T. A. HOOVER.

WHIP SOCKET.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 5, 1908.

924,661. **Patented June 15, 1909.**

Fig. 1.

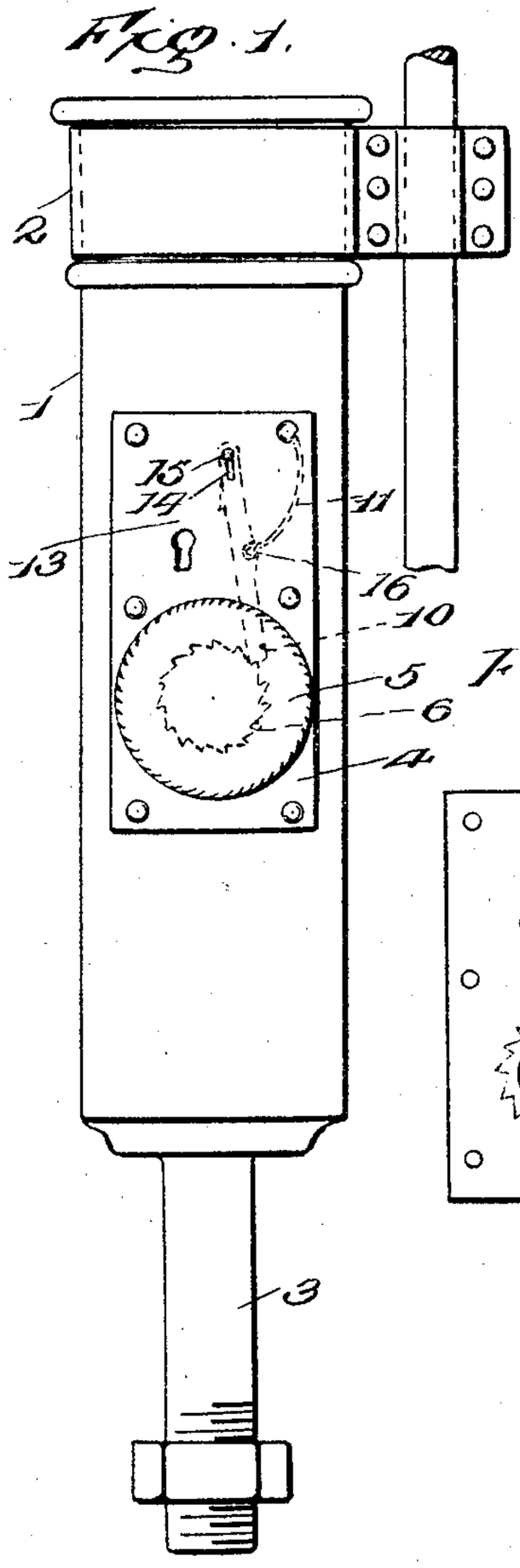


Fig. 4.

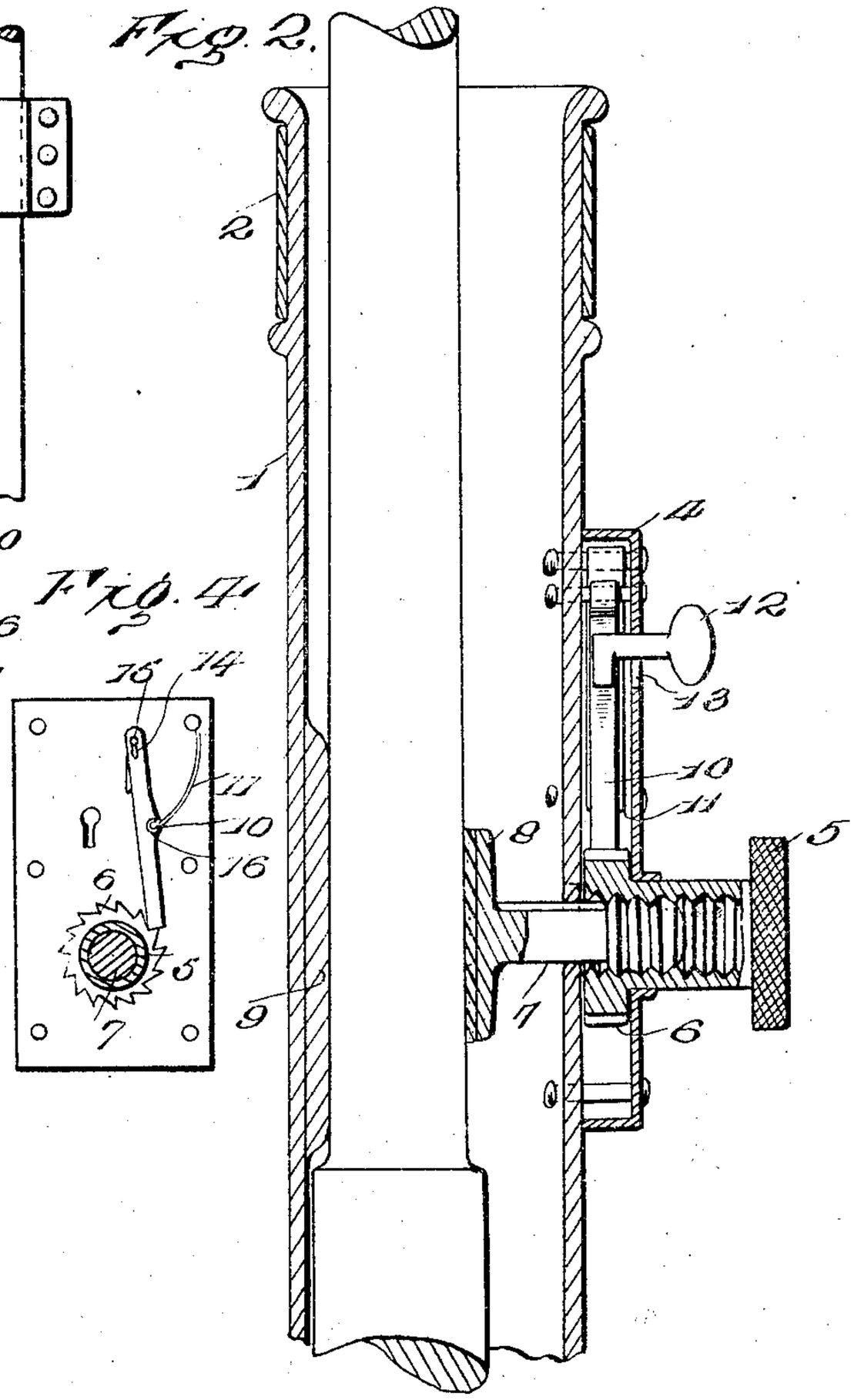
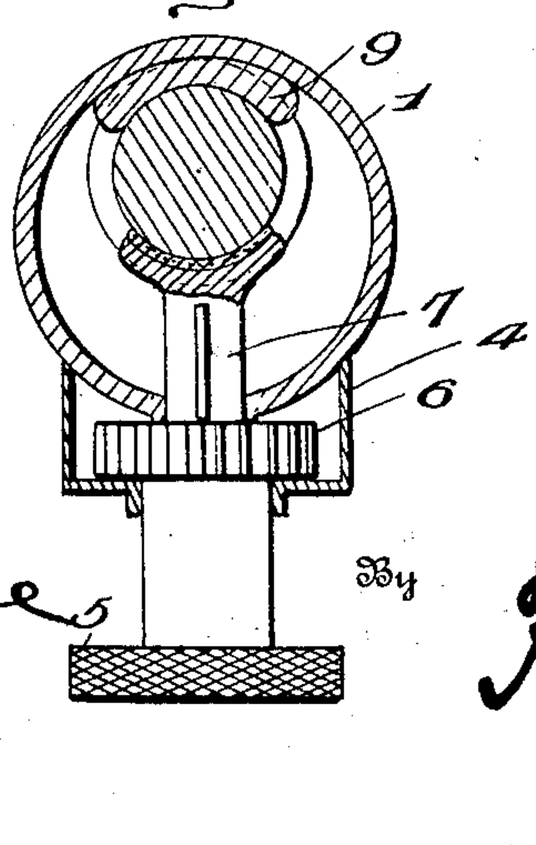


Fig. 3.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS A. HOOVER, OF SAN FERNANDO, CALIFORNIA.

WHIP-SOCKET.

No. 924,661. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented June 15, 1909.

Application filed March 5, 1908. Serial No. 419,337.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS A. HOOVER, citizen of the United States, residing at San Fernando, in the county of Los Angeles and State of California, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Whip-Sockets, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates to an improved whip socket embodying novel means whereby the whip may be securely locked in position so as to prevent the same from being stolen or lost.

The object of the invention is to design a locking device of this character comprising few and durable parts which can be cheaply manufactured and assembled and by means of which the whip can be quickly locked within the socket or released therefrom.

For a full description of the invention and the merits thereof and also to acquire a knowledge of the details of construction and the means for effecting the result, reference is to be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a whip socket embodying the invention. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view through the same. Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional view. Fig. 4 is a detail view showing the manner of mounting the locking pawl.

Corresponding and like parts are referred to in the following description and indicated in all the views of the drawings by the same reference characters.

Referring to the drawing, the numeral 1 designates a whip socket which may be of any conventional construction and can be secured to the vehicle or other support in any suitable manner as by means of the band 2 at the mouth thereof and the threaded stem 3 projecting downwardly from the base. Secured in any suitable manner to one side of the whip socket upon the exterior thereof is a casing 4, and journaled upon this casing is a knob 5. The inner end of this knob is formed with a ratchet wheel 6 operating within the casing while the outer end of the knob is formed with a knurled head enabling the same to be readily grasped by the fingers when operating the lock. The interior of the knob 5 is hollow and threaded to receive the stem 7 carried by a clamping plate 8 operating within the socket. This stem 7 is shown as extending through an opening in the whip socket and having a feather and spline connection therewith admitting of longitudinal movement of the stem but preventing rotation thereof. It will thus be apparent that by rotating the knob 5 in one direction the stem 7 and clamping plate at the extremity thereof will be forced inwardly within the socket so as to engage a whip which may be placed therein and clamp the same against the opposite wall of the socket.

The face of the clamping plate 8 may be covered with felt or other soft material to prevent injury to the whip and the interior of the whip socket is provided opposite the clamping plate with an enlargement 9 designed to coöperate with the clamping plate in engaging the whip. A pawl 10 is pivotally mounted within the casing 4 over the knob 5 and normally engages the teeth of the ratchet wheel 6, the said teeth being inclined and the pawl slipping over the inclined sides of the teeth when the knob is turned to tighten the clamp, and engaging the radial sides of the teeth to prevent rotation of the knob in the opposite direction.

More specifically describing the manner of mounting the locking pawl 10 it will be observed that the upper end of the same is formed with a slot 14 loosely receiving the pin 15, the said pawl being normally forced against the ratchet wheel by means of a spring 11 the free end of which is received within a recess 16 in one side of the pawl. This construction admits of the pawl having a limited longitudinal movement and reduces the friction between the end of the pawl and the radial faces of the teeth of the ratchet wheel, thereby insuring that the pawl will always drop into proper position and enabling the pawl being readily moved out of engagement with the ratchet wheel by means of a key 12 when it is desired to release the whip. This key is of the conventional construction and is designed to be inserted within a key hole 13 formed in the casing 4 upon one side of the pawl, the web of the key being designed to engage the pawl and swing the same away from the ratchet wheel when the key is turned in the usual manner.

With this construction it will be readily apparent that the whip can be quickly locked within the socket and securely held against removal or accidental displacement, by grasping the knurled head of the knob 5 and turning the same to force the clamping plate

8 inwardly against the whip. For the purpose of releasing the whip the key 12 is inserted within the key hole 13 and turned to cause the web thereof to engage the pawl 10 and swing the same into an inoperative position, thereby releasing the knob and permitting the same being turned to withdraw the clamping plate from the whip.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

The combination of a whip socket, a knob rotatably mounted upon the whip socket, a clamping plate operating within the socket, a stem projecting from the clamping plate, and having a threaded connection with the knob so that the clamping plate can be moved in and out by turning the knob, a ratchet wheel upon the knob, a pawl mounted to swing laterally, and also to have a longitudinal movement, the said pawl normally engaging the ratche wheel to prevent rotation of the knob to release the clamping plate, a spring strip, one end of which positively engages the pawl to swing it laterally against the ratchet and hold it at one limit of its longitudinal movement, and a key for moving the pawl into inoperative position.

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

THOMAS A. HOOVER. [L. S.]

Witnesses:
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