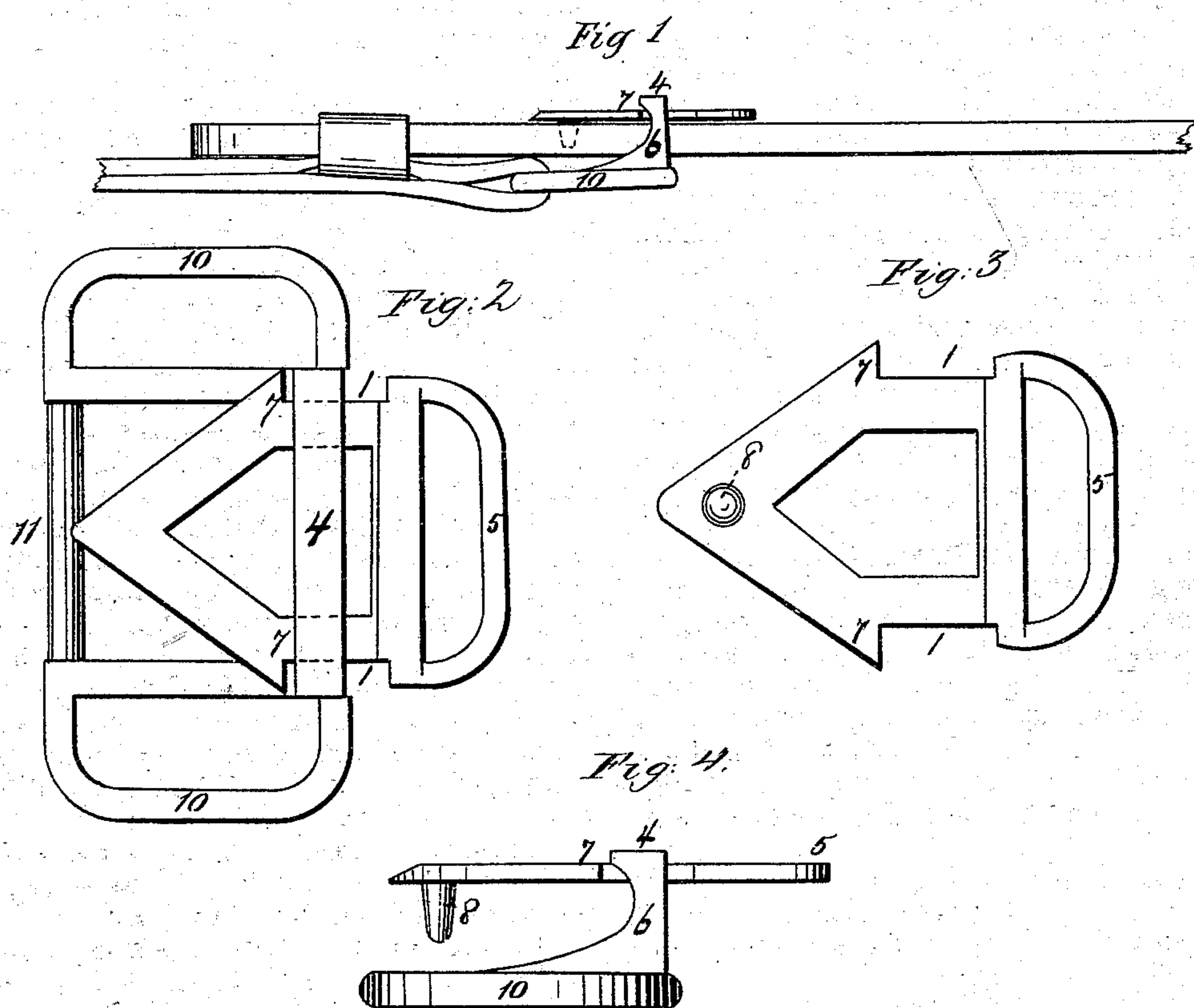


C. B. JOHNSON.  
Trace-Buckles.

No. 153,964.

Patented Aug. 11, 1874.



Witnesses.  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## IMPROVEMENT IN TRACE-BUCKLES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **153,964**, dated August 11, 1874; application filed February 12, 1873.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CHARLES B. JOHNSON, of New Castle, in the county of Coshocton and State of Ohio, have invented a certain Improvement in Trace-Buckles, of which the following is a specification:

This invention relates to that class of buckles in which a sliding tongue-plate is combined with an elevated loop-bar, connecting the side bars of the frame at one end. My improvement consists in interlocking the tongue-plate with the standards of the elevated loop-bar by making it wider than the space between the standards, and forming elongated notches in its sides to receive the latter. Thus, while the tongue-plate may be readily connected and disconnected, still it is not liable to drop out of the frame on the withdrawal of the strap, and the elongated character of the notches gives it sufficient end play for the ready changing of the tongue from one hole in the strap to another. The tongue-plate is also provided with a rearwardly-projecting thumb-piece, which serves the twofold purpose of facilitating the withdrawal of the tongue to change it, and of preventing its accidental disengagement.

In the annexed drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation of my improved buckle, showing also a portion of both the hame-strap and the trace. Fig. 2 is a plan of the buckle on an enlarged scale. Fig. 3 is a bottom view of the tongue-plate on the same scale. Fig. 4 is a side elevation of the buckle on such enlarged scale.

At one end the side bars of the buckle-frame are connected by the cross-bar 11, to which the hame-strap is to be secured. At their other ends they are united by the loop-bar 4, which is elevated by standards 6 to such a height above the side bars as to suitably receive the tongue frame or plate and the trace under it. The tongue-plate 7, having elongated notches 1 cut in its sides, is obliquely introduced between the standards 6, and, be-

ing then turned into a horizontal position, the standards will enter its notches, so that it cannot be drawn out while in a horizontal position, but has a limited longitudinal play. Its inner end is tapering, and carries near the point the tongue 8. Its outer end is provided with a thumb-piece, 5. The tongue points downward or inward, and enters the trace from the upper or outer side, the trace passing underneath it, as shown in Fig. 1.

To withdraw the tongue from the trace, bear down on the thumb-piece 5, and at the same time turn up the rear open end of the buckle-frame, (which is possible, as there is no cross-bar under the trace,) and the trace can then be readily changed by sliding it.

It will be observed that, as the rear end of the frame has no cross-bar or plate under the trace, the detachment of the latter from the tongue, effected as above stated, can be done without requiring the withdrawal of the end of the trace out of the loop of the hame strap, or its bending in any way, which is an important advantage, because the traces are always made heavy and stiff, and are difficult to unloop or bend.

The buckle-frame is also provided with the ordinary side loop 10 for the attachment of the back-band and the belly-band.

This feature I do not, however, claim as new *per se*. Nor do I claim, broadly, the interlocking feature of the tongue-plate with the frame. My claim for patentable novelty is based upon the construction of the buckle as a whole.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The herein-described trace-buckle, composed of the frame having an elevated loop, 6 4, and the flat interlocking tongue-plate 7 8, having elongated notches 1 1 and an extension, 5, all substantially as specified.

CHARLES B. JOHNSON.

Witnesses:

WILLIAM COGGINS,  
A. J. GARRISON.