

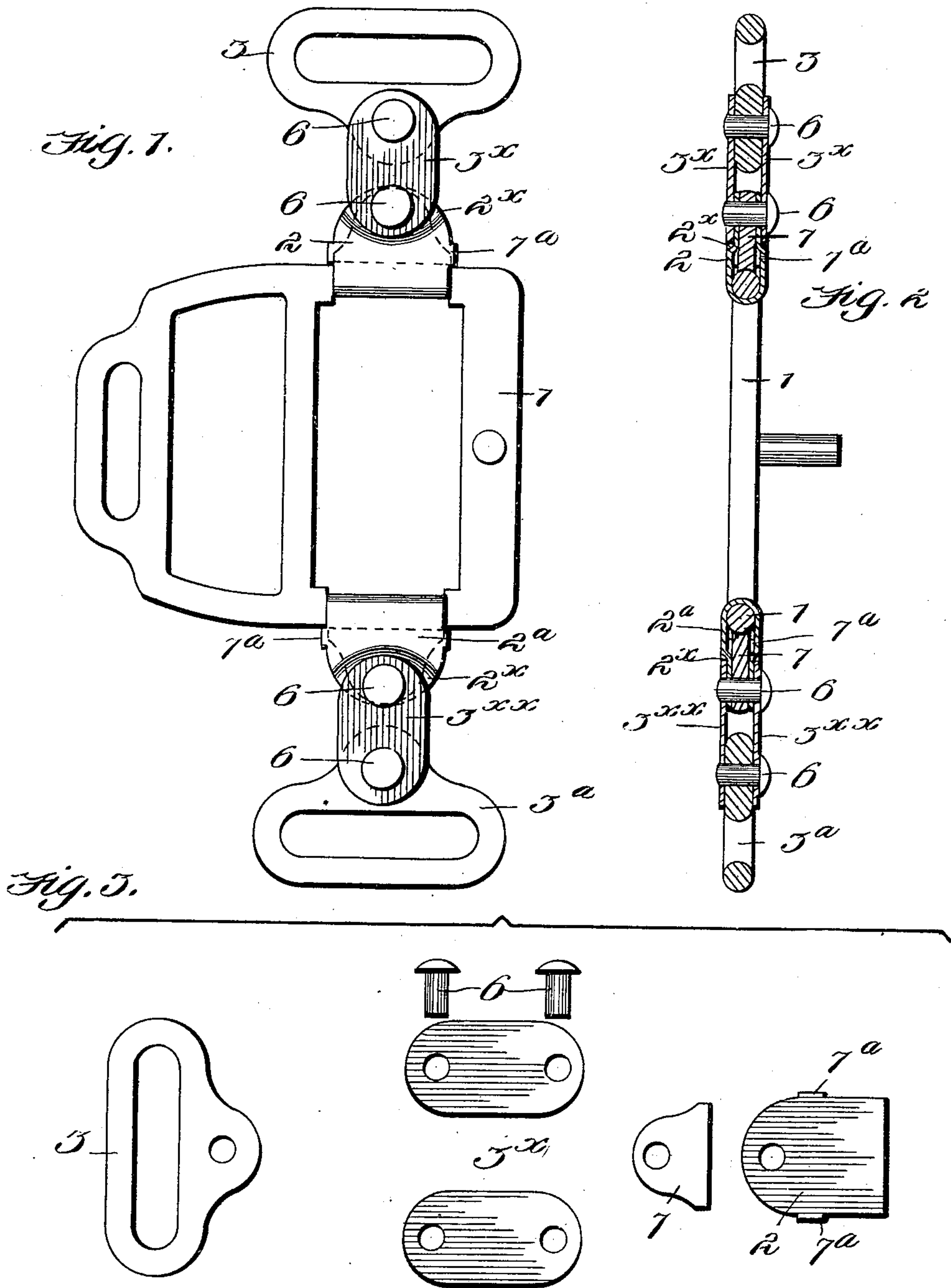
No. 681,988.

Patented Sept. 3, 1901.

A. SHEPHERD.  
HARNESS BUCKLE.

(Application filed Mar. 29, 1901.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALFRED SHEPHERD, OF MALTABEND, MISSOURI, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF  
TO WILLIAM M. ROZELL, OF SAME PLACE.

## HARNESS-BUCKLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 681,988, dated September 3, 1901.

Application filed March 29, 1901. Serial No. 53,548. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ALFRED SHEPHERD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Maltabend, in the county of Saline and State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Harness-Buckles; and I do hereby 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.

My invention relates to certain improvements in harness-buckles.

It provides for flexibility of connection between the buckle-frame and the back-band and girth to reduce to the minimum the rubbing or chafing of the horse's back, the movement of the horse thus being compensated which would otherwise be transmitted to the pad or back-band. It also promotes length of use of the buckle or buckle-frame. Also it removes wear otherwise heretofore exerted upon the straps or back-band and girth and dispenses with casting or forming loops for said parts upon said frame or buckle.

It consists of the novel construction and combination of parts, substantially as hereinafter more fully disclosed, and specifically pointed out by the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, illustrating the preferred embodiment of my invention, Figure 1 is a side view. Fig. 2 is a vertical section. Fig. 3 is a view showing certain parts disassembled but relatively arranged.

Latitude is allowed herein as to details, as they may be changed or varied at will without departing from the spirit of my invention and the same yet remain intact and be protected.

In carrying out my invention I construct the buckle or buckle-frame 1 substantially as heretofore in its general outlines, but without the back-band and girth-strap loops. In lieu of said loops I connect up with said buckle or frame 1 clips 2 2<sup>a</sup>, one at the upper side and one at the lower side thereof. To these clips are connected loops 3 3<sup>a</sup> by links 3<sup>x</sup> 3<sup>xx</sup>, respectively, to effect connection between the same and the back-band and girth-strap, respectively. The links 3<sup>xx</sup> are connected at their upper ends to the pendent

ends of the clip 2<sup>a</sup> and at their lower ends to the loop 3<sup>a</sup> for the girth-strap, the connection being effected in each case by the use of headed-down rivet-like pivots 6 6, thus articulating or flexibly connecting the same together. The clips 2 2<sup>a</sup> are indented or recessed laterally, as at 2<sup>x</sup>, to receive the opposed end portions of the links 3<sup>x</sup> 3<sup>xx</sup> to effect the fitting flushly of said links therewith. This arrangement provides for the independent play or movement, as required more particularly of the back-band, to enable it to conform to or partake of the movement of the back-pad to prevent the last-named chafing or frictionally rubbing the horse's back, as would otherwise be the case. Also the increased liability of rendering the buckle or frame prematurely useless, which has been found to arise with the back-band and girth-strap loops cast directly therewith, is overcome, said loops thus cast or constructed having worn out considerably sooner than the buckle or frame itself. Also the wear and tear upon the back-band and girth-strap have been found to be excessive where attached directly to said frame or buckle, as is obviously the case in casting their attaching-loops with said frame or buckle. This, it is apparent, is greatly lessened by forming, as herein, a flexible connection between the straps and said frame or buckle. Within each of said clips is arranged, preferably, a triangular plate or stop 7, held upon or having passed therethrough the same pivot or rivet connecting the clip to the loop-attaching links. The plates or stops 7 are each preferably grooved or concaved at one edge to receive and reduce friction between the same and the opposed side bar of the buckle-frame with which it engages to provide for holding the clips as against edgewise movement, the primary purpose of said stops. Said clips have their lateral edges bent or formed with flanges 7<sup>a</sup> to prevent edgewise movement of said stops or plates 7.

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

1. The combination of a harness-buckle, a strap-attaching loop, a clip connected to said



buckle, and links connected to said clip and to said loop, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination, with a harness-buckle, of a strap-attaching loop connected thereto by a clip and links, said clip having arranged therein a stop or plate with one edge engaging a side bar of the buckle-frame and said clip and links having a lateral pivotal movement and an edgewise pivotal movement, respectively, substantially as set forth.

3. The combination with a harness-buckle, of a strap-attaching loop connected thereto by a clip and links, said clip having arranged therein a stop or plate with one edge engaging a side bar of the buckle-frame, said side-bar-engaging edge of said stop being grooved or concaved and said clip and links having a lateral pivotal movement and edgewise piv-

otal movement, respectively, substantially as set forth.

4. The combination with a harness-buckle, of a strap-attaching loop connected thereto by a clip and links, said clip having arranged therein a stop or plate with one edge engaging a side bar of the buckle-frame, said side-bar-engaging edge of said stop being grooved or concaved, and said clip being laterally indented or recessed to receive the opposed end portions of the loop-attaching links, substantially as set forth.

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

ALFRED SHEPHERD.

Witnesses:

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