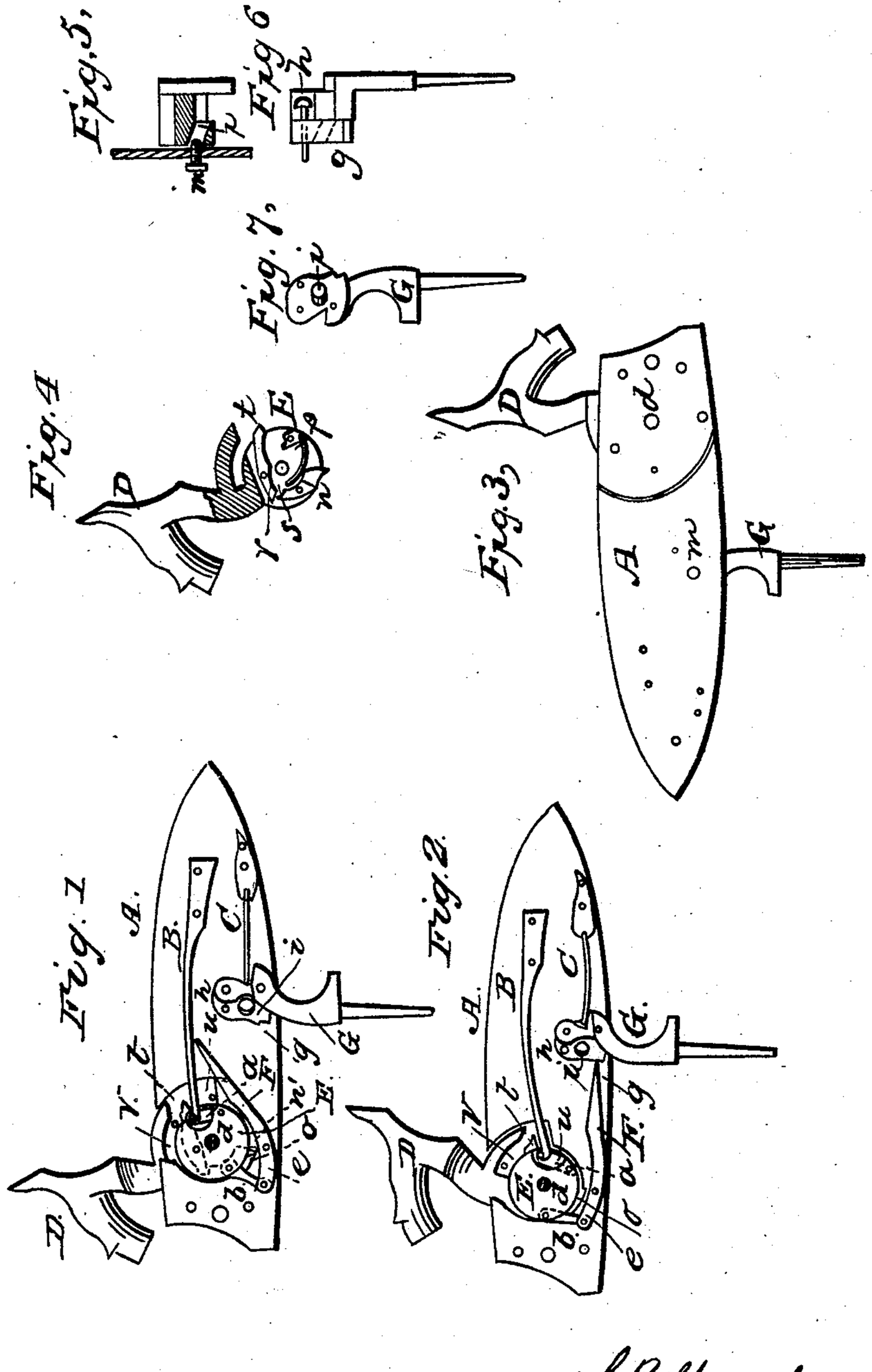
BELDEN & CRABTREE.

Gun Lock.

No. 76,587. Patented April 14, 1868.



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United States Patent Office.

SALMON BELDEN AND JOHN FRANKLING CRABTREE, OF VISALIA, CALIFORNIA.

Letters Patent No. 76,587, *dated April* 14, 1868.

IMPROVEMENT IN GUN-LOCKS.

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, SALMON BELDEN and JOHN FRANKLING CRABTREE, of Visalia, county of Tulare, State of California, have invented an Improved Percussion-Lock for Small-Arms; and we do hereby declare the following description and accompanying drawings are sufficient to enable any person skilled in the art or science to which it most nearly appertains to make and use our said invention or improvements without further invention or experiment.

The object of our invention is to provide an improved gun-lock, in which the following advantages are claimed over those hitherto constructed: First, greater simplicity of construction, with a very few parts, while the trigger, acting directly upon the hammer, will operate it quicker; second, an arrangement by which the lock may be used as an ordinary trigger, or may be converted into a hair-trigger for a rifle; and third, a safety-catch, of such construction that it is impossible for the hammer to strike the cap on the nipple without first fully cocking it and then pulling the trigger. To more fully explain our invention, reference is had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, of which—

Figure 1 is a back view, with the back plate removed.

Figure 2 is a back view with the hammer raised.

Figure 3 is an outside view of the lock.

Figure 4 is a sectional side elevation of the hammer, showing the safety-catch.

Figures 5, 6, and 7 are detached views of the trigger.

Similar letters in each of the figures indicate like parts.

A is the lock-plate, having attached to it the main-spring B and the spring C, which takes the place of the sere-spring ordinarily used. The hammer is made with the head D and cylindrical body E, taking the place of the tumbler in other locks. The main-spring B is attached to and operates upon the hammer by means of a link, *a*, pivoted to the hammer, as shown. At the lower part of the cylinder is another link, *b*, moving loosely, and connected with the lever F. This lever is pivoted to the lock-plate by and operates about the pin *c*. When the hammer-head D is raised, the cylindrical part, E, revolves upon its arbor, *d*, and, by means of the link *b*, draws the end, *e*, of the lever F up. The other end moves down until it catches in the notch *g* of the trigger G, and is held securely by the spring C, which operates directly upon the trigger. When the trigger is pulled, the lever F is released, and the hammer allowed to fall, the lever F moving back again, with the revolution of the cylinder E, to the position shown in fig. 1.

The trigger is pivoted to the lock-plate by the pin *h*, and has through it a hole, *i*, passing obliquely, as shown at fig. 5. A screw, *m*, passes through the side of the lock-plate, which, as it is moved in, presses against the side of the opening, thus forcing the trigger back, and making its hold upon the lever F more or less delicate, as desired.

The safety-catch is constructed as follows: Within the hammer (shown at figs. 1 and 4) is a small piece of steel, *n*, with a point, *n'*, which is kept down by the pressure of the spring *p*. The cavity in the lock-plate, which receives the part E of the hammer, has a notch, *o*, cut at the bottom, as shown in fig. 1, into which the point *n'* falls when the hammer is raised sufficiently to clear the cap on the nipple. The notch *o* is of such shape that, when the hammer is raised far enough to be held by the trigger, the point *n'* is gradually drawn in, which presses the upper end out far enough to allow the lever *r* to catch the notch *s*, and thus prevent the point *n'* from falling into the notch *o* when the trigger is pulled. The end, *t*, of the lever *r* projects so far that, just as the hammer reaches full cock, it strikes the point *u* of the lock-plate, and is thus made to catch the notch *s* and hold the point *n'*. In order to release this point, so as to again catch in the notch *o*, for safety, a pin, *v*, is placed in the lock-plate at such a point that, after the point *n'* has passed the notch *o* in the downward motion of the hammer, the end, *t*, of the lever *r*, strikes *v*, and thus releases the piece *n*, so that the point *n'* may again catch in lifting the hammer, so that, in passing through thickets, or other places where a gun is liable to be

accidentally discharged, the hammer can never be brought down upon the cap unless it be first fully cocked and then the trigger pulled.

By using the device of the screw *m* and the oblique hole *i* for altering the set of the trigger, the gun is made to fire more or less easily, as desired, and the same locks may be put on either rifles or shot-guns without alteration.

As the trigger acts directly upon the hammer without the intervention of the sere and tumbler, its action is much quicker and more certain, while the whole lock has less friction of parts, and is much less liable to get out of order than any now in use.

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

Claims.

1. The lever F, having a short arm connected with the tumbler by a link, and a long arm, to be held by the trigger, when at full cock, and released when the trigger is drawn for discharge, substantially as described.

2. The safety-catch, consisting of the lever *n*, spring *p*, and lever *r*, together with the notch *o*, shoulder *u*, and the pin *v*, the whole combined and operating substantially as and for the purpose described.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and seals.

SALMON BELDEN. [L. S.]
JOHN FRANKLING CRABTREE. [L. S.]

Witnesses:
EDWIN S. SHEARER,
ARTHUR SHEARER.