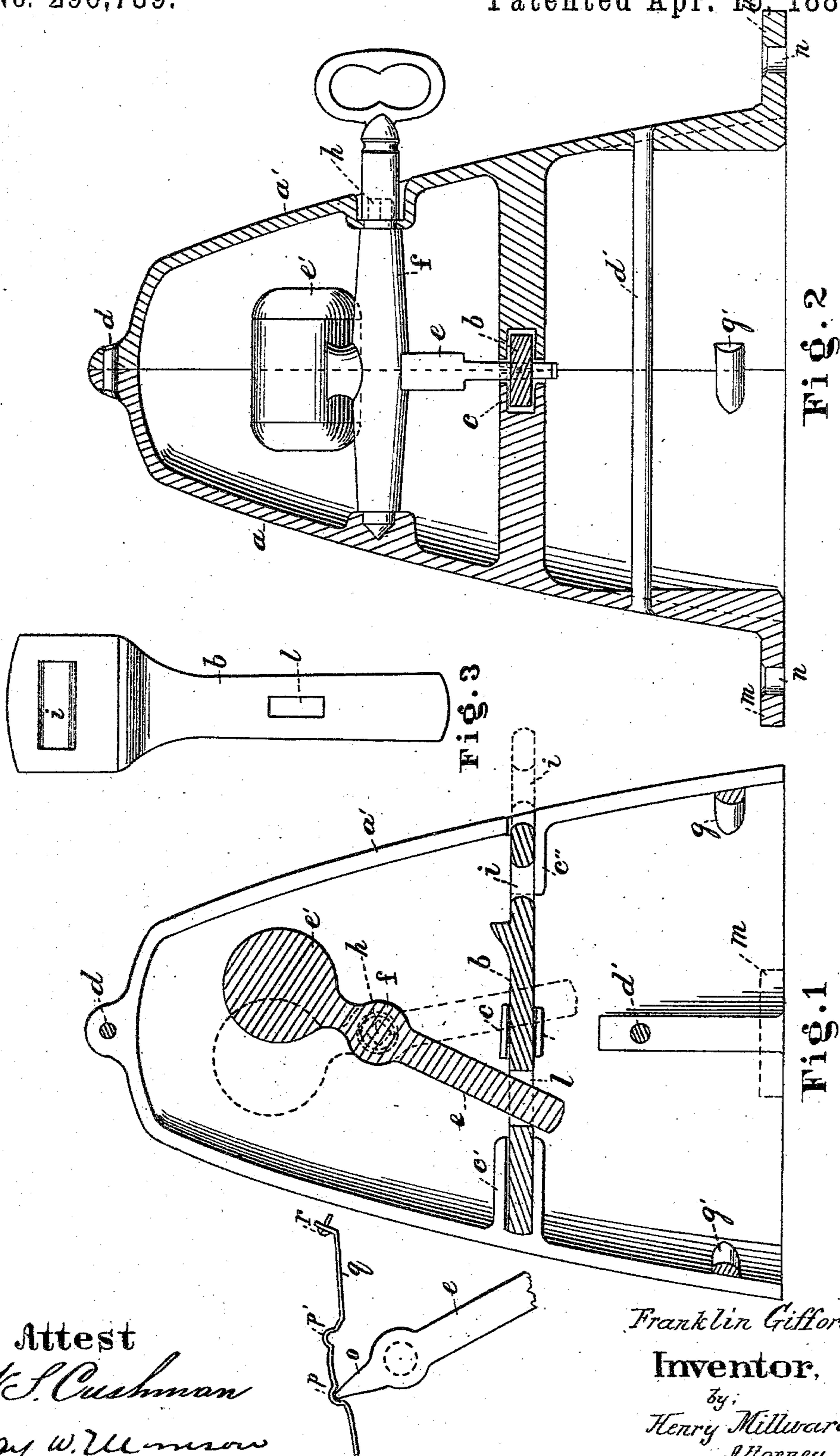


(No Model.)

F. GIFFORD.  
HITCHING BLOCK.

No. 296,739.

Patented Apr. 15, 1884.



Attest  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANKLIN GIFFORD, OF SPRINGFIELD, OHIO, ASSIGNOR TO JOSEPH G. JACOBS AND CHRISTIAN HANIKA, BOTH OF SAME PLACE.

## HITCHING-BLOCK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 296,739, dated April 15, 1884.

Application filed October 13, 1883. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, FRANKLIN GIFFORD, of Springfield, county of Clark, State of Ohio, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Hitching-Blocks, of which the following is a specification.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a vertical sectional elevation, representing a hitching device of my invention. Fig. 2 is a similar view taken through a line at right angles from that of Fig. 1, and Fig. 3 is a plan view of the hitch-bolt. In Fig. 4 I have illustrated a modification of the means used for holding the hitch-bolt firm at both ends of its throw.

In each of these figures letters of like character indicate corresponding parts.

The object of the invention is to provide a fixed hitching device that when locked is unavailable for that purpose, thereby preventing preoccupation by intruders.

The invention consists in a throw-bolt provided at one end with a hook, slot, or other suitable receptacle for a hitching-strap, mechanical means for throwing and retaining said throw-bolt in its locked and unlocked position, a key for throwing said bolt, and a metallic case for said bolt and its actuating mechanism, the configuration of said case being such that its exterior surface presents nothing to which a reliable hitch can be made.

The casing is preferably constructed of two parts,  $a a'$ , held together with rivets  $d d'$  and lugs  $g g'$ , and it is so shaped that a hitching strap or rope cannot be made fast to it when it is arranged for disuse. The hitch-bolt  $b$  works in slideways  $e e' e''$ , and it is actuated by a weighted lever,  $e e' f$ , that is journaled in the casing  $a a'$ , as shown by the drawings. The rock-shaft  $f$  is provided with a part,  $h$ , that may be of any suitable shape, for the accommodation of a key by means of which it can be oscillated to throw the hitch-bolt  $b$ . When this part  $h$  of the rock-shaft is constructed as represented, it does not extend to the exterior surface of the casing  $a a'$ , and of course cannot present any catch for the hitching-strap to rest against. As the hitch-bolt  $b$  is

thrown out by the aforesaid key for purposes of hitching, a slot,  $i$ , extends beyond the exterior surface of the casing, through which the hitching-strap may be passed, and the weighted part  $e'$  of the lever  $e$  has passed the center of oscillation of the shaft  $f$ , and the hitch-bolt  $b$  is held to its unlocked position. As the bolt  $b$  is drawn into the casing  $a a'$ , the weight  $e'$  passes to the reverse side of the center of oscillation of the shaft  $f$  and holds said bolt to its locked position. The part  $e$  of the lever  $e e'$  passes through a slot,  $l$ , in the bolt  $b$ , by means of which said bolt is actuated.

In place of the weight  $e'$ , a spring,  $q$ , may be used, into the pocket  $p$  of which a point,  $o$ , of the lever  $e$  may enter when the bolt  $b$  is out, and into the pocket  $p'$  of which the aforesaid point may enter when the bolt is drawn into the casing.

The spring  $q$  may be secured to the inside surface of the casing  $a a'$  by screws  $r$ , or otherwise to suit the taste of the constructor.

The key by means of which the bolt  $b$  is actuated is carried by the owner of the hitching device.

The casing  $a a'$  is secured to the curbstone or some other stationary object by means of lugs  $m m$  and bolts that pass through perforations  $n n$ .

It is obvious that the casing  $a a'$  may be cast in one instead of two parts, although the two parts seem now to be the most preferable mode of construction.

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

A stationary hitching device having a casing,  $a a'$ , a weighted lever,  $e e' f$ , a slide-bolt,  $b i$ , working in slideways in said casing, and a key for actuating said bolt, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 10th day of August, 1883.

FRANKLIN GIFFORD.

Witnesses:

HENRY MILLWARD,  
CHASE STEWART.