(No Model.)

F. O. HOPSON.

THROAT LATCH FASTENER.

No. 381,245. Patented Apr. 17, 1888.

Fig 1

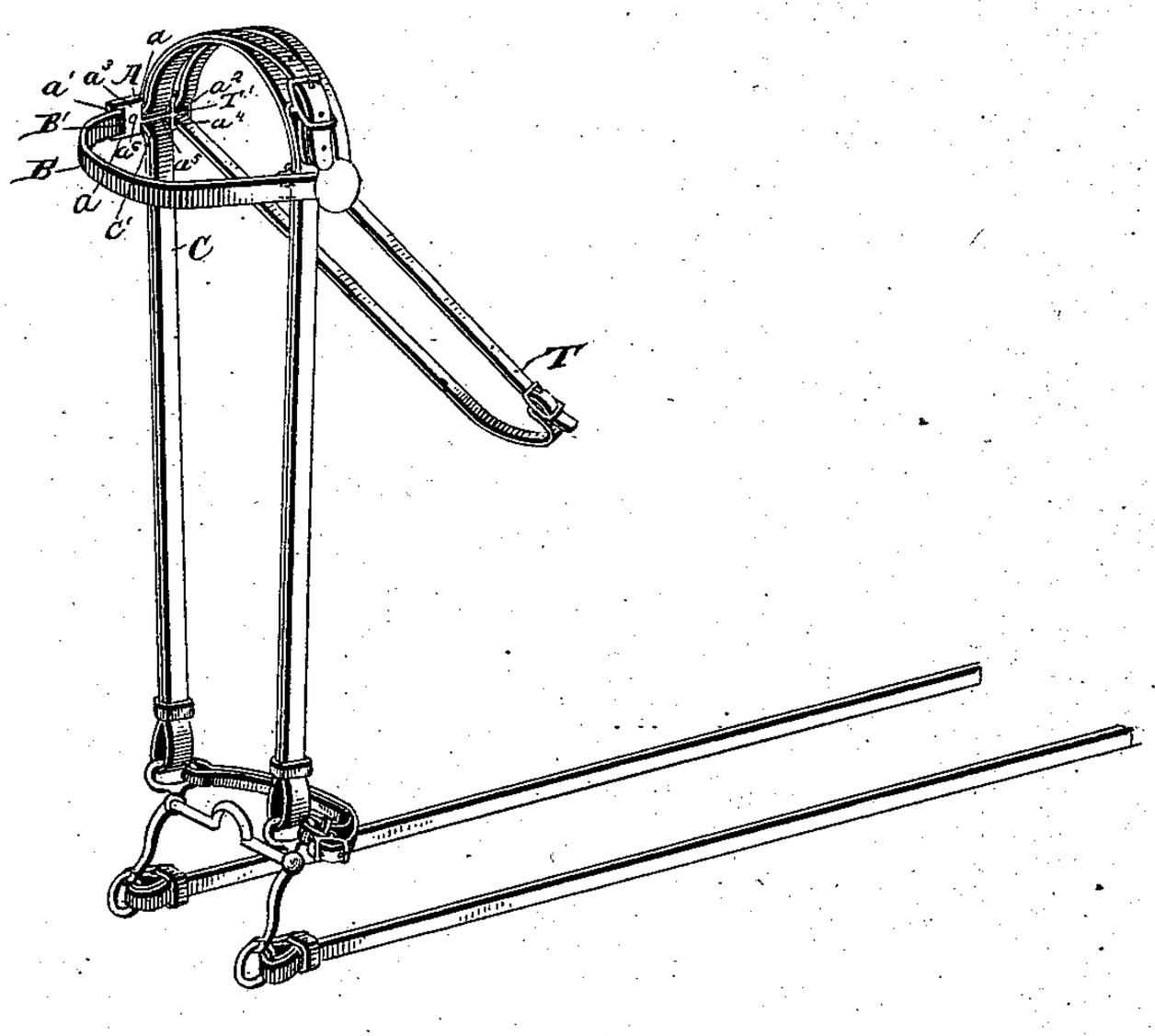


Fig 2.

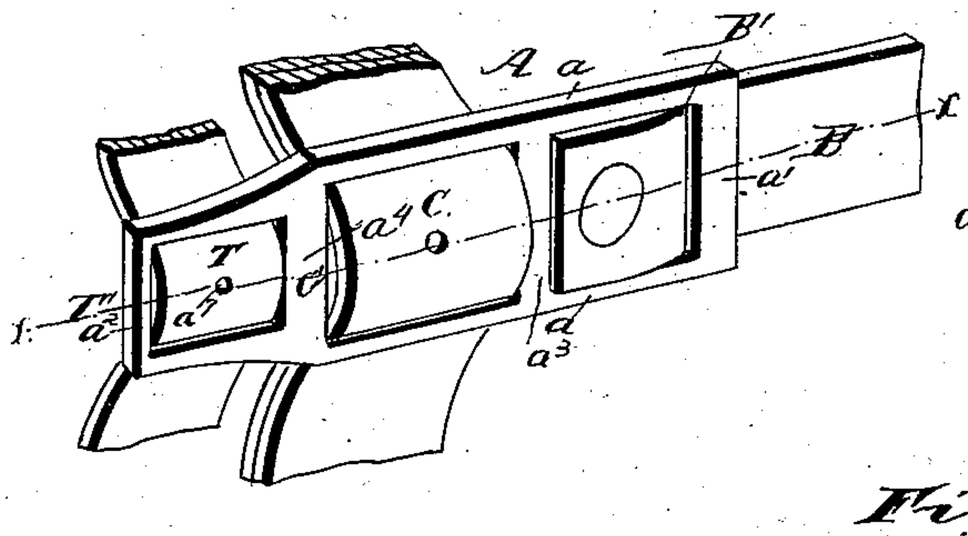


Fig 3.

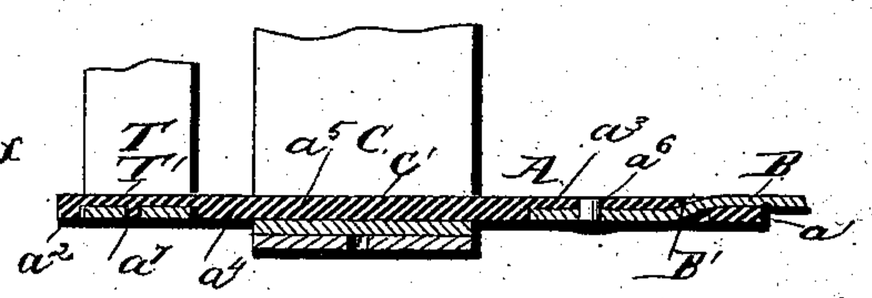
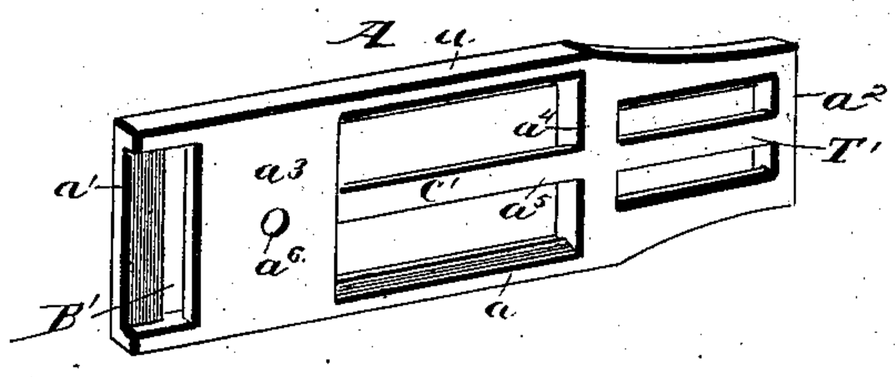


Fig 4.



Witnesses.
Geo. Hoyt.
John H. Staggers.

Inventor.
F. O. Hopson
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Attorneys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANKLIN OLIVER HOPSON, OF WAXAHACHIE, TEXAS, ASSIGNOR OF TWO-THIRDS TO JOHN F. STRICKLAND AND W. C. JONES, OF SAME PLACE.

THROAT-LATCH FASTENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 381,245, dated April 17, 1888.

Application filed September 19, 1887. Serial No. 250,128. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANKLIN OLIVER HOPSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Waxahachie, in the county of Ellis and State of Texas, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Throat-Latch Fasteners, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a fastening and connecting device for the brow-band, cheek-straps, and throat-latch of bridles; and it consists in the construction and arrangement of the parts thereof, which will be more fully hereinafter described, and particularly pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, wherein like letters of reference indicate similar parts in the several views, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a bridle with my improvement shown in connection therewith. Fig. 2 is a detail perspective view of my improvement and the parts connected thereby. Fig. 3 is a sectional view on the line *x x* of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a detail perspective view of my improvement.

A indicates a plate, which is constructed with two side bars, *a a*, and two end bars, *a' a²*. The end bar *a'* is somewhat wider than the bar *a²*, to form a broader bearing-surface. Adjacent to and inside of the bar *a'* a broad bar, *a³*, is formed, and adjacent to and inside of the bar *a²* a narrow bar, *a⁴*, is provided. From the bar *a³* to the end bar *a²* a longitudinal central bar, *a⁵*, is constructed, which acts as a binding-support for the straps passing thereover.

Between the bars *a'* and *a³* an opening is formed, and the construction of this portion of the plate in the manner described forms a metal loop, B', for the securement of the brow-band B, which is passed longitudinally under the end bar *a'* and up over the broad bar *a³*, to which latter bar it is secured by a rivet passing therethrough and through a hole, *a⁶*, in the said bar.

The central bar, *a⁵*, bounded by the side bars, *a*, and the bars *a³* and *a⁴*, forms a tongueless buckle, C', for the retention of the cheek-strap C, which passes transversely under one side bar, up over the central longitudinal bar, *a⁵*, and then down under the opposite side bar.

The end of the plate at which the end bar *a²* is formed is slightly reduced, and through the medium of said end bar, the two side bars, the bar *a⁴*, and the central bar, *a⁵*, another tongueless buckle, T', is constructed, which receives the throat-latch T, which is passed transversely under the two side bars and over the central bar, *a⁵*. The central bar, *a⁵*, at this point is formed with an integral stud, *a⁷*, which engages with holes formed in the throat-latch. Thus it will be seen that an integral divisional connection for the brow-band, cheek-straps, and throat-latch is formed, which allows an adjustment of the said parts when necessary.

The advantage of my improved device is the saving of leather, labor, and expense, and the provision of a convenient and strong and durable connecting-plate.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new is—

1. The herein-described connecting-plate for bridles, having a securing part, T', at one end, having a stud, *a⁷*, a loop, B', at the other end, and a tongueless buckle, C, in the middle, the buckle C and securing part T' having a common central longitudinal bar, *a⁵*, and the stud *a⁷* being formed on said bar, all integrally constructed for the reception of the brow-band, cheek-strap, and throat-latch, as set forth.

2. The herein-described connecting-plate for bridles, having the side and end bars, the intermediate transverse bars, *a³* and *a⁴*, and the central longitudinal bar, *a⁵*, having a stud, *a⁷*, in one portion thereof, substantially as described.

3. The herein-described connecting-plate for bridles, having the side bars, *a a*, the end bars, *a' a²*, the transverse bars *a³*, having a rivet-hole, *a⁶*, the longitudinal bar *a⁵*, extending between the transverse bar *a³* and the end bar *a²*, the transverse bar *a⁴*, and the stud *a⁷* on the longitudinal bar *a⁵*, between the bars *a⁴* and *a²*, substantially as specified.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

FRANKLIN OLIVER HOPSON.

Witnesses:
E. P. HAWKINS,
R. W. BEALE.