(No Model.)

D. W. LEWIS.

CLASP FOR HARNESS.

No. 362,165. Patented May 3, 1887.

Fig. 1.

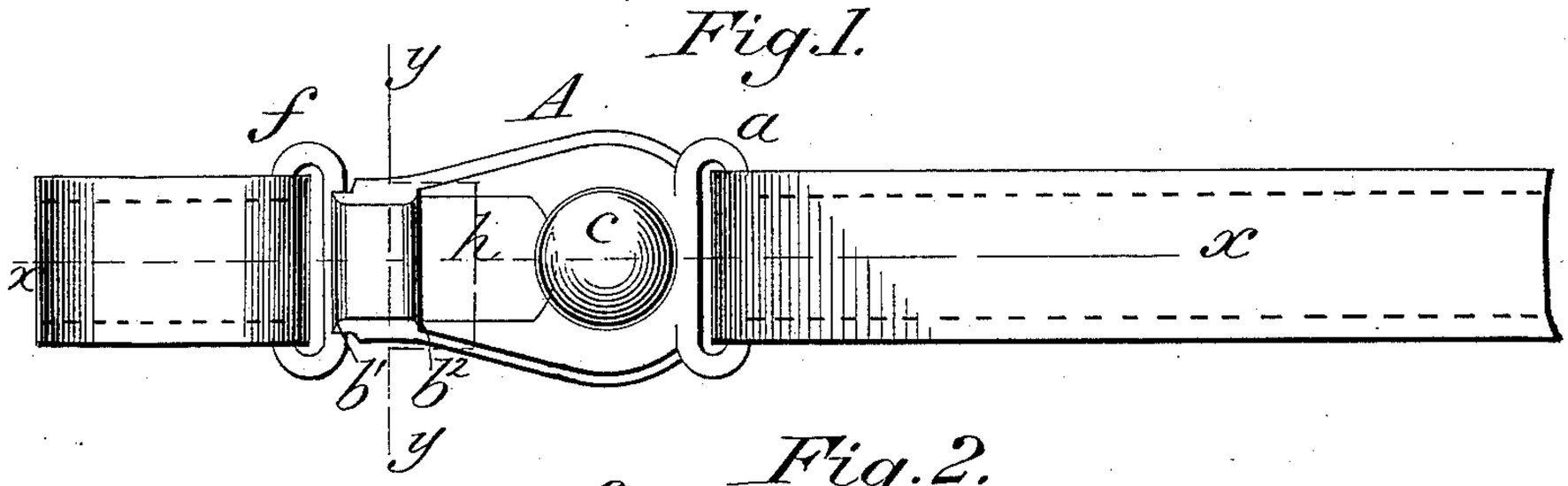


Fig. 2.

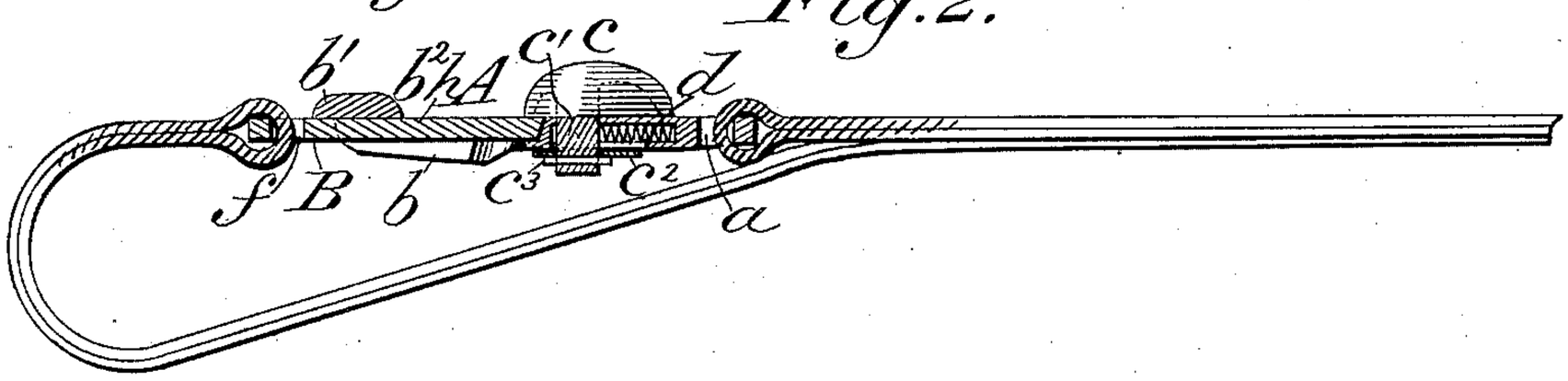


Fig. 3.

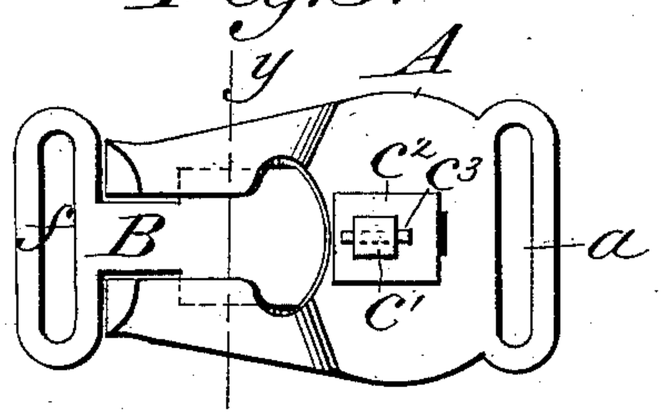
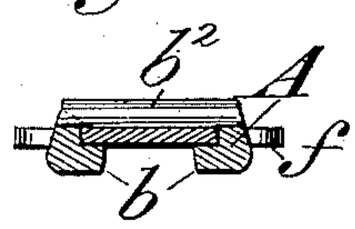


Fig. 4.



y Fig. 5.

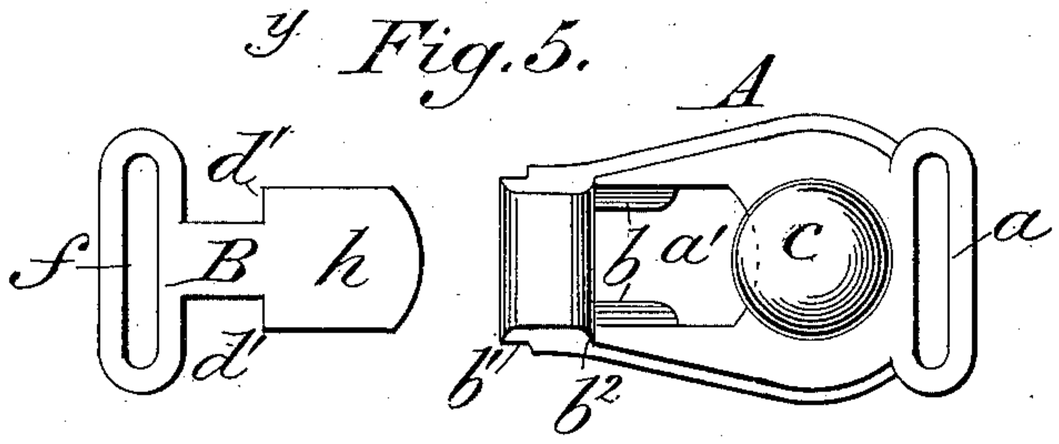


Fig. 6.

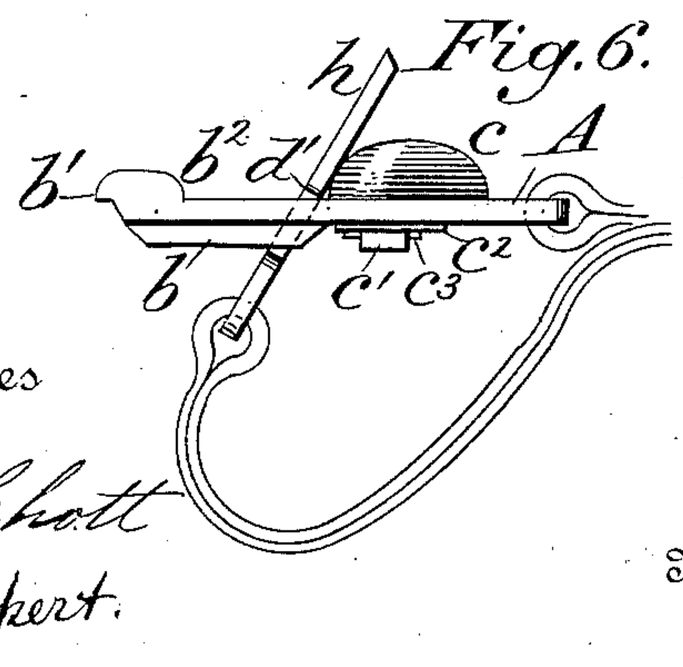
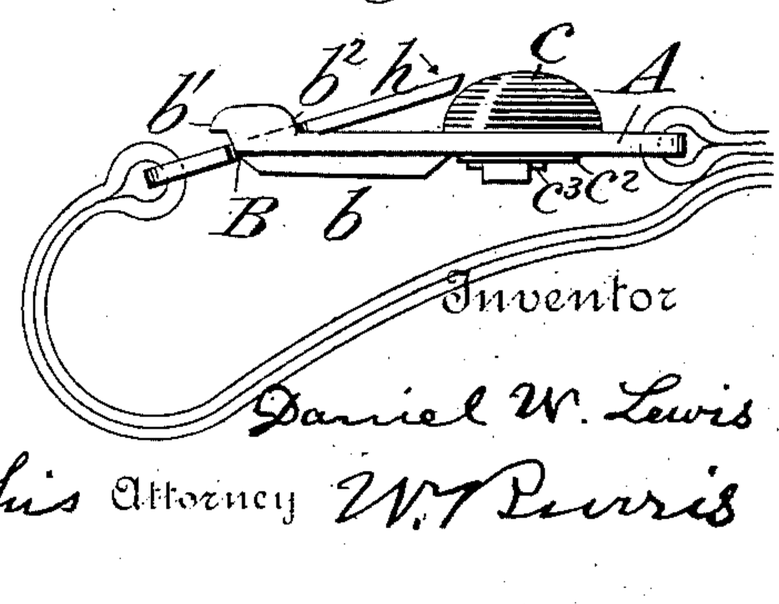


Fig. 7.



Witnesses

F. H. Schott

A. Ruppert.

Inventor

Daniel W. Lewis

By his Attorney W. T. Purris

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DANIEL W. LEWIS, OF ALBERT LEA, MINNESOTA.

CLASP FOR HARNESS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 362,165, dated May 3, 1887.

Application filed February 19, 1887. Serial No. 228,228. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DANIEL W. LEWIS, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at city of Albert Lea, in the county of Freeborn and State of Minnesota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Snap-Fastenings, of which the following is a specication, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

My invention relates to a snap-fastening adapted to be used upon reins, hitching-straps, &c., constructed as hereinafter fully set forth and claimed.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a plan view of my improved fastening, showing the two parts connected together and attached to a rein or strap. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section on line *x x* of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a plan view of the under side of the fastening, showing the two parts of the fastening connected. Fig. 4 is a cross-section on line *y y* of Figs. 1 and 3. Fig. 5 is a plan view of the two parts separated. Figs. 6 and 7 are side views showing the positions of the two parts when they are being connected together.

The fastening is constructed in two parts.

A designates the plate of one part, provided with an eye, *a*, a central opening, *a'*, lugs *b b'*, bearing b^2, and a snap-button, *c*. This button may be attached to the plate in any desirable position and by any suitable devices. In the accompanying drawings the button is attached near the eye end of the plate by means of a neck, *c'*, inserted through a slot in the plate and through a hole in a washer or friction-plate, c^2, and is secured in place by a pin, c^3, inserted through the extended end of the neck, as shown. The slot in the plate is provided with a spiral spring, *d*, adjusted to bear against the neck of the button.

B designates a plate provided with an eye, *f*, and a shouldered tongue, *h*, constituting the other portion of the fastening. The portion of the opening *a'* through the plate A which is next to the button is enlarged to readily admit the tongue, which is inserted at this part of the opening, and is extended through it far enough to allow the shoulders *d'* to clear the lugs *b*, as shown in Fig. 6 of the drawings. From this position the tongue is readily moved into the position shown in Fig. 7 of the drawings, with its shoulders against the bearing b^2 and its end bearing against the side of the button. Then pressure upon the tongue causes the button to spring outward, allowing the end of the tongue to pass into its seat in the plate, and the button automatically springs over the end of the tongue, securely holding it in place. The outer portion of the plate B is securely held in place by the lug *b'*.

To disconnect the parts of the fastening, the button is sprung outward, so as to release the end of the tongue, which is then moved into the position shown in Fig. 6 of the drawings, and is withdrawn from the plate A.

It is evident that the tongue may be inserted edgewise through a slot or suitable opening in the plate A by twisting the strap or rein sufficiently to place the tongue in that position; but where the reins or straps are heavy and rigid they are not readily twisted sufficiently to allow the tongue to be inserted thus edgewise; hence the construction shown, though not essential, is preferable.

This fastening may be as readily attached and detached as the ordinary snap-hook, and is not at all liable to become detached in use; and this fastening is capable of being constructed so as to be more ornamental than the snap-hook. It is capable of use not only as a snap-fastening for reins and hitching-straps, but also as a snap buckle for connecting the parts of harness.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination, with a plate, A, having the opening *a'*, and the plate B, having the shouldered tongue *h*, of the snap-button *c*, constructed and arranged, substantially as set forth, to automatically fasten the tongue in place, substantially as and for the purposes described.

2. The combination of the plate A, having the eye *a*, opening *a'*, lugs *b b'*, and bearing b^2, the plate B, having the eye *f* and shouldered tongue *h*, and the snap-button *c*, constructed and arranged, substantially as set forth, to automatically fasten the tongue in place, substantially as and for the purposes described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

DANIEL W. LEWIS.

Witnesses:
GEORGE REINER,
JNO. WHYTOCK.