7040X

G. Pritchard,

Riding Saddle.

Patented May 3, 1832.

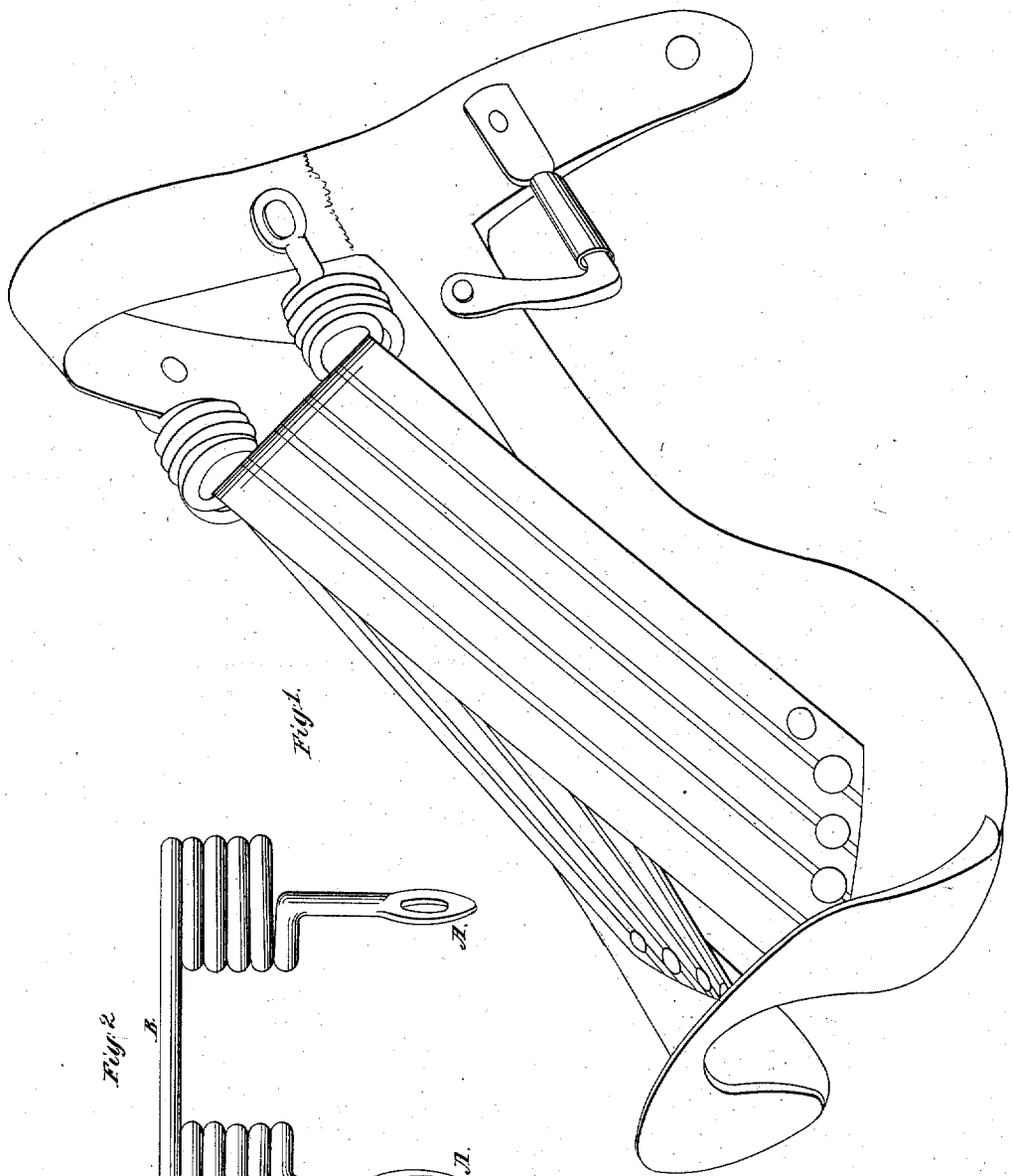


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

N. PETERS, PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHER, WASHINGTON, D. C.

7040X May 3 1832 391

George Pritchard, of Clarksburg, Va.
Letters Patent

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same, containing a description in the words of the said George Pritchard himself of his improvement called the worm steel spring saddle.

To all to whom these presents shall come, George Pritchard of Clarksburg, in the County of Harrison, and State of Virginia Gentleman, sends greeting:

Be it known that I the said George Pritchard have invented, constructed, made and applied to use a new and useful improvement in the mode of making & manufacturing saddles, by the application of a steel spring to the seat of the saddle called the worm steel spring viz: This my said improvement in the mode of making & manufacturing saddles (which I claim as my own invention which I believe was never before known or used till I invented the same) consists simply, in the making of and applying to use in the seat of the saddle a steel spring made and applied in the manner hereinafter described. The steel should be carefully drawn out to a small rod (or wire) of about one eighth of an inch thick & about five feet in length, it can be drawn out either by a hammer, or a wire plate; they are best to be drawn out with a hammer, as by hammering, the pores of the steel are closed, and the flaws are all worked out, whereas if drawn out by a wire plate, the pores of the steel are left open, and oftentimes flawy. a space of two or three inches in the middle of the rod should be left somewhat thicker than the other part, for the purpose of receiving the webbing &c.

Then form it into a worm by closely wrapping it around a rod of the size of about five eighths of an inch in width and three eighths of an inch in thickness, beginning to wrap at each side of the centre, leaving sufficient room in the centre of the spring to receive the webbing of full width &c. &c.

This spring when wrapped should be be heated to a blood red heat, to prevent it from breaking or cracking, while binding. The ends of the spring which go under the cap plate, of the head of the saddle tree, should be made flat & punched for the purpose of rivetting it fast on the head of the tree and left sufficiently strong that when rivetted to the tree it should not break.

The spring when thus made should be properly tempered so as to preserve and

Drawing made from this part of the Specification

7040X

retain its elasticity, and prevent it from breaking; it should then be fastened to the tree by placing the ends of the spring under the cap plate on the head of the tree & front-ing them strongly together with the flat surface of the spring upwards —

The webbing is fastened to the cantle in the usual manner, and attached to the back part of the spring (instead of being tacked on the head of the saddle as is the usual mode) When the webbing is fastened and strained the spring, always has an inclination upwards, keeping the seat always neat and in its proper shape, which gives a light elastic motion to the rider, and consequently does not come down in that dead heavy manner of a saddle made in the usual way, therefore horses are less liable to injury by being rode with saddles constructed in this way, than in the usual way — Saddles made on this plan do not differ in appearance from the neatest plain or quilted saddles — The advantages that this improvement possess, over Morris and all others which have come under my notice are, that the tree is left perfect and whole as in common saddles, thereby being less liable to break a very prominent objection to all others that I have ever seen — —

The spring is made elastic because of the length of the worm, more durable on account of its particular shape and situation, it being placed in that part of the saddle which preserves and prevents it from being in any way injured or over-strained, giving the greatest possible ease and comfort to both the rider and horse.

In testimony that the above is a true specification of my said improvement as above described, I have hereto set my hand this 14th day of March 1832.

Witnesses,

Benjamin Stout
A. Kinnaird

George Pritchard