Dec. 6, 1966 A. HERRERA 3,289,389

SADDLE CINCHA BILLET HOLDER

Filed March 17, 1965

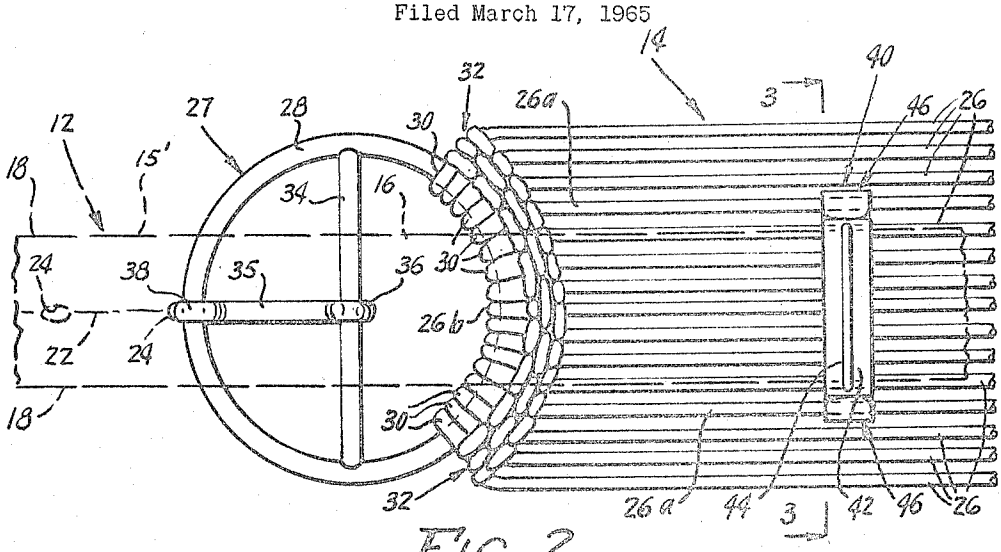


FIG. 2

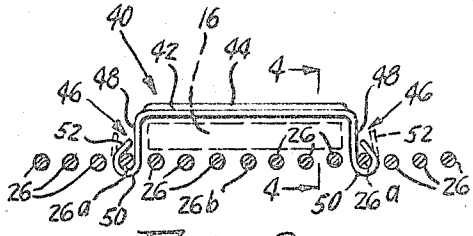


FIG. 3

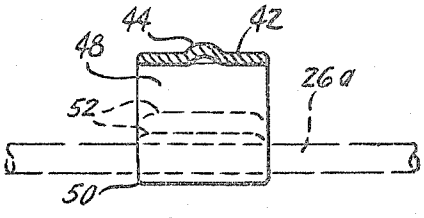


FIG. 4

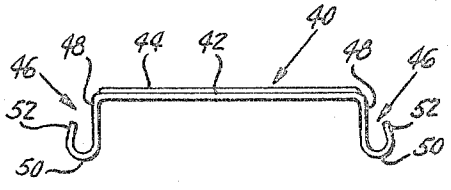


FIG. 5

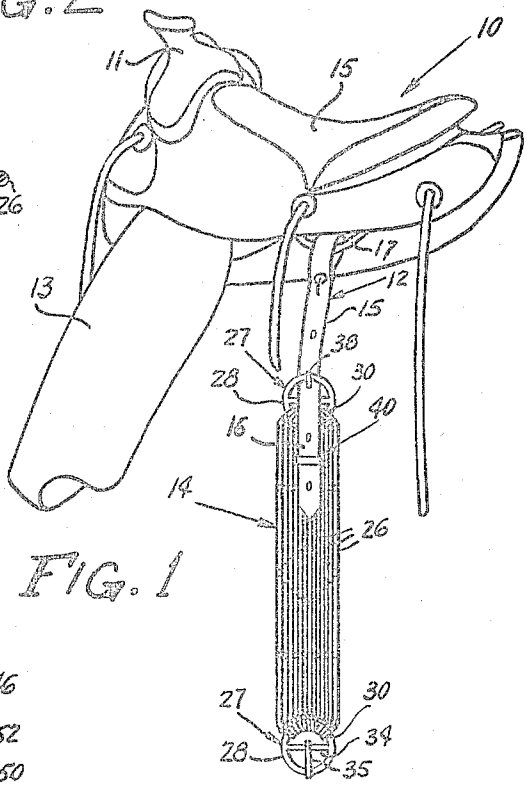


FIG. 1

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SADDLE CINCHA BILLET HOLDER

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4 Claims. (Cl. 54—23)

This invention relates to saddles for horses and the like, and more particularly to a means for facilitating the securement of the saddle billet to the saddle cincha.

Since time immemorial it has been customary to position upon the back of the larger members of the equine family, including but not limited to the mule, the donkey, the burro, the jackass, the horse, and the hinny, a saddle for humans to ride upon or a pack saddle on which to carry cargo.

A saddle or pack saddle is conventionally secured on the animal by a strap which is of sufficient length to surround the animal's girth. Such saddles customarily have a metallic ring on each side thereof to provide a convenient means for the attachment of a saddle billet. The strap which surrounds the animal's girth customarily comprises a leather saddle billet which is a strip of leather usually between one and three feet in length and which has one end permanently secured to the metallic ring provided on each side of the saddle. The saddle billet has on the free end thereof a series of longitudinally spaced apart holes in much the same manner as does a man's belt. A saddle cincha is conventionally used to span the distance between the free ends of the saddle billets, and comprises a series of substantially parallel cords on each end of which is secured a buckle much like a man's belt buckle. It has been found that when the saddle billet is buckled to the saddle cincha the free end of the billet hangs substantially vertically and is abraded by and becomes entangled in brush passing along the horse's side.

It is accordingly an object of the instant invention to provide a means for conveniently securing the free end of the saddle billet.

It is another object of the instant invention to provide a means secured to the saddle cincha which may be used to restrain the movement of the free end of the saddle billet.

It is another object of the instant invention to provide a means for facilitating the securement of the saddle billet to the saddle cincha.

It is a more specific object of the instant invention to provide a transverse strap on a saddle cincha for the convenient insertion of a saddle billet.

It is another object of the instant invention to provide a means of the type described which is sturdy and durable in construction, reliable and efficient in use, and relatively simple and inexpensive to manufacture, utilize, and maintain.

Still other objects reside in the combinations of elements, arrangements of parts, features of construction, and characteristics of use, all as will be more fully pointed out hereinafter and disclosed in the accompanying drawing wherein there is shown a preferred embodiment of the instant invention.

In the drawings:

FIGURE 1 is a view showing a western type saddle equipped with a saddle cincha having thereon a billet holder in accordance with the principles of the instant invention;

FIGURE 2 is an enlarged view showing the connection of a saddle billet and a saddle cincha, the saddle cincha being equipped with a billet holder in accordance with the principles of the instant invention, a saddle billet being shown in dotted lines for clarity of illustrations;

FIGURE 3 is a transverse sectional view taken substantially along line 3—3 FIGURE 2 and viewing in the direction of the arrows;

FIGURE 4 is a longitudinal sectional view of the saddle cincha taken along line 4—4 of FIGURE 3 and viewing in the direction of the arrows; and

FIGURE 5 is a view of a billet holder made in accordance with the instant invention.

Referring now to the accompanying drawing, wherein like reference characters represent like elements throughout the several views thereof, and more particularly to FIGURE 1, there is indicated generally at **10** a saddle which may be of any desired type, but which is shown as a western type saddle, having a saddle horn **11**, stirrrups **13**, and the conventional seat **15**. A saddle billet shown generally at **12** is secured by any conventional means, such as by sewing, riveting, or the use of leather thongs, to a metallic holder **17** permanently secured on each side of saddle **10**.

Saddle billet **12** comprises a leather strap **15** normally between **12** and **36** inches in length having a free end **16** provided with a pair of substantially parallel side edges **18** and a longitudinal axis shown generally at **22**. A series of spaced apart apertures **24** lie along longitudinal axis **22** and provide a means for the reception of a belt tongue as hereinafter described.

Saddle cincha **14** comprises a series of substantially parallel strands **26** which are usually made of hemp or the like and which usually number between **13** and **27**, although this number may be varied at will. Positioned at each end of saddle cincha **14** is a metallic belt buckle indicated generally at **27** comprising a metallic belt ring **28** which may be of any desired cross sectional configuration, but which is usually of circular cross section. Each strand **26** of cincha **14** is secured about one portion of belt ring **28** by a loop **30** and any convenient weaver's knot shown generally at **32**. Belt ring **28** is conventionally provided with a transverse cylindrical rod **34** secured thereon perpendicular to the axis of strands **26**. Loosely journaled about transverse cylindrical rod **34**, as by an eye **36**, is a belt tongue **35** which is oriented in the direction of the axes of parallel strands **26**. A free end **38** of buckle tongue **34** is conventionally curved about the periphery of circular cross sectional ring **28** and extends past the edge thereof for receiving the billet **12** in much the same manner as a man's belt buckle receives the free end of the belt.

In preparing to saddle a horse or the like, one end of the saddle cincha **14** is buckled to one billet provided on saddle **10**. The saddle is then placed on the back of the animal midway between its front and rear legs, the free end of the saddle cincha is then grasped and buckled to the saddle billet on the near side of the horse. By tightening the saddle billet **12** in buckle **27**, the saddle may be firmly secured to the back of the animal.

Shown generally at **40** is a billet holder made in accordance with the principles of the instant invention and which comprises a substantially horizontal top **42** which is shown equipped with a longitudinal strengthening rib **44**, but which is not absolutely necessary to the operation of the instant device. Top **42** may be of any desired configuration but is preferably rectangular and being about two inches in length and about ⅜ inch in width. Downwardly secured to top **42** on each end thereof is a retainer means shown generally at **46** which comprises a vertical arm **48** and a U-shaped strand receiver **50** having one leg secured to arm **48** and having a free leg **52**. Retainer **46** preferably extends about 7/16 inch below top **42** and is about ⅜ inch wide. U-shaped retainer **50** is about 5/16 inch from side to side as shown in FIGURE 4 and is about ¼ inch from top to bottom.

Billet holder **40** is fastened to saddle cincha **14** about ten inches from the nearest portion of buckle **27** by placing selected strands **26***a* in U-shaped receiver **50** and bending free leg **52** about selected strand **26***a* as by pliers or the like as shown in FIGURE 2.

Selected strand **26***a* is chosen by determining the central strand **26***b* of saddle cincha **14** and counting outwardly in both transverse directions four strands, with the fourth strand **26***a* being placed in U-shaped receiver **50**. When saddle billet **12** is secured in buckle **27** the free end **16** of billet **12** is slipped underneath the top **42** of billet holder **40** in much the same manner as the end of a man's belt is placed under an adjacent belt loop. Thus billet holder **40** provides a convenient means for restraining the movement of free end **16** of saddle billet **12**.

Since U-shaped receiver **50** of billet holder **40** must be malleable to the extent that it can bend around selected strands **26***a* of saddle cincha **14**, the billet holder **40** is conveniently made of a nickel plated brass material, although it may be made of any convenient metal such as brass, aluminum, cast iron or the like. One advantage of using brass, aluminum, or a nickel plated brass material is that billet holder **40** will not rust or corrode, thus preserving the appearance of saddle cincha **14**. Buckle **27** on each end of saddle cincha **14** may be made of any convenient material but is usually made of a chrome plated alloy for the sake of appearance.

From the foregoing it may be seen that there is herein provided a billet holder which is a means for restraining movement of the free end of an associated saddle billet, which accomplishes all of the objects of this invention and others, including many advantages of great practical utility and commercial importance.

As many modifications may be made within this inventive concept, as by securing several adjacent strands to the billet holder, and as many modifications may be made in the embodiment hereinbefore shown and described, it is to be understood that all matter herein is to be interpreted merely as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

I claim:

1. In combination, a saddle having a saddle billet secured on each side thereof, said billet having a free end with a series of longitudinally spaced apart apertures therein, a saddle cincha having a buckle at each end thereof, at least one buckle being secured to said billet, said saddle cincha comprising a plurality of substantially parallel strands, and a billet holder including a substantially flat horizontal top extending transversely across said saddle cincha and U-shaped retainer means at each end of said top receiving selected strands for securing said billet holder on said saddle cincha for restraining the movement of said free end of said billet secured in said buckle.

2. The combination of claim **1** wherein said billet holder is made of a malleable non-corrosive metal.

3. In combination a saddle cincha comprising a plurality of substantially parallel strands having a buckle secured at each end of said strands, and a billet holder secured to selected strands, said billet holder comprising a substantially flat horizontal top, a U-shaped retainer means having a free leg secured to each end of said top, said selected strands placed in said U-shaped retainer means with said free leg bent around said selected strands.

4. A billet holder comprising a substantially flat horizontal rectangular top having a length and a width, a retainer means secured to the ends of a length of said top, said retainer means comprising a depending substantially vertical arm, on the end of which is secured an outwardly extending U-shaped deformable receiver.

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