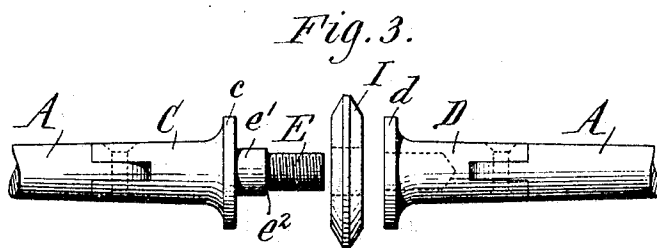
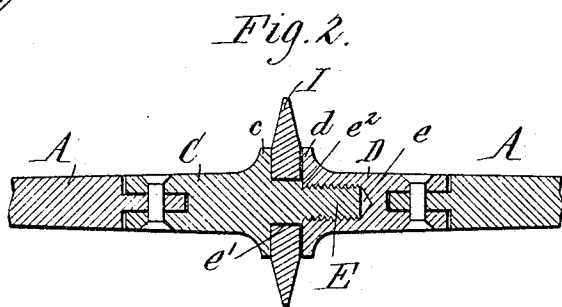
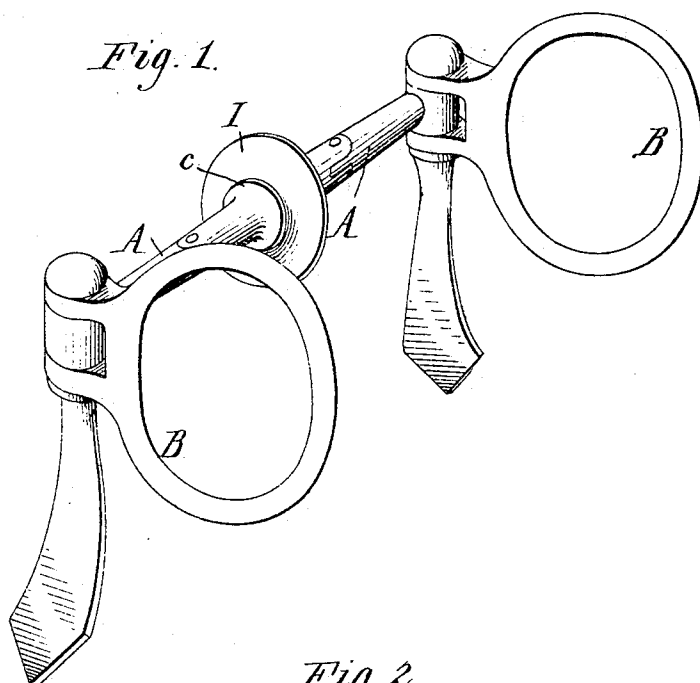


No. 782,020.

PATENTED FEB. 7, 1905.

J. FITZ GIBBONS.
BRIDLE BIT.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 1, 1904.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN FITZ GIBBONS, OF WATKINS, NEW YORK.

BRIDLE-BIT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 782,020, dated February 7, 1905.

Application filed April 1, 1904. Serial No. 201,027.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN FITZ GIBBONS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Watkins, in the county of Schuyler and State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Bridle-Bits, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in bridle-bits.

The object of the invention is to provide a bit suitable for general use which is so constructed that while its action will be sudden and effective upon fractious and vicious horses at the same time it will be humane and will not lacerate the horses' mouths and will be desirable for quiet and well-trained horses and will in cases of emergency, as when horses ordinarily gentle become greatly frightened, serve to bring them immediately under control.

Another object of the invention is to provide a bit which will prevent tongue-lolling, lugging, and side pulling.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a bit embodying the invention. Fig. 2 is a fragmentary section of the central disk and adjoining parts thereof on an enlarged scale. Fig. 3 is a fragmentary elevation of the same, on an enlarged scale, showing the parts separated and provided with a smaller disk than that shown in Fig. 1.

Like letters of reference refer to like parts in the several figures.

The bit shown in the drawings is of that kind having a jointed bit-bar consisting of a center piece and side pieces A A, hinged to the ends of the central section and provided at their ends with side rings B B. The center piece consists of two sections C and D, which have annular enlargements or shoulders *c* and *d* and are detachably connected with each other by a screw-stem E, which projects from the inner end of one section and engages in a screw-threaded hole *e* in the inner end of the other section. The screw-stem E has an unthreaded cylindrical portion *e'* adjacent to the annular enlargement of the section on which it is formed and a small shoulder *e''*, adapted to abut against the end of the other

section of the center piece to preserve a fixed distance between the sections C and D.

I is a circular perforated disk which surrounds and revolves freely on the cylindrical portion *e'* of the screw-stem between the sections C and D. The revolving disk may be removed at pleasure by unscrewing the section of the center piece of the bit-bar, as shown in Fig. 3, and different sizes of disks substituted. In Figs. 1 and 2 a large disk is shown and in Fig. 3 a smaller one. The roof of a horse's mouth and his tongue are most sensitive to the action of a bit. This revolving disk is adapted to bear upon these parts of the mouth, and it is evident that the larger the disk the more powerful the action of the bit. The disks being readily changeable, the driver can use on his bit a disk of such a size as is best suitable to the horse he is about to drive.

Bits have heretofore been made with central enlargements designed to accomplish a similar result; but in these bits the enlarged portions have been fixed to the bit-bar and not rotatable, and in use it has been found that such a bit is unnecessarily cruel in its action and that when the bit is shifted about in the horse's mouth by the driver, as is the case when a horse becomes frightened and attempts to run, it cuts and tears the mouth. This, besides being cruel, makes the mouth of the horse unduly sensitive and renders further handling difficult. The revolving disk avoids this difficulty. When the bit is shifted in the mouth, the disk revolves, and although its pressure on the roof of the mouth and the tongue is as great the disk by thus revolving does not tear nor cut the mouth.

This bit is especially useful to prevent the habit of tongue-lolling, which is caused by the pressure of a bit in the horse's mouth. When the horse feels the bit in his mouth, he immediately starts to run out his tongue; but in so doing his tongue encounters the disk and revolves the same. This attracts his attention and he begins at once to work the disk with his tongue and forgets to put his tongue out farther. This is particularly true in the case of colts and young horses.

Another advantage of the bit described is

that it prevents side pulling and lugging. The revolving disk seems to exert a peculiar influence upon the horse whenever he starts to seize the bit and pull either forward or side-
5 wise. He finds instead of a stationary object which he can grab and hold firmly something which moves in his mouth and revolves with the movement of his tongue. This seems to divert his attention and he relinquishes his
10 hold on the bit.

I claim as my invention—

1. A bridle-bit having a single bit-bar comprising sections detachably connected together at the center of said bit-bar, and a rotatable
15 disk detachably secured between said sections and held from longitudinal movement by integral adjacent portions of said sections, substantially as set forth.

2. A bridle-bit having a jointed bit-bar com-

prising outer sections adapted to be secured 20 to the reins, and a central section having a rotatable disk located centrally thereon and held from longitudinal movement by portions of said section, substantially as set forth.

3. A bridle-bit having a jointed bit-bar com- 25prising outer sections adapted to be secured to the reins and a central section composed of two parts detachably secured together at the center of said section, and a rotatable disk lo- 30cated between said parts and held from longitudinal movement by projecting portions thereof, substantially as set forth.

Witness my hand this 26th day of March, 1904.

JOHN FITZ GIBBONS.

Witnesses:

ELISHA C. HARDING,
AMASA HUGHEY.