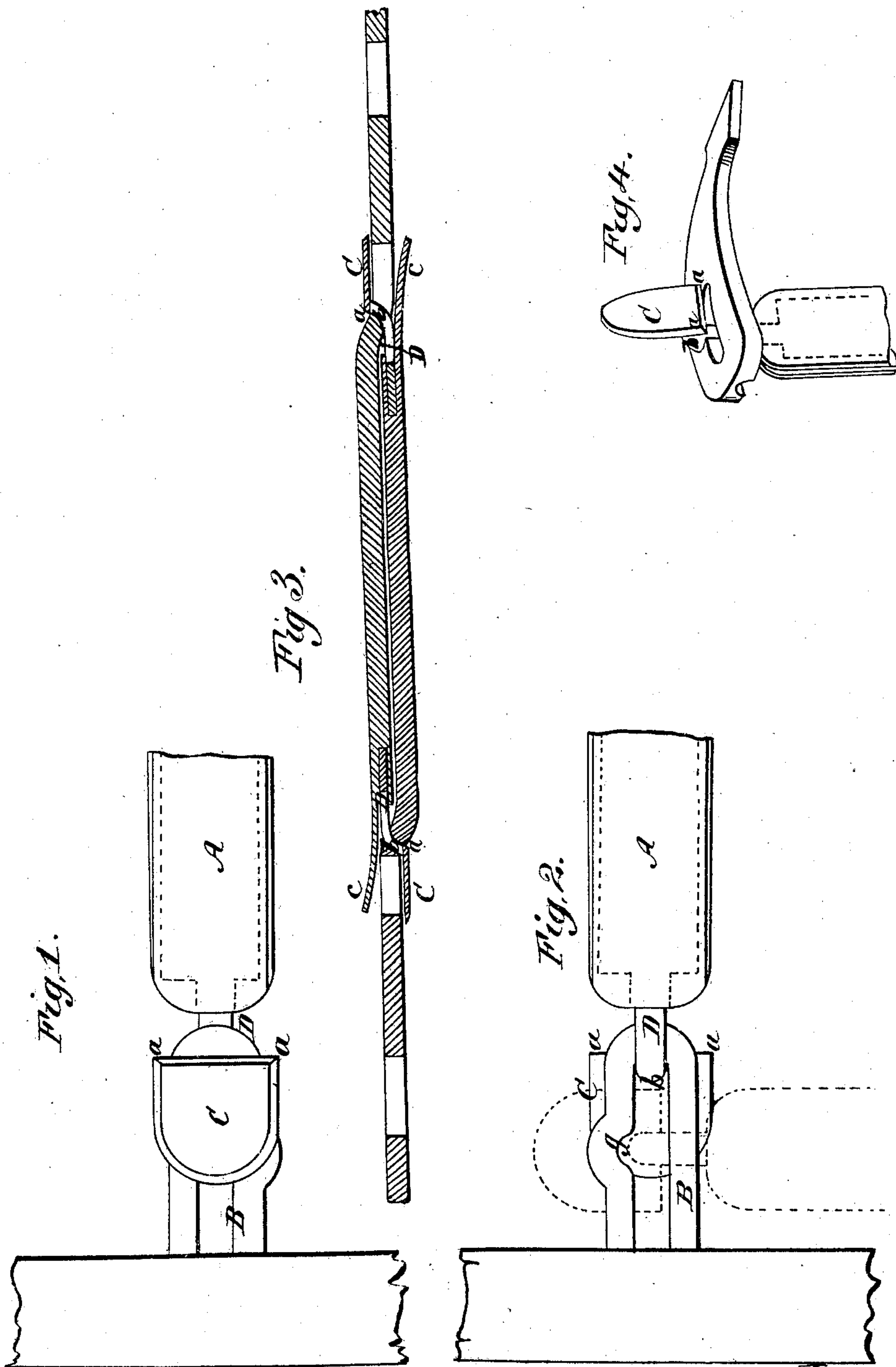


P. A. House,

Trace Coupler.

N^o 67,761.

Patented Aug. 13, 1867.



Witnesses.

R. J. Campbell.

Edw. Schaefer

Inventor.

Peter A. House

by his agents,
Mason, Fenwick & Lawrence

United States Patent Office.

PETER A. HAUSE, OF CATONSVILLE, MARYLAND.

Letters Patent No. 67,761, dated August 13, 1867.

IMPROVED TRACE-COUPLER.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, PETER A. HAUSE, of Catonsville, in the county of Baltimore, and State of Maryland, have invented a new and improved Coupling for Harness; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a front view of the improved coupling, showing a strap attached to a staple.

Figure 2 is a back view of the same parts.

Figure 3 shows two straps connected together by means of two of my improved couplings.

Figure 4 is a perspective view showing the device in the act of being detached from a hame-tug ear.

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

This invention relates to a new and improved device, which is designed for coupling together different straps used in a harness, such, for instance, as the trace-straps, and belly-band straps, and other straps which have heretofore been connected together by means of buckles.

The object of my invention is to dispense with the use of buckles, and to employ instead thereof a much stronger, safer, and more durable means of attachment, consisting of a flat head formed on one end of a tongue having a bent shoulder, and employing a strap in conjunction therewith having an oblong slit or slot for receiving the flattened head through it, as will be hereinafter described and shown.

To enable others skilled in the art to understand my invention, I will describe its construction and operation.

In the accompanying drawings, figs. 1 and 2, I have represented a strap, A, connected to a staple B, by means of my improved coupling; and in fig. 3 I have represented two straps connected together by the improved coupling. This coupling consists of a flattened and rounded head or button, C, which is flat upon its back side and rounded upon its front side, as shown in the drawings. The outer face of this button-head may be highly ornamented, so as to present a very neat and handsome appearance. This button, C, is formed on or suitably secured to the end of a tongue, D, which is rounded for a portion of its length, and flattened at and near its end, so that this end can be firmly secured to a strap, as shown in the drawings. The tongue D is bent so as to form a right angle at *b*, and upon the end of this portion *b* the button-head C is firmly secured or formed, as shown in fig. 3. The point of connection of the button-head with the end of the tongue *b* is at or near the straight edge *a a* of this button, so that a hook or shoulder will be formed which will be guarded by the said button. The device is applied to a strap by stitching its flattened tongue between the two thicknesses forming the strap, leaving a portion of the tongue projecting beyond the end of the strap, as shown in figs. 1 and 2. For traces the device can be so applied as to leave a portion, *c*, of the leather projecting, as shown in fig. 3, for the purpose of covering the back part of the button C and the projecting portion of its tongue. The manner of applying the device to a staple for connecting a strap thereto, as shown in figs. 1 and 2, is to have an offset, *g*, formed in the staple, and to introduce the button-head through the staple by holding this head in the position shown in fig. 4, so that the shouldered portion *b* of the tongue will pass through the offset at *g*. The button having been passed entirely through the staple the strap is then turned to the position shown in fig. 1, and the shoulder *b* drawn up against the head of the staple. For connecting the device to leather or other flexible straps, the grooves or offsets *g* will not be required, as the material of which the strap is made will yield and allow the passage of the button C and its shoulder, *b*.

One great advantage of my improved coupler over buckles is that it has no joints nor movable parts. It is made of one solid piece of metal, and possesses great strength and durability. It cannot become casually detached from an object to which it is attached. When used for connecting traces to the trace-tugs, or for connecting any two straps together, the strain will be sustained by the shoulder *b* against the end of the button-hole, and by the straight edge *a a* bearing upon the entire width of the strap through which the button is passed.

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

1. The construction of the flat button head C upon the bent end *b* of a tongue portion, D, substantially as described and for the purpose explained.
2. The combination of a staple, B, having an offset or groove, *g*, formed in it, with the button-headed connecting device C D, substantially as and for the purpose described.

PETER A. HAUSE.

Witnesses:

CHARLES GERWIG,
F. GERWIG.