No. 861,728. PATENTED JULY 30, 1907.

P. W. HUTCHENS.

WIRE COUPLING.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 14, 1907.

Fig. 1.

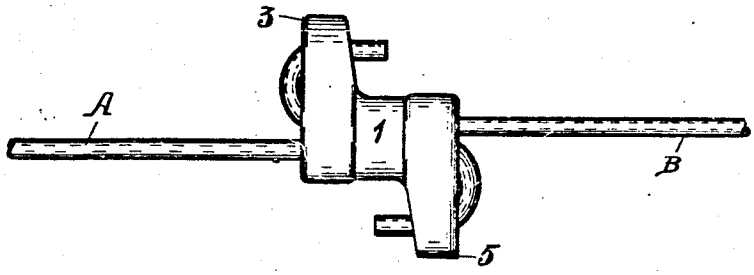
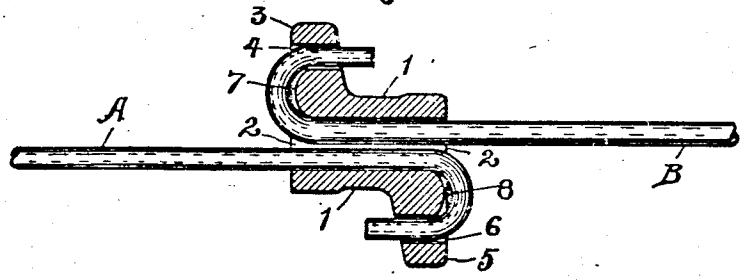


Fig. 2.



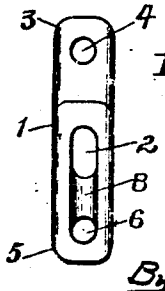


Fig. 3

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

PETER W. HUTCHENS, OF MODOC, INDIANA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO LEANDER ANDERSON, OF ECONOMY, INDIANA.

WIRE-COUPLING.

No. 861,728. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented July 30, 1907.

Application filed May 14, 1907. Serial No. 373,618.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, PETER W. HUTCHENS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Modoc, in the county of Randolph and State of Indiana, have invented a new and useful Wire-Coupler, of which the following is a full and accurate exposition and specification, which when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, forming a part thereof, will be found sufficiently clear and concise as to enable others skilled in the art to which the invention pertains to make and use the same with absolute exactitude.

My present invention relates to wire couplers or connectors, and more particularly to a device intended for coupling the overlapping ends of two wires, as, for instance, in building or repairing wire fencing.

The object of my invention, broadly stated, is to provide a highly efficient coupling for wire-fence or the like which will consist of a minimum of mechanical parts, will be easy of installation, and which can be manufactured and sold at a comparatively low price.

More specifically stated, my object is to provide a coupling for wires which may be employed for connecting the ends thereof securely and firmly; and further my object is to provide a wire connector which will be simple in construction, positive in action, neat and attractive in appearance, and in which the additional expense therefor will be practically *nil*.

Other objects and particular advantages will appear from the following specification and drawings, and the points which are new will be correlated in the claims hereunto appended.

The preferred manner of the construction of my invention and that which in practice has been found the most practical, is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of my invention complete and in operative position connecting the oppositely disposed terminals of two wires. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal central section of the parts shown in Fig. 1. And Fig. 3 is an end view of the same device shown in the other views, the wires in this instance being removed.

Similar indices denote like parts throughout the three views of the drawings.

In order that my invention may be the more fully understood and its many advantages be fully appreciated, I will now take up the description thereof in concrete detail and I will describe the various parts and its intended operation as briefly and as compactly as I may.

This invention consists of a single member composed of a body or shank 1, having a slotted aperture 2 extending centrally and longitudinally therethrough.

The numeral 3 denotes an arm integral with the body 1 and extending out from one end of the body at right angles thereto and located in alinement with the greater diameter of the slot 2, as shown in Fig. 3. The numeral 4 denotes a round aperture disposed through the outer portion of the arm 3 and parallel with the slot 2 as shown. The numeral 5 denotes a second arm also integral with the body and extending out at right angles therefrom, parallel with the first named arm, and located in alinement with the longer diameter of the slot 2, and the numeral 4 denotes a round aperture disposed through the outer portion of the arm 5 and parallel with the slot 2. The arms 3 and 5 are identical with each other but are oppositely disposed, that is they extend out in opposite directions, and they are also located on opposite ends of the body. The round apertures 4 and 6 are in alinement with each other and with the slot 2, being so located that a line intersecting centrally the apertures 4 and 6 would pass centrally through the wider diameter of the slot 2. Formed in the ends of the device are shallow channels 7 and 8, the former connecting the slot 2 and the aperture 4, and the latter connecting the slot 2 and the aperture 6, as shown in Fig. 3.

The letters A and B designate each a portion of separate lengths of wire. The apertures 4 and 6 are only slightly larger than the said wires A or B, and the slot 2 is of a size such as to receive both the wires A and B together.

The wires A and B to be coupled are first caused to overlap each other, each being straight in order to be inserted in the slot 2. In order to couple the said wires with my device the free ends of the wires are inserted first through the slot 2 from opposite directions, the protruding end of the wire B is then bent to form a hook and return portion is then inserted through the aperture 4; and in like manner the protruding end of the wire A is bent as the former and its return portion is inserted through the aperture 6, thereby forming a lock and completing the coupling of the two wires.

It is notably apparent that the shape of the device is substantially Z-shape, except that the central stem is at right-angles to the end portions. It should also be noticed that the pull of the wires A and B, when under tension, would be to the right and to the left and that the two wires would remain in alinement with each other regardless of the tension.

While I have illustrated and described the best means now known to me for carrying out the objects of my invention in a practical manner, I desire to have it understood that I do not restrict myself to the exact details of construction shown and described, but hold that such changes and variations therein as would

naturally suggest themselves to the ordinary mechanic would clearly fall within the limits and scope of invention.

Having now fully shown and described my invention and one manner of its application, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

A wire coupler consisting of an elongated body having a single slot oblong in cross-section formed longitudinally therethrough and adapted to receive the overlapping ends of two wires, and oppositely-directed arms integral with said body extending laterally from the opposite end portions thereof in parallelism with the greater diameter of said slot, each of said arms having a laterally-closed aperture formed transversely and entirely therethrough in the same plane with the slot, each aperture being designed to receive the reversed terminal of one of the wires and having a cross-section substantially half that of the slot.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

PETER W. HUTCHENS.

Witnesses:
ROBERT W. RANDLE,
R. E. RANDLE.