is to pack the joint between the breech of the barrel and recoil-plate, and thus diminish the windage of the cartridge; and our invention for effecting this object consists in forming a wedge-shaped recess in the recoil-plate to receive the flanged base of the cartridge, so as to force the edges of the flange in closer contact with the breech of the barrel, while at the same time the outer edges of the recoil-plate surround the base of the cartridge and form a close joint with the barrel and the recoil-plate.

In the accompanying drawings is represented a pocket-pistol embracing our improvements, which consists of a metal frame-stock, A, containing the mechanism of the lock, and holding the barrel B of the pistol. A projection or side guard, g, extends from the under side of the stock and nearly in line with the end of the breech and receives and protects the trigger h. The barrel B is a straight metallic tube open at both ends, and pivoted to the front end of the stock in such manner that its rear or breech may be elevated to receive the cartridge. The barrel is locked to the stock by a spring-bolt, a, in the bottom of the groove of the stock, which catches into a notch, b, in the end of the barrel and locks it to the stock. The bolt is held in the notch by a small spring, c, acting on the rear end of the bolt. A small

knob, *d*, in front of the trigger passes through the stock and is connected with the shank of the bolt at a convenient distance to be grasped by the trigger-finger. A spring, *K*, attached to the under side of the breech, extends forward and bears upon the hollow of the stock in front of the shank of the bolt, and by means of this spring the breech is elevated to receive the cartridge when the bolt is drawn back. A recoil-plate, *D*, in front of the hammer covers the breech of the barrel, and in its face is a wedge-shaped recess, *f*, to receive the base of the flanged cartridge used with this pistol, and the width and depth of this recess are made to correspond with the diameter and thickness of the base of the cartridge. Outside of the recess the recoil-plate forms a close joint with the breech of the barrel. On inserting the cartridge and depressing the breech, the flanged base enters the wedge-shaped recess, which gradually forces it home against the breech, so that a close joint is formed between the flange and barrel, and between the base of the cartridge and the recoil-plate, while at the same time the outer edges of the recoil-plate form a close joint with the breech of the barrel beyond the outer edge of the flange of the cartridge. Thus the escape of gas between the breech of the barrel and the recoil-plate is prevented.

The simplicity of the mechanism for locking and unlocking the barrel, the arrangement of its position, so that it does not interfere with

the trigger when placed nearly in line with the breech of the barrel, which is necessary in the pocket-pistol in order to give it greater compactness, the convenience with which it operates by extending the trigger-finger forward without removing the hand from its grasp on the stock, render it peculiarly applicable to that description of pistols in which the trigger is protected by a side guard and arranged directly below the barrel.

Having thus described our improvements in pistols, what we claim therein as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

1. The arrangement of the mechanism for locking and unlocking the barrel, and the arrangement of the trigger, substantially as described.
2. The combination, with the locking and the unlocking mechanism, of the spring *K*, arranged substantially as described, for elevating the breech.
3. In combination with the barrel, the wedge-shaped recess in the recoil-plate, arranged substantially as described, for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof we have subscribed our names.

FRANKLIN WESSON.

NATHAN S. HARRINGTON.

Witnesses:

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THOMAS RUSSELL.