

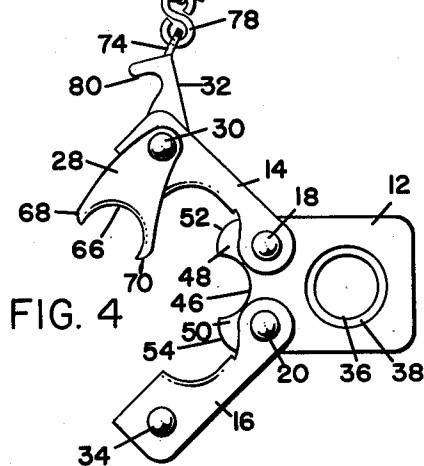
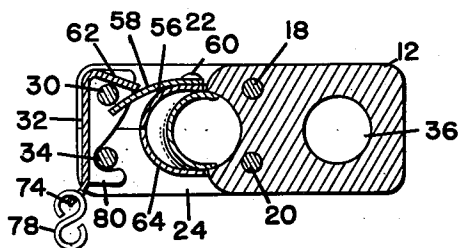
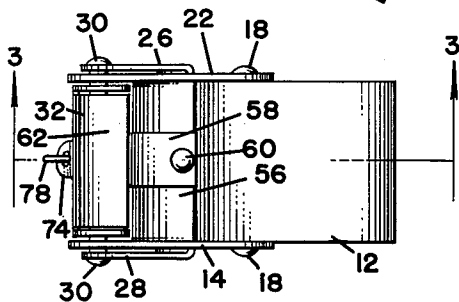
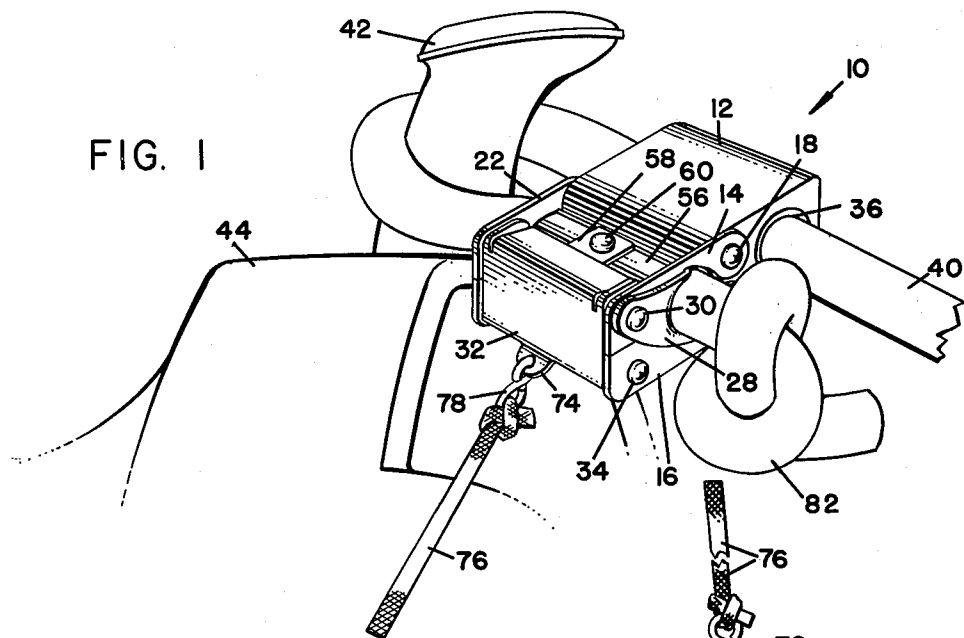
May 23, 1961

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2,985,138

QUICK HORN RELEASE FOR A LARIAT

Filed Nov. 21, 1958



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2,985,138

QUICK HORN RELEASE FOR A LARIAT

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Filed Nov. 21, 1958, Ser. No. 775,428

5 Claims. (Cl. 119—110)

This invention relates to lassoing or roping steers, horses, and other animals with a lariat or rope, and particularly where the lariat is anchored to a horn of a saddle, and in particular a honda in which an end of a lariat extended around a horn of a saddle is securely held, and wherein the end of the lariat is readily released by pulling on a cord or thong extended from a latch of the honda.

The purpose of this invention is to provide latching means in a honda for a lariat in which gripping elements are readily snapped over the end of a lariat and in which the gripping elements are readily actuated to releasing positions.

The free end of the lariat, in roping livestock, must be securely anchored and in conventional practice the roper secures the lariat end to the saddle horn.

If a roper gets in trouble while mounted the livestock at the other end of the lariat usually puts so much strain on the lariat that releasing the lariat from the saddle horn is virtually impossible.

It is, therefore, the primary object of this invention to provide a quick release mechanism which secures the free end of the lariat to the saddle horn but if trouble occurs, the roper can manually actuate the release quickly separating the lariat from the saddle horn whereby horse and rider can quickly get away from the lariat.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a quick horn release device for a lariat that will set the lariat free regardless of the weight or strain on the lariat.

I have found that this invention is particularly useful for rodeo roping. The Rodeo Cowboy's Association rules for steer roping states, "The lariat must be around both horns for a legal catch."

In rodeo roping a roper usually carries two lariats attached to his saddle horn. In case he misses with his first loop he can use his second loop.

However, in steer roping or team tying, if the first catch is not legal, the first rope must be jerked off the steer or the lariat must be off the saddle horn before the roper can use his second loop. If a steer is at the other end of the lariat, it is impossible for the roper to remove his lariat.

With this in mind my quick horn release device for a lariat is most applicable since the roper need only quickly actuate the release mechanism to free the illegal lariat.

Various types of latching devices have been provided for lariats and the like and although such devices are readily secured in holding positions, releasing the latching elements is sometimes difficult, and in the most common hondas it is necessary to approach dangerously close to an animal held in the lariat.

With this thought in mind this invention contemplates a lariat honda in which gripping jaws are retained in latching relation with an end of a lariat by a latch, and wherein the latch is actuated to release the jaws by pulling on a cord or thong extended therefrom.

The object of this invention is, therefore, to provide latching means in a lariat honda wherein the latching

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means may be actuated to release the end of the lariat from a remote point.

Another object of the invention is to provide a releasable honda for lariats in which latching elements of the honda are readily snapped into holding relation with an end of the lariat on which the honda is positioned.

A further object of the invention is to provide a latch for gripping jaws of a lariat honda in which the complete honda is compact and of a relatively small size.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a latching honda for a lariat in which the latch element is actuated to a releasing position by pulling a cord or thong in which the honda is of a simple and economical construction.

With these and other objects and advantages in view the invention embodies a substantially rectangular-shaped block providing a body with an opening therethrough through which the lariat passes and having gripping jaws with holding fingers at the ends and a latch with a rope attaching eye thereon positioned therebetween, pivotally mounted on the sides of the body.

Other features and advantages of the invention will appear from the following description taken in connection with the drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing the rope releasing lariat positioned over a horn of a saddle with the parts in locking positions.

Figure 2 is a plan view of the honda of the lariat.

Figure 3 is a longitudinal section through the honda taken on line 3—3 of Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a side elevational view of the honda with the jaws, latch, and one of the gripping fingers shown in released positions.

While one embodiment of the invention is illustrated in the above-referred-to drawings, it is to be understood that they are merely for the purpose of illustration and that various changes in construction may be resorted to in the course of manufacture in order that the invention may be utilized to the best advantage according to circumstances which may arise without in any manner departing from the spirit and intention of the device, which is to be limited only in accordance with the appended claims. And while there is stated the primary field of utility of the invention, it remains obvious that it may be employed in any other capacity wherein it may be found applicable.

In the accompanying drawings and in the following specification, the same reference characters are used to designate the same parts and elements throughout, and in which the numeral 10 refers to the invention in its entirety, numeral 12 indicating a rectangular-shaped block providing a body, numerals 14 and 16 jaws pivotally mounted on one side of the body by pins 18 and 20, numerals 22 and 24 jaws positioned on the opposite side of the body and also pivotally mounted thereon by the pins 18 and 20, numerals 26 and 28 holding fingers pivotally mounted by ends of a pin 30 on the upper jaws 14 and 22, and numeral 32 a latch pivotally mounted by the intermediate part of the pin 30 between the upper jaws and positioned to snap over a pin 34 extended through the lower jaws 16 and 24.

The body 12 is provided with a transversely disposed opening 36 having countersunk or beveled ends, as indicated by the numeral 38, and, as shown in Figure 1, the lariat 40 extends through the opening 36, around a horn 42 of a saddle 44 and back through a semi-circular recess 46 in the end of the body 12 opposite to the end in which the opening 36 is positioned. The recess 46 is positioned between projections 48 and 50, the outer surfaces of which are rounded, as indicated by the numerals 52 and 54.

The upper jaws 14 and 22 are connected with an ar-

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cuate web 56 on which a flat spring 58 is mounted by a rivet 60, and the spring is positioned to be engaged by a flange 62 at the upper end of the latch 32 for retaining the latch in locking and released positions. The lower jaws 16 and 24 are connected by a similar web 64, and the webs 56 and 64 are shown in section in Figure 3.

The fingers 26 and 28 are provided with arcuate recesses 66 with projections 68 and 70 at the sides and, as shown in Figure 3, the fingers are connected with an arcuate web 72 that is positioned to grip the lariat with the end of the lariat in the recess 46 of the body 12.

The latch 32 is provided with an eye 74 to which a cord 76 is connected by a clevis or S-hook 78, and with the lower jaw 80 of the latch snapped over the pin 34 extended through the lower jaws 16 and 24 the gripping elements are locked over the lariat, whereas a pull on the cord 76 draws the jaw 80 of the latch 32 from the pin 34 and the jaws 14 and 16 are released, permitting the lariat to pass from the horn 42 of the saddle.

With the parts designed and assembled as illustrated and described one end of a lariat is anchored by the honda over the horn 42 and the lariat is used in the conventional manner, however, should the rope accidentally become entangled around the horse or rider a quick pull on the rope 76 frees the lariat without causing injury to the horse or rider. The lariat is readily replaced by extending the end around the horn and through the recess 46 and then snapping the jaws, holding fingers, and latch into locking positions with a knot 82 on the end of the lariat projecting through the honda.

From the foregoing specification, it will become apparent that the invention disclosed will adequately accomplish the functions for which it has been designed and in an economical manner, and that its simplicity, accuracy, and ease of operation are such as to provide a relatively inexpensive device, considering what it will accomplish, and that it will find an important place in the art to which it appertains when once placed on the market.

It is thought that persons skilled in the art to which the invention relates will be able to obtain a clear understanding of the invention after considering the description in connection with the drawings. Therefore, a more lengthy description is regarded as unnecessary.

Changes in shape, size, and arrangement of details and parts such as come within the purview of the invention claimed may be resorted to in actual practice, if desired.

Having now described the invention that which is claimed to be new and desired to be procured by Letters Patent is:

1. A lariat honda comprising a body having a transverse opening through which the lariat extends, gripping jaws for retaining the lariat in the honda pivotally mounted on the body, a latch pivotally mounted in one jaw and positioned to snap over a pin in the other jaw for locking the jaws in gripping relation with the lariat, and a cord extended from the latch, the jaw locking latch being actuated by the cord to release the honda by a pull thereon.

2. A lariat honda comprising a body having an opening therethrough, a lariat extended through the opening of said body, the end of the lariat being extended back through the body providing a saddle horn receiving loop, gripping jaws on the body for retaining the end of the

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lariat in said body, a latch pivotally mounted in one jaw and positioned to snap over a pin of the other jaw for retaining the gripping jaws in holding relation with the end of the lariat, and a rope extended from the latch for actuating the latch to release the jaws and lariat.

3. A lariat honda comprising a rectangular-shaped body having an opening extended transversely therethrough and having a semi-circular recess, the axis of which is parallel to the axis of said opening, in one end, gripping jaws pivotally mounted on sides of the body and positioned to coact with said semi-circular recess to grip an end of a lariat, lariat gripping fingers pivotally mounted on some of the gripping jaws, a latch pivotally mounted between two of the jaws and positioned to snap over a pin extended between another two of the jaws, a spring for retaining the latch in holding and released positions, and a rope extended from the latch for actuating the latch to release the gripping jaws.

4. In a releasable lariat grip, the combination which comprises a rectangular-shaped body having an opening extended transversely therethrough and spaced inwardly from one end, said body having a semi-circular recess in the end opposite to the end through which the transversely disposed opening extends and the axis of the recess being parallel to the axis of the opening, gripping jaws pivotally mounted on sides of the body and positioned to coact with said semi-circular recess for gripping an end of a lariat, said jaws being connected by arcuate transversely disposed webs providing pairs, fingers having projections at the ends pivotally mounted on outer surfaces of the jaws of one pair and positioned to grip an end of a lariat positioned in said recess, a latch pivotally mounted between the jaws of the pair on which the fingers are positioned and having a gripping jaw positioned to snap over a pin extended between the other pair of jaws for securing the jaws in locking relation with the end of the lariat, and a rope extended from the latch for actuating the latch to release the jaws from a remote point.

5. In a lariat honda, the combination which comprises a body having an opening extended through one end, upper and lower pairs of gripping jaws pivotally mounted on the body and positioned to coact with a surface of the body for gripping an end of a lariat, lariat gripping elements pivotally mounted on the outer surfaces of the jaws of the upper pair, a latch pivotally mounted in the upper pair of jaws and positioned to snap over a pin extended between the lower pair of jaws for retaining the upper and lower jaws in lariat gripping positions, a spring mounted on the upper pair of jaws and positioned to be engaged by the latch for retaining the latch in locking and released positions, and a rope extended from the latch for actuating the latch to release the lariat gripping jaws.

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