

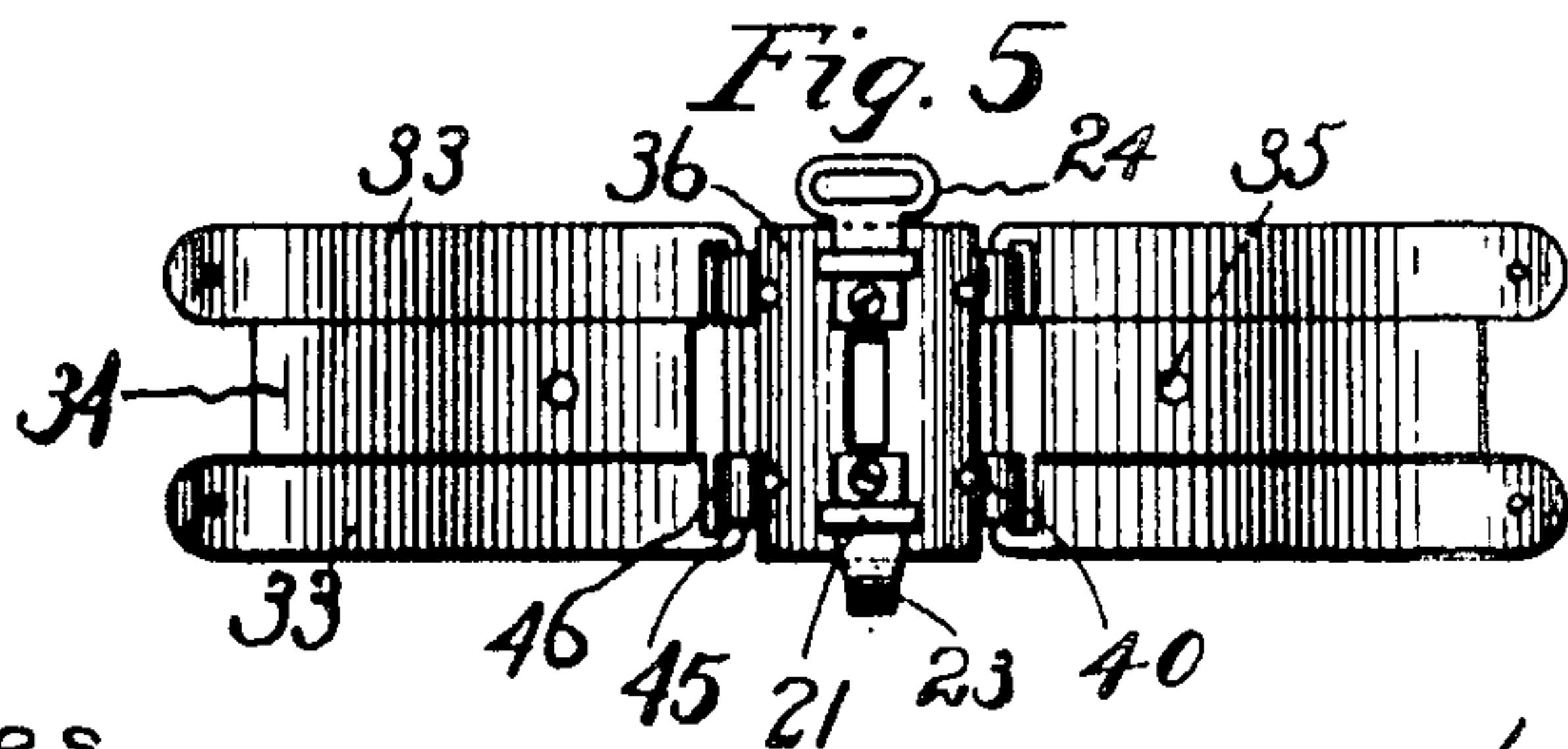
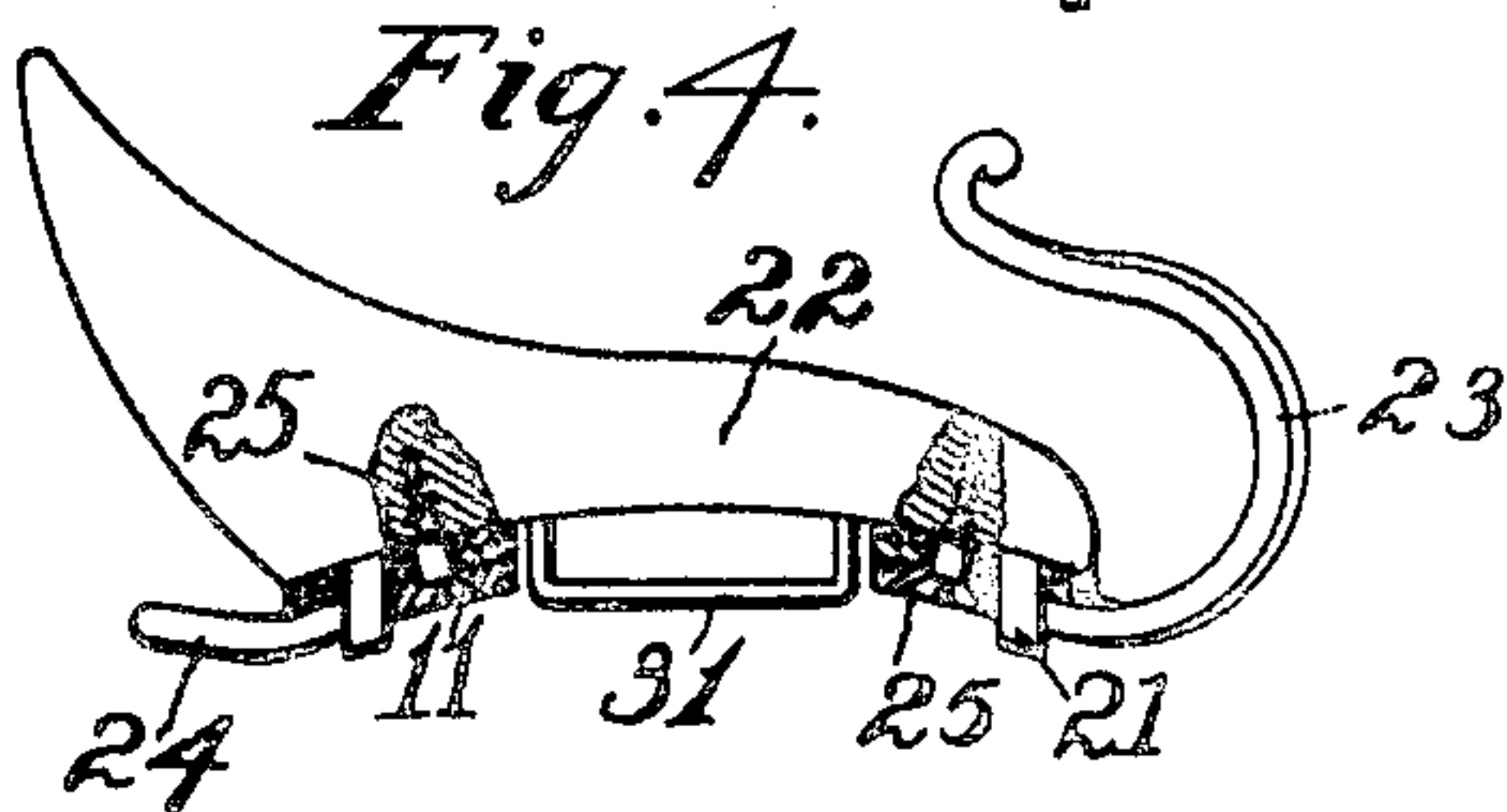
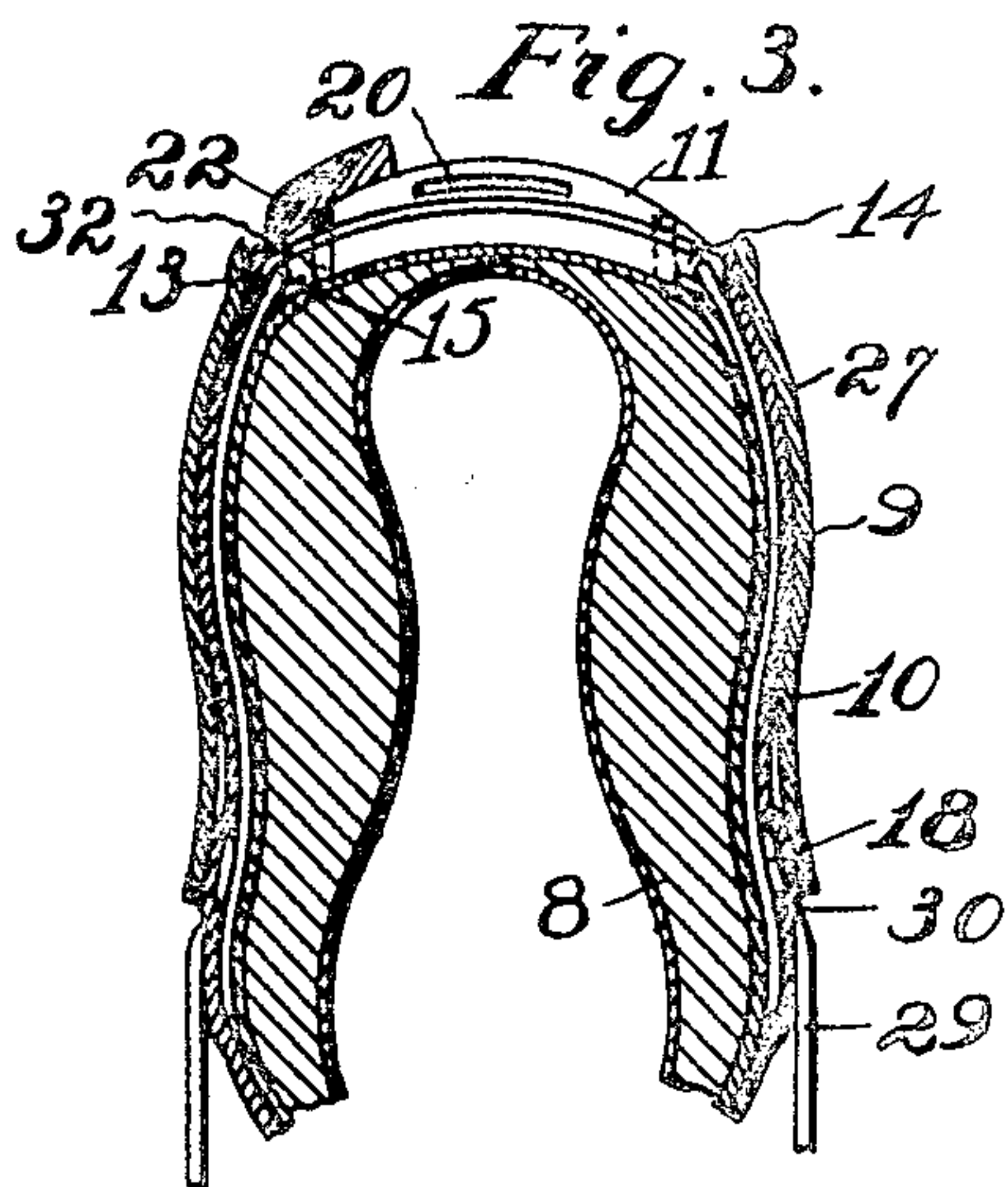
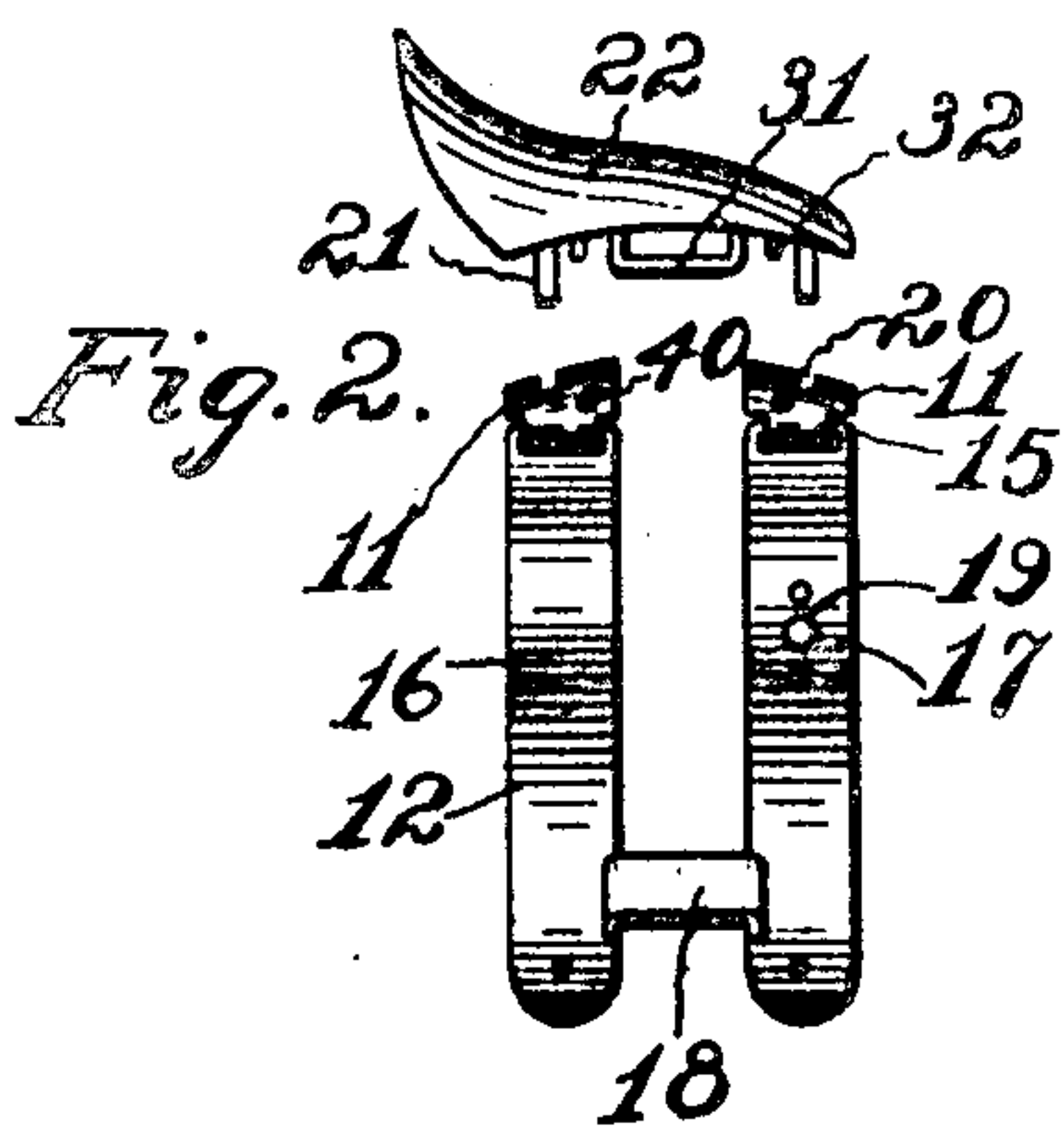
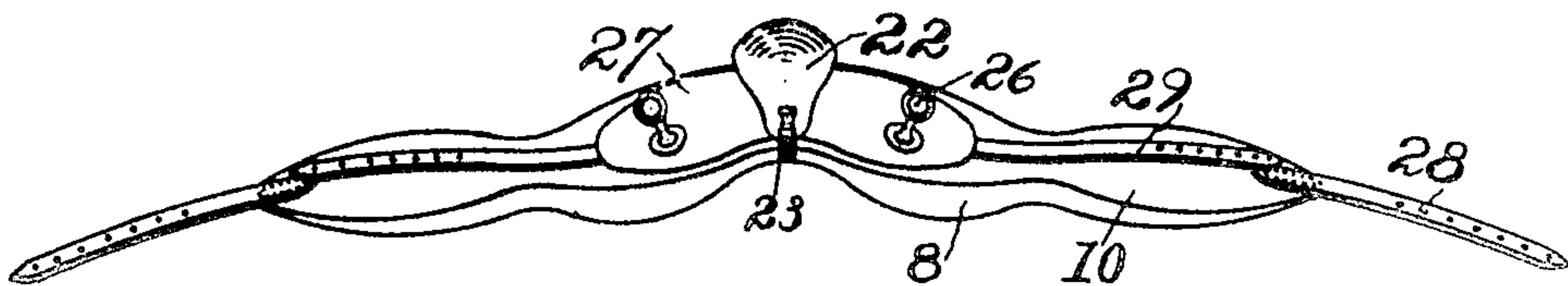
No. 886,670.

PATENTED MAY 5, 1908.

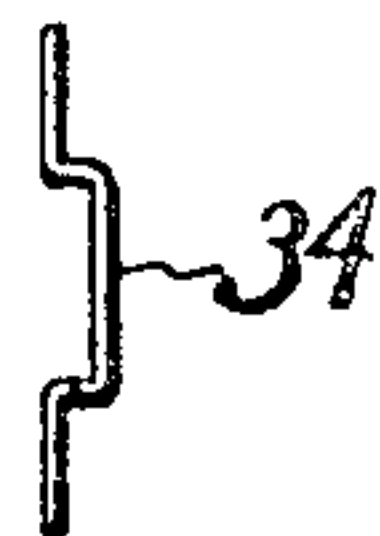
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SADDLE.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 7, 1907.

*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 6.*



Witnesses.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN WITTNER, OF HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY.

## SADDLE.

No. 886,670.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented May 5, 1908.

Application filed June 7, 1907. Serial No. 377,735.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHN WITTNER, a citizen of the Republic of Switzerland, and a resident of Hoboken, in the county of Hudson and State of New Jersey, have invented a new and Improved Saddle, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to the class of devices used for stiffening and preserving the form of saddles, forming part of a harness and the object of my invention is to provide a device of this class that will rest firmly and securely against the animal upon which the saddle is placed and conform to the movements of the animal thereby avoiding chafing or rubbing and consequent sores; and a further object of the invention is to so construct the saddle that parts may be readily removed and replaced for various purposes.

A form of device in the use of which these objects may be attained is illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a saddle embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a view in side elevation of the saddletree and seat detached. Fig. 3 is a view in section through the saddle, the saddletree being shown in full and parts broken away. Fig. 4 is a detail view, partially in section, showing the method of attaching the back-strap loop and check-rein hook. Figs. 5 and 6 are views showing a slightly modified form of the invention.

In the accompanying drawings the numeral 8 denotes a pad that may be formed in the usual manner, as to the under covering layer and the padding material. This pad may be entirely inclosed within a covering including a top 9, or this top 9 may be omitted as is usual in some forms of construction. However this may be, a pocket is formed between the pad and the skirt 10 within which my improved saddletree is located.

The saddletree consists of a center 11 constructed of any suitable material preferably sheet metal bent to shape. The side parts 12 of the saddletree are joined to the center 11 by hinges 13 at opposite ends of the latter. In the preferred form of construction a knuckle is formed at the edges of the center, leaving an opening 14 preferably facing toward the center, as shown in Fig. 3.

The side pieces are formed of two bars 16, 17 extending practically parallel with each other and joined by a tie 18. Openings 19 are made in one of the bars for the reception

of the terrets. The center, in one form of device, is composed of two pieces 11, counterparts each of the other and having openings or slots 20 for the reception of eyes 21 extending from the under side of the seat 22. These eyes receive, the one at the front end the check-rein hook 23 and that at the rear the back-strap loop 24, which pieces are extended underneath and resting against the center 11, passing through said loops. Screws 25 may be employed for securing the check-rein hook and back-strap loop in position against endwise movement. The terrets 26 located upon the jockey 27 pass through the latter and through the skirt into the openings 19 in which they are secured as by interengaging screw-threaded parts. A guide 31 for the back-band also projects from the under side of the seat.

The billets 28 may be secured to the saddle in any suitable manner and the back-band 29 is passed through openings 30 in the skirt 10, which openings are preferably at or near the ends of the jockey 27. The back-band after passing into the openings 30 extends underneath the tie 18 and between the side bars 16 and 17 through the guide 31 on the seat and thence downward on the other side in the same manner. The ties or bars 18 prevent the back-band from exerting any strain on the jockey to tear it from position in a lateral movement of the back-band caused by the thills.

The hinges 13 are formed by engagement of the loops 15 formed at the ends of the side bars within the openings 14 within the knuckles forming part of the hinge. Pins 32 extending from the under side of the seat and through openings 40 in the center lie in front of each of the openings 14 and prevent disengagement of the hinged parts.

It will thus be seen that the seat may be readily removed leaving the parts of the saddletree in condition to be easily separated and removed for any purpose, as for that of repair or replacement of worn parts.

While the tie 18 connecting the two side parts of the structure illustrated in Fig. 2 has been shown as raised above the plane of the side parts, I do not limit myself to the tie thus raised but contemplate any construction so long as there is an opening underneath the tie through which the back-band may play.

In the form of the device shown in Figs. 5 and 6 the side bars 33 of the saddletree are



joined on the under side by a bridge 34 having the terret holes 35. In this form of the device the center 36 is formed of a single piece, the side parts of the saddletree having loops 45 engaging knuckles 46 from the center piece. Pins extending through the openings 40 hold the parts in engagement as hereinbefore described.

Any suitable form of covering for the center piece may be employed to form a finished product.

It will be seen from this construction that the saddle is secured tightly against the back of the animal and there is no occasion for any rubbing movement of the saddle thereon as the back-band may freely move through the saddle, and the hinging of the side parts of the saddletree to the center piece allows the latter to conform to every movement of the animal upon opposite sides of the center piece. The check-rein hook and back-strap loop being secured to the center piece do not partake of the movements of the side pieces of the tree in the use of the device.

What I claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A saddle including a tree having a center provided with means for removable attachment of a check-rein hook and a back-strap loop, side pieces for the tree hinged at opposite edges of the center piece, said side pieces including side bars with an opening between them, one of said bars bearing openings for terrets, a back-band passing freely through the opening between the side bars, and a covering for said saddletree.

2. A saddle including a saddletree having a center with openings therein, a seat having eyes passing through said openings, means for attachment of a harness part passing through an eye underneath the center piece, said pieces of the saddletree hinged at opposite edges of the center piece, and a covering for said saddletree.

3. A saddle including a center formed of two pieces with an opening in each, a seat having eyes fitting said openings thus rigidly uniting the two pieces, means for attachment

of harness parts passing underneath the center pieces and through said eyes and secured in position, side pieces for the saddletree hinged at opposite edges of the center pieces, and a covering for said saddletree.

4. A saddle including a saddletree having a center piece and side pieces hinged at opposite edges to the center piece, said side pieces including side bars with an opening therebetween, a covering for said saddletree and including a skirt having an opening appurtenant to the opening between the side bars, and a back-band passing through the opening in the skirt and freely through the openings between the side bars of the saddletree.

5. A saddle including a saddletree composed of a center and side pieces hinged thereto, a hinge having an open knuckle to receive a loop from a side part, a pin to close the opening in the knuckle, and a covering for the saddletree.

6. A saddle including a saddletree composed of a center and side parts hinged thereto, a hinge having an open knuckle, a seat to be secured to the center, a pin from the seat projecting through the center and closing the opening of said knuckle, and a covering for the saddletree.

7. A saddle including a saddletree composed of a center, a seat removably secured to the center and having loops for harness parts and a back-band guide, side parts hinged to the center, and a covering for the saddletree.

8. A saddle including a saddletree composed of a center having openings, a seat having loops to pass through the center to receive harness parts, pins projecting from the under side of the seat to close an opening in a knuckle, the side parts hinged to the center, the hinge having an opening on one part to receive a loop from the opposite part, and a covering for the saddletree.

JOHN WITTNER.

Witnesses:

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