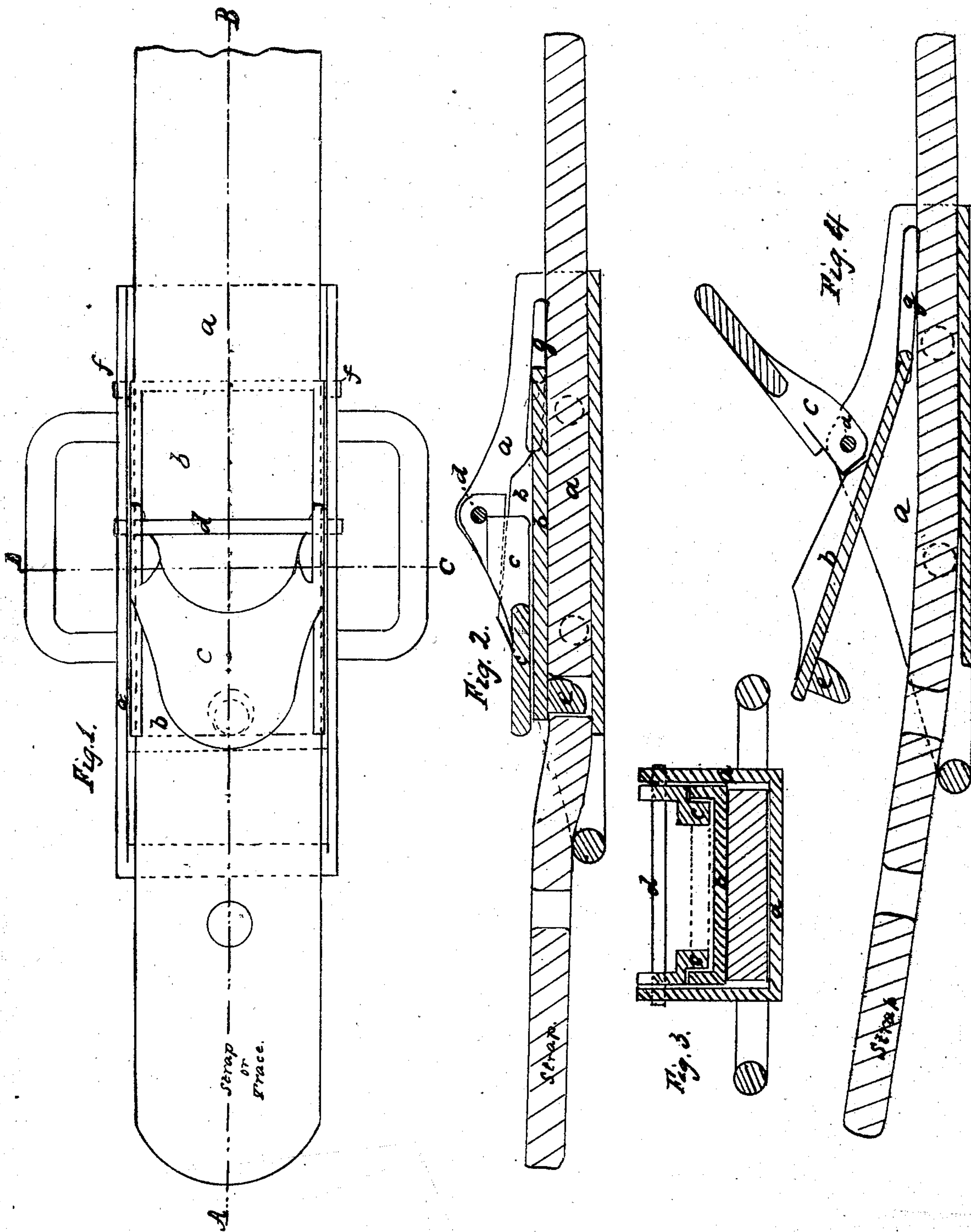


Pond & Ballantine Buckle

No. 74243

Patented Feb. 11. 1868.



Witnesses.

Andrew B. Howland.
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Inventors.

Martin H. Pond Jr
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MARTIN W. POND, JR., AND ALEXANDER T. BALLANTINE, OF TITUSVILLE,
PENNSYLVANIA.

Letters Patent No. 74,243, dated February 11, 1868.

IMPROVED WEDGE-BUCKLE.

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

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that we, MARTIN W. POND, Jr., and ALEXANDER T. BALLANTINE, both of the city of Titusville, county of Crawford, and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful "Combination Wedge-Buckle;" and we do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification.

Similar letters represent similar parts in all the drawings.

Our invention is designed to be used principally in cases where a great strain is brought upon the strap and buckle, as in the traces, pad-bearers, reins, &c., of harnesses, but is equally applicable in all cases when buckles are used. The practical disadvantages of all buckles now used are, that after the trace or strap has been used in the buckle several months, or years, as is sometimes the case, without changing its position, it becomes rusted and drawn out of shape, and so compressed and crimped at the point of draught, that upon lengthening and straightening the trace or strap, it sooner or later cracks at the point of former contact with the buckle, and the experience of all practical harness-makers in repairing old harnesses is, that they almost invariably break first at the point of contact with the buckle. In the ordinary tongue-buckle, in addition to the crimping and cutting of the trace by the edge of the buckle, the tongue soon tears out the trace. Inventors have improved vastly on the old buckle, but, as far as our knowledge extends, all buckles thus far known or used, to a greater or less degree, crimp, cut, or compress the leather in proportion to the amount of strain and the length of time they are used without change of position.

The object of our invention is, therefore, to produce a buckle which shall hold the trace perfectly firm and tight in any desired position, and which may be applied to a single point on the trace or strap for any desired length of time, and under any desired amount of strain, without in the slightest degree injuring or impairing the appearance, strength, natural elasticity, or durability of the leather. In the drawings—

Figure 1 is a front view of our "combination wedge-buckle," with the strap or trace in place.

Figure 2 is a longitudinal section of the same, on the line A B.

Figure 3 is a cross-section of the same, on line C D.

Figure 4 is a longitudinal section of our buckle, representing it thrown open in readiness for the removal of the trace.

The trace is represented by red lines in all the figures.

Our buckle consists substantially of the oblong body or box *a*, in which the trace or strap lies, covered by the sliding wedge *b*, the wedge being held in position by the adjustable eccentric clamp *c*, made of the peculiar form indicated, which clamp turns on a cross-bar, *d*. This cross-bar serves to strengthen and prevent the sides of the box from spreading, and also forms a loop for the side strap running from the breeching. The wedge *b* is provided with a short spur or tongue, *e*, on its under side. To use the buckle, the strap is passed through it, between the box and wedge, to the desired point. The tongue *e* is dropped into the hole provided in the strap for that purpose; the eccentric clasp *c* is turned down upon the wedge, and a slight drawing of the strap upon the tongue *e* draws the wedge into place, and relieves the tongue from further strain. The wedge is constructed of such a form that when once in place between the strap and the clamp *c*, the heavier the draught the tighter the trace is compressed and held in place between the wedge and back of the buckle, the trace being thus held firmly by friction alone, between two smooth, parallel surfaces, without cutting, bending, indenting, crimping, or in any way injuring any portion of the trace, or the stitching of the same.

To remove or change the length of the trace, it is simply necessary to throw back the clamp *c*, which will relieve the wedge from pressure, and by slightly pushing back the trace, the wedge and tongue are lifted from the trace, and it can be shifted to any desired point.

To prevent the wedge from dropping out of its place when the trace is removed, we provide the projecting points or pins *f*, on the corners of the wedge, which move in the slots *g*, cut in the side of the box for that purpose, the pins thus serving as a hinge for the wedge.

We do not claim broadly the construction of a buckle with two plane surfaces or plates, between which

the trace is held, by means of a tongue, projecting at right angles from one of the plates, nor do we claim the manner of hinging the wedge-plate *b* to the body *a* by means of pins *f*, moving in the slots *g*, as said pins and slots simply serve to prevent the wedge-plate from dropping out when loosened, and this may be accomplished in many ways, but

What we claim as our specific invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

As a new article of manufacture, a wedge-buckle, consisting substantially of the body *a*, wedge-plate *b*, eccentric-clamp *c*, and cross-bar *d*, or its equivalent, when said clamp *c* is so arranged as to compress and guide the wedge-plate when closed, and release it when opened, and the wedge-plate *b*, so arranged as to move in a converging line with relation to the body *a*, and to close upon and tighten its hold on the trace or strap as the draught is increased, substantially in the manner and for the purposes set forth.

Dated at Titusville, Pennsylvania, this thirty-first day of January, A. D. 1867.

MARTIN W. POND, JR.,
ALEX. T. BALLANTINE.

Witnesses:

ANDREW B. HOWLAND,
W. H. CURTIS.