

EZRA HODGKINS.

Improvement in Cheese Hoops.

No. 122,464.

Patented Jan. 2, 1872.

Fig. 1.

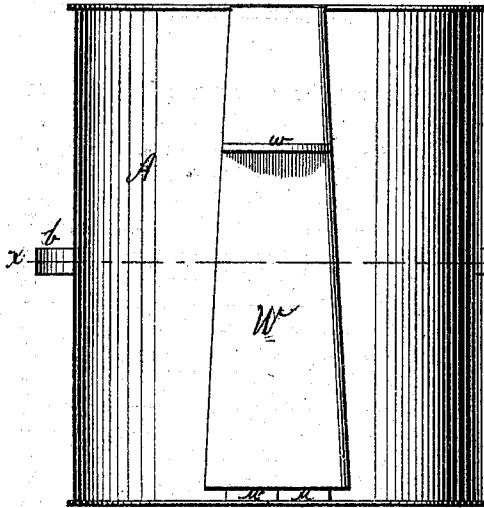


Fig. 2.

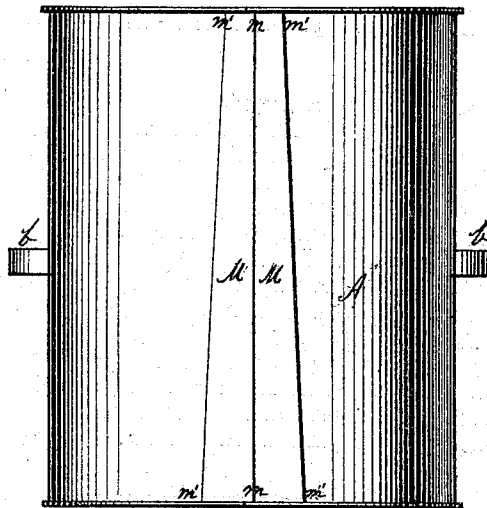


Fig. 3.

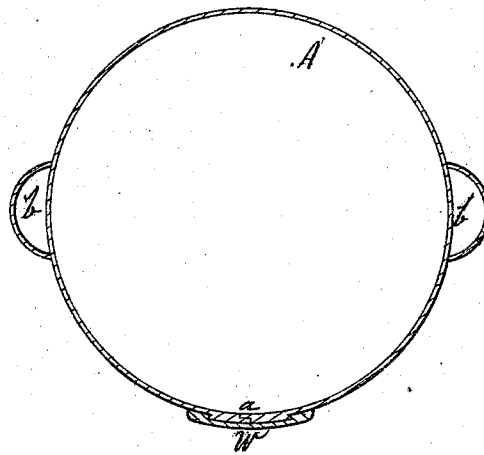
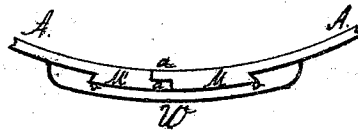


Fig. 4.



Witnesses.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EZRA HODGKINS, OF CARTHAGE, NEW YORK.

IMPROVEMENT IN CHEESE-HOOPS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 122,464, dated January 2, 1872; antedated January 1, 1872.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EZRA HODGKINS, of Carthage, in the county of Jefferson and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Cheese-Hoops; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation showing the locking-plate in place. Fig. 2 is a side view, the locking-plate having been removed. Fig. 3 is a horizontal section in line *x x* of Fig. 1; and Fig. 4 is a similar section on an enlarged scale, showing only the parts at and adjacent to the lock.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

The object of this invention is to provide for public use a substantial and durable cheese-hoop of simple construction, the edges of which can be readily and easily brought to a tight joint and firmly locked together, not merely at one point, but at every point along the seam from the top to the bottom of the hoop. To this end my invention consists in the construction which I will now proceed to describe.

In the drawing, A represents the body of the hoop provided with handles *b b*, said hoop being preferably composed of a single piece bent into an annular form, as shown in Fig. 3, with the edges which are to come in contact tongued and grooved, or provided with lapping flanges *a a*, as shown in Fig. 4, so that when brought together they will form a firm and tight joint, and each will assist in holding the other in place. Near the edges thus to be joined two strips or plates of metal, *M M'*, are soldered, riveted, or otherwise fastened in any suitable manner, so that while their inner edges *m m* are parallel, their outer edges *m' m'* recede from each other from top to bottom, as shown in Fig. 2. The projecting flanges *a a* may be formed by fastening one of the strips or plates *M* upon the hoop at a little distance from the edge, so that on this side the hoop itself projecting from under the plate operates as one flange, while on the other side the plate *M'* is attached to the hoop so as to project over the edge thereof, and thus operate as the other flange. Instead of plates fastened to the hoop, the hoops may be constructed with ribs,

grooves, or flanges, forming a portion of their own substance, and arranged in the inclined position shown by the lines *m' m'*, Fig. 2. The plates, ribs, or other equivalent devices employed in their place are constructed with dovetail shoulders or recesses at their outer edge, so that when the edges of the hoop are brought together, the two parts *M M'* fitting tightly together at their inner edge, constitute a tapering dovetail key extending up and down the side of the hoop, as clearly seen in Fig. 2. In connection with the key thus formed I employ a locking-plate, *W*, which fits close against the side of the hoop and is provided with a tapering dovetail groove, *v*, on its inner face, exactly corresponding to the dovetail key *M M'*. By interlocking the groove and key and then sliding the plate *W* downward, the edges of the hoop are brought together with great force and a perfectly secure and tight joint is made, which cannot be opened nor started until the plate *W* is removed again. The latter is provided with a handle, *w*, by which it can be conveniently pressed down or drawn up out of place. When the locking-plate *W* is removed the hoop opens to any force acting outwardly.

The advantage of this construction over all other methods heretofore employed for locking cheese-hoops is manifold. In the first place, the construction is simple, inexpensive, and never liable to get out of order or need any repairs whatever. In the second place, all parts can be easily washed and kept perfectly clean and sweet without difficulty. In the third place, the pressure that holds the edges of the hoop close against each other is not applied at one or two points, but uniformly along the whole joint, so that no part of the hoops can ever be sprung out of place or warped in any manner whatever; and in the fourth place, the locking-plate can be applied or removed in an instant, without loss of time or labor.

In connection with my improved metallic cheese-hoop, which is, of course, not capable of expansion or contraction by different degrees of moisture, I use a wooden follower, which, by means of boiling in oil or filling the pores with any other water-proof substances, I render it impervious to moisture and therefore not expansible by its action.

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

1. A cheese-hoop having its edges adapted to be locked together by means of a tapering dovetail key formed upon the hoop, in combination with a locking-plate provided with a tapering dovetail groove, substantially in the manner and for the purposes herein set forth.

2. A cheese-hoop having lapping edges *a a* and a tapering key, *M M'*, in combination with the locking-plate *W*, constructed as described.
EZRA HODGKINS.

Witnesses:

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