No. 738,895. PATENTED SEPT. 15, 1903.

J. H. ESTES.

BACK BAND AND TRACE CARRIER.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 21, 1903.

NO MODEL.

Fig. 1

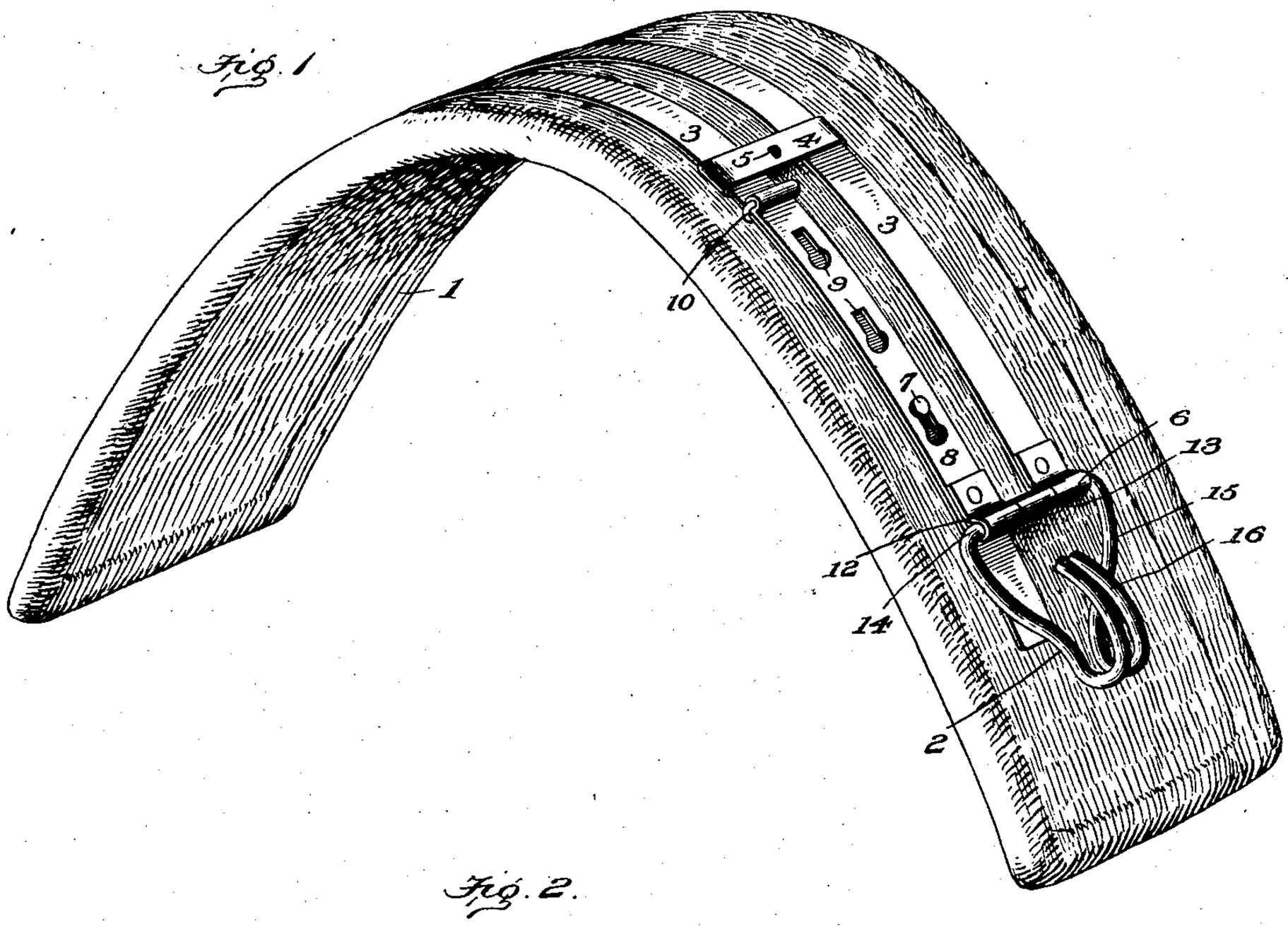


Fig. 2.

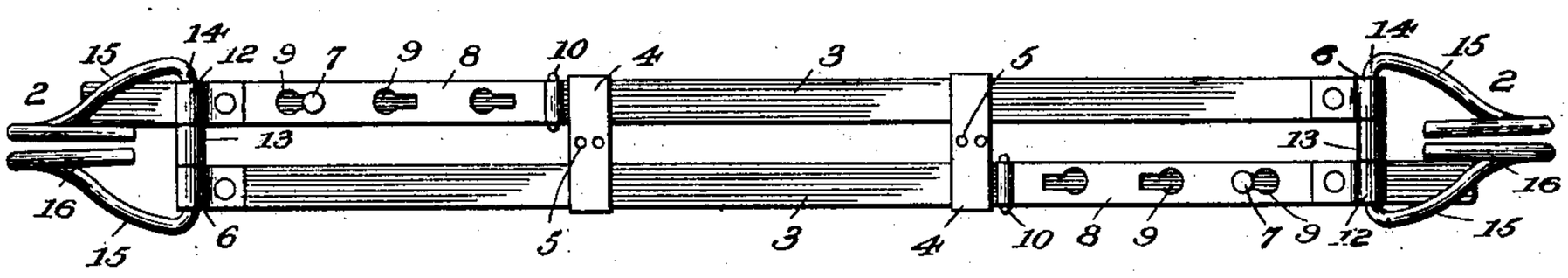


Fig. 3.

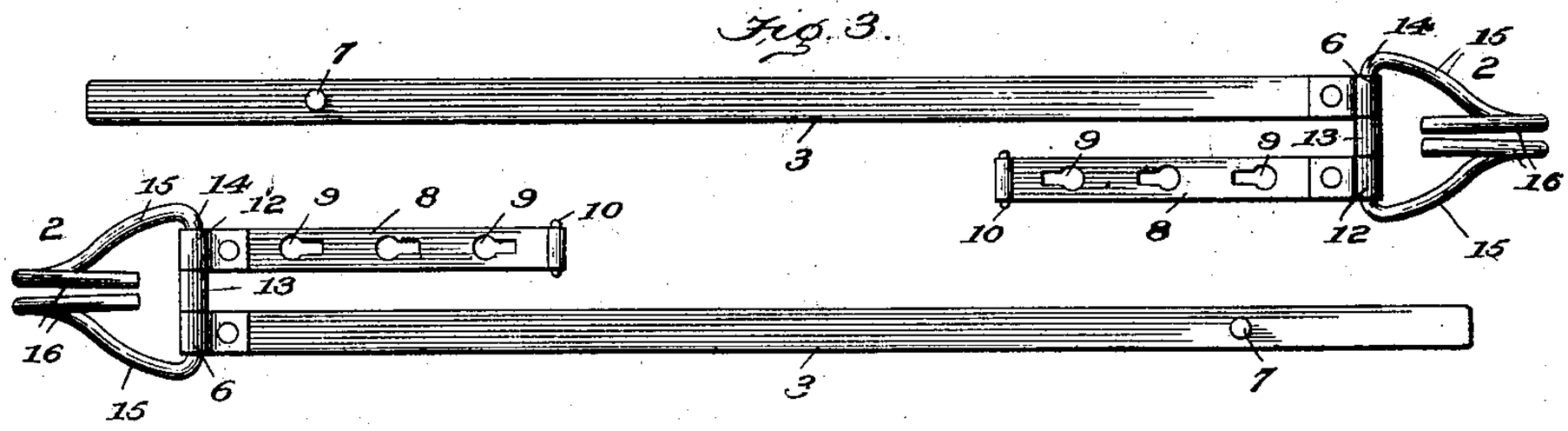
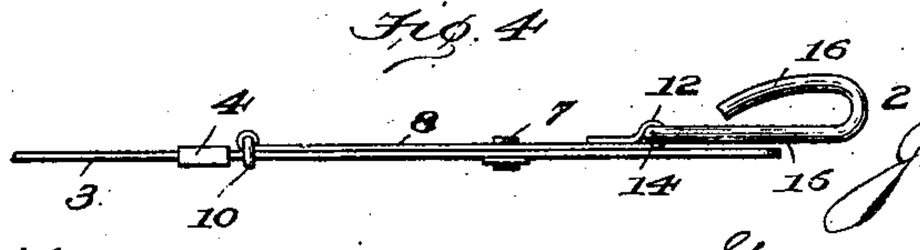


Fig. 4



Witnesses

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No. 738,895. Patented September 15, 1903.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES H. ESTES, OF FAIRBURN, GEORGIA.

BACK-BAND AND TRACE-CARRIER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 738,895, dated September 15, 1903.

Application filed July 21, 1903. Serial No. 166,428. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES H. ESTES, a citizen of the United States, residing at Fairburn, in the county of Campbell and State of Georgia, have invented new and useful Improvements in Back-Bands and Trace-Carriers, of which the following is a specification.

My present invention relates to an improved combined back-band and trace-carrier; and the purpose of the invention is to provide a device of this character that will be simple and durable in construction, inexpensive to manufacture, easy of application, and effective in operation.

The prime object of the invention is to provide a back-band and trace-carrier that can be easily and quickly adjusted to accommodate horses of different sizes and which when in use will not be liable to injure the back or the sides of the horse.

A further object of the invention is to provide novel and readily-adjustable means for supporting the trace-hooks.

The invention has in view other objects, due to the peculiar construction and arrangement of parts, which will be apparent upon a reading of the following specification.

Briefly and generally stated, the invention comprises a pad of yielding material adapted to fit over the back of a horse or mule and a back-band supported upon the pad, comprising a pair of flexible metal bands arranged parallel to each other and a plate adjustably attached to each band, the said bands and plates being provided with means for supporting the trace-hooks.

In order to enable others to understand, make, and use my said invention, I will now proceed to describe the same in detail, reference being made for this purpose to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a complete back-band and trace-carrier constructed according to my present invention. Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the trace-hook supporting-bands shown detached from the pad. Fig. 3 is a similar view showing the two supporting-bands detached and separated one from the other, and Fig. 4 is a side view of one end of the trace-supporting band.

Similar reference-numerals indicate corresponding parts throughout the several views.

The numeral 1 designates a pad which may be conveniently made of felt, duck, leather, or other suitable flexible material, or it may be made of a canvas sack stuffed or filled with hair or cotton. The pad is preferably made longer and wider than the metallic parts, presently to be described, in order to prevent such metallic parts from coming into contact with the back or the sides of the horse, thus overcoming any danger of rubbing or injuring the animal, which is an objection open to most of the devices now on the market and of which I am cognizant.

The means I employ for supporting the trace-carrying hooks 2 comprises a pair of flexible metallic bands 3, arranged parallel to each other, said bands being held in parallelism and attached to the pad 1 by means of metal straps 4, the latter being provided with openings 5, by which they may be sewed or otherwise secured to the pad, as shown. Each band has one end portion bent over and riveted, as shown, to provide an eye 6, to which the trace-hook 2 is attached, and projecting upward from the face of each band near its other end is a headed stud 7. A plate 8, having cut therein a plurality of keyhole-slots 9, which coöperate with the headed studs 7, is adjustably mounted in a slidable manner upon the end of each band 3, the studs serving to rigidly lock the two members, but permitting adjustment relatively to one another, whereby the trace-carrying hooks 2 may be raised or lowered, as desired, to suit horses of different heights. One end of each plate 8 is provided with an elongated loop member 10, which embraces its band 3 and serves as a guide and support therefor to hold the parts in alinement, and the opposite end of each plate is bent over and riveted, as shown, to provide an eye 12, similar to the eyes 6. The trace-carrying hooks 2 are supported by the eyes 6 and 12 in a pivotal manner to permit of a free up-and-down movement of the traces. The two parallel bands 3 and the plates 8 are held separated at their ends by means of loose sleeves or washers 13, which are mounted upon the hooks 2. The said trace-carrying hooks herein shown and described are formed from a single strand of wire, and each hook comprises a straight portion 14, which is passed through the eyes 6 and 12, respectively,

and two inwardly-bent arms 15, having upwardly and rearwardly turned parallel legs 16, forming a hook adapted to engage the trace.

While I have herein shown and described one form of trace-carrying hook, I do not wish to be understood as limiting myself to this form, for it will be obvious that hooks of other forms may be employed without departing from the spirit of the invention, the one herein shown being employed simply by way of example.

By employing two bands 3, as herein shown and described, and adjustably attaching the plates 8 thereto it will be seen that a rigid lock between the parts is secured and one that cannot accidentally work loose through wear, this being due to the fact that the pull or strain on the hooks always tends to draw the interlocking parts into firm locking engagement.

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A trace-carrier comprising two hooks and a pair of back-bands, each band having a hook attached to one end thereof and also having an adjustable connection at its other end with the other hook.

2. A trace-carrier comprising two hooks and a pair of back-bands, each band carrying a hook at one end, a plate also attached to each hook and overlapping the other end of the bands, and an adjustable connection between each plate and band.

3. A trace-carrier comprising two hooks, a back-band and a plate attached at one end to each hook, and an adjustable connection between each plate and the other end of each back-band.

4. A trace-carrier comprising two hooks, a back-band and a plate attached at one end to each hook, each plate having a plurality of keyhole-slots and each band having a headed stud near its free end, said slots and studs constituting adjustable connections between the bands and plates, whereby the hooks may be adjusted toward and from each other.

5. A trace-carrier comprising two hooks, a back-band and a plate attached at one end to each hook, a guiding-loop carried by each plate, each loop embracing one of the bands, and an adjustable connection between each plate and the free end of each band.

6. In a combined back-band and trace-carrier, the combination with a pad, of two trace-hooks, a pair of back-bands secured to said pad and each having a hook attached to one end thereof, a plate also attached to each hook, and an adjustable connection between each plate and the free end of each band.

7. In a combined back-band and trace-carrier, the combination with a pad, of two back-bands mounted side by side upon said pad, each band having a stud near one end, a trace-hook attached to the other end of each band, a plate attached to each hook and each plate provided with a plurality of keyhole-slots which coöperate with the said studs to provide an adjustable connection between the said plates and bands at opposite ends of the pad, whereby the hooks may be adjusted toward and from each other.

8. A trace-carrier comprising a pair of flexible metallic bands arranged side by side, means for holding said bands in parallelism, a trace-hook attached to one end of each band, a plate attached to each hook, and an adjustable connection between each plate and the other end of each band.

9. A trace-carrier comprising two hooks and a pair of back-bands, each band being connected permanently to one of the hooks and adjustably to the other.

10. In a device of the character described, two supporting elements and a pair of back-bands, each band having a permanent connection with one of the elements and an adjustable connection with the other element.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JAMES H. ESTES.

Witnesses:
J. T. HEARN,
R. P. MCLARIN.