

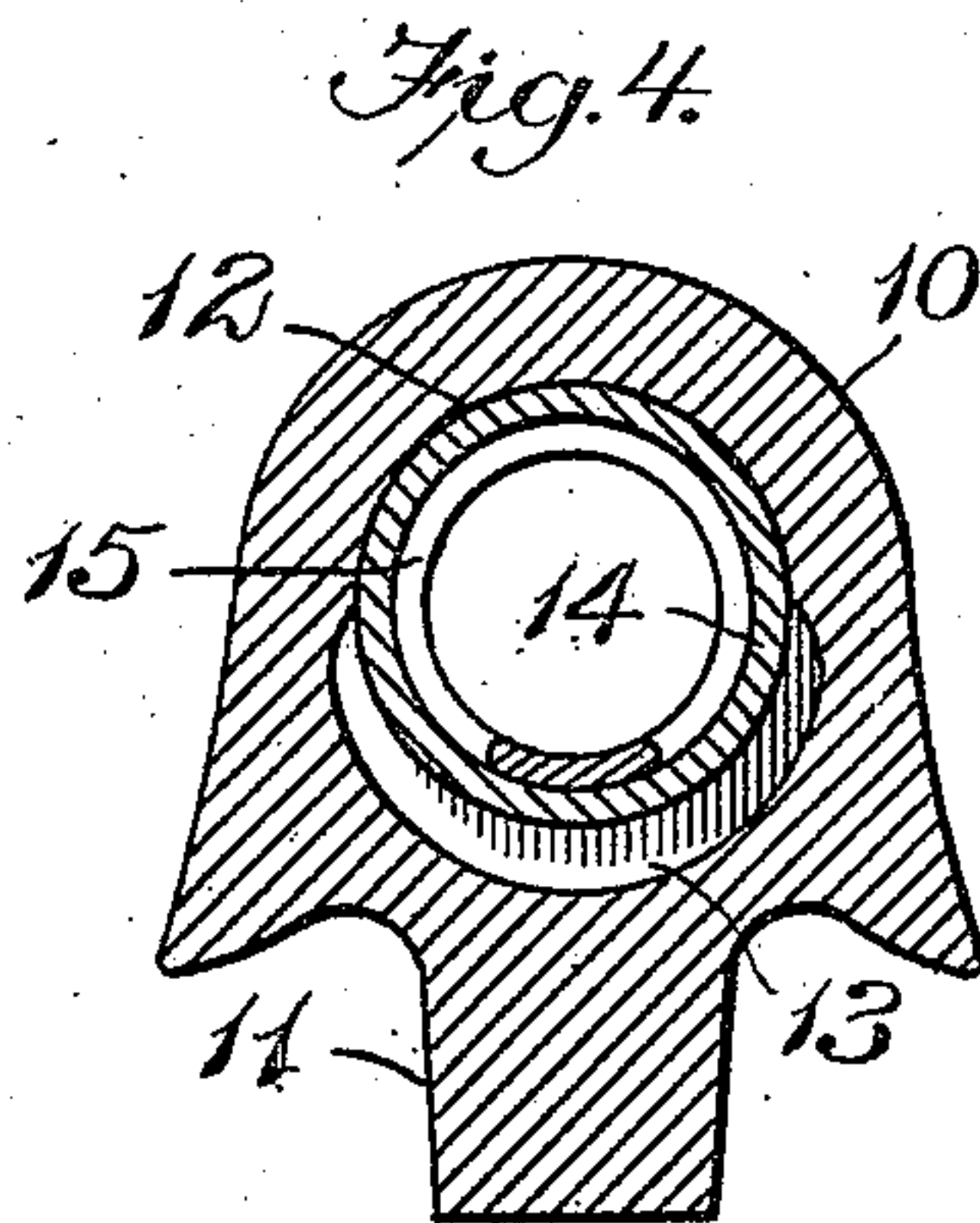
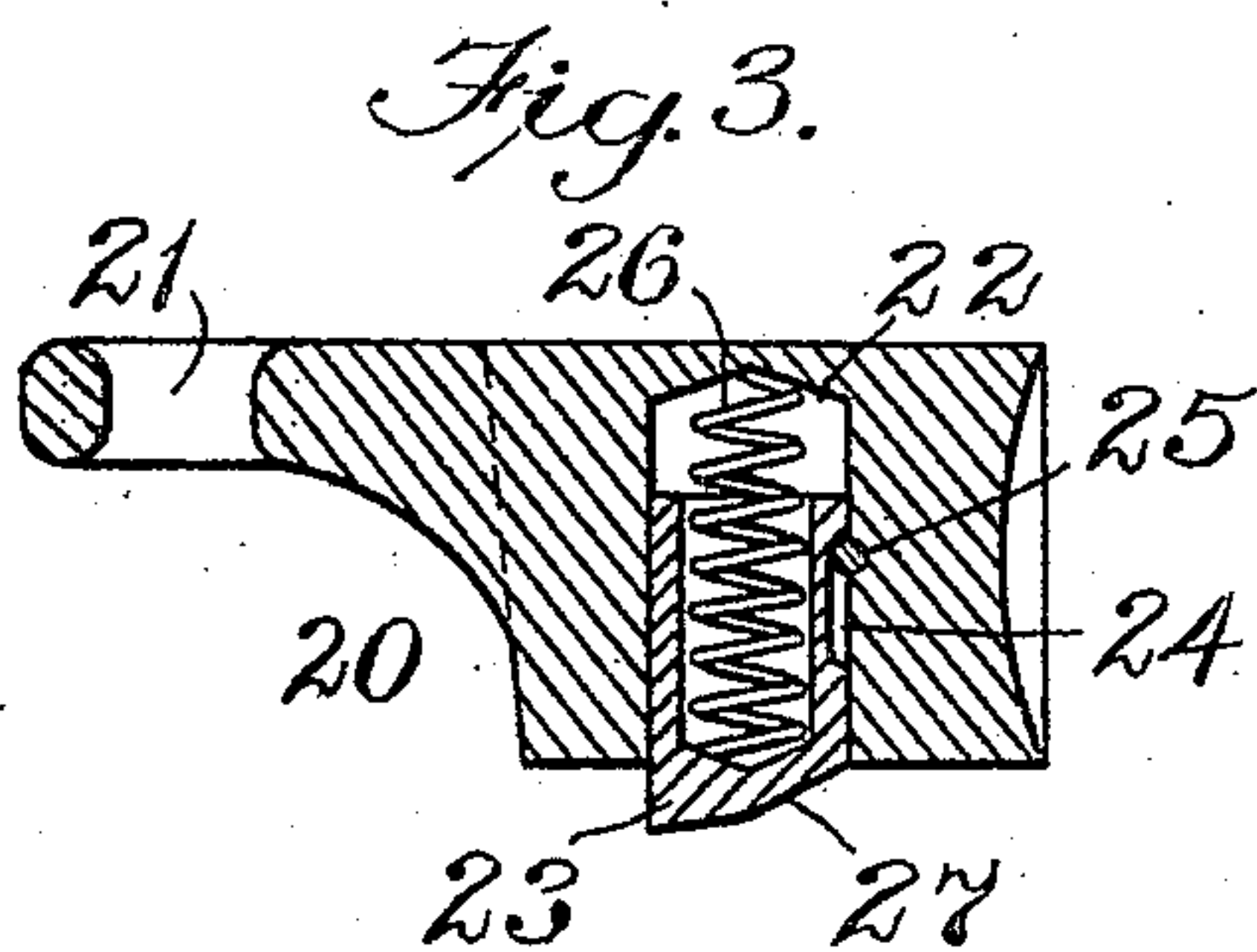
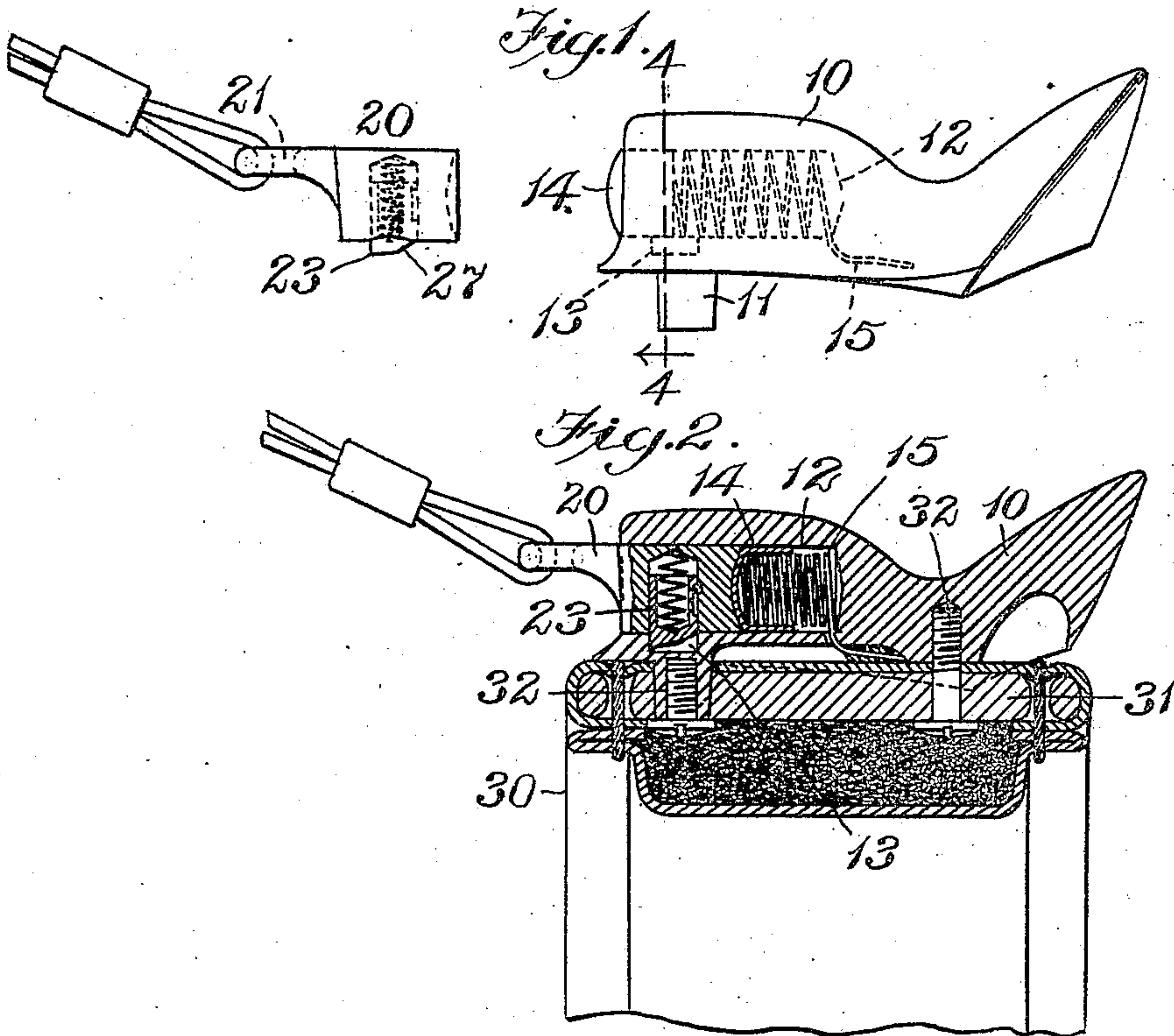
No. 848,418.

PATENTED MAR. 26, 1907.

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CHECKREIN HOLDER.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 30, 1905.



Witnesses.
Walter P. Abel.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FREDERICK S. WEATHERHEAD AND GEORGE O. ABBOTT, OF SPRINGFIELD,
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CHECKREIN-HOLDER.

No. 848,418.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented March 26, 1907.

Application filed March 30, 1905. Serial No. 252,863.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, FREDERICK S. WEATHERHEAD and GEORGE O. ABBOTT, of Springfield, in the county of Windsor and State of Vermont, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Checkrein-Holders, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to checkrein-holders for harnesses.

The object of the invention is to provide a device whereby the checkrein may be readily coupled to or uncoupled from the saddle or other suitable part of the harness.

An undesirable feature of the ordinary check-hook and of checkrein-holders heretofore employed is that in coupling or uncoupling the checkrein it must be retracted beyond the point where it is normally held and there be given a locking or hooking movement. If the resisting tension of the checkrein be ever so slight, it is with difficulty that the rein may be fastened.

The device provided by the present invention comprises two members, of which one is adapted to be attached to the saddle and the other to the checkrein. To couple the members, the one to which the checkrein is attached is adapted to be inserted into a chamber in the other in a rearward direction. When it is inserted to the right depth, a spring-latch automatically locks the two members together. The inserted member cannot then be withdrawn unless it be first turned in the chamber to depress the spring-latch. A slight turn is the only movement necessary to release the checkrein.

Of the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation of the two coupling members separated. Fig. 2 is a vertical section of the members coupled together and attached to a harness-saddle. Fig. 3 is an enlarged vertical section of the detachable member. Fig. 4 is an enlarged section on the line 4 4 of Fig. 1.

The same reference characters indicate the same parts or features in all the figures.

Fig. 2 of the drawings illustrates means whereby the device may be attached to a saddle. The fixed member and detachable member are indicated, respectively, at 10 and 20 and the saddle at 30. The member 10 has a square boss 11, which projects into the saddle 30 to the under side of the metal

saddle-tree 31. The majority of saddle-trees are each provided with a square hole for the reception of a bolt for attaching the ordinary catch-hook, so the hole is utilized in the present case for the reception of the boss 11, which is made square to fit the hole. The member 10 is fastened to the saddle by screws 32, whose heads overlap the saddle-tree 31. 12 is a cylindrical chamber extending from the front face of the member 10 toward the rear thereof. The member 20 has an eye 21 at its forward end and at the upper side thereof, through which the checkrein is looped for attachment thereto. The body of the member 20 is cylindrical, so as to be adapted to be inserted into the chamber 12 and have a "running fit" therein. A socket 22 is formed in the member 20 and extends upwardly from the bottom thereof. Said socket is for the reception of a latch or plunger 23, which is preferably cupped and which has an elongated notch 24 on its exterior surface. The latch 23 is held in the socket 22 by a pin 25, which intersects the wall of the socket and occupies the notch 24. A helical spring 26 is compressed between the bottom of the interior of the latch and the top of the socket 22 for the purpose of normally forcing the latch outwardly as far as the notch 24 and pin 25 permit. The rear edge of the projecting end of the latch is beveled, as indicated at 27, so that when the member 20 is inserted into the chamber of the member 10 the latch is forced into the socket by the engagement of the face 27 by the wall of the chamber.

When the member 20 is inserted into the chamber 12 to the right depth, the latch 23 registers with a semicircular groove 13, formed in the lower half of the chamber, and is projected thereinto by the spring 26. (See Figs. 2 and 4.) The member 20 is therefore prevented from being withdrawn so long as the latch projects into the groove 13. The periphery of the groove converges toward that of the chamber 12, as shown by Fig. 4. By reason of this formation the bottom of the groove constitutes a cam which when the member 20 is rotated in the chamber 12 forces the latch back into said member, and thereby unlocks said member. The member 10 is provided with a thimble or hollow follower 14, which occupies the chamber 12 and has a running fit therein. Said follower is set

into the chamber, so that its closed end is outermost. A helical spring 15, of which one end is soldered to the interior of the follower and the other end to the member 10, is placed between said follower and the inner end of the chamber and exerts its pressure to force said follower outwardly. When the member 20 is not in the chamber 12, the follower is projected forwardly to the mouth of the chamber. (See Fig. 1.) The opening is therefore always closed when not in use and cannot become fouled by dust, dirt, or other foreign elements. When the member 20 is inserted, the follower is forced into the position shown by Fig. 2, and when said member is unlocked by being turned, as already described, the follower is instrumental in ejecting it. The member 20 is prevented from being accidentally rotated in the chamber 12 by the tension of the checkrein on the eccentrically-located eye 21 by the pressure of the spring-pressed latch 23 on the converging wall of the groove 13 and by the pressure of the spring-pressed follower 14 upon the inner end thereof.

Having thus explained the nature of the invention and described a way of constructing and using the same, although without attempting to set forth all of the forms in which it may be made or all of the modes of its use, we declare that what we claim is—

1. A checkrein-holder comprising two telescoping members adapted to be rotated one with relation to the other, one of said members being adapted to be attached to a suitable part of the harness and the other to be attached to the checkrein and to enter into the first-mentioned member in a rearward direction; a movable latch on one of said members adapted to engage the other member to lock them together; and a projection on said other member to engage said latch and unlock it when said members are rotated one with relation to the other.

2. A checkrein-holder comprising two telescoping members of which one is adapted to be attached to a suitable part of the harness and is provided with a chamber extending from the front toward the rear thereof, a cam-groove in said chamber, and a latch on the other member adapted to automatically project into said groove to lock said members together and to be moved to inactive position by the wall of said groove when said members are relatively rotated.

3. A checkrein-holder comprising a member adapted to be affixed to a suitable part of the harness, and having a chamber extending from the front toward the rear thereof, a member adapted to be attached to the check-

rein and to enter said chamber, and to rotate in said chamber, and means adapted to automatically prevent the withdrawal of said checkrein member when said member is at any position between two predetermined points of rotation, and to release said checkrein member when said member is rotated beyond either of said predetermined points.

4. A checkrein-holder comprising a member adapted to be fixed to a suitable part of the harness, and having a chamber extending from the front of said member toward the rear thereof, a member of which one end is adapted to be attached to the checkrein and of which the other end is adapted to be inserted into said chamber when said checkrein member is at any position of rotation about an axis extending longitudinally thereof, and to rotate in said chamber, and means for automatically locking said checkrein member to said fixed member when said checkrein member is at any position of rotation between two predetermined points, and for releasing said checkrein member when the latter is rotated beyond either of said points.

5. A checkrein-holder comprising two separable members of which one is adapted to rotate in the other, means for affixing the outer member to a suitable part of the harness, so that the axis of rotation extends longitudinally thereof, means for locking said rotatable member against withdrawal from said outer member when said rotatable member is between two predetermined points of rotation, and for unlocking said rotatable member when said member is rotated beyond either of said points, and means on said rotatable member adapted to be attached to the checkrein and to normally hold said rotatable member in locked position by reason of the direction of tension of the checkrein.

6. A checkrein-holder comprising a member adapted to be affixed to a suitable part of the harness, and having a chamber open at one end, a spring-pressed follower adapted to normally fill the mouth of said chamber and to be forced inwardly against the spring-pressure, a complementary member adapted to be inserted into said chamber against said follower, said complementary member being also adapted to be connected to the checkrein, and means for locking and unlocking said complementary member in said chamber.

In testimony whereof we have affixed our signatures in presence of two witnesses.

FREDERICK S. WEATHERHEAD.
GEORGE O. ABBOTT.

Witnesses:

C. G. LEONARD,
FRED H. SPAULDING.