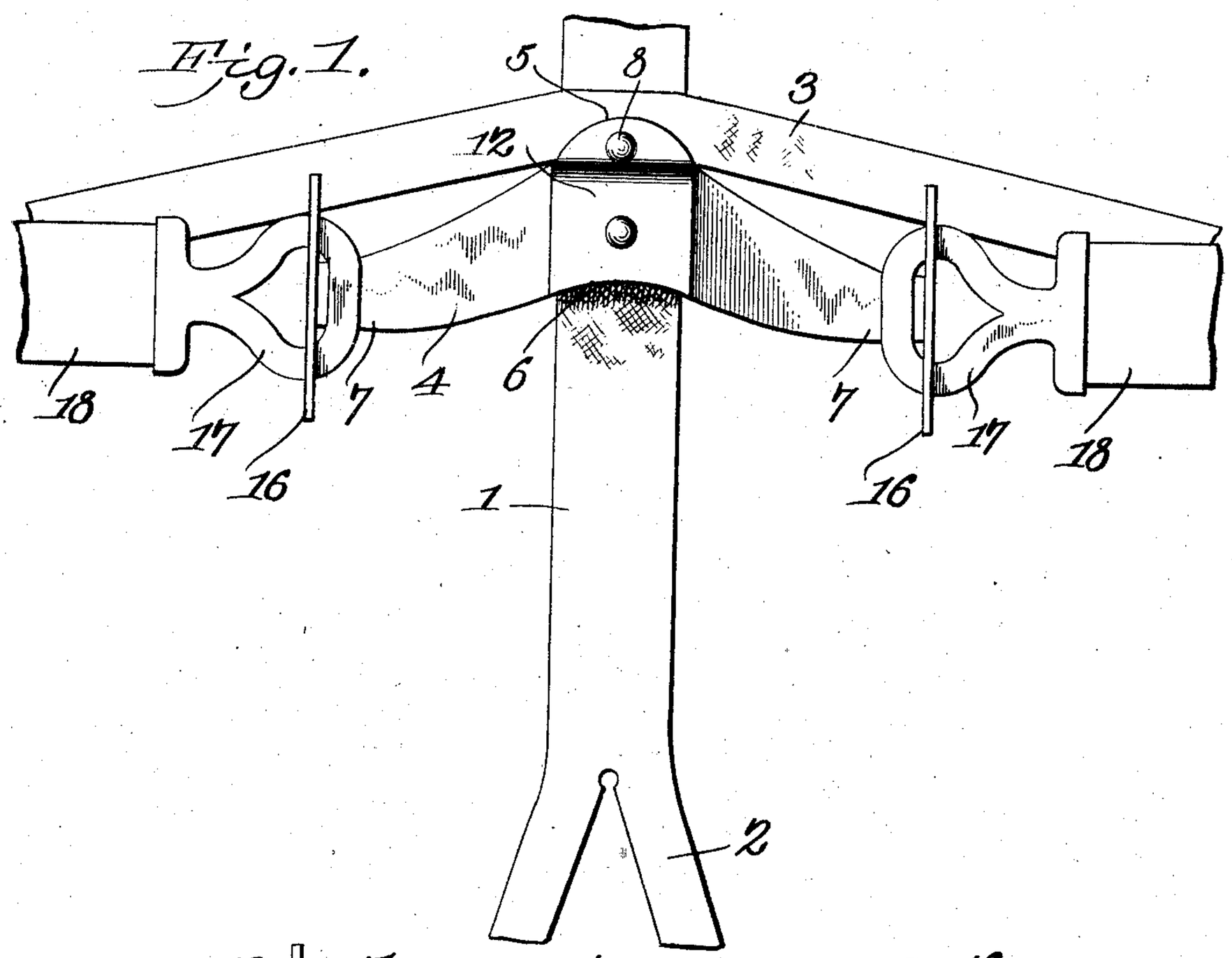
No. 864,331. PATENTED AUG. 27, 1907.

O. T. OLSON.

TRACE CARRIER.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 9, 1906.

Fig. 1.



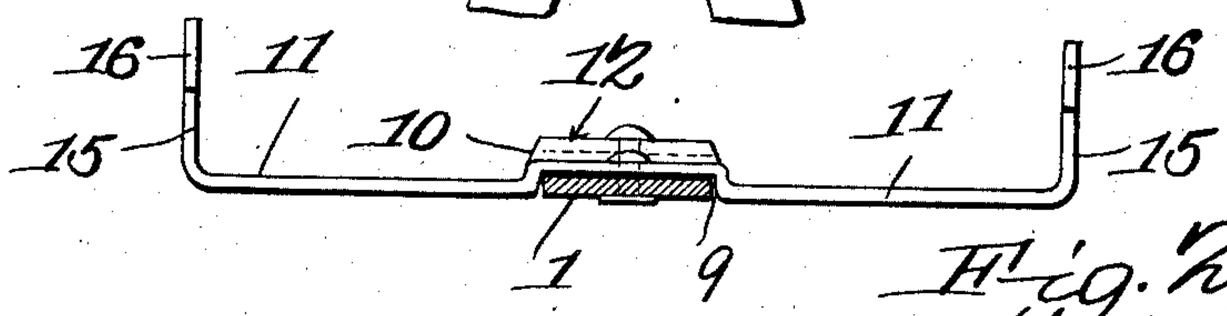
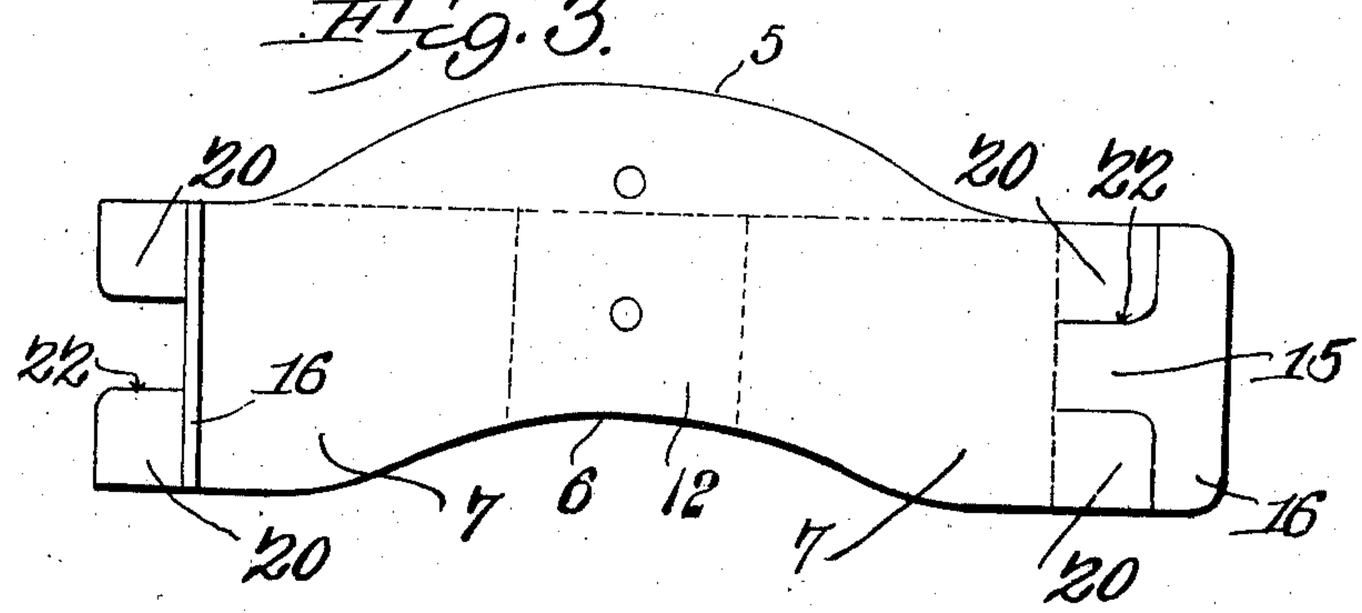


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.



WITNESSES:

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TRACE-CARRIER.

No. 864,331. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Aug. 27, 1907.

Application filed June 9, 1906. Serial No. 321,081.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, OSCAR T. OLSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Blanchardville, in the county of Lafayette and State of Wisconsin, have invented a new and useful Trace-Carrier, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a combined trace-carrier and rein-guide.

The object of the invention is to provide a simple, durable, inexpensive and thoroughly efficient device of the character specified which can be secured to the back strap of a set of harness so as to be adapted to support the free ends of the traces when the harness is not in use, and also to act as a convenient rein-guide for receiving the reins and holding them separated from each other while driving, at the same time preventing the reins from slipping off the horses back when they are loosely held by the driver, and also preventing them from becoming entangled with the horse's tail.

With the foregoing, and other objects in view, which will appear as the description proceeds, the invention resides in the combination and arrangement of parts and in the details of construction hereinafter described and claimed, it being understood that changes in the precise embodiment of invention herein disclosed may be made within the scope of the following claims without departing from the spirit of the invention or sacrificing any of its advantages.

In the accompanying drawings forming part of this specification:—Figure 1 is a plan view showing an improved trace-carrier and rein-guide connected with the hip and back straps. Fig. 2 is a side elevation thereof. Fig. 3 is a plan view showing a modified construction.

Like reference numerals indicate corresponding parts in the different figures of the drawing.

The reference numeral 1 indicates the ordinary back strap of a set of harness; 2, a tail strap adapted to extend under the tail in the usual manner; 3, an ordinary hip strap which serves to suspend the breeching or hold-back.

The combined trace-carrier and rein-guide of this invention comprises a body portion 4 which is formed of any suitable material such, for example, as cast or sheet metal. While the body portion 4 may be of any suitable shape, I prefer that it be formed with a convex forward edge 5, a concave rear edge 6 and oppositely extending rearwardly inclined neck portions 7. The convex forward edge 5 of the body portion 4 preferably is disposed over the hip strap 3, suitable fastening device such for example as the rivet 8 being passed through the body portion 4, back strap 1 and hip strap 3 so as to secure these members firmly together. The body portion 4 is formed in its under surface with a back-strap channel 9 through which extends the back-strap 1. When the body portion 4 is formed of sheet metal it may be suitably bent to produce the back-strap channel 9, and when the body portion is cast, the channel 9 may be suitably formed therein during the molding or casting operation. If desired, the body portion 4 may be formed at its forward end with a hip-strap channel 10 which extends transversely with respect to the back-strap, although this hip-strap channel is not absolutely necessary. By providing channels 9 and 10 through which the back-strap 1 and hip-strap 3 extends, said straps are prevented from producing projections on the lower surface of the trace-carrier which may press uncomfortably against the horses back.

On its upper surface, at opposite sides of the back-strap 1, the body portion 4 is formed or provided with suitable rein-channels 11, which, when the device is formed of sheet metal may be produced by bending the same, and when the device is formed of cast metal, by suitably molding the same. The central portion of the upper surface of the body portion 4, between the rein-channels, preferably is arched or inclined downward on opposite sides of the back-strap so that if the reins all strike the central arched portion, which is indicated by the numeral 12, they will slide outward into the rein-channels 11 where they will rest and be separated from each other. The rearwardly inclined neck portions 7 at the opposite ends of the body-portion 4 preferably are bent or extended upward to form shanks 15 having enlarged heads 16 which serve as hooks for receiving the eyes 17 on the ends of the traces 18 so as to support the said traces properly when the harness is not in use or when the animal is not hitched to a vehicle.

By the modified construction of my invention, I provide guard-plates 20 on opposite sides of the shanks 15 of the hook, said guard-plates 20 extending outwardly beyond the shank 15 and head 16 serving to support the eye 17, so that all of the wear caused by the movement of said eye will not fall upon the neck portion 7 but will be taken up to a great extent by the guard-plate 20.

The modified form of the combined rein-guide and trace-carrier preferably is stamped from a sheet metal blank as shown in Fig. 3, it being only necessary to slit the sheet metal blank as indicated at 22 and then bend up the shank 15 and head 16, leaving the guard-plates 20 as continuations of the neck portions 7 of the device. Each of the slits 22 preferably is right angular in form as shown, although the same result can be produced by a curved slit.

In the modified form of the invention, the back-strap channel and rein-channels, as well as the central arched portion 12 are all of the form originally described.

From the foregoing description, it will be apparent that the combined rein-guide and trace-carrier of this

invention is strong, simple, durable and inexpensive in construction as well as thoroughly efficient in operation.

Having thus described the invention what is claimed is:—

A combined trace-carrier and rein-guide comprising a sheet metal body portion having rearwardly inclined neck portions with parallel heads upstanding at the terminals thereof and spaced apart, said body portion having a transversely extending back-strap channel, which at its forward end is provided with a lip lying in a higher plane than said channel and extending over the hip-strap.

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

OSCAR T. OLSON.

Witnesses:
W. E. ROGERS,
H. D. THOMAS.