(No Model.)

J. L. KOCH.

HARNESS SADDLE.

No. 506,783. Patented Oct. 17, 1893.

FIG. 1.

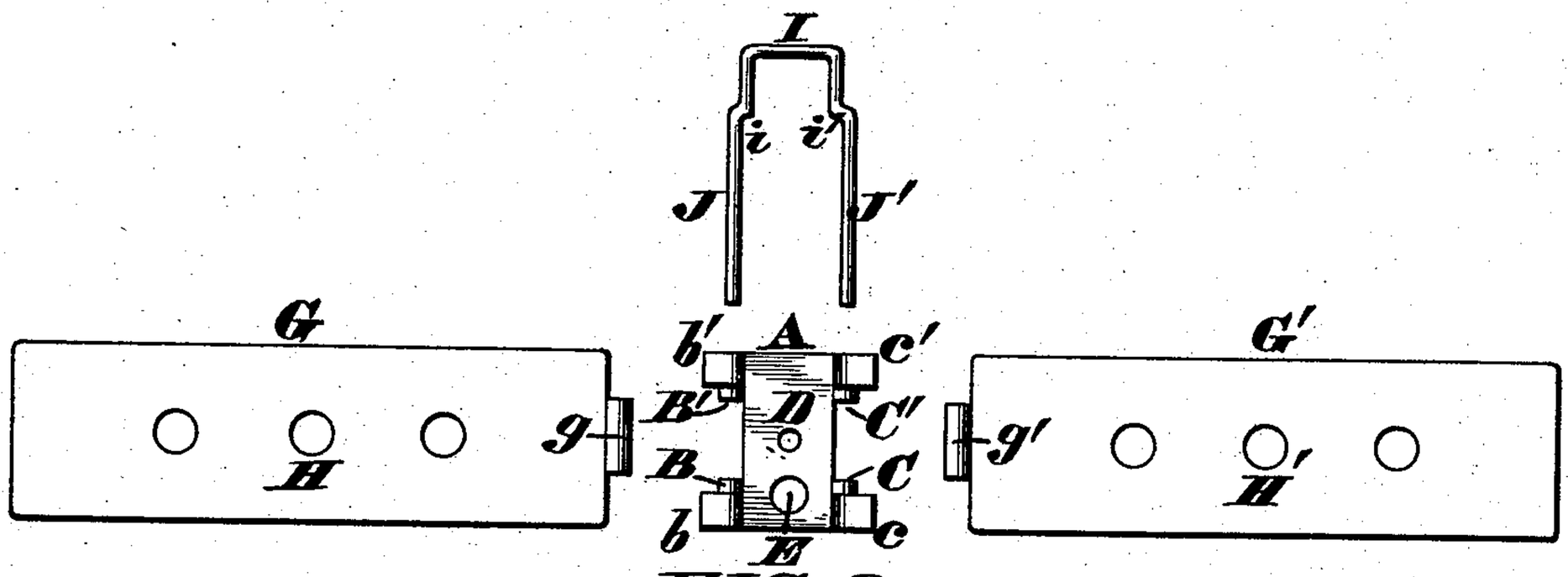

FIG. 2.

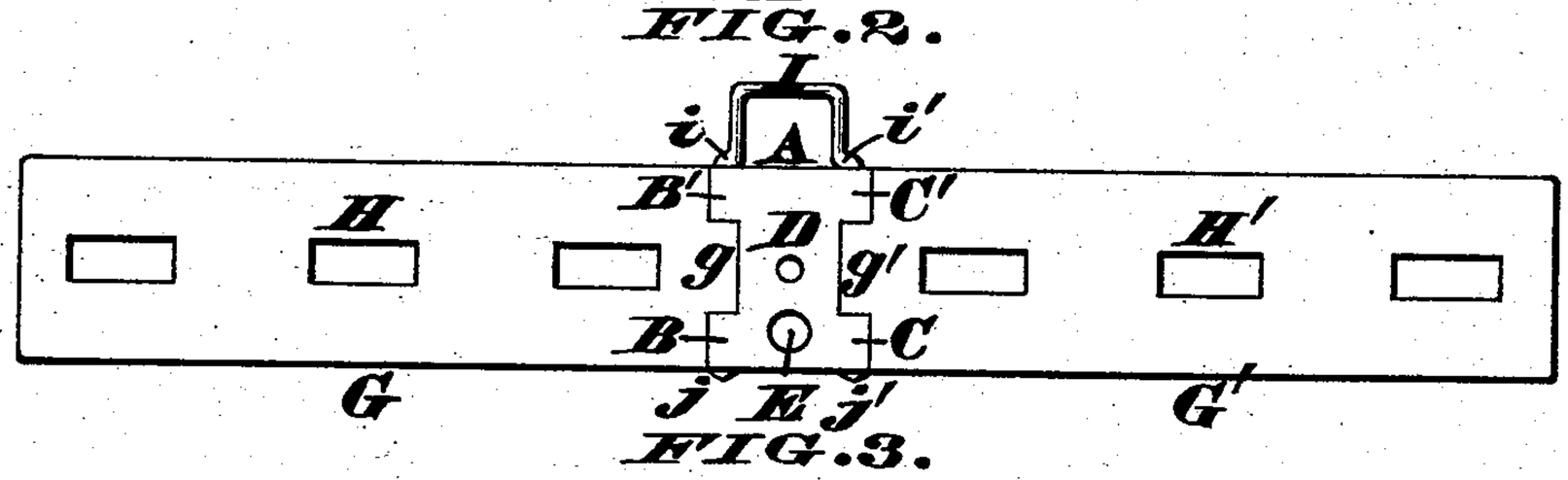

FIG. 3.

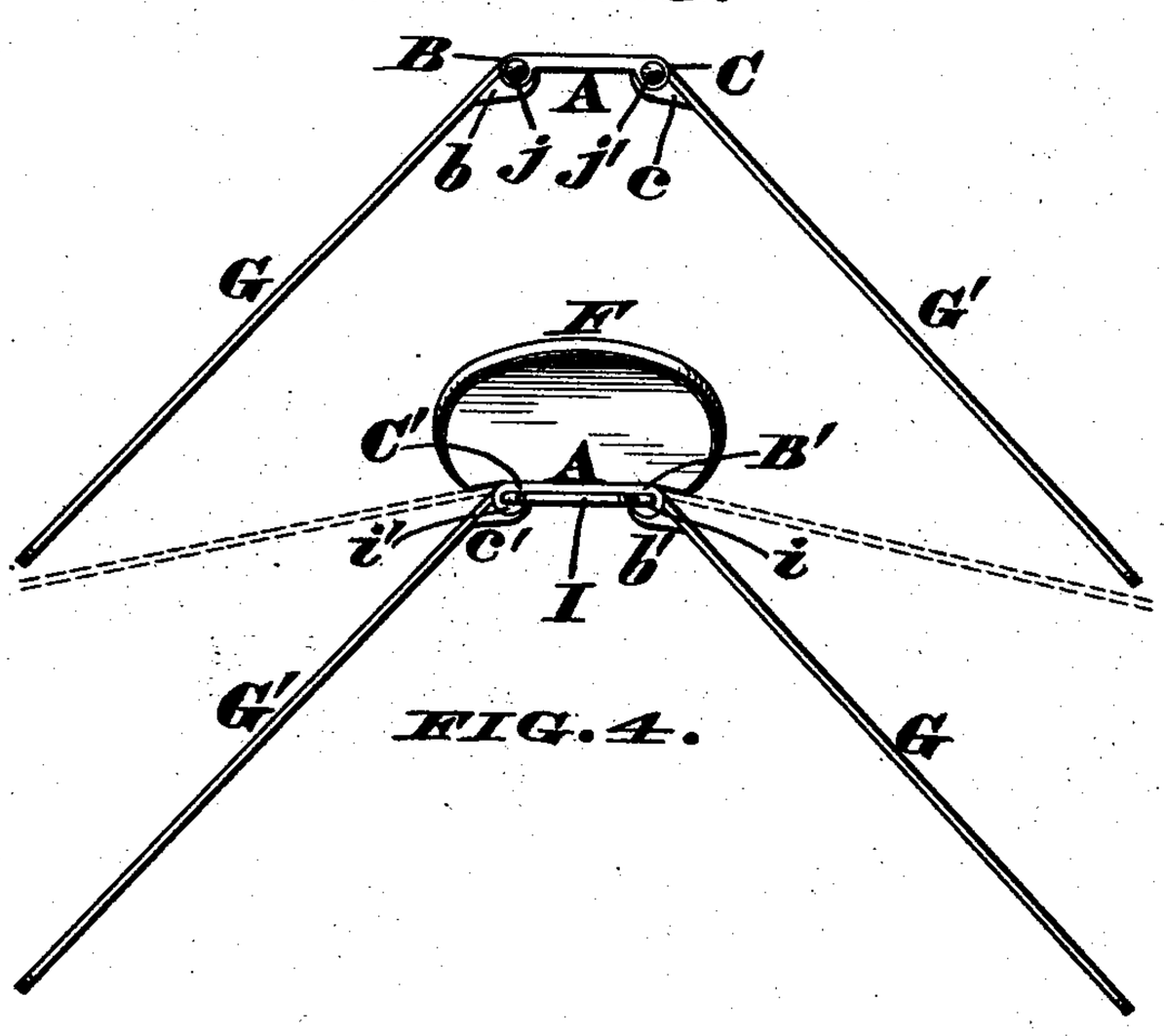

FIG. 4.

Attest.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN L. KOCH, OF LAWRENCEBURG, INDIANA.

HARNESS-SADDLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 506,783, dated October 17, 1893.

Application filed July 31, 1893. Serial No. 481,952. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN L. KOCH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Lawrenceburg, in the county of Dearborn and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Self-Adjusting Harness-Saddle Trees; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, reference being had to the annexed drawings, which forms part of this specification.

This invention relates to those harness-saddles whose trees or frames consist of a pair of leaves or side-flaps which are jointed to a center-plate, for the purpose of rendering the tree flexible and self adjustable, and my improvement includes a specific construction of coupling wherewith the hinging is effected. Said coupling consists of a single piece of wire having parallel pintles that traverse the the hinge-knuckles, a pair of shoulders that prevent said pintles shifting forward, and a back-strap loop at the rear of this coupling device, all as hereinafter more fully described.

In the annexed drawings, Figure 1 is a plan showing the under side of the four principal members of my saddle-tree separated from each other. Fig. 2 is a plan of the upper side of the complete device. Fig. 3 is a front elevation of the tree or frame without the seat. Fig. 4 is a rear elevation of the tree with the seat of a gig-saddle attached to the center plate.

The center plate A, of the tree, may be made either of cast or wrought metal, and has in front a pair of knuckles B, C, and at rear another similar pair of knuckles B′, C′. The knuckles B, C, or B′ C′, or all four of them, may have on their under sides lateral-extensions *b*. *c*. *b′*. *c′*. whose outer ends incline, as seen in Figs. 3 and 4, and thereby form stops that limit the closing of the frame-leaves. In addition to these knuckles, the plate has a small hole D to admit a screw wherewith the seat F is secured to said plate, and a larger perforation E, to permit the check-rein hook being attached in the usual manner.

G G′ represent counterpart metallic leaves, of any appropriate length and width, and having at their inner ends knuckles *g*. *g′*. adapted to fit snugly between those of the center plate, as seen in Fig. 2. H, H′, represent perforations or slots in these leaves for the attachment of terret-rings and the frames or other backings for the customary pads used with harness-saddles.

I is a loop to which is fastened one end of a back-strap leading to the "crupper," said loop being made of wire and having integral, parallel-prolongations J. J′. *i*. *i′*. are small shoulders or bends formed where these prolongations join the loop.

From the above description it is evident my tree is fitted together by simply inserting the knuckles *g*. *g′*. of the leaves between the appropriate knuckles B. B′. C. C′. of the center plate A, and then passing the prolongations J, J′, through said knuckles, as far as the bends *i*. *i′*. will permit, after which act, the front or protruding ends of these pins or pivots J, J′, are headed up, as at *j*. *j′*. in Figs. 2 and 3. Consequently, these three component parts A. G. G′. are securely, but flexibly, jointed together, thereby permitting the leaves G. G′. to have considerable vertical swing, which play is sufficient to compensate for any possible difference in the shape or size of horses' backs. When the saddle is hung up, the stops *b*. *c*. prevent the leaves G. G.′ approaching each other too closely, as seen in Fig. 3, while the attachment of seat F, to plate A, renders it impossible for said leaves to be raised above the position indicated by the dotted lines in Fig. 4. Finally, my tree may be finished with any approved form of housing, skirts and pads.

I claim as my invention—

The combination, in a harness saddle-tree, of the center plate A, having knuckles B, B′, C, C′, the leaves G, G′, having knuckles *g*. *g′*. and the loop I having integral bends *i*. *i′*. and parallel prolongations J, J′, which prolongations traverse said knuckles and are headed up at *j*. *j′*. all arranged as herein set forth, and for the purpose described.

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

JOHN L. KOCH.

Witnesses:
JAMES H. LAYMAN,
WILLIAM KOCH.