(No Model.)

A. S. JOHNSTON.

BRIDLE BIT.

No. 356,942. Patented Feb. 1, 1887.

Fig. 1.

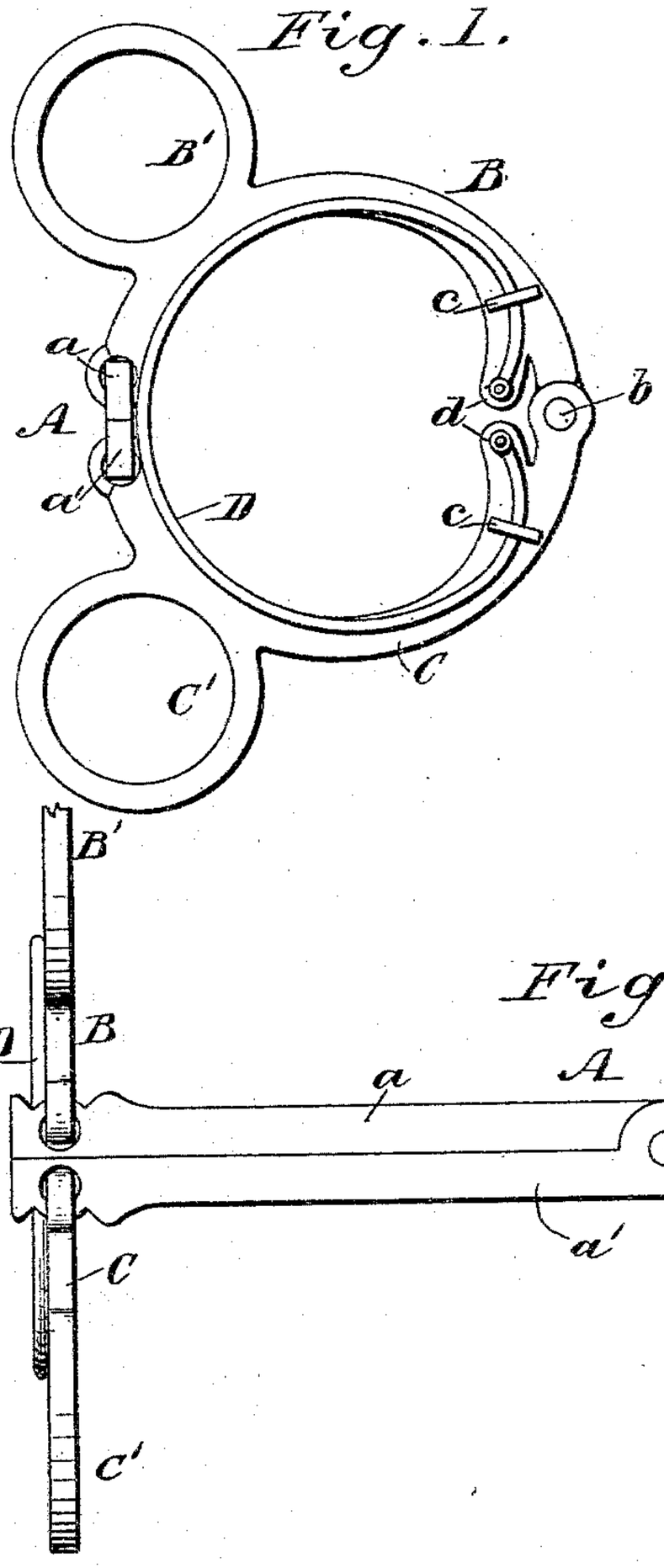


Fig. 2.

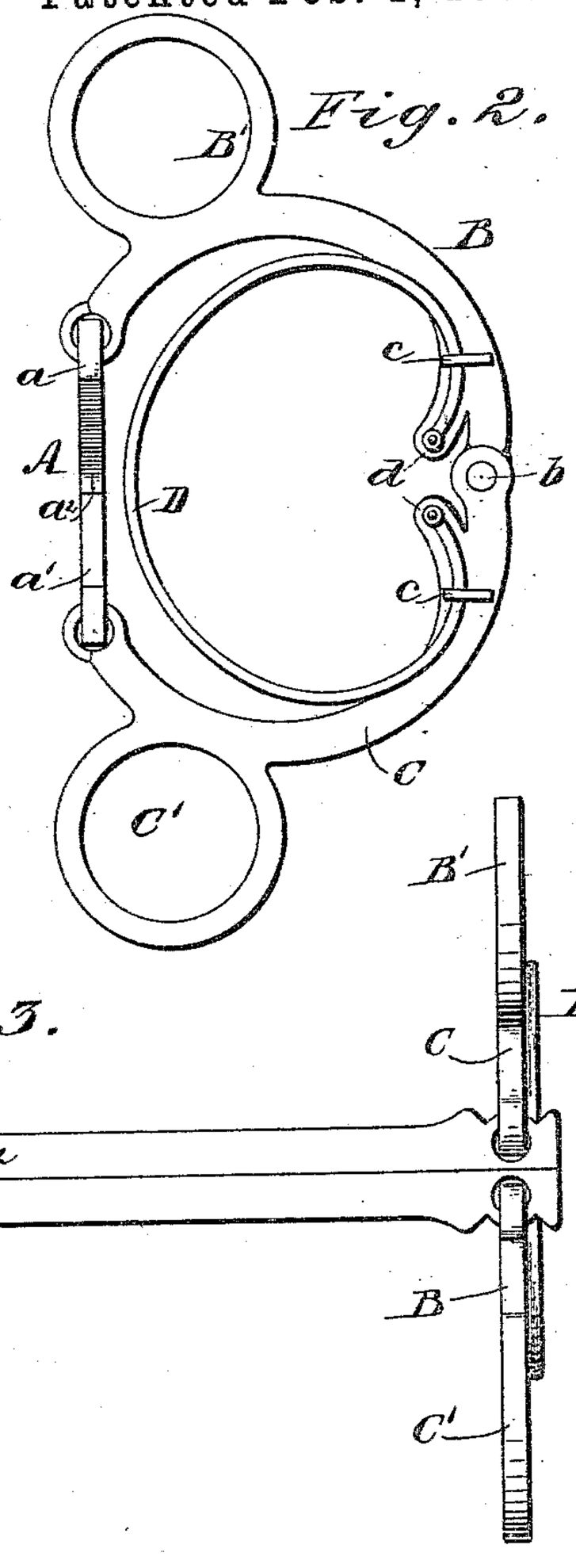
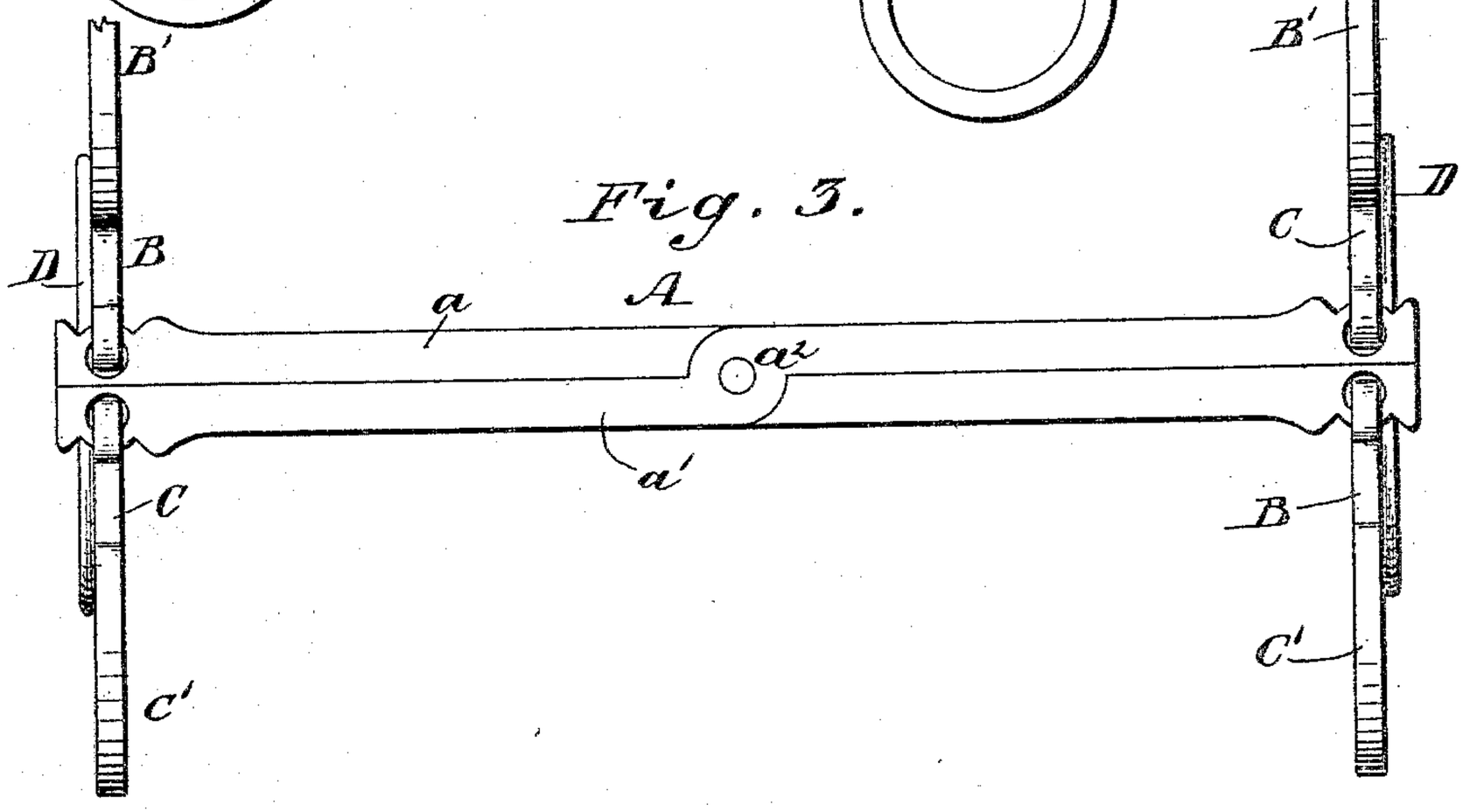


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES:

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ALVA S. JOHNSTON, OF BOZEMAN, MONTANA TERRITORY.

BRIDLE-BIT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 356,942, dated February 1, 1887.

Application filed July 7, 1886. Serial No. 207,344. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALVA SUTTON JOHNSTON, of Bozeman, in the county of Gallatin and Territory of Montana, have invented a new and Improved Horse-Bit, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

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

Figure 1 is a side elevation of my new and improved horse-bit as it appears when closed. Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the bit open, and Fig. 3 is a front elevation of the bit closed.

The invention will first be described in connection with the drawings, and then pointed out in the claims.

A represents the mouth-piece or bar of the bit. This is made of the two parts *a a'*, crossed in the center and pivoted upon the central pin, a^2. Connected to each end of the bar *a* is a side piece, B, and connected to each end of the bar *a'* is a side piece, C. The side pieces, B C are by preference curved, and each pair is hinged together by a connecting-pin, *b*, so they constitute circular side pieces of the bit, and at the same time permit the bars *a a'* to open and close, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3. The upper side pieces, B C, are each formed with a ring, B', into which the cheek-strap of the bridle buckles, and each lower side piece is formed with a ring, C', into which the lines or reins buckle. The side pieces, B C, and bars *a a'* are normally held closed by the two springs D, one applied to each set of side pieces, B C. These springs are by preference made circular, and attached at their ends to the projections *d d*, and held from displacement by the loops or staples *c c*, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

The action of the bit is such that when no strain is put upon the reins the springs D close the parts of the bar A, so it is as easy in the horse's mouth as a plain or common bit; but when strain is put upon the reins the parts *a a'* will open, turning upon the pivot a^2, and thus become very severe on the horse's mouth, so that he may be easily controlled.

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

1. The bar A, composed of the centrally pivoted and crossed pieces *a a'*, provided at their ends with the side pieces, B C, hinged together, in combination with springs arranged to close the side pieces and the parts *a a'* of the bar A, substantially as described.

2. The side pieces, B C, each formed with a ring and hinged together, in combination with the springs D, and the bar A, composed of the cross-pivoted bars *a a'*, the side pieces, B C, being connected to the bars *a a'*, respectively, substantially as described.

ALVA S. JOHNSTON.

Witnesses:
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