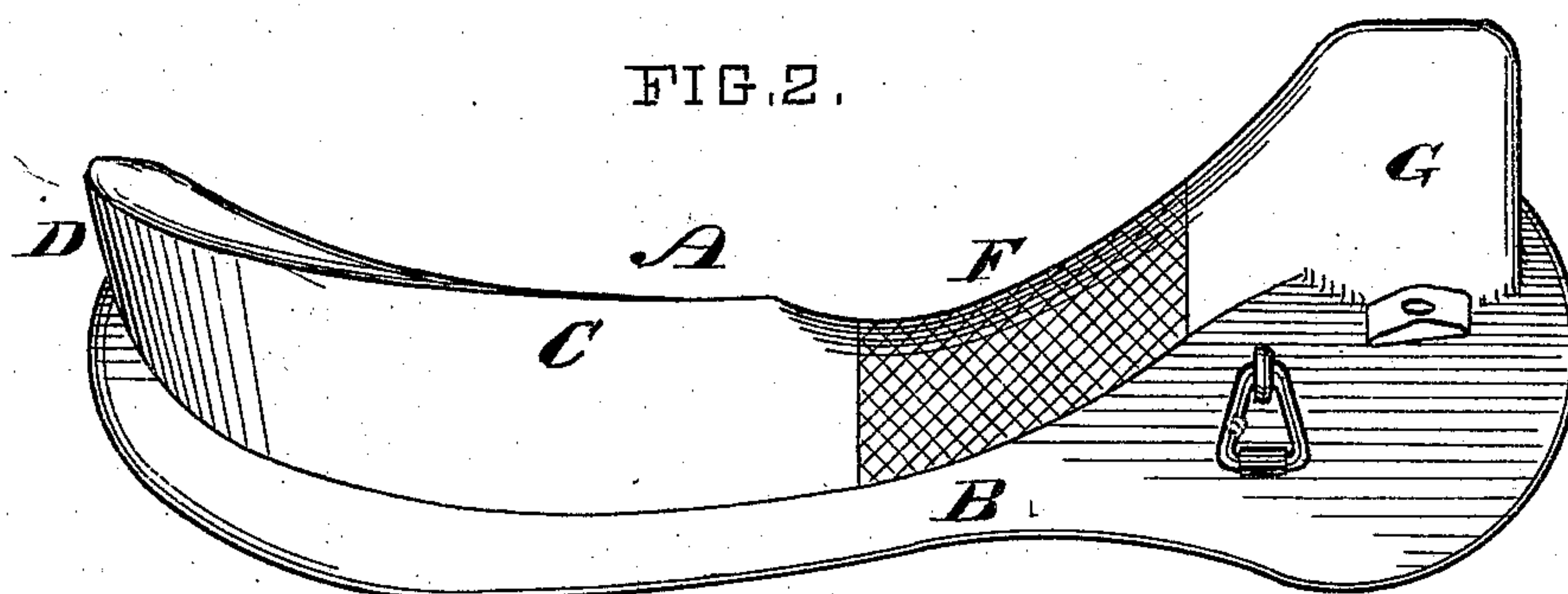
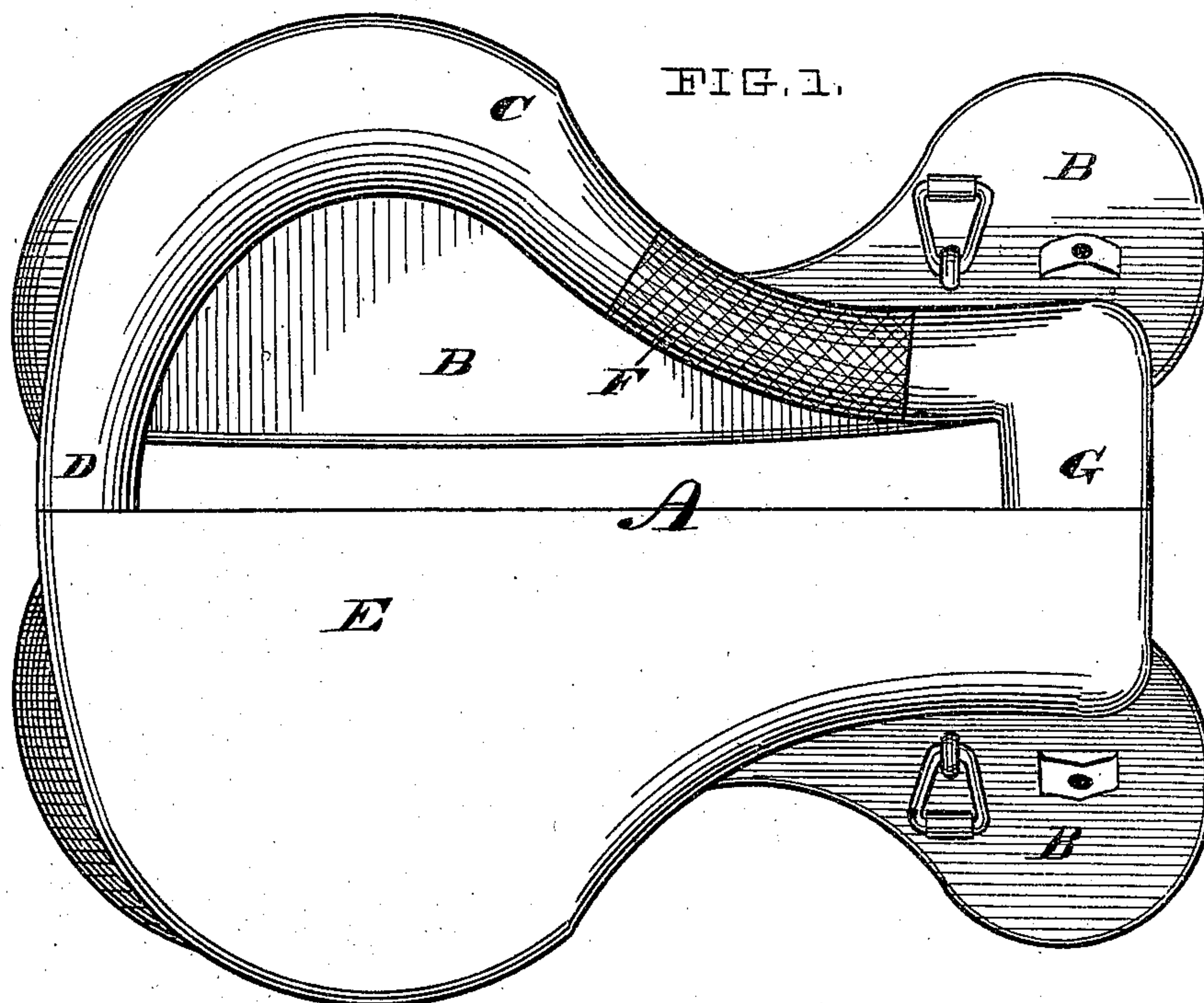


J. SHELLEY.
SADDLE-TREE.

No. 173,424.

Patented Feb. 15, 1876.



WITNESSES

Ed. 19. Bearden
Amil S. Boyd

INVENTOR,

John Shelley
By Chas. D. Moody.
atty:

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN SHELLY, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF HIS
RIGHT TO MARTIN J. SLEVIN, OF SAME PLACE.

IMPROVEMENT IN SADDLE-TREES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **173,424**, dated February 15, 1876; application filed
August 11, 1875.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN SHELLY, a resident of the city of St. Louis, State of Missouri, have invented new and useful Improvements in Saddle-Trees, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the annexed drawing, making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan of the improved tree, partly covered; and Fig. 2, a side elevation of the tree.

The same letters refer to the same parts in both of the figures.

To cheapen the manufacture of saddles and render them easy in use is the aim of the present invention. It also has reference to the construction whereby the tree can be used in making either a man's or a side saddle.

Referring to the drawing, A represents the tree. B B represent the side bars thereof, which are of ordinary shape. Upon these bars is raised a construction, C C, of the peculiar shape shown in Figs. 1 and 2. Beginning at the cantle D it extends continuously and similarly on either side to the pommel in front, and bearing all along upon the side bars, and constituting a narrow elevated bearing, over which a seat, E, formed of leather or similar material, is stretched in manner similar to the head of a drum. The part C C can be formed of suitable material, and, if preferred, of a single piece; but, as a further improvement, I make the portions F F, termed the "belly-pieces," of rubber.

An especial advantage of the above construction is, that the tree is easily made and the seat readily attached thereto without using any padding. At the same time an easy seat is secured, as its only bearing is at its edge where it is attached to the part C C. This also makes the saddle more comfortable to the horse. Further, by reason of the use of rubber in making the parts F F, an elastic bearing is obtained in a part of the seat upon which the thigh of the rider bears the hardest.

A further and important advantage accrues from the peculiar form of the tree; it can be finished, as shown, for a man's saddle, or, by attaching horns similarly on both sides, it can be used to form a side-saddle—all that is necessary to change it to a side-saddle being to attach the horns; and when thus used the side-saddle is, in consequence of the similar arrangement of the horns, either a right or left one, and can be used by the rider either way.

I am aware that in the construction of side-saddle trees an elevated bearing has been used, and I therefore do not claim such, broadly; but,

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

1. As a new article of manufacture, a saddle-tree in which the cantle, belly-pieces, and pommel (made in one or more parts) form a continuous narrow bearing, whose outer edge is elevated above the side bars from the cantle to the pommel, and which bearing is shaped and extended similarly on both sides of the tree, to be adapted to either a man's or a side saddle, substantially as and for the purpose shown.

2. The combination of the side bars B B, cantle D, pommel G, and elastic belly-pieces F F, substantially as and for the purpose shown and specified.

3. The combination of the seat E, side bars B B, cantle D, pommel G, and elastic belly-pieces F F, substantially as and for the purposes shown and specified.

4. The combination of the seat E, side bars B B, and the narrow bearing C C, whose outer edge is elevated above the side bars from the cantle to the pommel, and which bearing is shaped and extended similarly on both sides of the tree, substantially as described.

JOHN SHELLY.

Witnesses:

CHAS. D. MOODY,
SAML. S. BOYD.