No. 822,886. PATENTED JUNE 5, 1906.

E. H. ELDER.

LOCK FOR FORE ENDS OF GUN STOCKS.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 19, 1905.

Fig. 1.

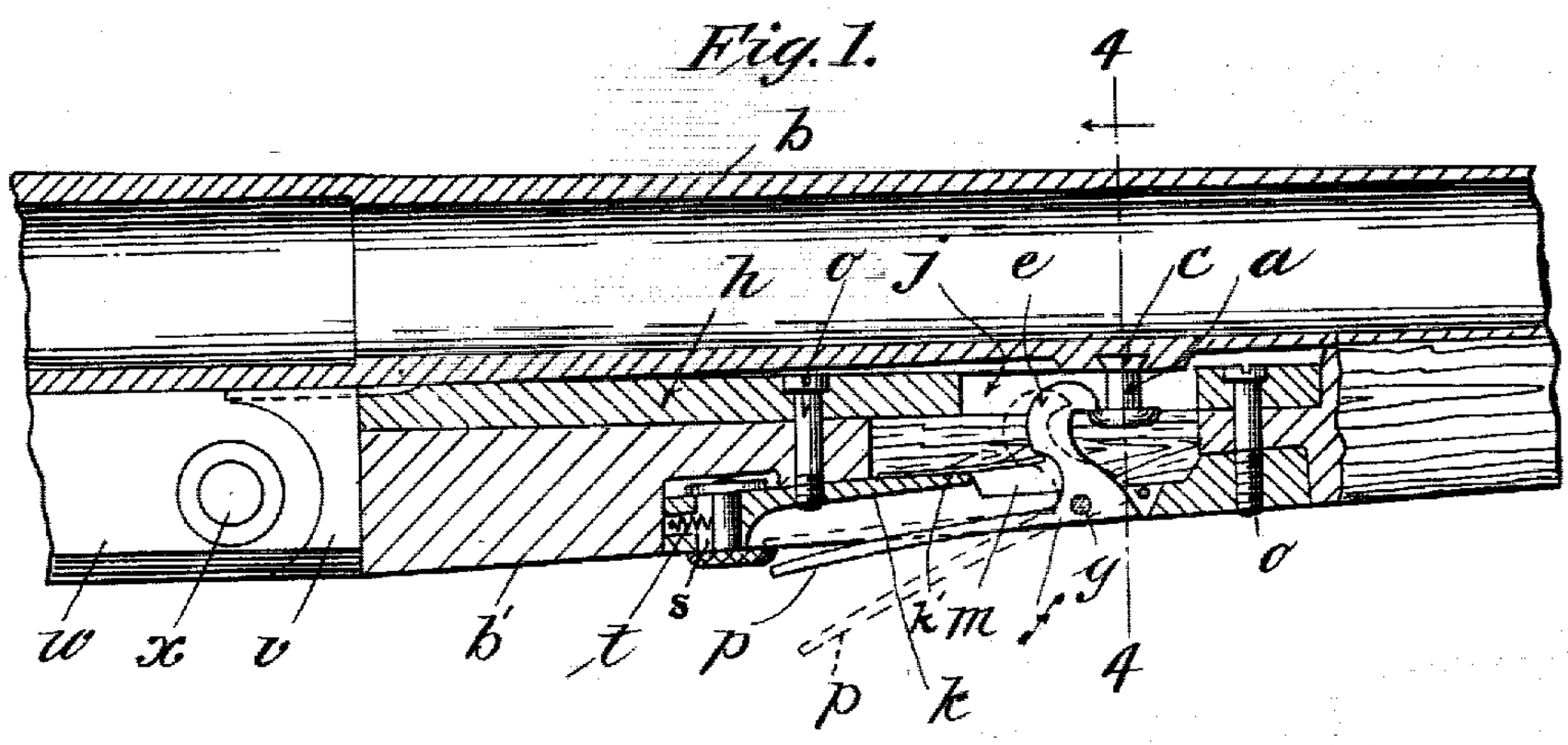


Fig. 2.

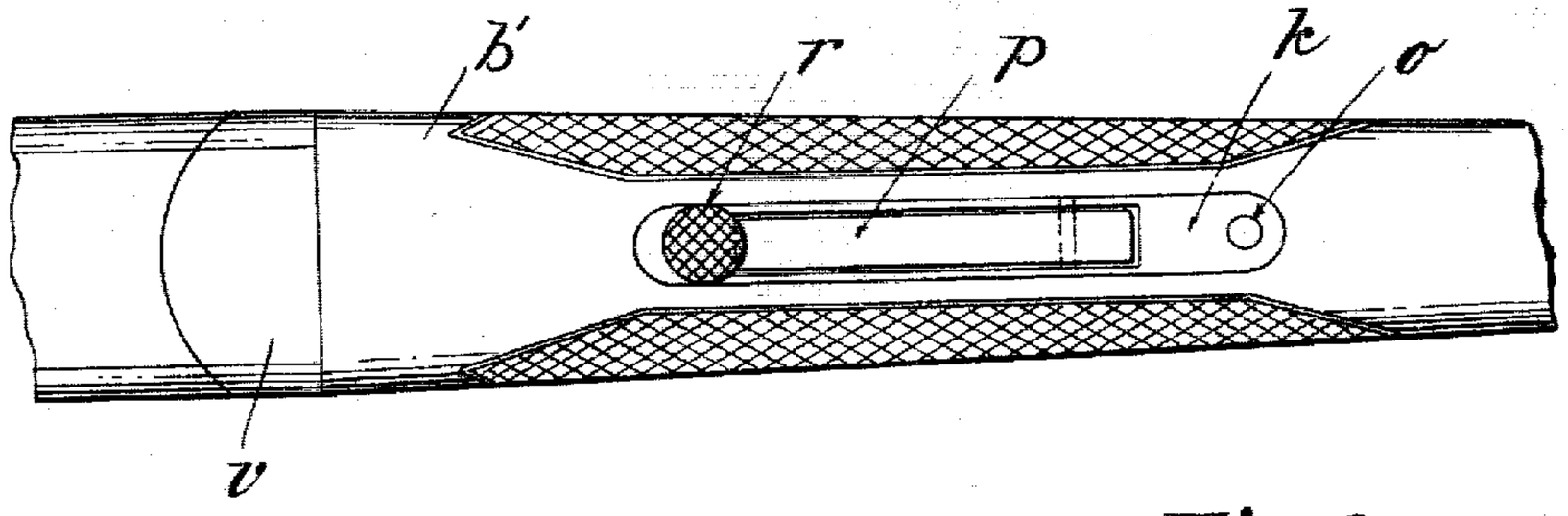


Fig. 3.

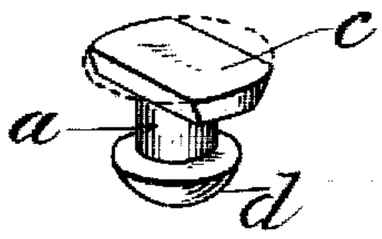
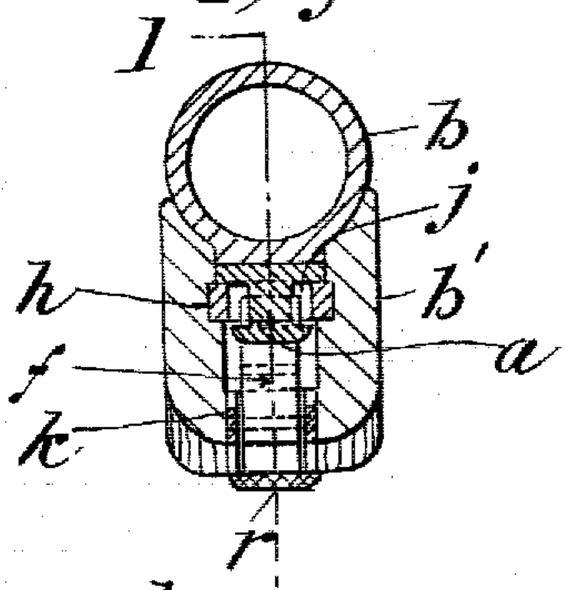


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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LOCK FOR FORE-END OF GUN-STOCKS.

No. 822,886. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented June 5, 1906.

Application filed June 19, 1905. Serial No. 266,960.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD H. ELDER, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Chicopee Falls, in the county of Hampden and State of Massachusetts, have invented new and useful Improvements in Locks for the Fore-Ends of Gun-Stocks, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to firearms, and particularly to means to secure the fore-end of the stock to the barrel in such manner that it will not work loose at the hinge when the barrels are of the breakdown type, it being to this type that the invention is more particularly applicable; and the invention consists in the construction of a locking device which will not only lock the fore-end tightly against the under side of the barrel or barrels, but at the same time yieldingly press the same toward the end of the frame in contact with which it swings when the barrels are tipped down, all as fully described in the following specification and pointed out in the claim appended thereto, the invention being fully illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a longitudinal sectional elevation of a portion of a gun-barrel and of a fore-end secured thereto by the locking device in which the invention has been embodied. Fig. 2 is a bottom plan view of the same, showing the locking device in locked position. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a stud attached to the barrel and with which the locking-lever engages. Fig. 4 is a cross-section on line 4 4, Fig. 1, looking to the left.

In carrying out this invention a stud *a* is affixed to the under side of the barrel or barrels *b* in any suitable way; but preferably the stud is made, as shown in Fig. 3, with a base *c*, having beveled parallel edges, adapted to be driven into a dovetail cut extending transversely of the under side of the barrel, as shown in Fig. 1, the stud being provided with a head *d*, or its equivalent, with which the hooked end *e* of a locking-lever *f* may engage, which lever is pivotally supported in the fore-end *b'*, as at *g*.

To properly support the device in the fore-end, a plate *h* is let into the latter flush with that surface thereof lying against the barrel, an opening *j* being formed therein through which the stud *a* may extend downwardly, and in which opening the hooked end *e* of the lever *f* may have room to swing into and out of engagement with the stud. Let into the under side of the fore-end is another plate *k*, which is longitudinally slotted to receive the lever *f*, there being an opening *m* through this plate through which the hooked end of the lever extends to permit its engagement with the stud *a* when the fore-end is applied to the barrel. The two plates are secured in their respective positions by screws *o*.

That part of the lever *f* comprising the part through which the pin *g* passes, and the hooked end *e* is preferably made rigid, and the long arm of the lever *f*, specifically indicated by *p*, is made thin enough to spring, and the hooked end *e* is so proportioned that when the end *p* is swung upward to effect the engagement thereof with the stud *a*, said hooked end will come into contact with the shank and with the head of the stud before the long arm *p* has swung up to a position flush with the fore-end. Therefore the continued movement of this long arm *p* to bring it flush with the fore-end will flex it more or less, thus applying a yielding pressure against both the shank and head of the stud, whereby the fore-end will be yieldingly pressed rearwardly toward the end of the frame *w* and upwardly against the under side of the barrel, a suitable spring-actuated button *r* being located in the plate *k* to snap over the end of the long arm *p* of the locking-lever when the latter swings into the slotted plate *k* to a position flush with said plate. This button *r* comprises a shank portion which plays in a longitudinally-disposed slot *s* in the plate *k* and has one head preferably integral therewith to slide on the outer surface of the plate and a second head riveted to the inner end of the shank, as shown in Fig. 1, a spring *t* serving to press the button toward the forward end of the slot, as shown, whereby it may be pushed back by the end of the lever *f* when the latter is swung against its edge and then snap over said end to hold it as described. Any other fastening device for the end of the lever *f* may be substituted for the particular one described herein.

Secured in any suitable way to the top of the plate *k* is a spring *k'*, which extends partly across the opening *m* and under a shoulder on the back side of the hooked end

e of the lever *f* to limit the movement of said hooked end away from the stud *a*, to the end that if the fore-end be applied to the barrel and pressed against it the hooked end *e* will snap onto the stud, and the long arm *p* of the lever may then be swung up to position to secure the fore-end tightly in place.

The butt-end of the fore-end is provided, as usual, with a shoe *v*, socketed to fit the rounded end of the frame *w*, to which on the pin *x* the barrel is pivoted in the manner commonly employed in breakdown guns.

By means of the herein-described invention the fore-end is always yieldingly pressed against the end of the frame, and therefore any wear of the contacting surfaces of the shoe *v* and the end of the frame *w* will be taken up and the fore-end therefore never work loose.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

The combination with the frame and barrel of a gun, of a detachable fore-end, a lever pivotally supported therein, a stud fixed to the barrel, and means on the lever to engage the stud between the latter and the frame to secure the fore-end to the barrel, said lever having a spring-arm, the flexure of which will exert a yielding pressure on the fore-end toward the barrel and endwise toward the frame, an endwise-movable button on the fore-end for holding the spring-arm in an elevated position.

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