

(No Model.)

J. M. SMITH.
HARNESS BUCKLE.

No. 379,613.

Patented Mar. 20, 1888.

Fig-1-

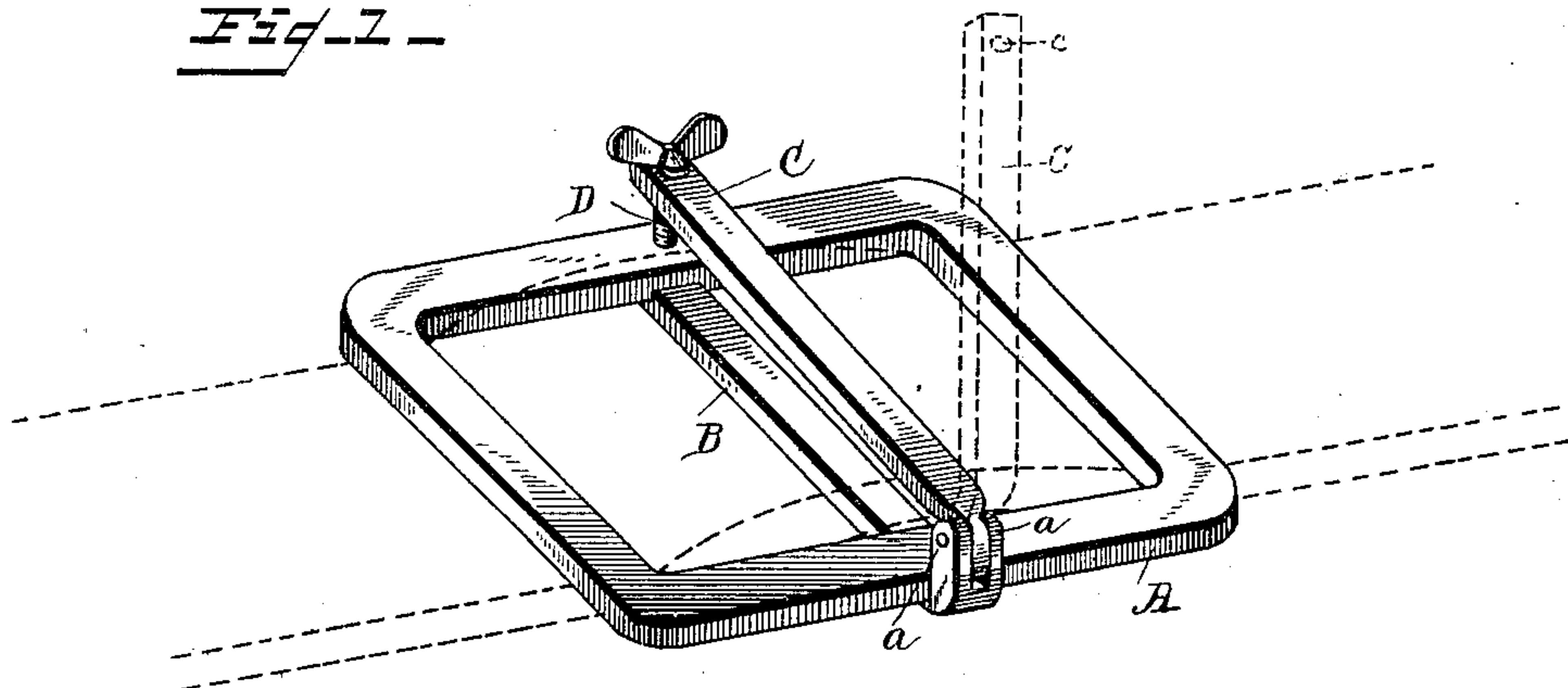
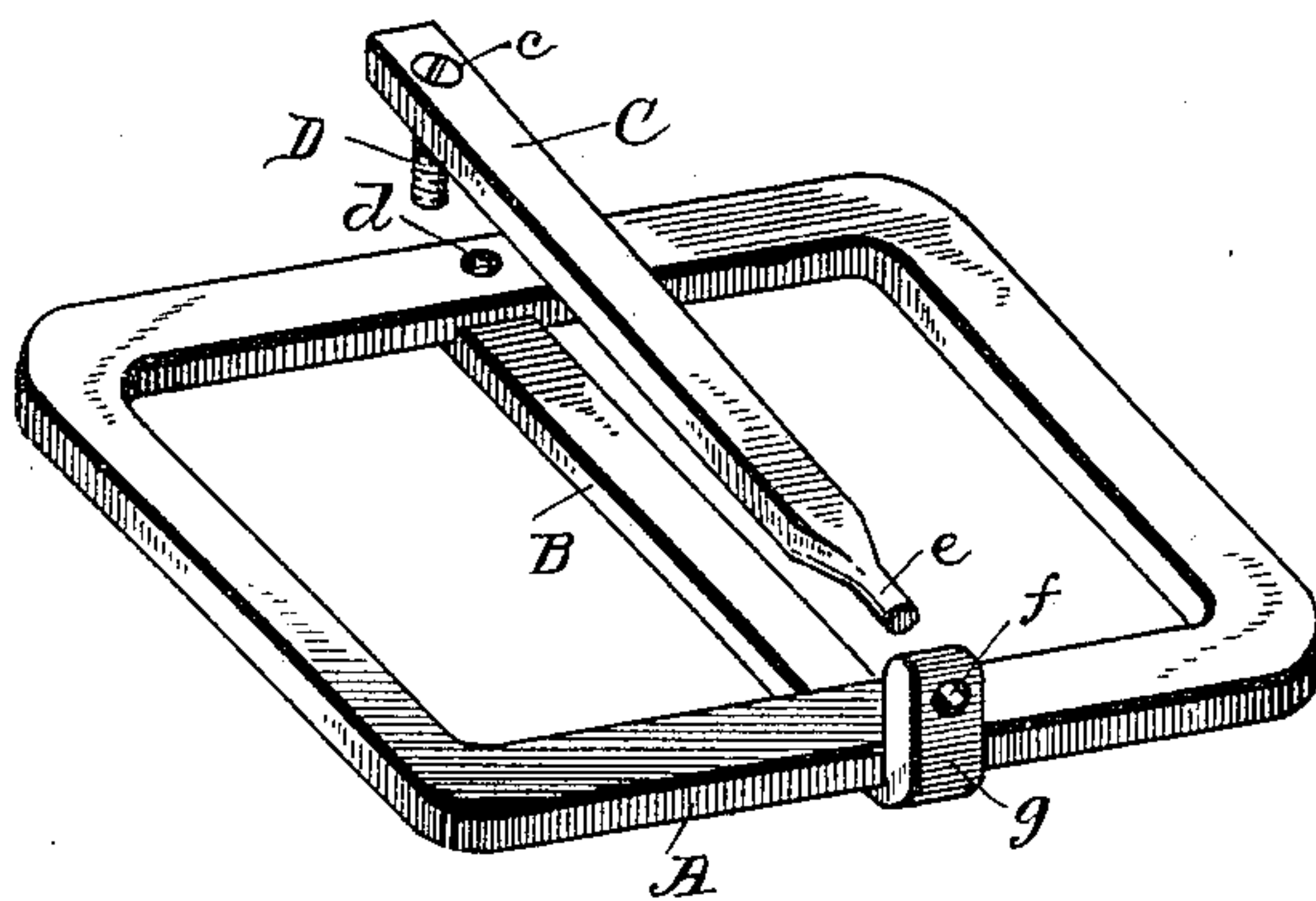


Fig-2-



Witnesses.

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JOHN M. SMITH, OF SPOTTSYLVANIA, VIRGINIA.

HARNESS-BUCKLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 379,613, dated March 20, 1888.

Application filed December 1, 1887. Serial No. 256,698. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN M. SMITH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Spottsylvania, in the county of Spottsylvania and State of Virginia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Harness-Buckles; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in buckles; and while it is designed more especially as a trace-buckle for harness, it is applicable to various other uses, and I therefore do not intend to restrict myself to its employment as a harness-buckle.

The object of the invention is to simplify and cheapen this class of devices and to render the same more efficient and durable in operation.

To these ends, and to such others as the invention may pertain, the same consists in the peculiarities of construction and the novel arrangement and adaptation of the parts, all as more fully hereinafter described, shown in the drawings, and then specifically pointed out in the claims.

My invention is clearly illustrated in the accompanying drawings, which, together with the letters of reference marked thereon, form a part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a buckle constructed in accordance with my invention, a portion of a trace being indicated therein in dotted lines. Fig. 2 is a similar view of a modified form.

Referring by letter to the said drawings, the rectangular portion A is provided near the center of its length with a cross-bar, B, which may be integral therewith, or, if preferred, may be made separate therefrom and secured thereto in any suitable way. Lugs or ears *a* are formed either on the part A or by the upwardly-projecting end of the cross-bar. Embraced by and pivoted between these lugs or ears is one end of the keeper C, the opposite end of which is provided with a hole, *e*, to receive the screw D, which, after passing through said hole, engages a screw-threaded opening, *d*, in the longitudinal bar of the part A.

It will be observed that the cross-bar B is

arranged below the upper face of the body of the buckle, to provide space for the trace or other article held therein. This provides for the trace lying nearly flat and avoids a cumbersome bunch or hump at this point.

The construction shown in Fig. 2 is similar to that above described, except that the keeper, instead of being pivoted, as in the construction shown in Fig. 1, is provided at one end with a heel, *e*, which engages an opening, *f*, in the ear *g* of the cross-bar. This in some respects is preferable.

The screw D may be either a thumb screw, as shown in Fig. 1, or an ordinary screw, as shown in Fig. 2, in which latter case the hole *e* should be countersunk to receive the head of the screw.

The operation is apparent. The keeper is thrown back, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1, or removed, as shown in Fig. 2, when the trace is put in place, as indicated by dotted lines in Fig. 1, and the keeper then turned down, as indicated, and the screw D screwed into the hole *d* and tightened, which firmly holds the trace in place without piercing the same. With the trace thus in place, if it should become necessary to lengthen or shorten the same, it can be done by simply loosening the screw without disengaging the parts, and when adjusted can be firmly held in such position by merely tightening the screw.

The buckle is simple and durable and cheap of manufacture, and in use firmly holds the trace without the necessity of puncturing the same, thus lessening the liability to break.

What I claim as new is—

The improved buckle herein described, consisting of the body part A, the fixed transverse bar B, located near the center of the length of said body and provided with up-turned end forming ears *a*, the keeper pivoted at one end between said ears and formed at its opposite end with a hole, *e*, and the longitudinal bar of the body formed with a screw-threaded opening, *d*, coincident with the hole in the keeper, and a screw, D, passing through said hole and engaging the threads of said opening, substantially as described.

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

JOHN M. SMITH.

Witnesses:

JNO. J. YOUNG,
A. B. BOTTS.