E. V. ROWLEY.

BRIDLE BIT.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 2, 1917.

1,258,145. Patented Mar. 5, 1918.

FIG. 1

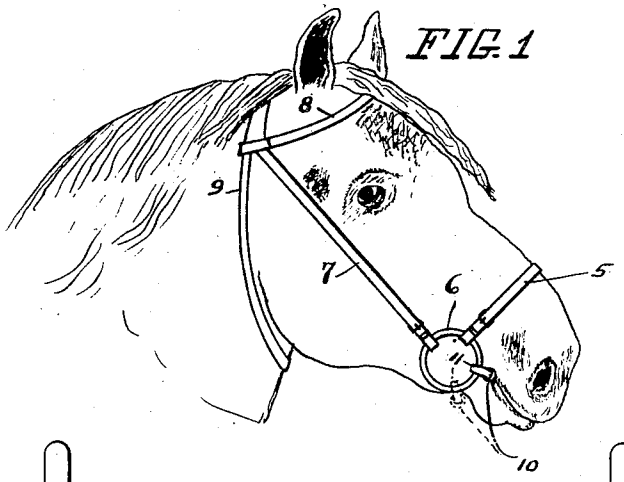


FIG 2

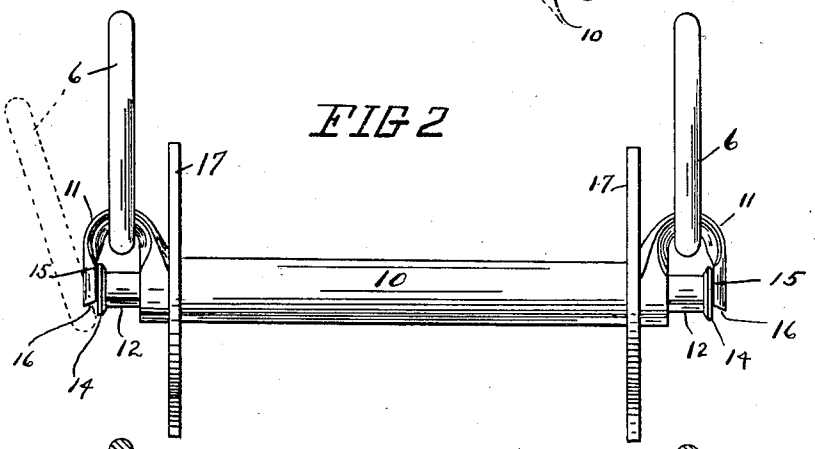


FIG. 3

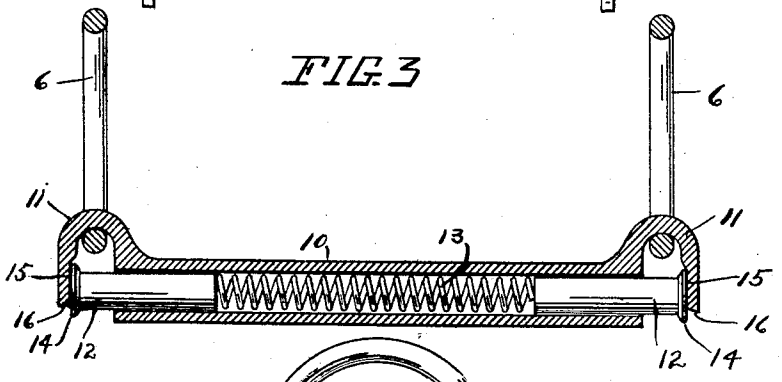
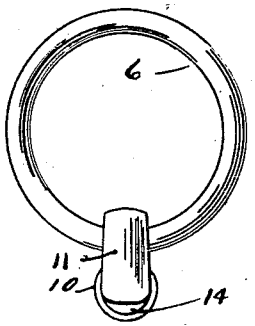


FIG. 4



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BRIDLE-BIT.

1,258,145. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Mar. 5, 1918.

Application filed January 2, 1917. Serial No. 140,240.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EVERETT V. ROWLEY, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Alcester, in the county of Union and State of South Dakota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Bridle-Bits, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates to bridle-bits.

The invention has for its primary object the production of a bridle-bit adapted to be readily attached to and detached from the supporting rings of a bridle, whereby the bit may be detached and removed from an animal's mouth without removal of the bridle, and placed under the animal's jaw and reëngaged with the rings, thereby virtually converting the bridle into a halter or head stall, permitting the animal to eat and drink freely.

Another object of the invention is the production of an improved readily attachable and detachable bridle-bit inexpensive in construction yet thoroughly efficient and dependable in use.

In cold weather animals are very often subjected to great discomfort and pain by having frosty bits placed in their mouths, as it is very inconvenient for the attendant to withdraw the frost from the bits when attached to the bridle. This invention permits the bits to be instantly detached and warmed in any suitable manner, as by placing the bit in the pocket a few moments while the rest of the harness is being placed on the animals.

Aside from the humane advantages afforded by the invention the facility with which the bits may be attached and detached renders the invention of practical advantage for use on bridles of animals used in the army, fire departments and other uses where animals must be quickly hitched.

With these and other objects, in view, the invention consisting in the construction, combination and novel arrangemet of parts, will be fully understood from the following description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings which form a part of this application, and in which like characters of reference indicate corresponding parts throughout the several views, of which,—

Figure 1 is a bridle equipped with the device of my invention and attached to a horse's head; Fig. 2 is an enlarged front elevation of the bridle-bit provided with guards; Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section of the same without guards; and Fig. 4 is an end elevation of the same.

Although I have illustrated and hereinafter described the preferred embodiment of the invention I would not be understood as being limited to the specific structure chosen for illustration, as it is evident that various alterations and modifications in the details of construction and arrangement of parts may be made, without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention, as defined in the appended claims.

Referring, now, to the illustrations the bridle illustrated is of the usual form provided with a nose-piece, 5, secured to the jaw-rings, 6, and the side-straps, 7, secured at one end of the supporting-rings and the other to the brow-strap, 8, and neck-strap, 9.

The bit consists of any suitable form of mouth-bar having inwardly yieldable bolts at the ends, and the ends of the bar are formed with hooks which engage the rings and are engaged by the ends of the bolts to prevent relative displacement of the hooks and rings.

In the present embodiment the bit consists of a tubular bar, 10, having formed integrally on the end thereof, U-shaped hooks, 11, disposed laterally to the bar. The free ends of the hooks are disposed in spaced relation to the ends of the bar. The bar slidably incloses bolts, 12, between which is interposed a compression spring, 13, which tends to force both bolts outwardly and holds them in yieldable engagement with the free ends of the hooks. The outer ends of the bolts are preferably provided with comparatively thin flat heads, 14, and the portions of the faces of the hooks engaged by the said heads are preferably cut away, as at 15, to prevent any tendency of displacement of the rings from the hooks as

will presently appear. The heads of the bolts extend a distance below the ends of the hooks to permit an attendant to force the bolts inwardly. The free ends of the hooks are internally beveled at their lower edges, as at 16, to permit the rings being conveniently inserted in the hooks by placing the rings in position, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 2.

With the ring engaged with the lower portion of the head of the bolt and under the beveled end of the hook, by pressing upwardly and inwardly on the ring, it is evident that the bolt will yield and permit the ring to enter the hook. As illustrated in Fig. 2, the bar may be provided with guards, 17, formed integrally with the bar.

Obviously, the invention may be applied to a jointed mouth-bar if desired, it only being necessary to provide bores in the bar members to inclose the yieldable bolts.

Having thus described my invention what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is,—

1. In a bridle-bit, a bar provided with hooks at its ends adapted to receive the supporting-rings of a bridle-bit, and inwardly yieldable bolts slidably inclosed by the bar and normally engaged with the ends of the hooks.

2. In a bridle-bit, a bar, hooks formed integrally with the ends thereof and disposed laterally thereto, and inwardly yieldable bolts slidably inclosed by the bar and normally engaged by the free ends of the hooks.

3. In a bridle-bit, a tubular bar, hooks formed integrally with the ends thereof and disposed laterally thereto, and inwardly yieldable bolts slidably inclosed by the bar and normally engaged with the free ends of the hooks, the outer ends of the bolts being provided with heads and the portions of the hooks engaged by the bolts being cut away.

4. In a bridle-bit, a tubular bar, bolts slidable in the ends thereof, yieldable means interposed between the bolts, and hooks formed integrally with and disposed laterally to the ends of the bar, the free ends of the hooks being positioned in spaced relation to the ends of the bar and adapted to normally engage the ends of the bolts.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 22nd day of December, 1916.

EVERETT V. ROWLEY.