

(Model.)

F. SWEETLAND.

CAR COUPLING.

No. 262,854.

Patented Aug. 15, 1882.

Fig. 1.

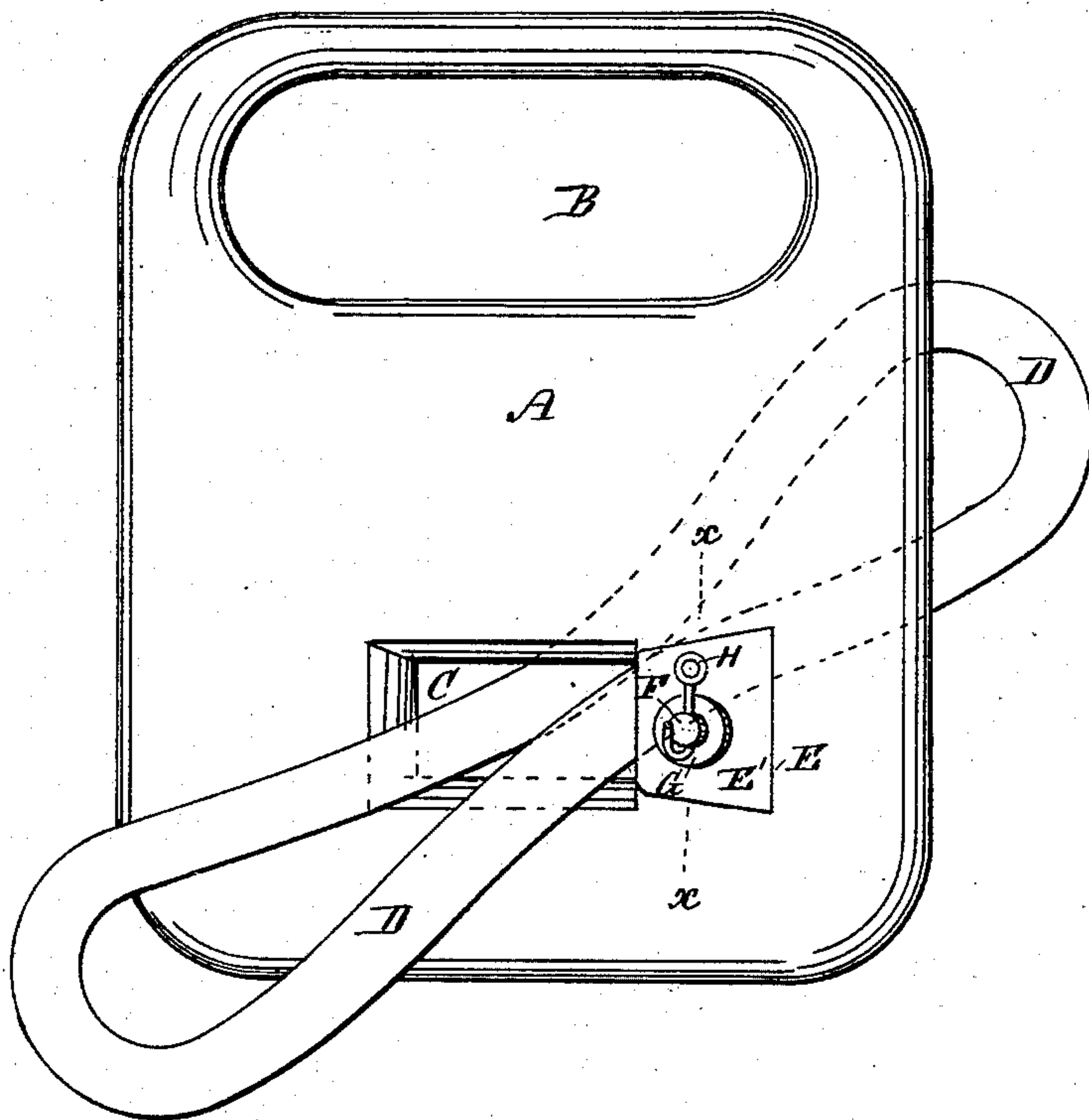


Fig. 2.

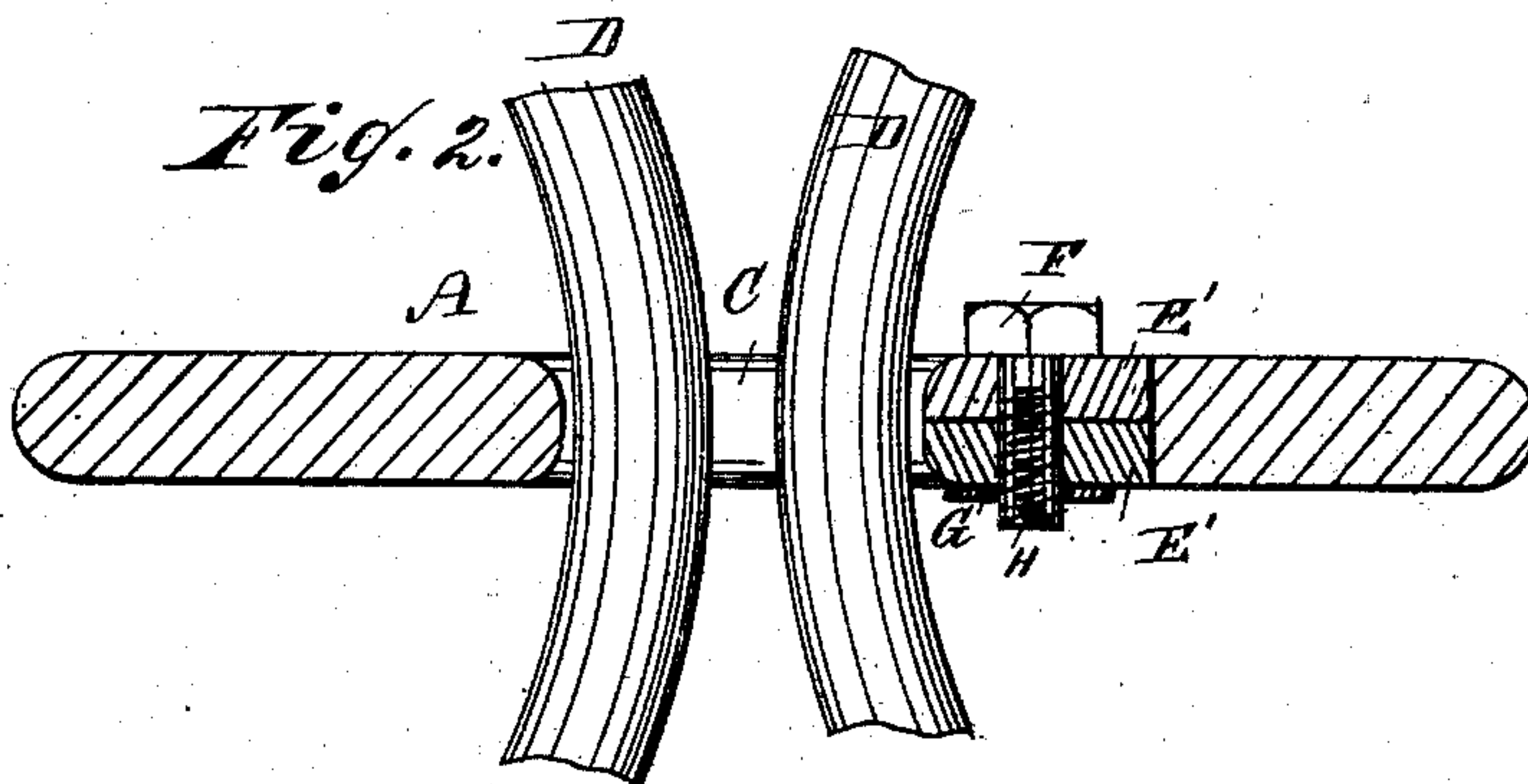
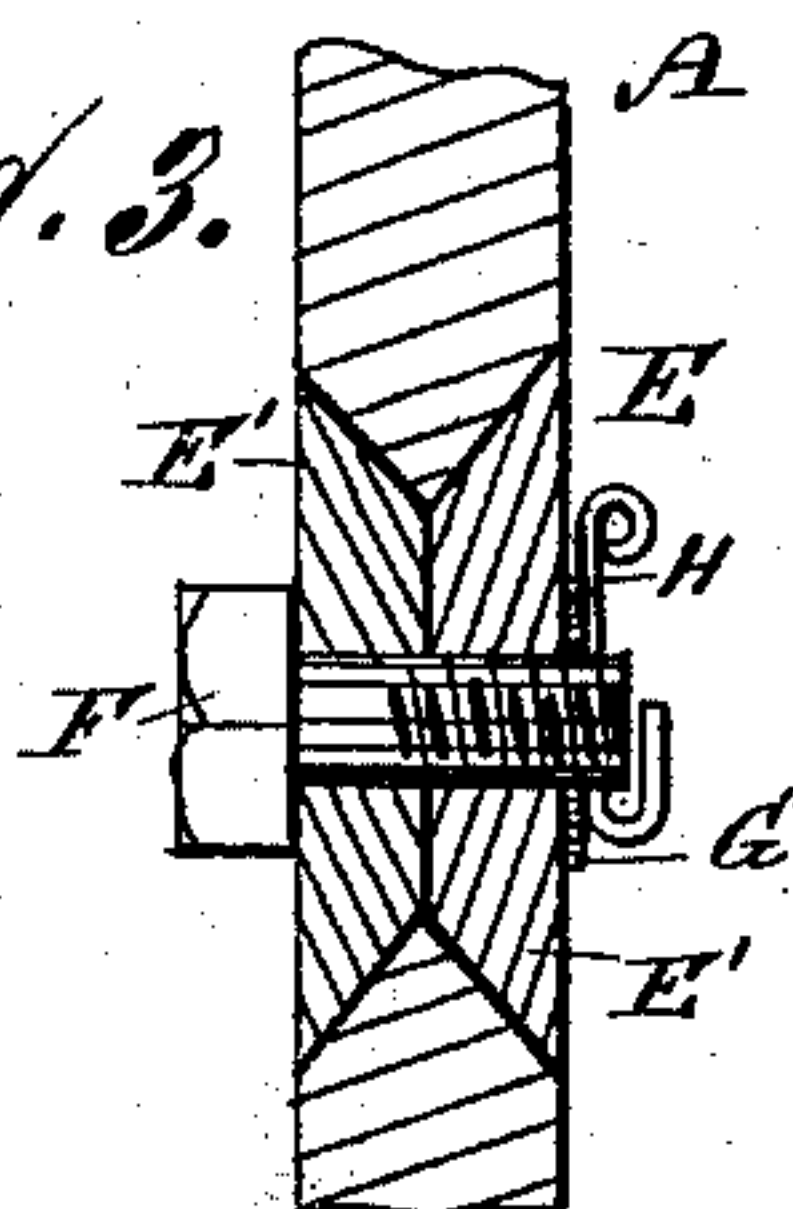


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES:

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FRANK SWEETLAND, OF EDWARDSBURG, MICHIGAN.

CAR-COUPLING.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 262,854, dated August 15, 1882.

Application filed March 23, 1882. (Model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK SWEETLAND, of
Edwardsburg, in the county of Cass and State
of Michigan, have invented a new and Im-
proved Link-Guide for Car-Couplings, of which
the following is a full, clear, and exact de-
scription.

The object of my invention is to provide a
new and improved device for holding car-coup-
ling links in such a manner that the links can
be passed into the draw-heads without endan-
gering the hands of the operator.

The invention consists in a plate provided
with a handle-slot and with a slot through which
the coupling-link is passed, and with a key fit-
ting into part of the slot through which the link
is passed, whereby the slot can be enlarged to
admit the link, and can be decreased in size
when the link is inserted to prevent withdraw-
ing the link, which has its sides pressed to-
gether at the middle. By means of this plate
the link can be conveniently guided into the
draw-head.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying
drawings, forming part of this specification,
in which similar letters of reference indicate
corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 is a longitudinal elevation of my
improved link-guide, showing the link in per-
spective. Fig. 2 is a horizontal sectional view
of the same. Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional eleva-
tion of the same on the line *x x*, Fig. 1.

A plate, A, of metal or other suitable mate-
rial, is provided at its upper end with a han-
dle-slot, B, or equivalent device for conven-
iently holding the plate A. In its lower part
this plate A is provided with a transverse
slot, C, the edges of which are rounded or bev-
eled to permit a free and easy movement of
the coupling-link D, which is passed through
this slot C. The slot C is extended toward
one side, and this extension can be closed by
means of a key, E, formed of two blocks or
plates, E', which have their edges beveled
outward from the inner toward the outer sur-
faces. The inner edge of the key (the edge
next to the link) is shorter than the outer
edge of the key. This prevents the key from
being displaced toward the link, and thereby

interfering with the free movement of the
link. The shape of the extension on the end
of the slot corresponds with the shape of the
key. The edges of the extension of the slot
C are beveled outward from the middle of the
edges. The two blocks, E', are held together
by a rivet or a screw-bolt, F, passed through
them, or by means of a pintle and a washer, G,
and pin H. The sides of the link D are pressed
toward each other at the middle, so that the
link will be narrower at the middle than at
the ends.

The operation is as follows: The key is re-
moved, whereby the slot C is enlarged, and
the link D is passed through the slot C.
Then the key is replaced and locked in place
by means of a rivet or the bolt F, whereby the
size of the slot C will be decreased, so that
only the middle narrow part of the link can
move freely in the slot, and the link D cannot
be withdrawn from the slot and will be held
in the plate A. The link can be moved up
and down or sidewise, as the difference in
height or position of the draw-heads may re-
quire. By means of the plate A the link can
be carried and raised and lowered and guided
into the draw-heads. The hand of the oper-
ator will be above the draw-heads, and when
the draw-heads come together there is no dan-
ger of crushing the operator's hand or arm, as
is the case if the cars are coupled by means of
links in the usual manner.

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

1. A link-guide for coupling cars, made
substantially as herein shown and described,
and consisting of a plate provided with a slot
through which the link can pass, and with a
removable key for closing part of this slot in
the plate, as set forth.

2. In a link-guide for coupling cars, the
combination, with the plate A, provided with
slots B and C, of the removable key E for
closing part of the slot C, substantially as
herein shown and described, and for the pur-
pose set forth.

3. In a link-guide for coupling cars, the
combination, with the plate A, provided with

slots B and C, of the blocks E' E' and the bolt F, substantially as herein shown and described, and for the purpose set forth.

4. In a link-guide for coupling cars, the
5 combination, with the plate A, provided with the slots B and C, of the key E, and the coupling-link D, having its sides pressed to-

gether at the middle, substantially as herein shown and described, and for the purpose set forth.

FRANK SWEETLAND.

Witnesses:

WM. W. SWEETLAND,
JOHN McFOSTER.