(No Model.)

J. PLAYER.

BRAKE BEAM.

No. 589,270. Patented Aug. 31, 1897.

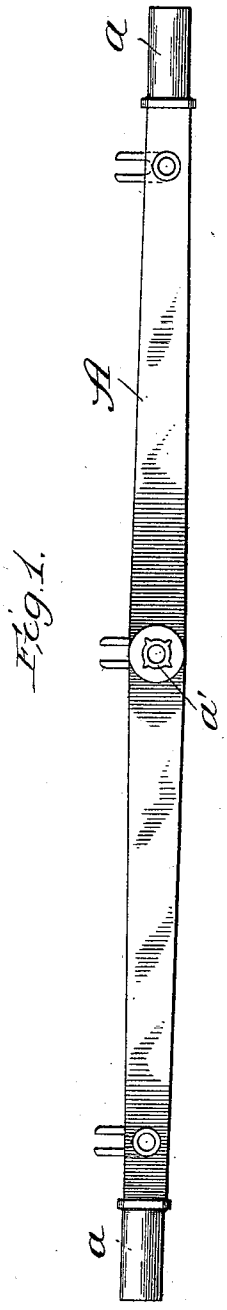


Fig. 1.

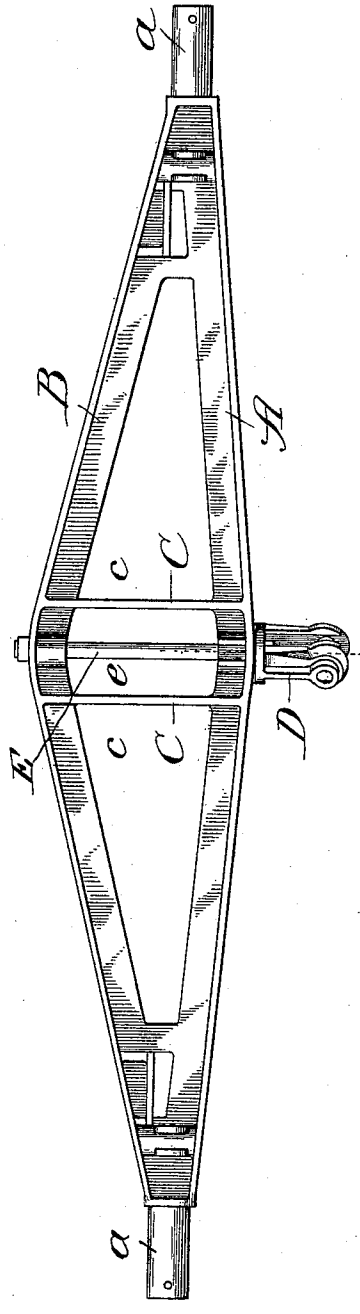


Fig. 2.

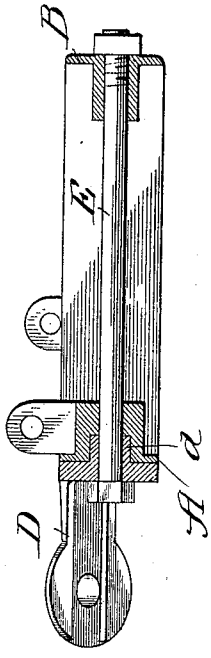


Fig. 3.

Witnesses:
Chas. L. Gaylord.
Luther J. Filer.

Inventor.
John Player,
By Banning & Banning & Sheridan,
Attys.

THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN PLAYER, OF TOPEKA, KANSAS.

BRAKE-BEAM.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 589,270, dated August 31, 1897.

Application filed October 26, 1896. Serial No. 610,108. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN PLAYER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Topeka, Kansas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Brake-Beams, of which the following is a specification.

The principal object of my invention is to provide a simple, economical, and efficient brake-beam, formed, preferably, of malleable cast-iron and made in one integral structure.

A further object of my invention is to provide a brake-beam with a lever-block adapted to be rotated from right to left to form a brake-beam of "right" or "left" construction.

The invention consists principally in constructing a brake-beam comprising a main or compression member, an angular tie or tension member, and a strut portion, all formed in one integral casting, with a removable lever-block secured to the compression member and extending in a direction outward therefrom and adapted to be rotated to form a brake-beam of right or left hand position.

The invention consists, further and finally, in the features, combinations, and details of construction hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation of my improved brake-beam, looking at it from the side, with the lever-block removed; Fig. 2, a plan view of the same with the lever-block in one of its positions, and Fig. 3 an enlarged sectional view taken on line 3 of Fig. 2.

In constructing a brake-beam in accordance with my improvements I make a beam having a main or tension member A, extending at a slight angle to a straight plane or in a manner convex in appearance and preferably T-shaped in cross-section. I provide it with a compression member B, extending at an angle opposite to the tension member but more acute, and also preferably formed T-shaped in cross-section. I interpose between these members a strut portion C, formed, preferably, of two parts, so that the strut in connection with the tension and compression members performs spaces *c*. The brake-beam is further provided with bearing portions *a* at each end, to which the usual heads and shoes may be attached. These parts, with the exception of the strut, all join or connect at a point adjacent to the bearing portions and are formed of cast malleable iron.

To provide a lever-block so that the beam may be used in either a right or left hand position, I make the lever-block D and rotatably secure it to the tension member on the outside, so that the free end of the lever-block extends away from the brake-beam. The brake-beam is provided with an irregular-shaped recess *a'* and the lever-block with an irregular-shaped projecting hub or boss *d*, adapted to fit therein and prevent the rotation of the lever-block while it is located therein. The lever-block may be removed from the recess, rotated at an angle of ninety degrees, and reinserted in the recess to allow of its being used in either a right or left hand position.

The lever-block and tension member of the brake-beam are provided with perforations or holes through which a bolt E may be passed to tie the parts together. This bolt preferably extends through the compression member of the brake-beam as well and acts as a tie-rod to tie the members together as well as hold the lever-block in position.

I claim—

1. A brake-beam provided with tension and compression members formed in one integral casting, the outer side of the tension member having an irregular-shaped portion, a rotatable lever-block provided with an irregular-shaped portion fitting the irregular-shaped portion *d* of the tension member, and means for securing the rotatable lever-block to the tension member, substantially as described.

2. A brake-beam provided with compression and tension members formed in one integral casting, the tension member having an irregular-shaped recess in its outer side or surface, a rotatable lever-block provided with an irregular-shaped projection adapted to fit the recess of the tension member and be used in either a right or left hand position, and bolt mechanism arranged to pass through the lever-block and the truss members of the brake-beam to securely hold and tie the parts together, substantially as described.

JOHN PLAYER.

Witnesses:
D. E. PAIN,
E. C. BEYNON.