

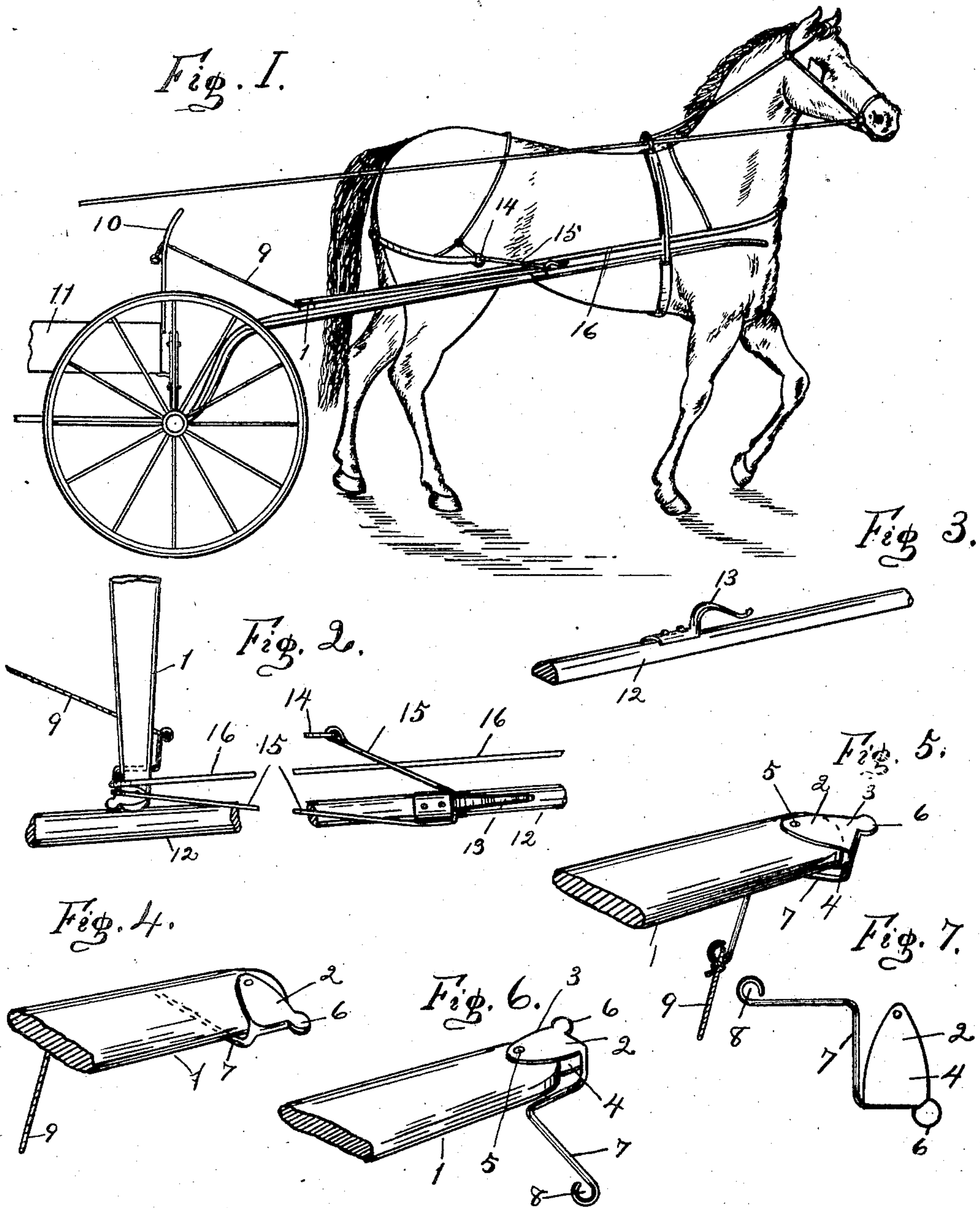
No. 681,734.

Patented Sept. 3, 1901.

E. R. RICHARDS.  
HORSE DETACHING APPLIANCE.

(Application filed July 5, 1901.)

(No Model.)



WITNESSES:

Adelaide Kearns,  
Alice Kearns,

Edwin R. Richards INVENTOR

BY Chapin & Denny  
His ATTORNEYS.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWIN R. RICHARDS, OF LAUD, INDIANA.

## HORSE-DETACHING APPLIANCE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 681,734, dated September 3, 1901.

Application filed July 5, 1901. Serial No. 67,095. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, EDWIN R. RICHARDS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Laud, in the county of Whitley, in the State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Horse-Detaching Appliances; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form part of this specification.

My invention relates to improvements in horse-detaching appliances specially designed and adapted for use on buggies and carriages.

The object of my present invention is to provide a safety appliance for vehicles by means of which the horse propelling the same can readily and conveniently be detached therefrom by the driver in case of emergency, as of sudden fright and attempted runaway.

My invention consists of an improved retaining and releasing means for both the traces and the ordinary holdback-straps so arranged as to be at all times within convenient reach of the operator.

The principal novel feature of my invention resides in the construction and arrangement of the trace-releasing device.

In the accompanying drawings similar reference-numerals indicate like parts throughout the several views, in which—

Figure 1 is a side view of my improvement in position for use, showing the relative arrangement of the operative parts with the vehicle broken away in part. Fig. 2 is an enlarged detail of my invention, broken away in part. Fig. 3 is a perspective detail of the means for securing the holdback-straps to the thills. Fig. 4 is a perspective detail of the pivoted clip in its normal position on the singletree. Fig. 5 is a perspective detail of the same with the pivoted trace-clip shown in the position into which it is thrown by the operator in detaching the horse. Fig. 6 is another detail of the same, showing the said clip in the position into which it is thrown by the traces in detaching. Fig. 7 is a bottom plan of the said clip.

On the opposite ends of any proper singletree 1 is mounted a pair of pivoted clips 2, formed by two opposite parallel integral plates 3 and 4, which are secured to the said singletree and to each other by the pin or pivot 5. On the rear face and outer edge of the said upper plate 3 is arranged a lateral lug 6, adapted to secure the traces and holdback-straps in position on the said singletree in use, as shown in Fig. 2. To the rear face and inner edge of the lower plate 4 is secured the bent lever-arm 7, preferably cast integral therewith. This lever-arm has its inner end arranged in parallel relation with the said clip and has its outer end bent at right angles thereto and provided upon its free end with an eye 8, to which one end of the operating-cord 9 is secured, as shown in Fig. 5. These cords, as well as the clips and holdback-straps, are of course in duplicate. This lever-arm normally remains beneath the singletree and is so adjusted as to clear the same in its operation. The other end of the cord 9 is secured to the dashboard 10 of the vehicle 11 or other point within convenient reach of the operator. On the upper face of each of the thills 12 is fixed a forwardly-projecting hook 13, whose free end is bent downwardly nearly into contact with the adjacent face of the thill to prevent any accidental derangement of the holdback-strap therein. To the ordinary breeching-ring 14 of any suitable single harness is secured one end of my improved detachable holdback-strap 15 of proper dimensions, which passes loosely through the said hook 13 and has its other end secured to its corresponding end of the said pivoted clip 2 in any proper manner, preferably having its free end provided with an eye of a proper size to fit over the end of said singletree and over the said clip, as seen in Fig. 2. The trace 16 is of the ordinary form, with an eye in its rear end, as usual, but of proper size to be readily slipped over the end of the said singletree and onto the said clip.

The operation and manner of employing my invention thus described is as follows:

The pivoted clip 2 is normally in the position shown in Fig. 2 when in use. The tug or trace is first fitted onto the said clip, where-



by it also embraces the end of the singletree. The eye of the said holdback-strap is also fitted onto the clip in like manner, in which position the said trace and strap are secured  
 5 by means of the said lug 6. It is obvious that as the said clip is at the limit of its movement to the left in Fig. 2 there is no tendency to displacement or to the detaching of the traces and holdbacks by the draft  
 10 strain thereon. When in case of emergency it is desired to detach the horse, it can readily and instantly be done by pulling on the operating-cords 9, which will throw the pivoted clips into the position shown in Fig. 5, where-  
 15 by the draft strain will then be on the said lug 6, thereby forcing the said clip still farther to the right or approximately into the position shown in Fig. 6, thus detaching simultaneously both the traces and the hold-  
 20 back-straps. As the leverage upon the said pivoted clip is ample and the movement thereof is a positive one, the operation of detaching is positive and reliable in any emergency. Of course when the holdbacks are detached  
 25 from the singletree they will readily slip through the said hook 13, and thereby become disengaged from the thills.

I am aware that a great variety of trace-detaching devices have been devised; but no  
 30 horse-detaching device of which I am aware has been provided having, in combination with a pivoted clip, a means for detaching the holdback-straps which bears any resemblance to my improvement.

Having thus described my invention, what 35 I desire to secure by Letters Patent is—

1. A horse-detacher consisting of a pivoted singletree-clip having a lateral lug for the purpose specified, and provided with a fixed lever-arm by which the said clip is swung out- 40 wardly in the operation of detaching; a thill-hook arranged as shown, and adapted to receive the strain of the holdback-strap; and a holdback-strap passing loosely through the said hook and having its free end mounted 45 on the said clip.

2. In a horse-detaching appliance a pivotally-mounted clip having a fixed operating-lever therefor; means for actuating said lever; a holdback-strap having its free end 50 mounted on the said clip; and means for detachably connecting the said strap to the thill.

3. The combination of a pivoted singletree-clip on which both the trace and holdback- 55 strap are removably mounted; means for actuating said clip on its pivot to detach the said trace and said strap therefrom; a holdback loosely connected to the thill and having its free end mounted on said clip; and 60 means for detachably connecting the said strap to the said thill.

Signed by me at Fort Wayne, Allen county, State of Indiana, this 1st day of July, 1901.

EDWIN R. RICHARDS.

Witnesses:

ADELAIDE KEARNS,  
 AUGUSTA VIBERG.