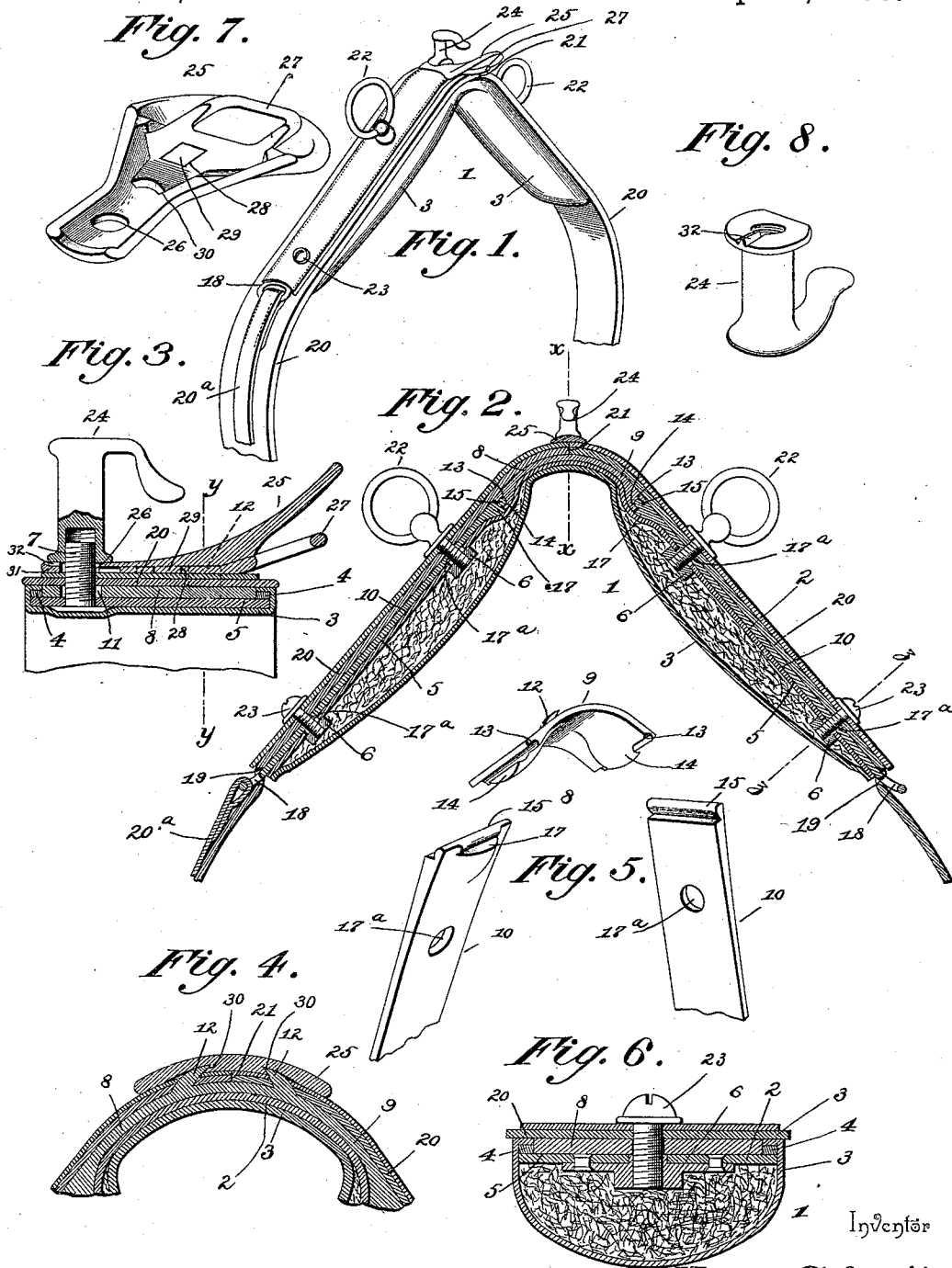


(No Model.)

H. SCHMITZ.
HARNESS SADDLE.

No. 536,739.

Patented Apr. 2, 1895.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY SCHMITZ, OF WYMORE, NEBRASKA.

HARNESS-SADDLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 536,739, dated April 2, 1895.

Application filed September 21, 1894. Serial No. 523,724. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY SCHMITZ, a citizen of the United States, residing at Wymore, in the county of Gage and State of Nebraska, have invented a new and useful Harness-Saddle, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to harness saddles; and it has for its object to provide a new and useful construction of gig saddles, the improvements in which are adapted for use in connection with single and double harness.

To this end the main and primary object of the present invention is to make an improved construction of saddle and particularly the tree therefor, whereby the greatest possible degree of flexibility will be given to the saddle, while at the same time producing a saddle of exceptional strength and durability.

The invention furthermore contemplates a construction of saddle wherein ready and convenient access may be had to any part thereof for the purpose of repairing or renewing broken parts without the necessity of ripping the pad or any stitched part of the saddle, while at the same time effecting a connection between the several parts of the saddle when assembled that obviates loosening or derangement of any part of the saddle.

With these and other objects in view which will readily appear as the nature of the invention is better understood, the same consists in the novel construction, combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter more fully described, illustrated and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings:—Figure 1 is a perspective view of a harness saddle constructed in accordance with this invention. Fig. 2 is a central vertical longitudinal sectional view thereof. Fig. 3 is a detail transverse sectional view on the line $x-x$ of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is an enlarged detail sectional view on the line $y-y$ of Fig. 3. Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the sectional tree, the parts of which are shown disconnected. Fig. 6 is a detail sectional view on the line $z-z$ of Fig. 2. Fig. 7 is a detail bottom perspective view of the cantle or seat plate of the saddle. Fig. 8 is a similar view of the check-rein hook.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, 1 designates the main saddle body essentially comprising the continuous burr-piece 2, and

the pad-leathers 3, secured at their opposite edges to the upper opposite side edges of said burr-piece, and at the point of connection between the side edges of the pad-leathers and the burr-piece of the saddle body are arranged the spacing straps 4, which project above the plane of the burr-piece 2, and provide an intermediate channel or recess 5, for the saddle pad, that extends the entire length thereof and is adapted to removably accommodate therein the saddle-tree as will be presently described. The pad-leathers 3, are filled with suitable padding in the usual manner and the burr-piece of the saddle pad has secured thereto at the proper points the burrs or nuts 6, that receive the usual threaded shanks of the different parts of the saddle, and at the center top point of the saddle pad the burr-piece thereof suitably secures in position the upright screw post 7, the function of which will presently appear.

The longitudinal channel or recess 5, of the saddle pad formed between the upper side edges thereof removably seats or accommodates therein the self adjusting sectional saddle-tree 8. The self-adjusting sectional saddle-tree 8, comprises a curved center hook-plate 9, and opposite pivoted side plates 10, which, when connected together, conform to the shape of the main saddle body 1, so as to fit snugly within the channel or recess thereof and to be accommodated to the movements of the saddle when in use. The center hook-plate 9, of the saddle-tree 8, is provided at a central point near one side edge with a hole or opening 11, that loosely fits over the upright screw post 7, at the center of the saddle pad, and at a point directly opposite the hole or opening 11, and near the other side edge, the said hook-plate 9, is further provided with the spaced reversely arranged beveled catch-lugs 12, the points of which are convergently disposed and provide for securing skirt leathers of the saddle in place as will be described.

The center hook-plate 9, of the tree 8, is further provided at its opposite ends with the transverse pivot grooves 13, that are substantially C-shaped, or in other words are nearly completely circular, and at the under side of said grooves, the ends of the plate 9, are

thickened to form the lower stop shoulders 14, while the end edges of the plate above the grooves form upper stop-shoulders.

The transverse end grooves 13, of the center hook-plate 9, of the tree are adapted to loosely and detachably receive the transverse pivot ribs 15, that are formed integrally and transversely on the inner ends of the pivoted side-plates 10. The transverse rounded pivot-ribs 15, of the plates 10, are also almost completely circular and are adapted to be inserted endwise into the grooves of the center hook-plate, it being obvious that by reason of the C-shape of the grooves of the hook-plate it is impossible for the pivot ribs to become disconnected or disengaged therefrom except by sliding the ribs out at either end of the grooves in a manner that will be easily understood. At the under side of the transverse pivot ribs 15, the inner ends of the plates 10, are thickened to form the lower stop-shoulders 17, that are opposed to the corresponding stop-shoulders 14, of the plate 9, in order to limit the downward movement of the side plates 10, the upward movement of which plates is limited by the end edges of such plates, above the ribs 15, engaging against the corresponding edges of the plate 9, above the grooves thereof. The connection described between the several plates of the sectional saddle tree permits the side plates of the tree to have a limited up and down movement so as to adjust themselves to the movements of the saddle, while at the same time the plates comprising the tree can be readily and quickly disconnected from each other and easily removed from the saddle body or pad.

The side plates 10, of the saddle tree are provided with suitably arranged holes or openings 17^a, that are adapted to be arranged opposite the burrs or nuts 6, secured to the burr-piece of the saddle body, and at their outer ends the side plates 10, of the tree are provided with the strap loops 18, that are preferably passed through the slots or openings 19, in opposite portions of the skirt or jockey strap 20, that forms the top facing for the saddle body and incloses the saddle-tree within the channel or recess accommodating the same. The loops 18, that preferably project through the skirt or jockey strap have connected thereto one end of the usual bearing straps 20^a, although it will be understood that other means of arranging the bearing strap may be employed.

The skirt or jockey strap 20, is preferably made in two pieces hinged or jointed together at the center as at 21, in order that either side portion may be separately lifted up to expose either side of the tree as desired, and at the proper point the said skirt or jockey strap is provided with holes or openings aligning with those in the side-plates of the tree and also to accommodate the upright screw post 7, and the convergently disposed catch-lugs 12. The threaded shanks of the terret rings 22, and the pad-screws 23, are passed through the

proper aligned openings and are engaged in the burrs or nuts 6, of the pad body to provide means for detachably securing the tree and the skirt or jockey strap onto the main saddle body, whereby these parts of the saddle may be readily detached or removed at any time desired by simply removing the terret rings, the pad-screws, and the check-rein hook 24, that is removably engaged on the upright screw post 7, over the inner end of the cantle or seat-plate 25, of the saddle. The cantle or seat plate 25, of the saddle is of an ordinary shape and is provided at its inner end with an opening 26, fitting over the post 7, and fitted to the under side of said cantle or seat plate is the back strap loop 27, to which is adapted to be connected one end of the usual back strap of a set of harness.

The back strap loop 27, is preferably fitted to the under side of said cantle or seat-plate 25, by having a squared opening 28, in the solid portion thereof, fitted on a lug 29, and at the opposite side edges of its solid portion, the back strap loop 27, is dove-tailed or beveled as at 30, to detachably engage between the convergently disposed points of the catch lugs 12, on the hook-plate 9, of the tree. It will be noted that the solid portion of the back strap loop 27, is not only dove-tailed but is slightly tapered so that when the skirt or jockey strap is in position on the saddle, the dove-tailed solid portion of said back strap loop may be slid into engagement between the lugs 12, which will provide for securely and rigidly positioning the said cantle or seat plate, and at its perforated end at one side of the opening 26, the said plate 25 is provided with a lock-notch 31, with which is adapted to engage the catch-projection 32, formed on the lower end of the check rein hook 24, and adapted to spring in engagement with said notch when the hook has been screwed down sufficiently, so as to prevent the hook from turning and therefore preventing the cantle or seat-plate 25, from loosening.

From the above it will be obvious that the herein described saddle mainly consists of separable parts which are readily detachable while at the same time permitting of a sufficient degree of flexibility whereby horses of various breadths may be accommodated and fitted with the same saddle, and it will also be noted with respect to the tree that the same is devoid of all pintles and pindle holes usually required for forming hinges.

Changes in the form, proportion and the minor details of construction may be resorted to without departing from the principle or sacrificing any of the advantages of this invention.

Having described the invention, what is claimed, and desired to be secured by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a harness saddle, the combination of the pad body provided at the top with a longitudinal channel or recess and with burrs or nuts at the proper points, a self-adjusting sec-

tional tree removably fitted in the channel or recess of the saddle body and provided at its outer ends with strap loops, a skirt or jockey strap fitted over the tree and provided with
 5 holes or openings aligning with similar holes or openings in the tree opposite said burrs or nuts, said skirt or jockey strap essentially comprising centrally jointed pieces and further provided in opposite portions with slots
 10 to receive the outer strap loops of the tree, and the terret and pad screws passed through the aligned openings of the skirt or jockey strap and the tree and removably engaging said burrs or nuts, substantially as set forth.

15 2. In a harness saddle, the combination of the saddle body having a center upright screw post, the saddle tree fitted on said body and provided at the center thereof with an opening fitting over said screw post and with projecting catches, the removable skirt or jockey
 20 strap fitted over the tree and provided with openings through which project said screw post and said catches, a removable cantle or seat plate provided on its under side with a
 25 back strap loop adapted to engage the projecting catches of the tree and with an opening fitting over said screw post, said cantle or seat plate being further provided near the opening therein with a lock notch, and the
 30 check-rein hook adapted to engage said screw post and provided on its lower end with a catch projection adapted to engage said lock notch, substantially as set forth.

35 3. In a harness saddle, the combination of the saddle body or pad having a center upright screw post, the saddle tree fitted on said body and provided at the center thereof with an opening fitting over said post and with spaced convergently disposed beveled catch

lugs, the cantle or seat-plate fitted over said
 40 screw post and carrying on its under side a back strap loop having a dove-tailed solid portion adapted to engage between said catch
 45 lugs, and the check-rein hook working on said screw post over the cantle or seat plate, substantially as set forth.

4. A saddle tree comprising a center hook plate provided at its opposite ends with transverse C-shaped or nearly completely circular
 50 grooves and with stop shoulders at the lower edges of said grooves, and opposite side plates provided at their inner ends with transverse nearly completely circular pivot-ribs adapted to pivotally and detachably interlock with
 55 the grooves of the hook plate said side plates also having stop shoulders below the pivot ribs thereof, substantially as set forth.

5. A saddle tree comprising a center hook-plate provided at its opposite ends with transverse C-shaped or nearly completely circular
 60 pivot grooves and thickened lower stop shoulders at the under sides of such grooves, and opposite side plates provided at their inner ends with transverse nearly completely circular pivot ribs adapted to pivotally and de-
 65 tachably interlock with the grooves of the hook-plate, and with thickened lower stop-shoulders at the under sides of said ribs that are opposed to the corresponding shoulders of the center hook-plate, substantially as set
 70 forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

HENRY SCHMITZ.

Witnesses:

JASPER BYERS,
 J. C. BURCH.