No. 773,083. PATENTED OCT. 25, 1904.

R. MATTHIES.

HARNESS BIT ATTACHMENT.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 28, 1904.

NO MODEL.

Fig. 1.

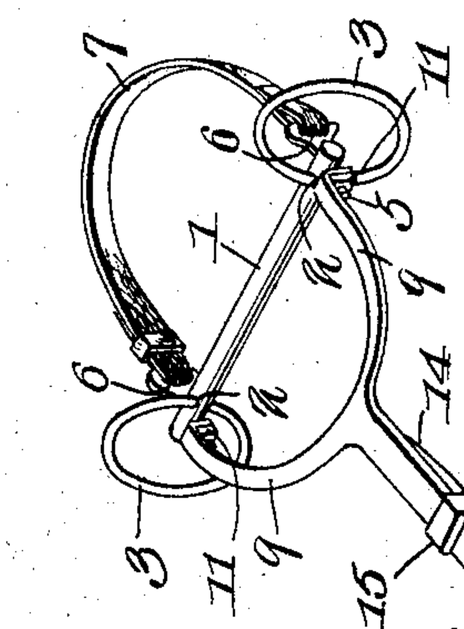


Fig. 2.

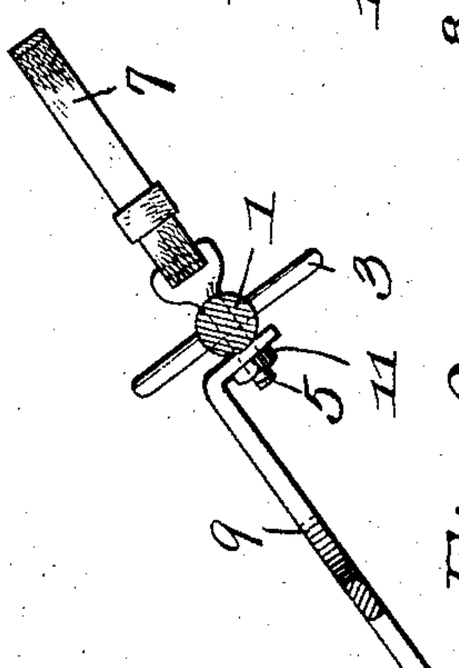


Fig. 3.

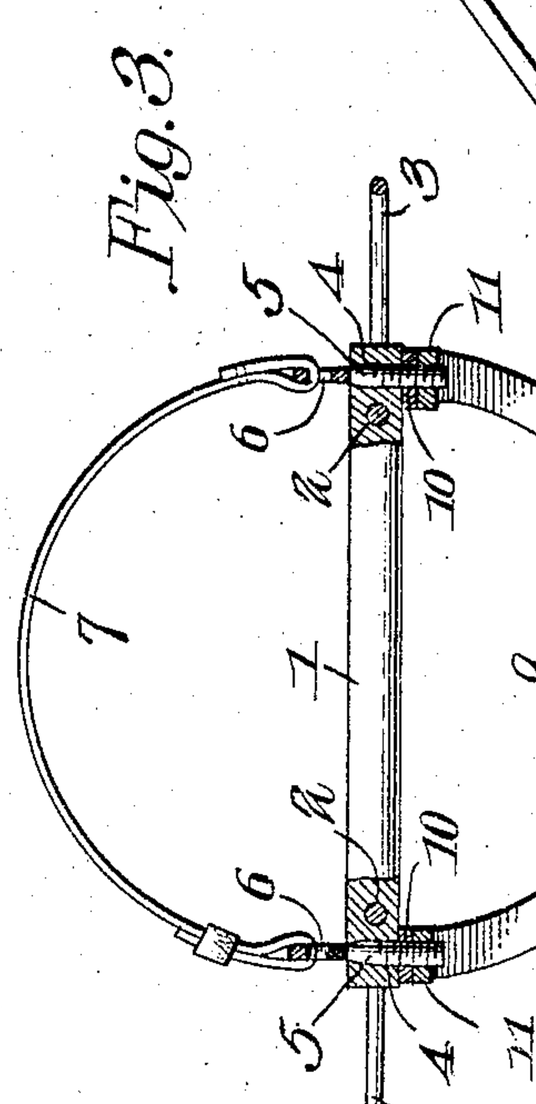
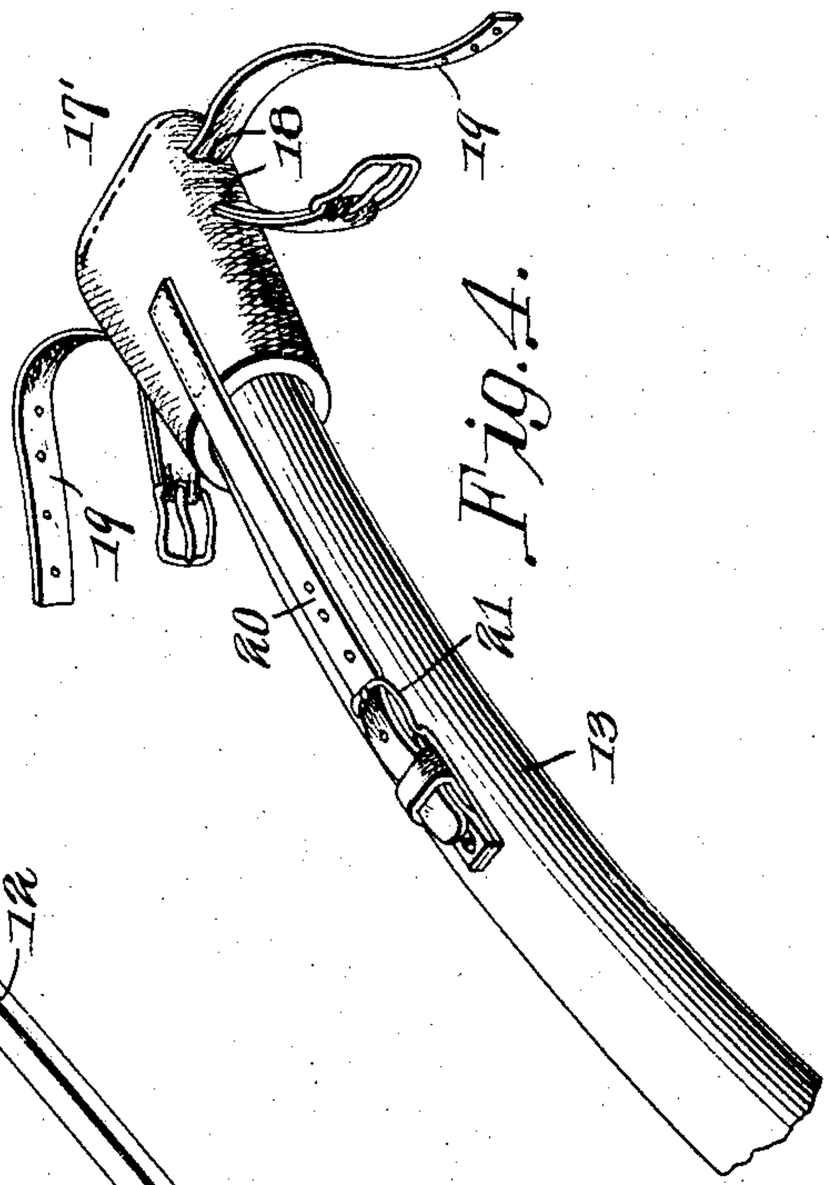


Fig. 4.



Witnesses

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No. 773,083. Patented October 25, 1904.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT MATTHIES, OF HAMMOND, INDIANA.

HARNESS-BIT ATTACHMENT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 773,083, dated October 25, 1904.

Application filed March 28, 1904. Serial No. 200,400. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT MATTHIES, a citizen of the United States, residing at Hammond, in the county of Lake and State of Indiana, have invented a new and useful Harness-Bit Attachment, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to harness-bits; and it has particular reference to an improved bit by means of which the head of the horse shall be under perfect control at all times, the special purpose being to prevent the horse from throwing back his head and breaking into a run.

The device is in the nature of an attachment to an ordinary bit in connection with which it may be used or from which it may be separated whenever desired.

The invention consists in the improved construction, arrangement, and combination of parts, which will be hereinafter fully described, and particularly pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings has been illustrated a preferred construction of my invention, it being understood, however, that I do not necessarily limit myself to the structural details therein exhibited, but reserve the right to any changes, alterations, and modifications which may be resorted to within the scope of the invention and without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the same.

In said drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a bit constructed in accordance with the principles of the invention. Fig. 2 is a sectional view of a portion of the device. Fig. 3 is a sectional view, on an enlarged scale, taken through the bit and illustrating a portion of the attachment. Fig. 4 is a perspective view, on an enlarged scale, of the attaching means whereby the device is connected with the girth or belly-band.

Corresponding parts in the several figures are indicated by similar numerals of reference.

In connection with this device is employed a bit-bar 1 of ordinary construction provided near the ends thereof with perforations 2 2 for the purpose of receiving the rings 3 3, whereby the bit is connected with the cheek-straps of the bridle and with the driving-reins. The bit-bar 1 is also provided near the ends thereof with perforations 4 4 at right angles to the perforations 2 2 for the passage of bolts 5, the heads of which are provided with slots 6 for the attachment of the ends of a nose-strap 7.

8 designates a flat metallic bar which is bifurcated at its upper end, forming limbs or arms 9 9, the ends of which have perforations 10, engaging the threaded ends of the bolts 5, upon which they are secured by means of nuts 11. The bar 8, which is to control the head of the horse, is to be connected securely with some fixed part of the harness, and I have selected the girth or belly-band as the most suitable point of attachment. In order to reduce weight, however, the bar 8 is made of no great length; but it is connected adjustably with an extension-bar 12, which may be constructed of any suitable light tough wood or other material and which at the lower end thereof is bent to form a crook 13, which will readily extend between the fore legs of the horse to the desired point of attachment. The extension-bar 12, like the bar 8, is made flat, and it is gradually tapered toward its point, which forms a comparatively sharp edge, as will be seen at 14. To the bar 12, near the point thereof, is secured a band or loop 15. An additional movable band or loop 16 is provided, having a set-screw 17, by means of which the proximate sides of the bars 8 and 12 may be compressed against each other.

17′ designates a socket made preferably of leather and provided with slits 18, through which are passed short leather buckle-straps 19, by means of which the said socket may be secured to the girth or belly-band or surcingle, as the case may be. The socket 17′ has an additional strap 20, secured to the lower edge thereof and adapted to engage the buckle 21, which is suitably attached to or connected with the curved portion of the bar 4. The latter may thus be disconnected from the socket 17′ by simply unbuckling the strap 20, and the socket may be left in its place for future use.

From the foregoing description, taken in

connection with the drawings hereto annexed, the operation and advantages of this invention will be readily understood by those skilled in the art to which it appertains. It will be seen that the device may be separated from the bridle-bit by simply removing the nuts 11 from the bolts with which the forked portion of the bar is connected. These bolts 5, it will be seen, serve not only for the attachment of the bar 8 and its related parts, but also for the attachment of the nose-strap 7, which it may also at times be desired to dispense with, especially when it is desired to use the bit in connection with a bridle which is already equipped with a nose-strap. The bars 8 and 12 may be very conveniently and effectively adjusted as to length, the keeper 15 being disposed near the thinnest end of the bar 12, which will enable the bar 8 to be moved through the keeper to the full extent of its length. On the other hand, the link or keeper 16, having the set-screw 17, is of sufficient dimensions to be moved downwardly upon the thicker portion of the bar 12, thereby adapting it to be clamped efficiently and securely upon the lower end of the bar 8, thereby connecting the members 8 and 12 with a great degree of rigidity and security. The bar member 12, which constitutes the greater portion of the length of the combined members 8 and 12 is made of relatively light but at the same time of a springy or resilient material, so that the head of the horse while confined within reasonable limits is free to move within prescribed bounds.

The device is simple, inexpensive, and useful for the purposes indicated.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

1. The combination with a bit-bar having perforated ends, of bolts extending through said perforated ends and having slotted heads, and a nose-strap connected with the slotted bolt-heads.

2. The combination with a bit-bar having perforated ends, of bolts extending through said ends, and a bifurcated controlling-bar, the limbs or members of which have perforations engaging the bolts.

3. The combination with a bit having perforations at the ends thereof, of bolts extending through said perforations and having slotted heads, a nose-strap connected with the slotted bolt-heads, and a bifurcated controlling-bar, the limbs or the members of which have perforations engaging the bolts.

4. The combination with a bit-bar, of a bifurcated controlling-bar, bolts connecting the limbs of said controlling-bar detachably with the ends of the bit-bar, said bolts having slots in the heads thereof, a nose-strap connected detachably with said slots, and an extension-bar connected adjustably with the body of the bifurcated controlling-bar.

5. The combination with a bit-bar, of a bifurcated controlling-bar having a curved extension member connected adjustably therewith, a buckle connected with said adjustable extension member, a socket connected detachably with a fixed point of attachment, and a buckle-strap connected with said socket and adapted to engage the buckle upon the adjustable extension-bar.

6. The combination with a bit, of a bifurcated controlling-bar connected with the bit-bar, an extension-bar connected adjustably with said controlling-bar, a socket connected with a relatively fixed point of attachment, a connecting-strap at the upper edge of said socket, and a buckle secured to the extension of the controlling-bar near the socket-engaging end of the same.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

ROBERT MATTHIES.

Witnesses:
J. A. GOVIT,
NEWTON A. HEMBROFF.