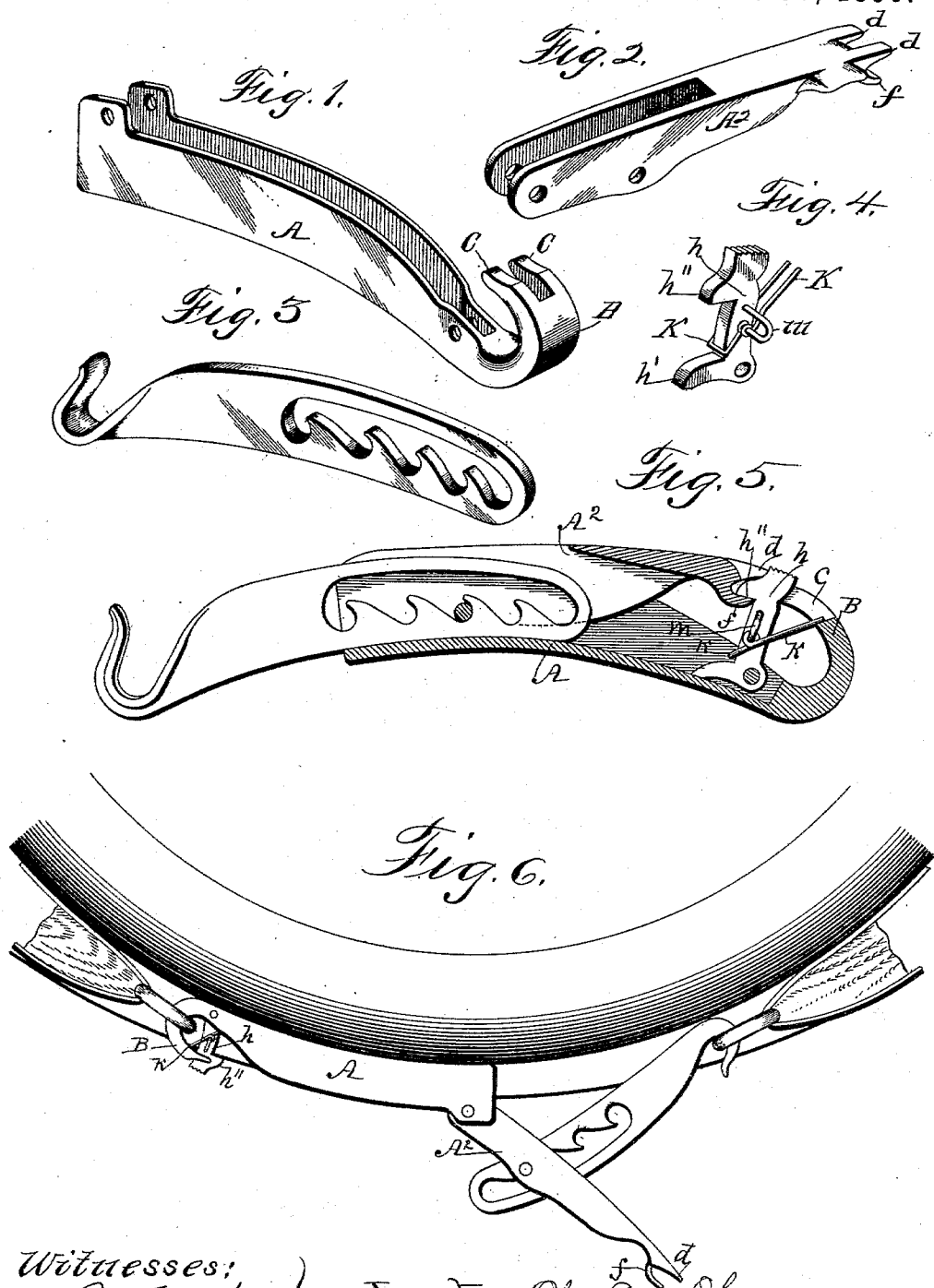


(No Model.)

O. C. OLSEN.
HAME FASTENER.

No. 562,848.

Patented June 30, 1896.



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

OLE C. OLSEN, OF JACKSON JUNCTION, IOWA.

HAME-FASTENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 562,848, dated June 30, 1896.

Application filed September 30, 1895. Serial No. 564,068. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, OLE C. OLSEN, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Jackson Junction, in the county of Winne-

shiek and State of Iowa, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Hame-Fasteners, of which the following is a specification.

My object is to prevent the accidental unlocking incident to the use of hame-fasteners of that class represented by the Patent No. 377,671, issued February 7, 1888.

Heretofore gravity-dogs and spring-actuated hooks have been combined with the end of a metal strap to engage the end of an adjustable mating strap for the purpose of locking them together in a closed position as required to retain the ends of the hames connected on a collar; but in all instances provision has been made to unlock the mating parts by pressure upon some portion of the device projecting outward relative to the metal straps, and it frequently occurs that such projection comes in contact with some extraneous object and by motion of such object or the motion of a horse relative to a fixed post or other object will actuate the fastening device and unlock the fastener, and thereby loosen the hames on a collar.

My object is to prevent such accidental unfastening of the hames; and my invention consists in the locking device hereinafter set forth, that will securely retain the hames fastened together, so that they can be readily unfastened by finger-pressure, but not accidentally by the action of the horse or the motion of an extraneous object that may come in contact with my hame-fastener when in practical use on a horse.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the main metal strap with which all the other parts are to be adjustably connected. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the mating strap adapted to be adjustably connected with the main strap and automatically locked thereto when pressed into a closed position. Fig. 3 is a view of a slotted lever adapted to be adjustably connected with the metal straps. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a latch and spring adapted to be inclosed and pivotally connected with the hook on the end of the main metal strap. Fig. 5 shows the ends of the two mat-

ing metal straps in closed and locked position and parts broken away to disclose the latch and spring and the overlaying of parts of the mating straps. Fig. 6 is a view showing the complete device in position as required to retain hames fastened together on a collar.

The letter A designates the main metal strap, and A² the mating strap, adapted to be pivoted to one end of the strap A and detachably locked to the other end thereof.

A³ is a slotted lever adjustably connected with the strap A, as clearly shown in Fig. 5.

B is a hook on the end of the strap A, adapted to admit the loop on the end of a hame. The free end of the hook is bifurcated and the top surfaces of the extremities C are depressed and adapted to be overlaid by corresponding projections *d* on the free end of the mating strap A² in such a manner as to produce an even surface of the detachably-connected ends of the parts A and A², and, as required, to prevent any extraneous object from catching on the said end portion of the hook B or the overlying end portions of the part A².

f is a tongue projecting downward from the end portion of the part A² in such a manner that it will engage the shoulder of a latch *h*, pivoted in the end portion of the strap A, as clearly shown in Fig. 5.

The top or free end of the latch *h* projects between the parallel portions of the bifurcated end of the hook B, and a projection *h'* on the lower end of the latch engages the inner face of the strap A, as shown in Fig. 5, and as required to restrict the forward motion of the latch relative to the part A² and its tongue *f*, that is engaged by the shoulder *h''* of the latch. The top end of the latch that projects between the overlying parts *c c* and *d d* is serrated, so a person can, by pressing thereon with the thumb, readily release the latch from the tongue *f* as required to unlock the two mating straps and to free the hames from the collar.

k is a spring made of a single piece of wire doubled at its center and each of the parallel parts provided with one or more coils *k'* in such a manner that the spring can be readily fastened to the latch *h* by means of a pin *m*, extended through a hole in the latch, and that has a loop *n* at one end projecting out-

ward from the side of the latch, as shown in Fig. 4. The parallel ends of the spring engage the bifurcated end of the hook B in such a manner that the spring normally presses the latch forward as required to engage the tongue *f* of the part A².

The loop *n* is protected by a lateral projection *n'* integral with the end portion of the part A², so that extraneous objects will not come in contact therewith, but it can readily be engaged by a person's thumb and the latch thereby pressed backward to disengage it from the tongue *f* as required to unlock the fastening when hames are connected and fixed on a collar by means of my hame-fastener.

It is obvious that when two hames are drawn together by means of my device the part A² will be readily locked fast to the bifurcated end of the hook B by simply pressing the overlying end portions together, so that the tongue *f* will slide down over the inclined face of the latch *h* and slip under the shoulder *h''*. The spring *k* allows the latch to be pressed backward sufficiently for the purpose, and after the tongue is below the plane of the shoulder *h''* the latch and spring will resume their normal positions.

I claim as my invention—

1. In a hame-fastener of the class described, a metal strap having a lever provided with a hook at one end and adjustably connected as shown, a bifurcated hook at one end and a mating metal strap having projections at its ends adapted to overlie the parallel end portions of the bifurcated hook and a tongue in a plane below the said projections adapted to

engage a latch, and a latch pivoted to the hook to project between the parallel end portions of said hook and also between said projections on the end of the strap, and provided with a projection to engage said tongue, arranged and combined in the manner set forth for the purposes stated.

2. In a hame-fastener a metal strap A having a hook, B, bifurcated at its end portions, a mating metal strap A² pivoted to the strap A and having projections *d*, *d'*, at its free end to overlie the bifurcated end portions of said hook and a tongue *f* in a plane below said projections a spring-actuated latch *h*, having a projection *h'* at its lower end to engage the inside of said strap A and a shoulder *h''* at its top portion to engage the said tongue *f* and a slotted lever A³ adjustably connected with the strap A, all arranged and combined to operate in the manner set forth for the purposes stated.

3. In a hame-fastener the latch *h* having a projection *h'* and a shoulder *h''*, a pin fixed in the central portion of the latch and a loop *m* extending from one end of the pin, and a wire spring *k* having coils to engage the pin and parallel ends to engage the bifurcated end of the hook B of a metal strap A, having the slotted lever A³ adjustably connected therewith in combination with said strap and hook substantially as and for the purposes stated.

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Witnesses:

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