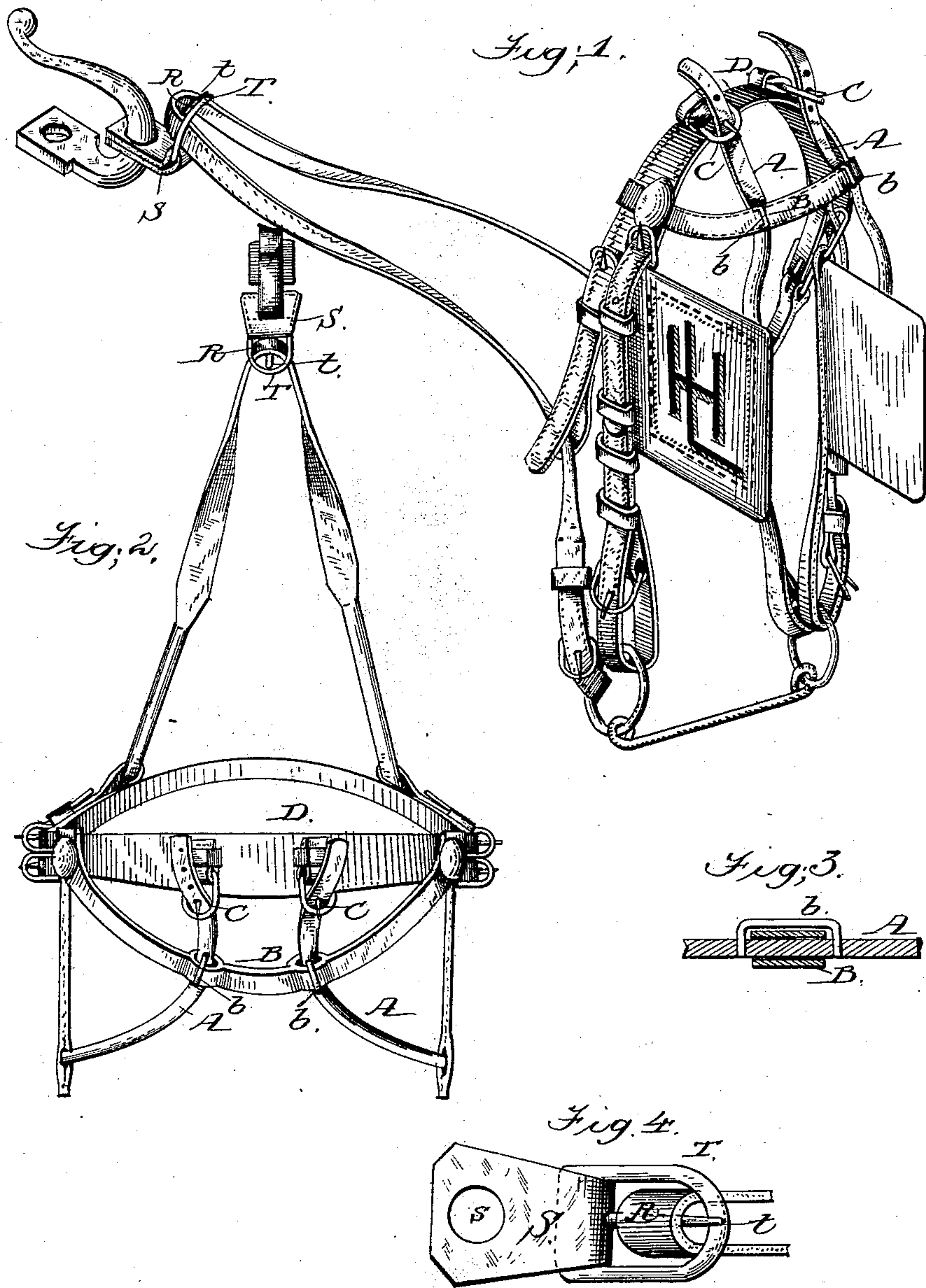


M. R. THURBER.  
Bridle.

No. 221,197.

Patented Nov. 4, 1879.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MILTON R. THURBER, OF SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-FOURTH OF HIS RIGHT TO W. I. BECKWITH, OF SAME PLACE.

## IMPROVEMENT IN BRIDLES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **221,197**, dated November 4, 1879; application filed August 28, 1879.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, MILTON R. THURBER, of Scranton, in the county of Lackawanna and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Bridles; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view; Fig. 2, a top view; Fig. 3, a detail view, showing the manner of connecting the winker-braces to the brow-band; and Fig. 4, a plan view of the check-rein attachment.

Similar letters of reference indicate the same parts in the several figures.

This invention has for its object to improve the construction of bridles, and more particularly that class known as "blind-bridles;" and it consists, first, in means for adjusting the winkers or blinders and holding them properly in an adjusted position; and, secondly, in an attachment for the check-rein, whereby the connection with the saddle-hook is rendered more secure.

In the drawings I have shown a bridle similar in construction to those in common use, except in respect to the improvements just mentioned, and which I will now proceed to describe.

The ordinary means for holding the winkers or blinders in place consists of a bifurcated strap fastened to the crown-piece, and connected at its lower ends to the upper corners of the winkers.

It is found that, from the flexibility of the lower portions of the straps, the winkers soon fail to be held properly in place, but flap back and forth or stand off from the head of the animal, making it uncomfortable for the latter, and also destroying the fit and symmetry of the bridle. Attempts have been made to remedy this defect by stiffening the straps or braces by means of internal stiffening-pieces; but, so far as I am aware, such arrangement, from its expensiveness and the difficulty of its being properly adjusted to the heads of different horses, has not gone into general use.

The construction employed by me, and which

constitutes the first part of the present invention, consists of two straps, A A, which pass down on either side of the forehead of the animal and through openings formed in the brow-band B, being connected at their lower extremities to the upper corners of the winkers in the usual manner.

The straps are securely held in position in the openings in the brow-band by means of staples or loops *b b*, applied so as to enter the straps on each side of the brow-band, and bridge over the body of the latter. The upper ends of the straps are adapted to engage with adjusting-buckles C C, secured to the crown-piece D, as shown.

By this arrangement the winkers are properly braced and held easily in place at the proper distance from the animal, and all tendency to flap and stand out is overcome, and the stiffness attending the use of stiffeners avoided. The adjustment afforded by the buckles C C renders the bridle capable of being adjusted to the heads of different animals, and yet maintain the winkers in proper position.

The second part of my invention relates to means for attaching the check-rein to the saddle-hook, and consists in the employment of a short leather strap or piece, S, having an aperture, *s*, near one end, adapting it to be fitted onto the hook, and provided at the other end with a buckle, T, into which the bight R of the check-rein passes, and is secured by the tongue *t* in the manner shown in Fig. 4. The aperture in the strap S is made to accommodate the hook snugly, thus rendering it difficult for the check-rein to become displaced, as is often the case when the check-rein is directly applied to the hook. The check-rein, in its attachment to the buckle in the manner shown, is not at all weakened, inasmuch as it is not perforated for the passage of the tongue *t*, as in the ordinary connection of a strap with a buckle; but the bight of the rein is passed through the loop and over the tongue, thus making a strong and secure fastening without impairing the strength of the rein.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new—

1. The winker braces or straps, in combina-

tion with the brow-band provided with openings for the passage of said straps, and with the loops or staples for securing them to the brow-band, substantially as described, for the purpose specified.

2. The combination of the winker straps or braces, connected to the upper corners of the winkers, with the brow-band having the openings for the passage of the winker-straps, the fastening loops or staples for securing the said winker-straps to the brow-band, and the adjusting-buckles C C, substantially as described.

3. The combination, with the check-rein, of the short strap S, having the perforation s at one end for the reception of the saddle-hook and the buckle T at the other end for securing the bight of the check-rein, in the manner described, and for the purpose specified.

MILTON R. THURBER.

Witnesses:

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PETER WALSH.