No. 878,392. PATENTED FEB. 4, 1908.

M. HICKS.

SWINGLETREE.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 6, 1907.

Fig. 1.

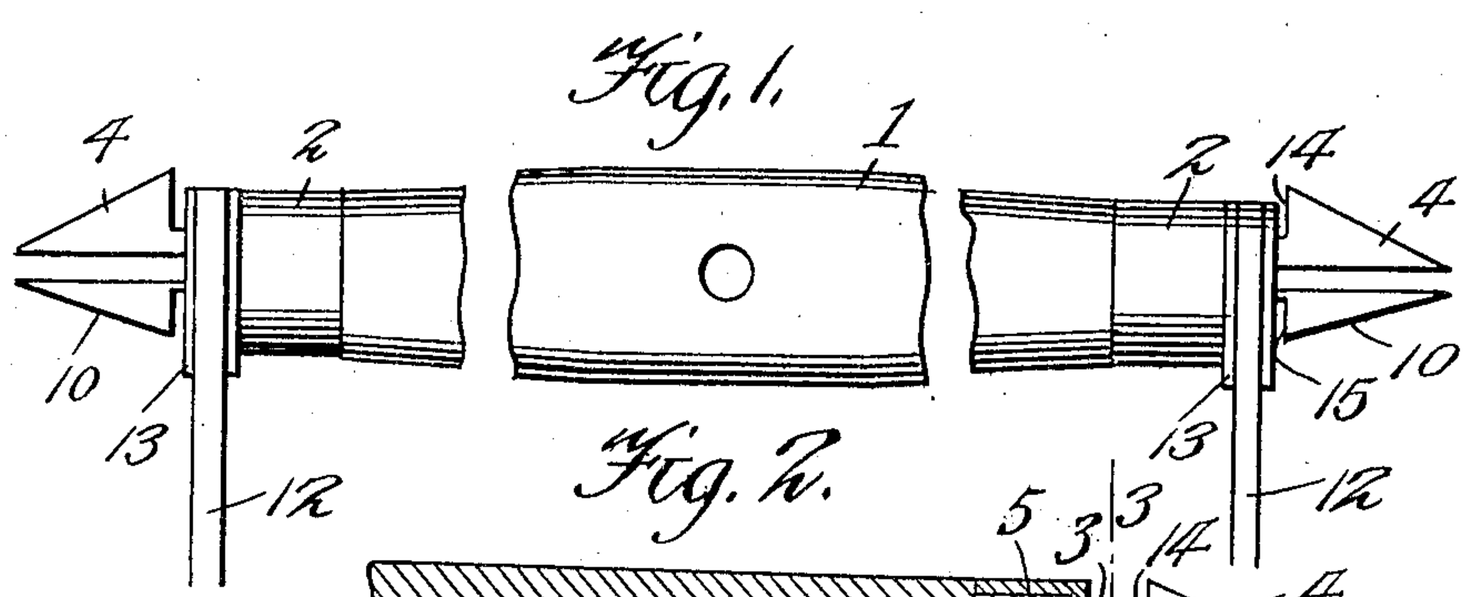


Fig. 2.

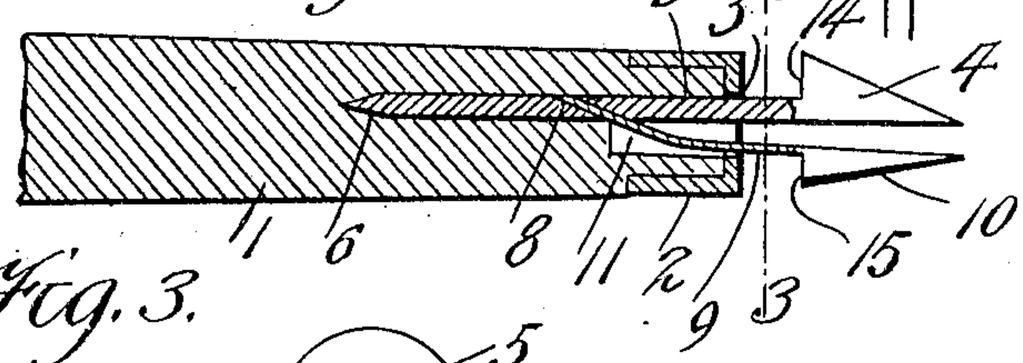


Fig. 3.

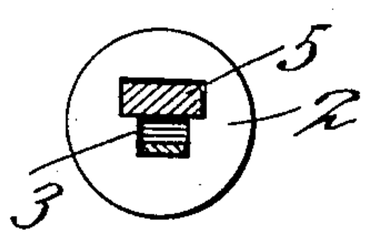


Fig. 4.

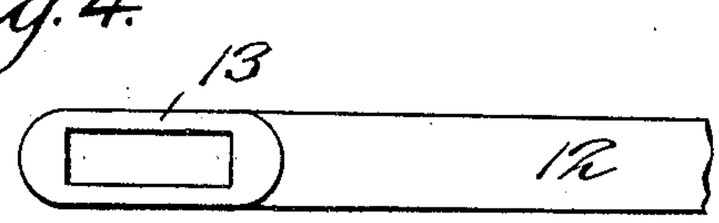
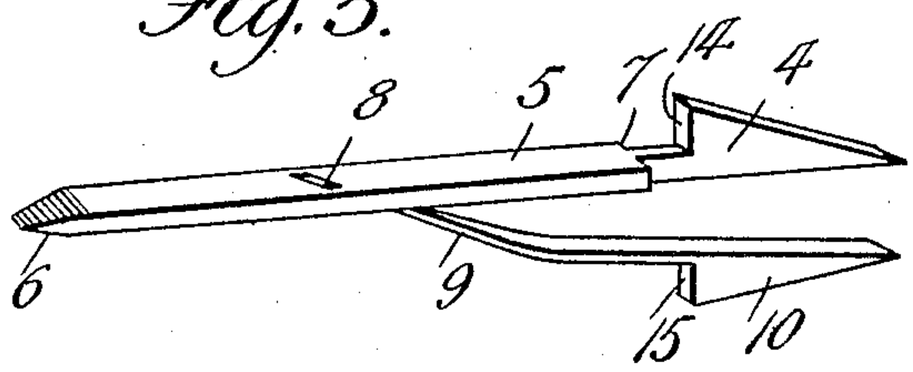


Fig. 5.



Witnesses

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MILO HICKS, OF ESSEX, MISSOURI.

SWINGLETREE.

No. 878,392. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Feb. 4, 1908.

Application filed May 6, 1907. Serial No. 371,997.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MILO HICKS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Essex, in the county of Stoddard and State of Missouri, have invented new and useful Improvements in Swingletrees, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to swingletrees of that type in which the traces are held in attached position by means of spring latches.

The invention has for one of its objects to provide a trace attaching device which is of comparatively simple, inexpensive construction, thoroughly effective in use, and having its parts so arranged that the trace is positively prevented from becoming detached.

A further object of the invention is the employment of a trace holding hook to which is applied a spring latch that coöperates with the hook to securely hold the trace in position on the swingletree.

With these objects in view and others, as will appear as the description proceeds, the invention comprises the various novel features of construction and arrangement of parts, which will be more fully described hereinafter and set forth with particularity in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings, illustrating one of the embodiments of the invention:—Figure 1 is a plan view with intermediate portions broken away and showing the trace holders applied thereto. Fig. 2 is a sectional view of one end of a swingletree, showing the manner of applying a trace holder thereto. Fig. 3 is a transverse section on line 3—3 of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a side view of one end of a trace. Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the trace holder detached from the swingletree.

Similar reference characters are employed to designate similar parts throughout the several views.

Referring to the drawing, 1 designates a swingletree for a buggy or other vehicle or a part of a double or other tree, the ends of the swingletree being fitted with ferrules 2 that are provided with T-shaped openings 3, as shown in Fig. 3, for the reception of the trace holders. Each trace holder comprises a hook 4 having a shank 5 of substantial dimensions, the inner end of the shank being sharpened at 6 so that the hook can be driven into the swingletree 1 through the enlarged portion of the slot 3. Intermediate the hook or head 4 and the shanks 5 are shoulders 7 whereby a suitable instrument may be applied to permit the shank to be driven in. The hook 4 is tapered outwardly so as to facilitate the placing of the trace thereon. The shank 5 has an aperture 8 for receiving the inner end of the spring 9 of the latch 10 which latter is tapered outwardly in an opposite direction from the tapered end of the head or hook 4. The spring 9 is riveted or otherwise suitably secured in the aperture 8 and to accommodate the spring the swingletree is chambered at 11, as shown in Fig. 2. Normally the latch 10 is held away from the hook 4 by the tension of the spring and the latch yields toward the head as the trace is passed over the hook and returns to its normal position as soon as the trace is completely engaged on the hook, the said spring being confined in the narrow portion of the T-shaped opening 3 of the ferrule.

The traces 12, which may be of any approved construction, are fitted with elongated eyelets 13 of which there may be any desired number for permitting the traces to be lengthened or shortened.

In practice the traces are attached to the swingletrees by placing the desired eyelets 13 over the pointed ends of the hook and catch and then by applying an inward pressure the catch will yield so that the eyelets can be slipped inwardly to engage behind the shoulders 14 and 15 of the hook and catch, whereupon the catch springs laterally to firmly hold the trace in position. When it is desired to remove the trace, the catch is pressed toward the hook to enable the eyelet of the trace to be slipped off in an obvious manner.

From the foregoing description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, the advantages of the construction and method of operation will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art to which the invention appertains, and while I have described the principle of operation of the invention together with the device which I now consider to be the best embodiment thereof, I desire to have it understood that the device shown is merely illustrative and that such changes may be made when desired as are within the scope of the claims.

What is claimed, is:—

1. The combination of a swingletree or the like, a hook shaped member having a shank

driven into the swingletree and provided with an inclined slot in the shank, and a spring catch fixed in the said slot.

2. The combination of a swingletree, a hook-shaped trace holder provided with a shank driven into the swingletree, said shank having a slot, and a spring catch secured in the slot before the said shank is driven into the swingletree and coöperating with the hook for securing a trace in the latter.

3. The combination of a swingletree having a chamber, a ferrule thereon provided with a T-shaped opening, a trace holder provided with a shank and extending through the opening and driven into the swingletree, a spring secured to the shank and extending through the chamber and out of the opening of the ferrule, and a catch on the spring.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

MILO HICKS.

Witnesses:
R. P. MONTGOMERY,
J. L. LANKFORD.