C. E. & C. W. SNEIDER.

BREECH-LOADING FIRE-ARMS.

No. 171,442. Patented Dec. 21, 1875.

Fig. 1.

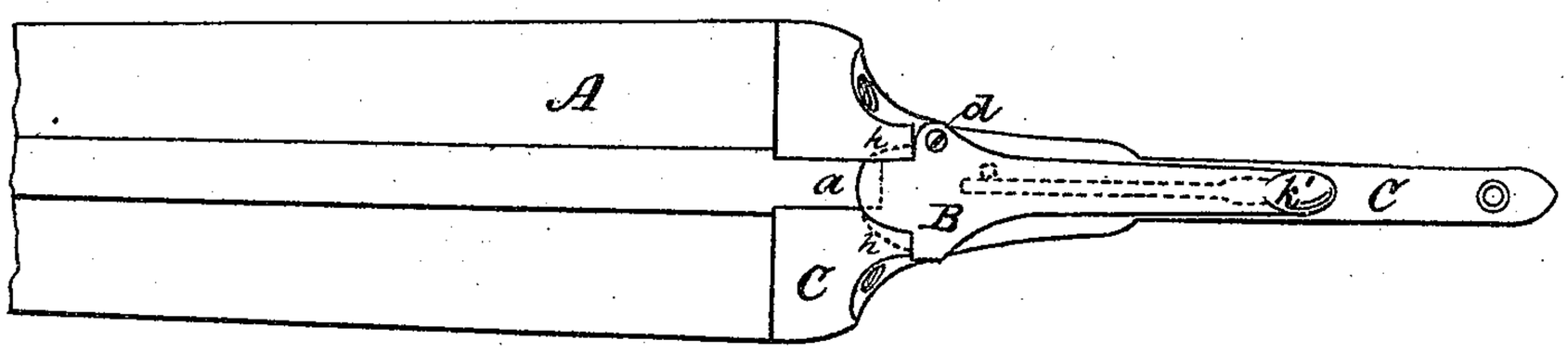


Fig. 2.

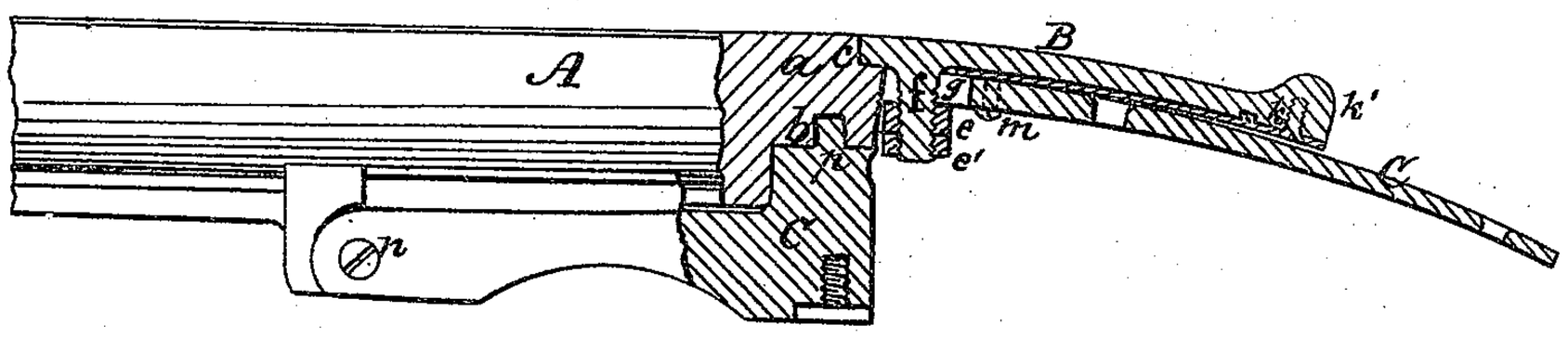


Fig. 3.

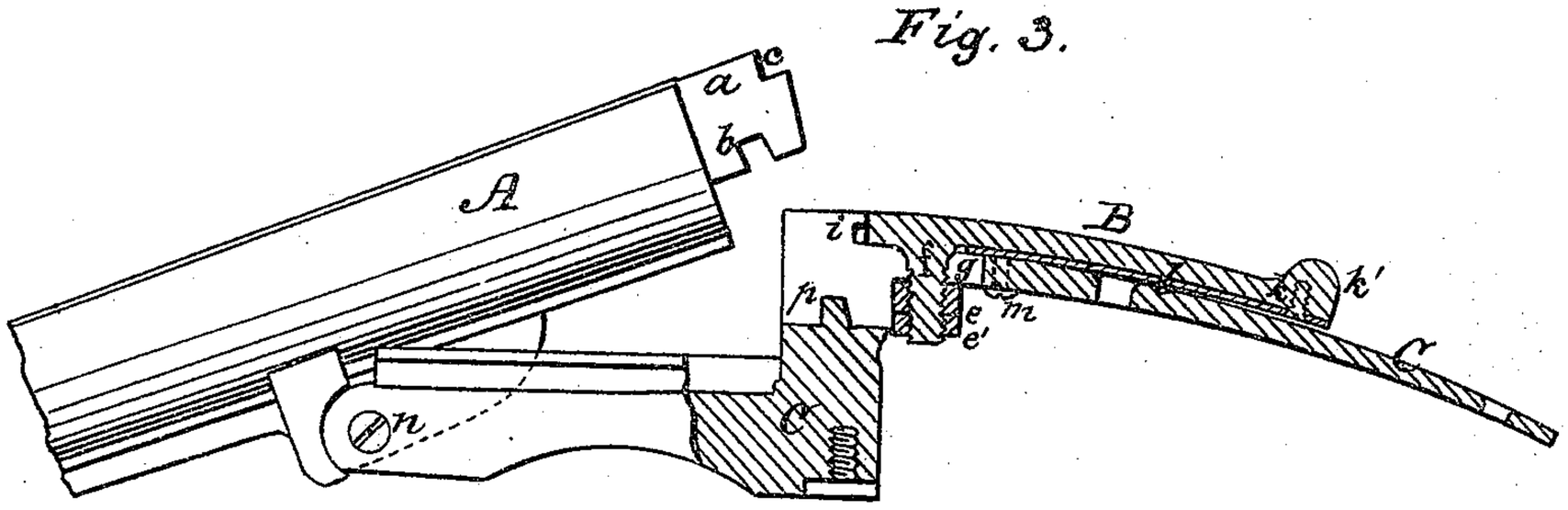
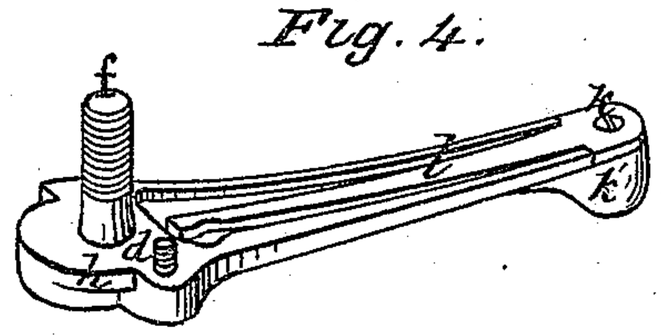


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES E. SNEIDER AND CHARLES W. SNEIDER, OF BALTIMORE, MD.

IMPROVEMENT IN BREECH-LOADING FIRE-ARMS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 171,442, dated December 21, 1875; application filed July 24, 1875.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, CHARLES E. SNEIDER and CHARLES W. SNEIDER, both of Baltimore, in the county of Baltimore and State of Maryland, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Breech-Loading Fire-Arms; and we do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents a top view of a portion of the barrels and frame of a double-barrel gun and the locking-lever. Fig. 2 represents a longitudinal vertical section through the same with the barrels locked. Fig. 3 represents a longitudinal vertical section through the same with the barrels open. Fig. 4 represents a bottom view of the locking-lever detached from the gun.

In breech-loading fire-arms, and particularly in sporting-guns, the rear portion of the barrels is thrown up to receive the cartridges, and down again to be fastened in place; and the object and purpose of our invention is to produce a simple and efficient locking mechanism, not liable to get out of order, and where the parts can be adjusted so as to compensate for the wear of the different parts that come in frictional contact.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use our invention, we will proceed to describe the same with reference to the drawings.

A represents the barrels of a double-barrel gun, that are welded together in the usual well-known manner, and to a piece, *a*, which forms the central groove of sight. This piece *a* extends back of the barrels A, and has a groove, *b*, and recess *c* cut out of it, so as to be held in position by the locking mechanism, which consists mainly of the spring-lever B, attached to the frame C in the rear of the barrels. This lever B is connected with the frame C by means of the screw or pin *d*, placed on one side of the line of sight, so as to allow the lever B to revolve eccentrically over the recess *c* of the central piece *a;* but, while the lever B can revolve around the screw *d*, it is held down to the frame C by the nut *e* and jam-nut *e′*, screwed on the bolt *f*, formed centrally near the forward end of the lever B, the frame C being cut away in the form of a slot, *g*, to allow the bolt *f* to revolve around the screw *d* as a center, while the nut *e* extends over the edges of the slot *g*. The locking action of the lever B is further strengthened by the shoulders *h h*, formed on the lever B, entering grooves *i* on each side of the opening cut in the frame C to receive the central piece *a*. The lever B is provided with a spring, *l*, attached to its under side at *k*, under the thumb projection *k′*, its free end bearing against a screw, *m*, projecting upward from the frame C, so that when the lever B is pressed sidewise to open the barrels it will, when released, immediately resume its position in line with the gun-barrels. These barrels are pivoted to the frame at *n*, and, to add to their security against recoil or jar, the central piece *a* has a groove, *b*, that engages over a transverse projection, *p*, formed on the frame C, in the recess that receives the piece *a*.

To open the barrels of the gun, the lever B is pressed sidewise by means of the thumb-piece *k′*, when the forward end of the barrels will fall in position ready to receive the cartridges, and, by bringing the barrels and stock in line, the spring *l* will force the forward end of the lever B over the recess *c* in the rear of the barrels, ready to be discharged.

What we claim is—

1. The locking-lever, eccentrically pivoted at *d*, and secured to the rear extension of the breech frame by means of a screw-stud and adjusting-nuts, said stud working in a transverse slot in the extension C, as described.

2. The combination of locking-lever B, spring *l*, rigidly secured thereto at one end, and the stud *m*, whereby the lever B is automatically thrown into engagement with the extension of the barrels, substantially as shown and described.

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