Oct. 24, 1967 A. HERRERA 3,348,362

SADDLE CINCH AND D HOLDER

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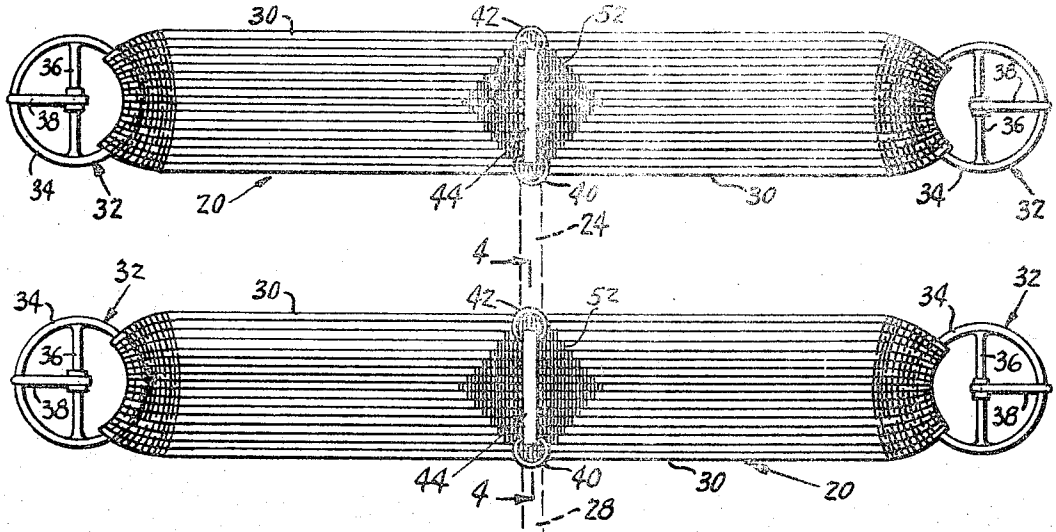


FIG. 2

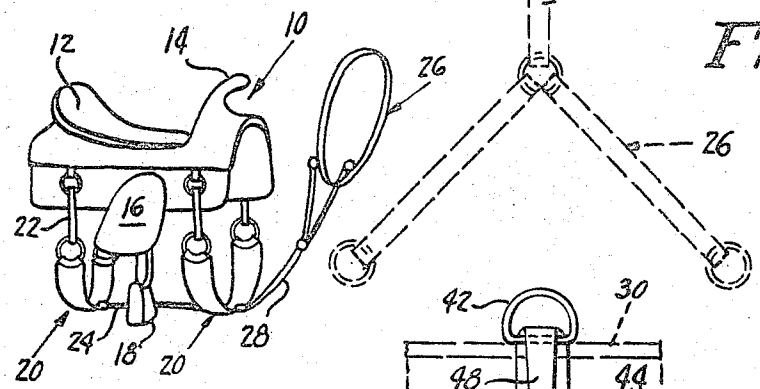


FIG. 1

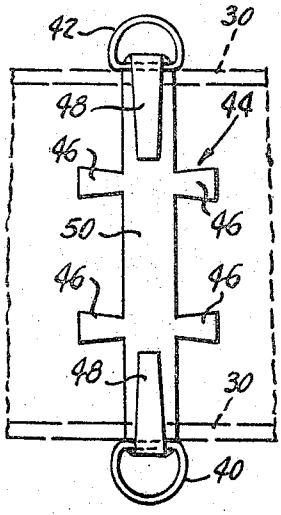


FIG. 3

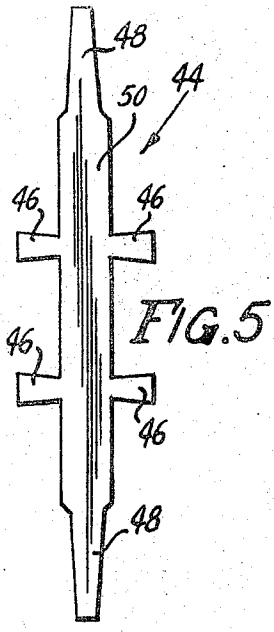


FIG. 5

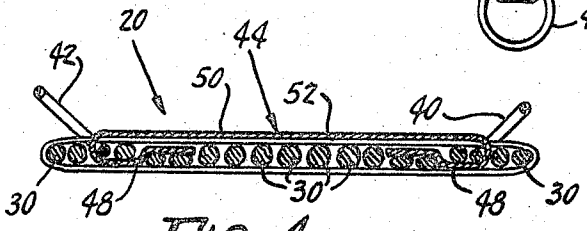


FIG. 4

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SADDLE CINCH AND D-HOLDER

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This invention relates to cinches for saddles, and more particularly to a saddle cinch of the type in which a pair of D-rings are positioned in transversely aligned relation for securing the pair of cinches together or for securing a cinch to a breast collar.

As conducive to an understanding of the instant invention, it should be pointed out that cinches of the prior art are provided with a pair of D-rings woven into the cord material in order to secure a given cinch to another cinch by the use of a leather strap or to secure a given cinch to a breast collar which extends about the lower portion of a horse's neck. In practice, the weaving of the D-ring into the cinch provides a secure connection until the stresses imparted thereto break the weaving material. In order to continue to provide D-rings upon such a cinch, it is necessary to re-weave the D-rings to the cinch or otherwise to repair the cinch.

It is an object of the instant invention to provide a cinch or bellyband having at least a pair of spaced apart D-rings which are securely interconnected to prevent loosening as a result of prolonged wear.

Another object of the instant invention is to provide a cinch having a pair of spaced apart D-rings for securement to another member in which the element interconnecting the D-rings is secured to the strands that comprise the cinch.

A further object of the instant invention is to provide a cinch or bellyband in which the D-rings are woven to a selected strand of the cinch and are further connected thereto by a rigid element which loops the selected strand and the D-rings.

A still further object of the instant invention is to provide a saddle cinch of the character described which may be easily and inexpensively manufactured, which is durable and long lasting, and which promotes the safety of riders by securely affixing the D-rings to the saddle cinch.

Other objects and advantages of the instant invention reside in the combinations of elements, arrangements of parts, and features of construction and utilization, all as will be more fully pointed out hereinafter and disclosed in the accompanying drawing wherein there is shown a preferred embodiment of this inventive concept.

In the drawing:

FIGURE 1 is a view of a conventional western saddle equipped with a pair of cinches of the instant invention secured together and to a breast collar;

FIGURE 2 is an enlarged view of the saddle cinches of the instant invention showing in dotted lines the interconnection between the cinches and connection between one of the cinches and a breast collar;

FIGURE 3 is an enlarged view of the D-holder of the instant invention;

FIGURE 4 is a cross-sectional view of the cinch of the instant invention taken substantially along line 4—4 of FIGURE 1 as viewed in the direction of the arrows; and

FIGURE 5 is a view of a blank D-holder which is manipulated to secure the D-rings of the saddle cinch together.

Referring now to the drawing in detail, wherein like reference characters designate like elements throughout the several views thereof, there is designated generally at **10** a saddle of the western type having the customary cantle **12**, horn **14**, stirrup straps **16**, stirrups **18**, and a pair

of cinches of the instant invention shown generally at **20** interconnected with saddle **10** by a plurality of adjustable straps **22**. Cinches **20** are connected together by another adjustable strap **24** with the foremost cinch being connected to a breast collar shown generally at **26** by another connecting strap **28**.

Referring now to FIGURE 2, each of cinches **20** includes a plurality of substantially parallel strands **30** connected at each end to a connecting means shown generally at **32** for securement to adjustable straps **22**. Although connecting means **32** may be of any suitable type, they are illustrated as having a circular ring **34** to which each strand **30** is secured, a crossbar **36** extending transversely with respect to cinch **20** and a tongue **38** rotatably mounted about crossbar **36** such that connecting means **32** is in the form of a buckle. It is, of course, well known that connecting means **32** may merely include ring **34** with straps **22** being looped thereabout.

In the prior art, D-rings have been provided in the position shown in FIGURE 2 such that cinches may be secured together or such that a cinch may be secured to a breast collar as shown in FIGURE 1. Prior art cinches have accomplished this by weaving the flat segment of the D-ring to a selected one of the longitudinally extending strands which has resulted in the D-rings rapidly breaking loose thus wearing out equipment and resulting in a loose saddle and breast collar thus tending to endanger the rider.

In the instant invention, a pair of rings **40**, **42**, which are illustrated as D-rings, but which may be of any suitable configuration, are woven to a selected one of strands **30** adjacent the lateral edge of the band-like member formed by strands **30**. A D-holder shown generally at **44** is then used to interconnect D-rings **40**, **42**. D-holder **44** is a rigid element, preferably of a non-corrosive metal such as brass, forming a plurality of ears **46** extending toward each of connecting means **32**.

Each outer end **48** of D-holder **44** is preferably reduced in width and is bent over the flat segment of the associated D-ring and the strand to which the associated D-ring is secured as may be seen best in FIGURES 3 and 4. In addition, each outer end **48** is bent toward central section **50** such that the inwardly spaced strands lie between outer end **48** and the mid-section of the horse to prevent injury to the horse by abrasion.

As may be seen best in FIGURE 4, center section **50** of the D-holder **44** is spaced on one face of cinch **20** away from the horse such that ears **46**, center section **50** and the major part of outer ends **48** do not abrade the mid-section of the horse. As the last step of manufacture, the strand **52**, similar to strands **30**, is woven in a preferably diamond-shaped configuration about D-holder **44** to lend further structural rigidity to cinch **20**. In particular, ears **46** are covered by strand **52** to provide an additional securing area between D-rings **40**, **42** and strands **30**.

Although D-holder **44** may be of any desired substantially rigid material, it is preferred that it be of metal, such as bronze, steel or the like. Although the size and shape of D-holder **44** may be varied to suit the requirements of the particular cinch to which it is secured, in the particular embodiment shown, the over-all length of D-holder **44** is about 5 inches with outer ends **48** being about ⅞ inch in length. Ears **46** are preferably spaced about 1 3/16 inches apart, about ⅜ inch in length, about 7/32 inch in width at the base thereof and about ¼ inch in width at the terminus thereof.

It is now seen that there is herein provided an improved saddle cinch which accomplishes all of the objects and advantages of the instant invention, and in particular more securely binds D-rings **40**, **42** to strands **30**, as well as many advantages of great practical utility and commercial importance.

Since many embodiments may be made of the instant inventive concept, and since many modifications may be made of the embodiment herein shown and described, it is to be understood that the foregoing is to be interpreted merely as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

I claim:

1. A cinch for saddles comprising

a plurality of substantially parallel strands forming a band-like member for underlying the mid-section of a horse;

means, secured to each end of the band-like member, for connecting the band to a saddle;

at least one ring intermediate the band and adjacent each longitudinal edge thereof;

means affixing the rings in transversely aligned relation to the band on one face thereof, the affixing means including means interconnecting the rings and at least one of said strands.

2. The saddle cinch of claim 1 wherein the affixing means includes at least one end portion enclosing and interweaving selected ones of the strands.

3. The saddle cinch of claim 1 further including means securing the interconnecting means to selected ones of the strands.

4. The saddle cinch of claim 3 wherein the interconnecting means is a rigid element attached to one face of the band.

5. The saddle cinch of claim 4 wherein the rigid element is made of metal.

6. The saddle cinch of claim 4 wherein the outer ends of the rigid element loop about the ring and at least one strand.

7. The saddle cinch of claim 4 wherein the outer ends of the rigid element lie on the one face.

8. The saddle cinch of claim 4 wherein the securing means includes

a plurality of ears, on the rigid element, extending generally toward the connecting means; and

at least one second strand securing the ears to the first mentioned strands.

9. The saddle cinch of claim 8 wherein the ears extend toward said securing means at each end of the band.

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