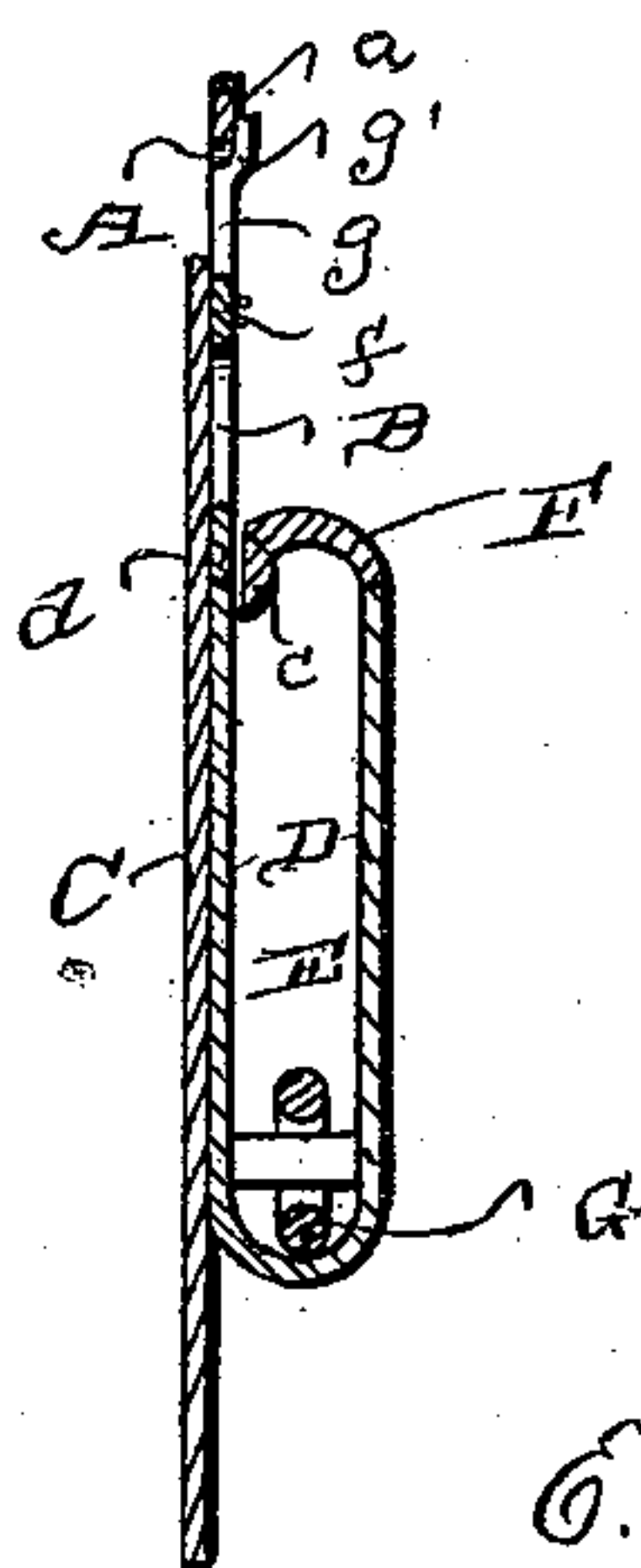
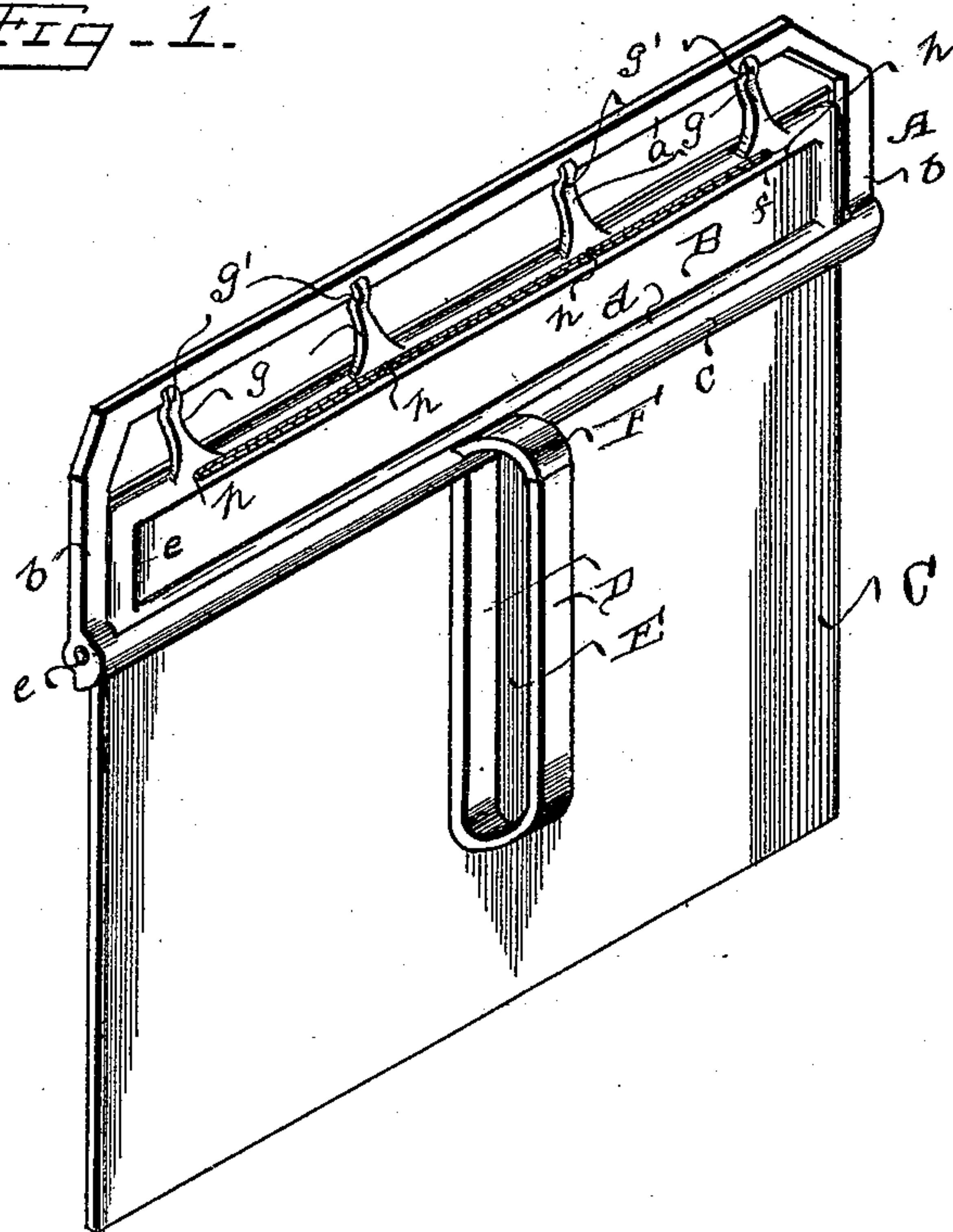
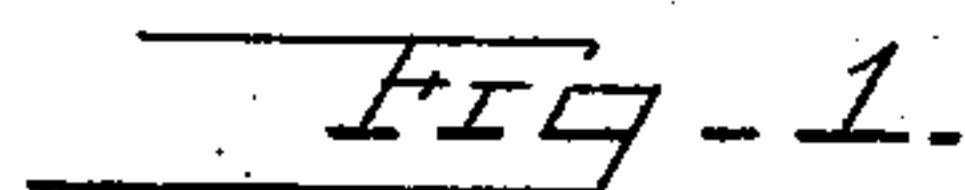


(No Model.)

E. A. NICHOLS.  
TRACE CARRIER.

No. 490,980.

Patented Jan. 31, 1893.



**Witnesses:**

Jesse Heller.  
Philip C. Masi.

*Inventor.*

E. A. Nichols  
by E. W. Anderson  
his Attorney.

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD A. NICHOLS, OF CROCKETT, TEXAS.

## TRACE-CARRIER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 490,980, dated January 31, 1893.

Application filed August 29, 1892. Serial No. 444,426. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, EDWARD A. NICHOLS, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Crockett, in the county of Houston and State of Texas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Back-Band Buckles for Chain Harness; 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 letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a perspective view of the invention and Fig. 2 is a vertical section of same.

This invention has relation to certain new and useful improvements in back band buckles for harnesses, and it consists in the novel construction and combination of parts, all as hereinafter specified.

In the accompanying drawings, the letter A designates the frame of the buckle, comprising the top bar *a*, the angular end bars *b*, *b*, curved forwardly at their lower portions, and the lower bar *c*, which is set forward of the plane of the upper bar.

B designates the tongue frame of the buckle, comprising the lower bar *d*, journaled at its ends in the end bars *b*, *b*, and lying behind the lower bar *c* of the buckle frame, the short end bars *e*, *e*, within the end bars *b*, *b*, and the tongue bar *f*, carrying a series of tongues *g*. These tongues are bent or offset at *g'*, as shown, in order to allow the back band to pass through the buckle as nearly straight as possible.

Through the tongue bars is a series of small perforations *h*, whereby the buckle may be attached to a sweat leather C, by sewing or other suitable means. This sweat leather presents a smooth surface to the animal, whereby rubbing or chafing is prevented.

Integral with the lower bar *d* of the tongue frame, and depending centrally therefrom is an arm D, which is bent back upon itself to form a loop E, at right angles to the plane of the buckle, and open at its upper end. On the lower bar *c* of the buckle frame is a pro-

jection F, which, when the parts are in applied position, is adapted to close the open end of the loop. This loop forms the trace chain carrier, and as it is only sufficiently wide to hold one link G at a time, the trace chain can only slip backward and forward the length of one link. This loop arrangement, holding the entire link prevents the links of the trace chain from slipping back past the hook when said chain is slack, so that when draft is applied, the ends of the links catch the loop or hook in such a manner as to often break the link. Where only one side or link is held, in order to insert or take the chain out of the loop, it is only necessary to turn the top portion of the buckle back as though to unbuckle it from the back band.

It will be apparent that as the tongue frame is pivoted in the lower corner portions of the buckle frame, the strain is taken off from the center of the buckle, where the ordinary buckles often break, thereby making the device much stronger and better capable of standing heavy strains.

Having described this invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:

In a combined back band buckle and trace carrier, the combination with the buckle frame, having its lower bar *c* set forward of the plane of the upper bar, of the tongue frame within said buckle frame, and having its lower bar *d* behind said lower bar *c* and pivoted in the lower angles of the said buckle frame, an arm D carried centrally by said lower bar *d*, and bent to form an elongated vertical trace carrier loop, open at its upper end, and an arm or projection F on said lower bar *c* adapted to close said loop, said arm or projection being raised from said loop when the buckle frame is turned backwardly, substantially as specified.

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

EDWARD A. NICHOLS.

Witnesses:

W. A. CHAMPION,  
J. W. NICHOLS.