

(No Model.)

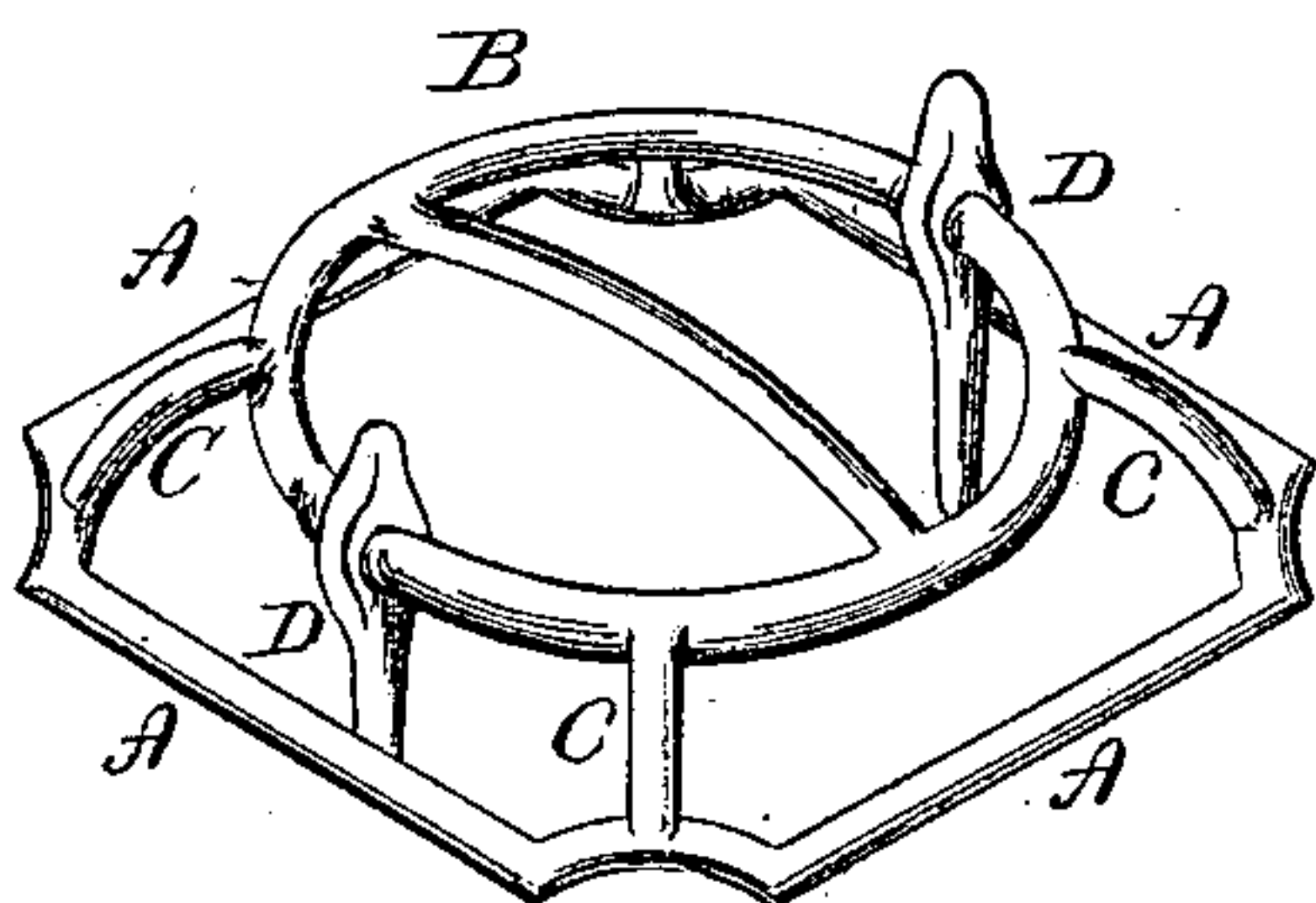
M. E. ZELLER.

TRACE CARRIER.

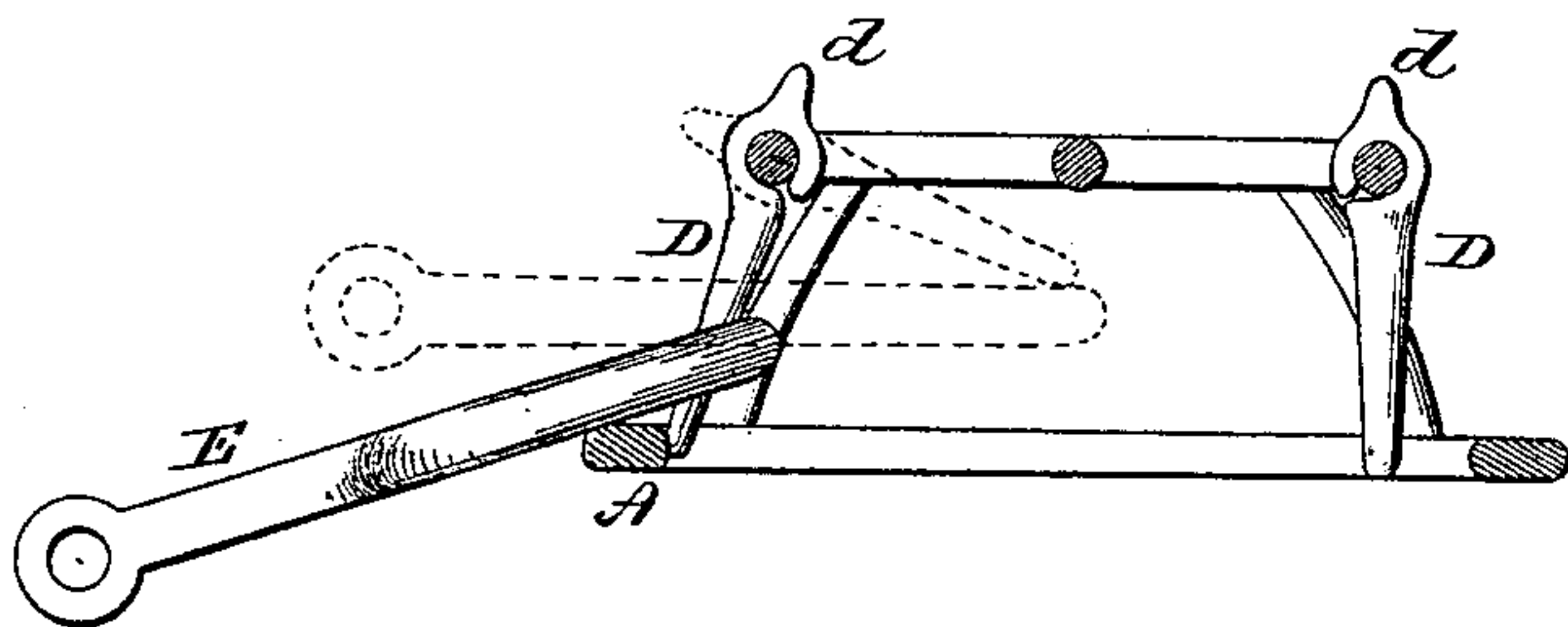
No. 266,574.

Patented Oct. 24, 1882.

*fig. 1*



*fig. 2*



*Witnesses.*

*J. H. Chumley*  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MELANCTHON E. ZELLER, OF BLUFFTON, OHIO, ASSIGNOR TO O. B. NORTH  
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## TRACE-CARRIER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 266,574, dated October 24, 1882.

Application filed August 28, 1882. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, MELANCTHON E. ZELLER, of Bluffton, in the county of Allen and State of Ohio, have invented a new Improvement in Trace-Carriers; and I do hereby declare the following, when taken in connection with accompanying drawings and the letters of reference marked thereon, to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, and which  
10 said drawings constitute part of this specification, and represent, in—

Figure 1, a perspective view; Fig. 2, a vertical central section illustrating the operation of the carrier.

15 This invention relates to a device to be attached at the junction of the back and hip straps of a horse's harness to afford convenient means for engaging the cockeye of the trace, and commonly called the "trace-carrier;" and  
20 the invention consists in a frame to which the straps are respectively attached, combined with an elevated ring or support, with a loose tongue hung to said support at each side so as to hang free vertically downward therefrom,  
25 as more fully hereinafter described.

The frame is composed of the four sides A, which form bars for the attachment of the back, hip, and crupper straps in the usual manner. Above this frame is a second frame,  
30 B, preferably of ring shape, which serves as a support for the tongues. This part B is held above the frame A by posts C, and so as to leave a free space between it and the frame or part of the harness below. To this support B  
35 at each side a tongue, D, is hung so as to swing freely and hang in a vertical position by its own gravity, as seen in Fig. 1. This completes the article.

The cockeye E is attached as seen in Fig. 2. Its eye end is pressed inward against the tongue D, which turns it to the position seen in broken lines, Fig. 2, until the eye has passed beyond the end of the tongue. Then the tongue falls down within the eye. The eye, then left free, draws the tongue against the frame A  
45 and makes the engagement complete. To detach the trace, move the cockeye inward until the tongue may be turned away from the eye, as indicated in broken lines. Then the cockeye may be withdrawn. For convenience of thus  
50 turning the devices they are provided with a thumb-piece, *d*, above their pivots.

I am aware that trace-carriers have been made with tongues hinged above the base, and therefore do not claim broadly such a construction; but I am not aware of a trace-carrier in which the tongues have been hung so as to swing free upon a support above the base, and hang down toward the base in a vertical position, retaining that position by their own gravity only, which are the essential features of my invention.

I claim—

The herein-described improved trace-carrier, consisting of the lower or base frame, A, and  
65 the ring-shaped frame B, supported by suitable standards, C, and having tongue D loosely pivoted thereon at opposite points, as described, said tongues being adapted to hang in a vertical position by their own gravity,  
70 substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

MELANCTHON E. ZELLER.

Witnesses:

J. H. PATTERSON,  
H. N. CRONINGER.