No. 845,904.

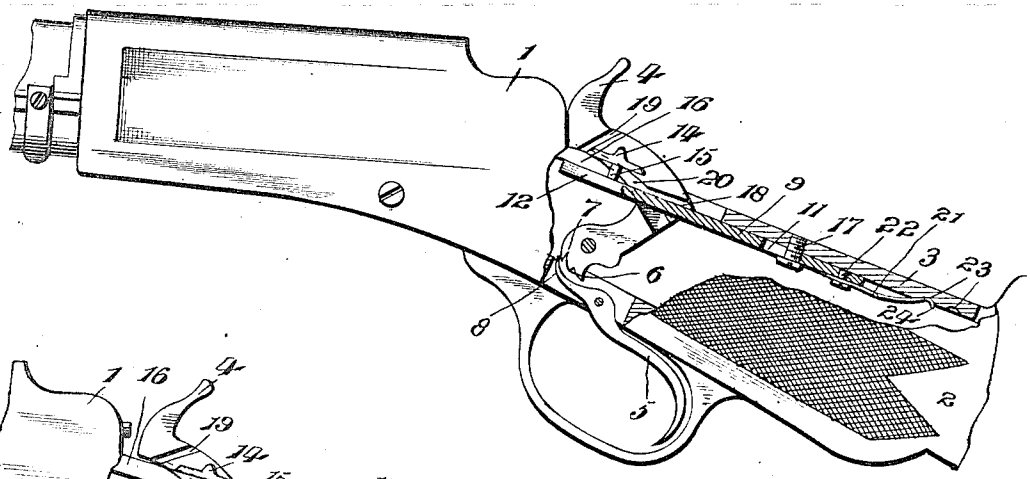
PATENTED MAR. 5, 1907.

F. A. BECKWITH.

SAFETY DEVICE FOR FIREARMS.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 10, 1906.

Fig. 1.



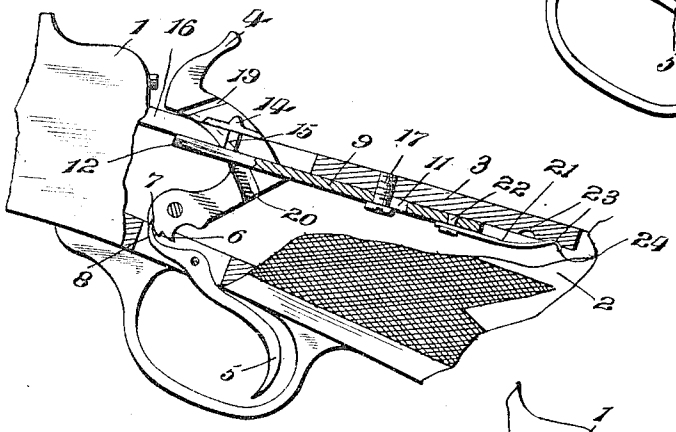
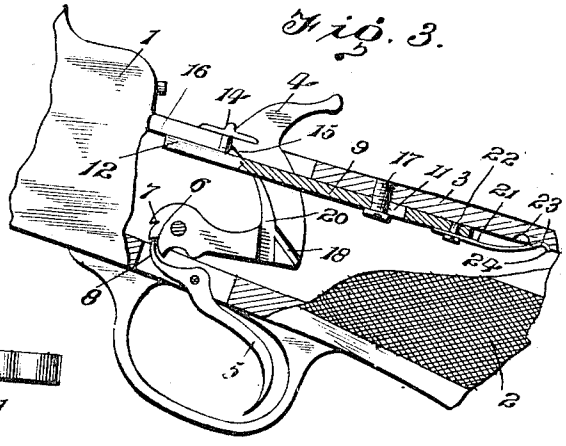


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.



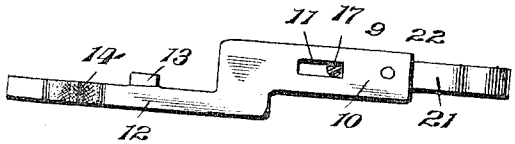


Fig. 4.

Witnesses

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BEST AVAILABLE COPY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK A. BECKWITH, OF EVANSTON, WYOMING, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO THOMAS W. JONES, OF SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

SAFETY DEVICE FOR FIREARMS.

No. 845,994. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented March 5, 1907.

Application filed December 10, 1906. Serial No. 347,180.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK A. BECKWITH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Evanston, in the county of Uinta and State of Wyoming, have invented certain new and useful Improvement in Safety Devices for Firearms; 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 certain new and useful improvements in safety devices for firearms, and the particular class of firearms to which my invention is particularly applicable is shotguns and rifles in which an exposed hammer centrally located in the upper tang is used.

It frequently happens that a gun is accidentally discharged when the hammer is set at half-cock by the hammer being caught and drawn back and then allowed to fall. It also frequently happens when carrying a gun at full-cock that either the hammer or the trigger is caught by brush or something and the gun accidentally discharged. These accidents may be entirely prevented by my invention, as the hammer may be locked against all movement when it is at either full or half cock. The button by which the lock is operated is located beside the hammer, where it may be readily operated, so that the gun can be carried locked at full-cock, and when it is desired to fire the gun the button can be pushed during the movement of the gun to the shoulder, so that the gun may be fired without any loss of time.

My invention therefore consists in providing a simple and effective device by means of which the hammer may be locked either at full-cock or half-cock and when locked prevented from any movement, whereby the discharge of the arm is absolutely prevented.

My invention further consists in certain constructions, combinations, and arrangements of parts, the preferred form of which will be first described in connection with the accompanying drawings and then the invention particularly pointed out in the claims.

Figure 1 is a side elevation, partly in section, of the breech and lock of a repeating shotgun, showing my invention as applied thereto, the hammer being shown down against the firing-pin. Fig. 2 is a view similar to Fig. 1, showing the hammer locked at half-cock. Fig. 3 is a similar view showing the hammer locked at full-cock. Fig. 4 is a top plan view of the safety-catch detached.

1 designates the breech of the gun; 2, the stock; 3, the upper tang of the gun-lock; 4, the hammer, and 5 the trigger. These parts may be of any ordinary or desired construction, as these parts of the gun form no part of my invention. The hammer is shown as provided with the usual full-cock notch 6 and half-cock notch 7. With these notches the point 8 of the trigger engages to hold the hammer either at full or half cock in the ordinary way.

9 is a slide which is preferably of the form best shown in Fig. 4, and, as shown, consists of a substantially rectangular body portion 10, provided at about its center with the elongated slot 11 and at its forward end and at one side thereof with the projecting arm 12. 13 is a lug extending out from the side of the arm 12 and forms the catch of the safety device. Near the forward end of the arm 12 is a finger-button 14, connected to the arm 12 by means of the shank 15. The upper tang 3 of the gun-lock is provided with a slot 16, through which the shank 15 passes, the button 14 sliding on the top of the tang, as shown.

17 is a screw passing through the slot 11 and into the under side of the tang to hold the slide in position and guide the same in its movement.

The arm 12 of the slide lies adjacent to the side of the hammer. In the side of the hammer adjacent the arm 12 I provide a milled slot 18, which when the hammer is at half-cock, as shown in Fig. 2, is in line with the lug 13 and parallel to the line of movement of the lug. Consequently the slide may be moved back to the position shown in Fig. 2 and cause the lug to engage the notch 18. 19 is a second slot milled in the side of the hammer, which slot preferably will be in line with the lug 13 when the hammer is drawn back just beyond full-cock, so that when the hammer is in this position the slide may be pulled back, causing the lug 13 to engage the slot and hold the hammer at full-cock, as shown in Fig. 3.

The purpose of having the slot 19 located beyond the full-cock position of the hammer is to absolutely insure the point of the trigger

catching the full-cock notch when the hammer is released by pushing the slide forward, and thereby absolutely prevent accidental discharge when the hammer is released. In the side of the hammer adjacent to the slide I provide an arc-shaped recess or groove 20, which gives a clearance for the lug 13 when the slide is in its forward position. 21 is a leaf-spring secured to the rear end of the body 10 of the slide by means of a rivet or other fastening means 22. 23 are two notches cut in the under side of the tang and adapted to be engaged by the curved end 24 of the leaf-spring when the slide is at its forward and rear positions, whereby the accidental movement of the slide is prevented.

From the above it will be seen that by my construction the hammer can be positively locked at half-cock, so as to prevent the same being raised or pushed down against the firing-pin. It also provides a means whereby the hammer can be positively locked at full-cock. The button 14 is conveniently located so that it can be readily operated by the thumb of the right hand and when the hammer is fully cocked and locked can be readily pushed forward to free the hammer and permit the firing of the gun without any loss of time.

If desired, the letter "S" or the word "Safe" may be placed on the upper tang in position to be exposed when the button 13 is in its rear position and covered when the button is in its forward position.

The device contains few parts, is cheaply constructed, and may be applied to any form of firearm desired. Furthermore, it is to be noted that the button when pushed forward does not interfere with the ordinary operation of the gun, and as long as it is permitted to remain in this position the gun operates as if there was no safety device attached to it.

While I have described what I believe to be the preferred form of my invention, I desire to have it understood that changes may be made within the scope of the appended claims in the form, construction, and arrangement of parts without departing from the spirit of my invention.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a firearm, the combination with a hammer, of means adapted to be manually moved into position to lock and unlock the hammer when it is half-cocked.

2. In a firearm, the combination with a hammer, of means adapted to be manually operated to lock and unlock the hammer when it is either full or half cocked.

3. In a firearm of the class in which the hammer is located centrally of the upper tang, of a slide mounted on the under side of said tang and provided with a part adapted for engagement with the hammer, said slide being manually operable to engage the hammer and lock and unlock the same.

4. In a firearm of the class in which the hammer is located centrally of the upper tang, of a slide mounted on the under side of said tang adjacent the side of the hammer, a projection on the slide, said hammer being provided with a slot so located on the side of the hammer that said slide may be manually operated when the hammer is half-cocked to lock said hammer by causing said projection to engage said slot.

5. In a firearm of the class in which the hammer is located centrally of the upper tang, of a slide mounted on the under side of said tang adjacent the side of the hammer, a projection on the slide, said hammer being provided with a slot so located on the side of the hammer that said slide may be manually operated when the hammer is full-cocked to lock said hammer by causing said projection to engage said slot.

6. In a firearm of the class in which the hammer is located centrally of the upper tang, of a slide mounted on the under side of said tang adjacent the side of the hammer, a projection on the slide, said hammer being provided with two slots so located on the side of the hammer that said slide may be manually operated when the hammer is half-cocked or full-cocked to lock said hammer by causing said projection to engage one or the other of said slots.

7. In a firearm, the combination with a hammer, of means adapted to be manually moved into position to lock the hammer in a position slightly past its full-cocked position.

8. In a firearm of the class in which the hammer is located centrally of the upper tang, of a slide mounted on the under side of said tang adjacent the side of the hammer, a projection on the slide, said hammer being provided with a slot so located on the side of the hammer that said slide may be manually operated when said hammer is held slightly beyond the full-cocked position, to lock said hammer by causing said projection to engage said slot.

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

FRANK A. BECKWITH.

Witnesses:
F. W. BECKWITH,
A. G. REX.