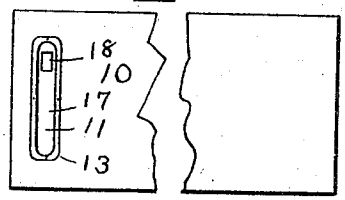
S. F. PRESTON.

EMERGENCY LEVER SLOT FILLING DEVICE.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 19, 1916.

1,193,487. Patented Aug. 1, 1916.

Fig. 1



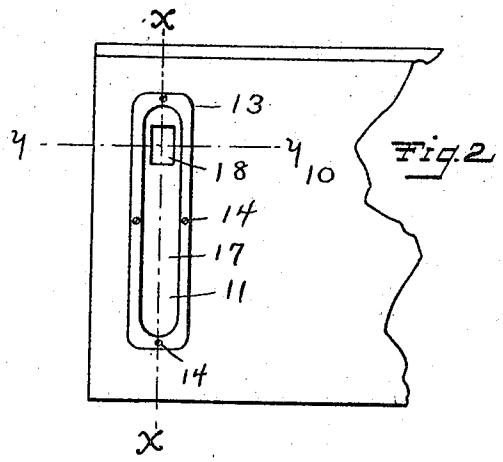


Fig. 2

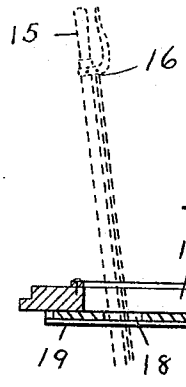


Fig. 3

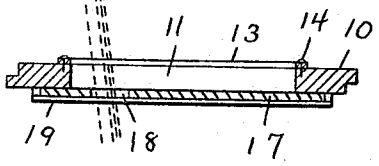


Fig. 4

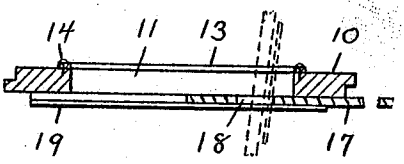


Fig. 5

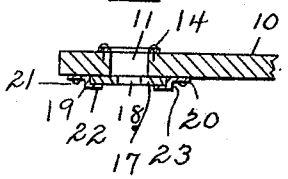


Fig. 6

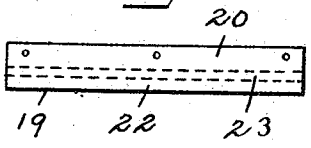
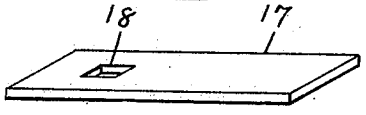


Fig. 7



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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EMERGENCY-LEVER-SLOT-FILLING DEVICE.

1,193,487. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Aug. 1, 1916.

Application filed January 19, 1916. Serial No. 72,929.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SOLON FRANK PRESTON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Middletown, in the county of Middlesex and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Emergency-Lever-Slot-Filling Devices, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in emergency-lever slot filling devices and the object of my improvement is to produce a device that is adapted to fill the slot in the foot-board of automobiles in which the emergency-lever travels so as to avoid the annoyance and disagreeable features due to the said slot when left open, and which will permit the free operation of the said lever, essentially unimpeded, which device is adapted for use on a car such as the Ford, which has such a slot for the emergency-lever in the foot-board, adjacent the foot of the operator.

In the accompanying drawing: Figure 1 is a plan view of a foot-board such as used on a Ford automobile provided with my improved emergency-lever slot filling device. Fig. 2 is a similar view, on an enlarged scale, of the left end of the same, which has the emergency-lever slot. Fig. 3 is a sectional view on the line x x of Fig. 2, the emergency-lever and connected parts being shown in broken lines. Fig. 4 is a similar view of a portion of the same, with the parts shown in a different position. Fig. 5 is a sectional view on the line y y of Fig. 2. Fig. 6 is a plan view of the blank for one of the guide-way members. Fig. 7 is a perspective view of sliding slot filling-device.

The foot-board 10 shown in the drawing constitutes part of the flooring of the automobile, being secured in position in any proper manner, and has at the left side a transverse slot 11 in which the emergency-lever 15 operates. That is to say, the slot 11 extends across the board 10, and as the board 10 is positioned across the body of the car, the slot 11 is directed longitudinally relatively to the car. The slot 11 is of appreciable length, and on the upper side may be inclosed by a border and finishing plate 13, secured to the board 10 by screws 14.

The emergency-lever 15 is fulcrumed at the lower end in some proper manner below the foot-board 10, extends through the slot 11, and is provided with a handle at the upper end. Locking devices 16 serve to permit free rearward movement of the lever 15, when pulled by the handle, and prevent forward movement thereof. The said lever 12 is normally in the forward position, when the car mechanism is in position for use, and when pulled rearwardly as an emergency operation for quickly stopping the car serves to disengage the clutch and at the same time to set the emergency brakes on the rear wheels.

My invention comprises a filling device 17 that incloses the emergency-lever 15, adapted to slide back and forth on the under side of the foot-board 10 as the said lever is moved to and fro, and which generally fills the portions of the slot 11 not occupied by the said lever 15. The filling device 17 is a rectangular piece of suitable material of appreciable thickness, being of somewhat greater length and width than the slot 11, suitably to overlap the border walls thereof, and the same has, preferably at the forward end as shown, a hole 18 that is a snug fit for the emergency-lever 15, and in which the said lever is housed. As mentioned, the filling device 17 is positioned on the under side of the foot-board 10, and the same is supported operatively in position by means of a pair of guide-ways 19. The said guide-ways 19 comprise each a piece of sheet metal, preferably galvanized iron, bent into suitable form by two right angle bends to provide a base portion 20, for being secured to the foot-board 10 by means of screws 21, and a flange 22, inwardly directed relatively to the base portion 20, and connected to the said base portion 20 by means of vertical connecting walls 23. The guide-ways 19 extend along the slot 11, one on each side thereof, with the two flanges 22 opposed, and support the filling piece 17 generally, the flanges 22 being spaced apart sufficiently to permit the lever 15 to pass therebetween.

The guide-ways 19 as described are made of sheet metal, and these are made of sufficient strength to readily support the filling piece 17, and for which a light weight material will answer, and which however is weak enough to yield to appreciable force, such as might be applied thereto in case an attempt were made to operate the emergency lever and the free operation of my filling device were obstructed. In such case the emergency devices would of course be operated and the guide-ways would be damaged, a condition that is preferable to hav-

ing the guide-ways so strong that in case the movement of the filling piece were obstructed the operation of the emergency-lever would be blocked.

Various kinds of material may be used for the filling device 17, although I prefer to use a fibrous material, rather than metal, as the latter will produce a rattle and be objectionable on account of the noise. Suitable materials are leather, webbing, fiber, fabric filled with rubber or composition, and rubber compounds.

The board 10, equipped with my filling device, is placed in position in the car in the usual manner, being slipped over the emergency-lever 12, the said lever being entered in the hole 18 in the filling device 17.

The use of my filling device or blind as the same may be designated prevents the objectionable throwing up through the slot 11 of sand and dirt, and occasionally slush, and in the winter time shuts off cold air, a condition which without my invention is such as to make riding at certain times a matter of discomfort instead of comfort, as one foot of the operator is generally near or partly over some part of the slot 11 which my filling device or blind covers.

The locking devices comprise usually a connecting rod 16 at the front of the emergency lever 15 and a pivoted handle at the upper end, adjacent the handle on the emergency lever 15, and the construction of the connecting mechanism at the junction of the parts mentioned usually involves features that constitute enlargements or overhanging parts that overhang the body portion of the emergency lever both in the longitudinal direction of slot 11 and also at the sides of the lever 15. Therefore, as the border 13 for the slot 11 is of metal, the slot 11 in the same is appreciably wider than the thickness of the lever 15, so that the slot 11 is a poor fit for the lever, and there is what appears to be extra free space at the sides because the slot must be wide enough to permit the foot board to be placed in position by entering the upper end of the lever in the slot and then lowering the board to its proper position, the slot traveling along the lever. It is important that this lateral free space at the sides of the lever be filled as well as the longitudinal open space. I am enabled to fill the said lateral free space by the use of fibrous material for the filling piece 17 as described, because the hole 18 is cut therein to fit snugly against the sides of the body portion of the emergency lever 15 and there is sufficient resiliency and flexibility of the material to permit the same to be brought into operative position by using appreciable force, involving some momentary yielding or stretching of the material. Accordingly, the use of such fibrous material permits of a snug fit for the lever, and also insures noiseless operation.

I claim as my invention:—

1. In combination with a foot-board for an automobile having a slot for an emergency lever, a filling piece serving as a blind to cover the said slot, having a hole in which the said lever is housed, and positioned on the under side of the said board, guide-ways for guiding the said piece in parallelism with the said slot and the said guide-ways being formed of a pair of pieces of sheet material, each bent into L-shape to form a base portion, a connecting portion and a flange portion, the two flange portions being opposed and supporting the said filling piece, whereby the said guide-ways are adapted to yield under abnormal conditions of pressure.

2. A foot-board for an automobile having a slot for an emergency lever and locking devices connected to the said lever, a filling piece having a hole for receiving the said lever and locking devices, and slidably mounted on the under side of the said board, guide-ways for guiding the said filling piece in parallelism with the said slot, and the said filling piece comprising a single piece of yielding fibrous material, rectangular in form, and of appreciable thickness, suitable to serve as a bridge to cover the said slot, whereby noiseless operation is insured and a close fit is obtainable between the side walls of the said hole and the sides of the said lever.

SOLON FRANK PRESTON.

Witnesses:
B. E. Spencer,
Louis M. Schmidt.