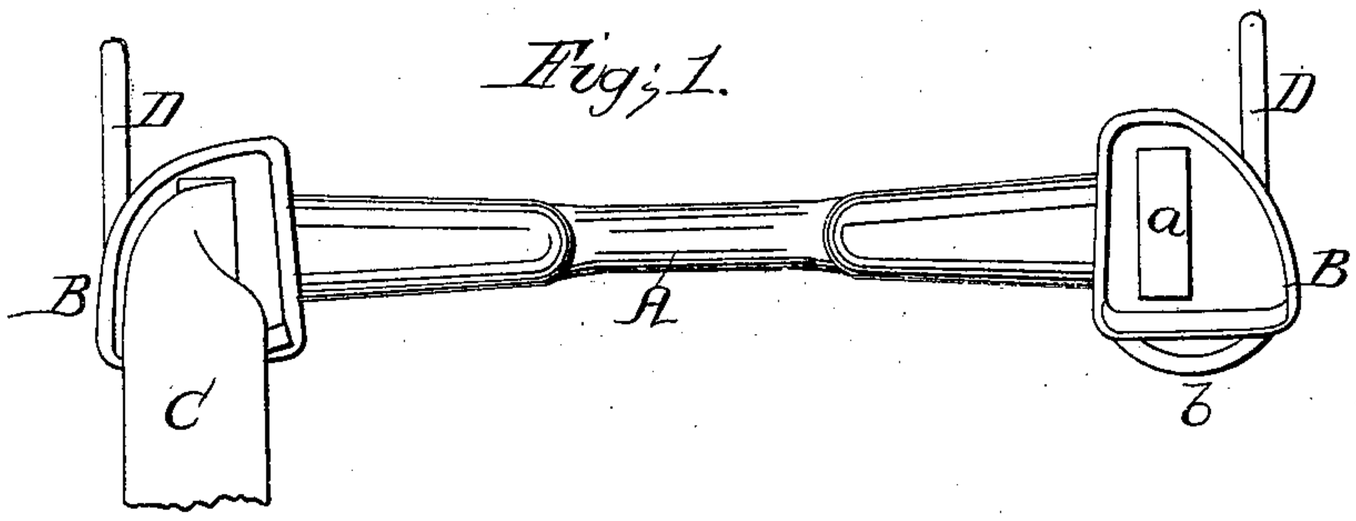
W. S. Ford,

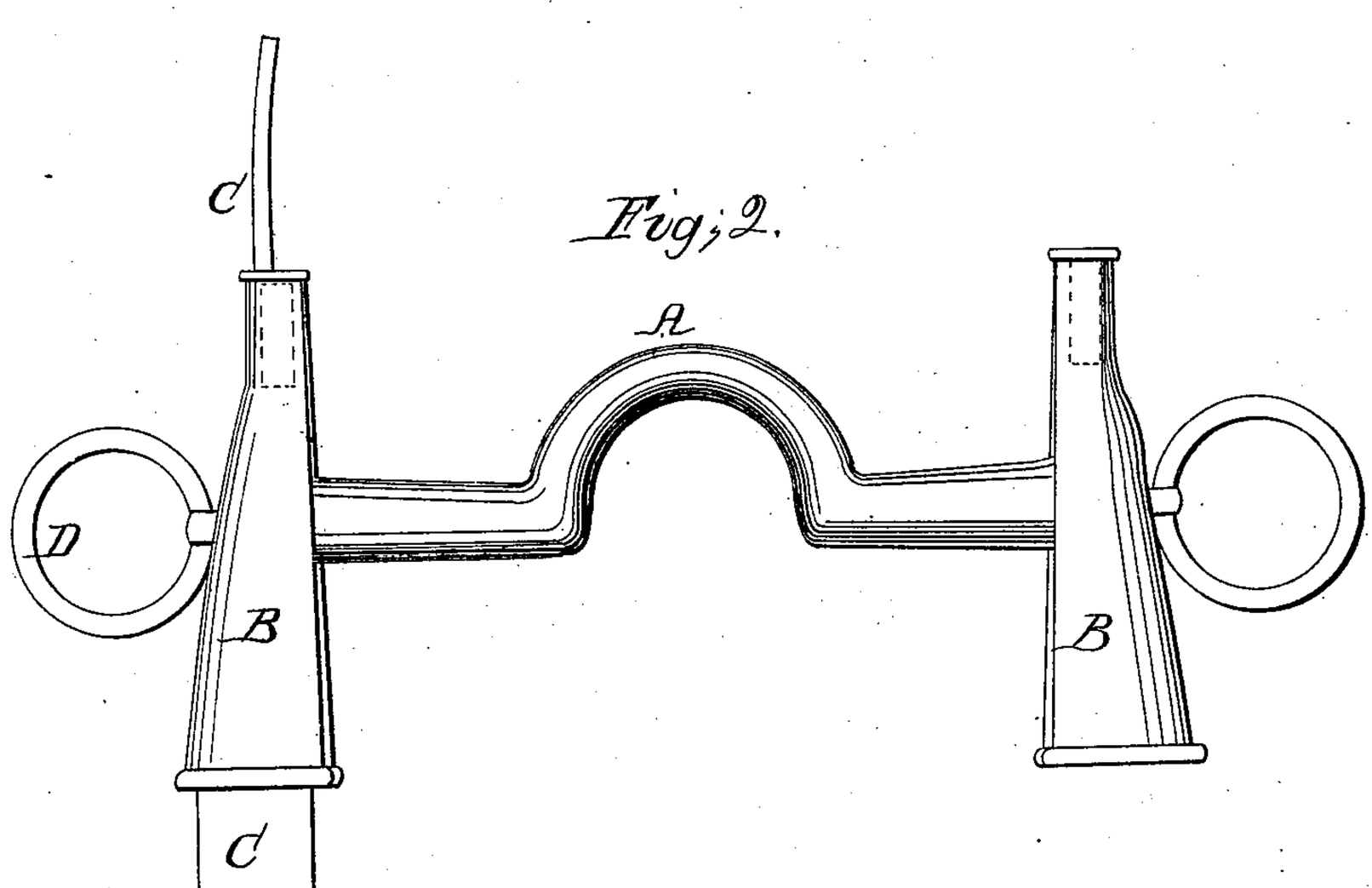
Bridle Bit.

No. 77,810. Patented May 12, 1868

Fig; 1.



Fig; 2.



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WILLIAM S. FORD, OF CLINTON, ILLINOIS.

Letters Patent No. 77,810, *dated May* 12, 1868.

IMPROVED BRIDLE-BIT.

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, WILLIAM S. FORD, of Clinton, in the county of De Witt, and in the State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Bridle-Bits; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan of the bridle-bit inverted, and

Figure 2 is a front elevation of the same.

My invention consists in attaching, to each end of the bit-mouth, a tube of such form as to allow a flat cheek-strap to pass down through it, and to twist one-fourth round while in the tube, so that, when it comes through, it will be in the proper position to attach the driving-rein. At the same time, the tube will slide freely on the strap, so that, when the bit is drawn up, by drawing on the reins, its own gravitation will readjust it in its proper position when the lines are relaxed.

A is the bit-mouth, to the ends of which are attached the tubes B B. The upper ends of the tube are rectangular, as shown at *a*, fig. 1, the rectangular orifices being of such size as to allow the check-strap to pass freely through it.

From near the upper end, the tube is gradually enlarged outward, and its cross-section assumes the form of a quadrant, as shown in fig. 1, the curve being from the front of the tube outward.

C C is the cheek-strap, the upper end of which is connected to the headstall, and passes down parallel to the cheek of the horse, the flat side next the cheek, as shown in fig. 2, the swell and form of the tubes allowing the straps to twist one-fourth round, so as to be in proper position to connect the driving-reins, as shown in the drawings. A rein for riding-bridles may be connected in the same manner as the driving-rein.

By drawing upon the reins, the bit is drawn up into the mouth, serving as an effectual check to the horse. When the reins, on account of the peculiar construction of the tubes B B, are relaxed, the bit will readily adjust itself by its own gravity, without any additional weight.

An adjustable collar, or equivalent device, may be placed on the strap C, after passing through the tubes B, so as to adjust and sustain the bit to suit horses with heads of different lengths. The cheek-straps may, if desired, be a continuation of the reins, with the adjustable collar attached, as described.

D D are rings, secured to the tubes B, on a line with the ends of the bit-mouth, to which may be attached the driving or check-rein, if desired. The lower ends of the tubes are also provided with loops or rings *b*, as shown in fig. 1, to which the reins may be attached when it is not desired to have them drawn through the tubes. When thus used, the bit will be similar to those in common use.

The advantages of my improved bit are, that, by the peculiar construction of the tubes, I am enabled to use flat straps in them, which are much stronger than round ones, when drawn around an angle, and, consequently, safer with spirited or vicious horses, and are much more cheaply constructed.

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

The tubes B B, when formed as described, in combination with the bit-mouth A and cheek-straps C C, as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony that I claim the above-described improvement in bridle-bits, I have hereunto signed my name, this day of , 1868.

WILLIAM S. FORD.

Witnesses:

WILLIAM H. BRITTIN,

JOHN R. BLACKFORD.