

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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TRAP-GUN.

No. 898,023.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM J. WHEELER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Duluth, in the county of St. Louis and State of Minnesota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Trap-Guns; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to trap guns and has for its object the improvement of guns whereof the trigger is intended to be pulled by the action of the animal to be shot.

It consists in the construction, combination and arrangements of parts hereinafter described and claimed.

In the drawings, Figure 1, is a side elevation of one form of my invention. Fig. 2 is a horizontal section thereof on the line A—B of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a fragmentary side elevation of a modified form of my said invention.

In the drawings, 1, is a skeleton frame or stock embodying a web 1^a and a breech block 1^b, which breech block is reduced as at 1^c. Said breech block is centrally apertured for the passage of a longitudinally directed firing pin 2. The web 1^a is apertured for the passage of the longitudinally directed firing bolt or hammer 3 which hammer also extends loosely through an aperture in the rear end 1^d of said stock. Upon said hammer, at a point between said web and said end 1^d of the stock, is secured a collar 3^a, and between said collar and the said end 1^d of the frame is mounted upon said hammer a coiled expanding spring 3^b adapted in operation to project said hammer against said firing pin. Forming part of said frame is a forked depending lug 1^e, between the tines of which is pivoted a quadrantal or bell crank lever 4, to the lower end of which is pivotally connected a forwardly directed hook 5. In the form shown in Fig. 1, the upper free end of said trigger is notched as at 4^a to engage the nose of the retracted said hammer, and said upper end of said trigger is, in said form supported by any suitable style of spring, as 6, bearing at its opposite end upon said skeleton frame. Said breech block is provided in each side near its inner end with recesses 7 containing springs 7^a, from which recesses slots extend forwardly to the end of the thicker portion of the breech block. Within said slots and by means of the vertically directed pins 8 extending through suitable apertures in the

breech block are pivoted longitudinally directed locking dogs 9, the noses of which extend forwardly beyond the extreme end of said breech block, and the heels of which extend rearwardly over said springs 7^a, which springs tend to force said heels outwardly and thus operate to force the noses of said dogs inwardly. Said dogs are provided at their forward ends with inwardly directed teeth, 9^a and said dogs intermediate of their pivots and of their forward ends are provided with inwardly directed toes 9^b. Mounted on the reduced end of said breech block and between said dogs is a barrel 10 which barrel is preferably externally enlarged at its inner end or breech. The bore of said barrel is enlarged at its inner end so as to form the shoulder 10^a against which the forward end of the cartridge shell 11 abuts; and said bore is further enlarged at its inner end to form the shoulder 10^b against which the flange of the said cartridge shell abuts and also for the purpose of forming a suitable chamber for the reception of the said reduced end of said breech block. The opposite sides of said barrel are externally slotted and recessed to receive the forwardly projecting ends and toes of said dogs, whereby said barrel is held securely against the thicker portion of said breech block and is also prevented from rotating. To release said barrel from the breech block for loading or shell-extracting purposes, the heels of said dogs are pinched inwardly against their supporting springs, thus disengaging the teeth and toes of the dogs from the barrel, after which the barrel may be removed longitudinally from the breech block. Said barrel is provided at its forward end with a depending finger 12, having one or more eyes formed therein through one or another of which the shank of said hook is directed. To the forked lug of said stock is connected by a horizontal pivot 13 a standard 14 which in turn is mounted by a swivel connection or vertical pivot 15 on a post 16. Thus the gun may tilt vertically or swing horizontally.

In Fig. 3, is shown a modified form of the trigger in which the notch 4^a is omitted and a modified form of notch as 4^b is formed, which notch is adapted to engage the forwardly directed nose of a dog 17 which dog is pivoted at its heel to the frame or stock and is supported intermediate of its ends by a suitable spring 18, in which form, either the spring 6 or the spring 18 may be omitted, but

not both of them. Said dog 17 is provided with an upwardly directed ear 17^a adapted to engage the forward end of the retracted hammer. Said hook is adapted to engage a
5 suitable bait, as an apple or a piece of meat (not shown), in attempting to take which the animal will pull the trigger and release the hammer which will strike the firing pin and explode the cartridge.

10 What I claim is—

In a trap gun, the combination of a stock having a breech block formed thereon said breech block being reduced in diameter at its forward end and having an aperture formed
15 therein and extending longitudinally thereof, said stock having a depending forked lug at its forward end, a spring operated reciprocating firing bolt mounted in said stock, a firing pin mounted in said aperture in said
20 breech block in alinement with said hammer, a bell crank trigger pivoted intermediate of its ends to said stock forward of said firing

bolt and extending rearwardly, a hook pivotally connected to the lower arm of said lever and extending forwardly through said
25 forked lug, said trigger being adapted at its upper end in set position to extend into the path of said firing bolt, a barrel removably mounted on said breech block, said barrel having recesses formed in its sides, spring
30 controlled dogs, pivotally secured to said breech block and extending forwardly and externally overlapping the rearward end of said barrel, said dogs having projections formed thereon adapted in operation to en-
35 gage said recesses formed in the sides of said barrel, substantially as described.

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

WILLIAM J. WHEELER.

Witnesses:

JAMES T. WATSON,
C. T. CRANDALL.