No. 712,282. Patented Oct. 28, 1902.

C. P. FAY & W. FERGUSON.

SAFETY CATCH FOR FIREARMS.

(Application filed July 22, 1901.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

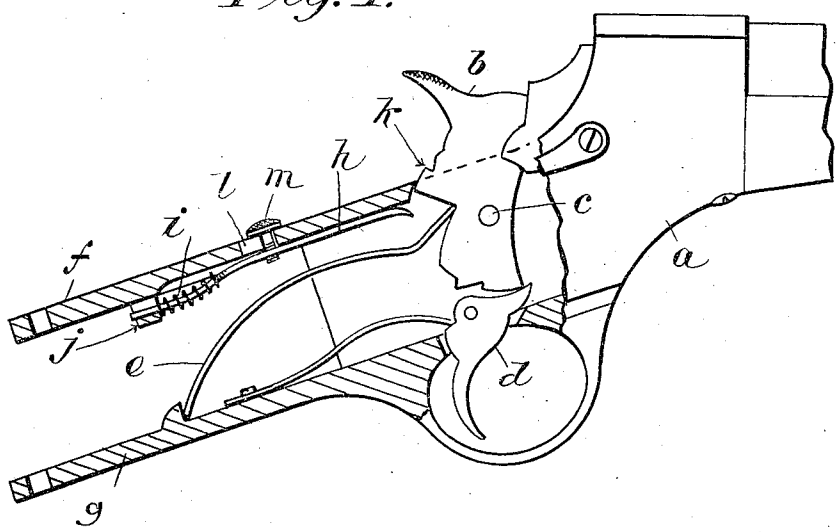
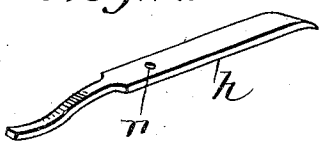


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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SAFETY-CATCH FOR FIREARMS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 712,282, dated October 28, 1902.

Application filed July 22, 1901. Serial No. 69,217. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, CHARLES P. FAY and WILLIAM FERGUSON, citizens of the United States of America, residing at Chicopee Falls, in the county of Hampden and State of Massachusetts, have invented new and useful Improvements in Safety-Catches for Firearms, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to firearms, and has for its object the provision of a safety-catch for preventing the release of the hammer after the latter has been brought to a full-cock until said catch has been operated by the thumb and held inactive until after the trigger has been pressed to release the hammer; and with this object in view the invention consists in the provision of a sliding member located under the upper tang of the frame of the arm and adapted to normally engage in a notch in the rear side of the hammer when the latter is brought to full-cock, all as hereinafter described, and clearly defined in the claim.

In the drawings forming part of this application, Figure 1 is a side elevation, partly in section, of an arm having our invention applied thereto; and Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the sliding member constituting the safety-catch.

Referring to the drawings, *a* indicates the frame, in which the hammer *b* is pivotally supported, as at *c*.

d is the trigger, the arm being provided with the usual mainspring *e* for actuating the hammer. The frame of the arm is provided with the usual upper and lower tangs *f* and *g*.

Located under the tang *f* there is a sliding member *h*, one end of which is narrowed down relative to the body thereof, as shown in Fig. 2, whereby it is adapted to receive a coiled spring *i*, fitting on said narrowed-down end of the member *h*, between the shoulder on the latter and a boss *j* on the tang, through a hole in which the end of said narrowed-down part passes freely. The said narrowed-down end of the member *h* is downwardly curved relative to the rest of the piece to permit the free action of the spring *i*, while the member is itself held closely in contact with the under side of that part of the frame on which it is supported. The forward end of said member *h* is downwardly curved and normally is held by the spring *i* in a position to intercept the path of the rearmost portion of the hammer when the latter is brought to cocking position. In this portion of the hammer there is provided a notch *k* of such form that the said curved end of the member *h* may engage therewith and prevent the operation of the hammer by the mainspring *e* when the trigger is pulled. A slot *l* is located in the tang *f* directly over the member *h*, through which a screw end passes, and has a threaded engagement with a hole *n* in said member, which is shown clearly in Fig. 2 of the drawings. Preferably the head of the screw *m* is narrowed to prevent the thumb from slipping when it is desired to operate the safety-catch. By turning up the screw *m* more or less resistance to movement may be imparted to the member *h*, and by turning it up very tightly said member may be held in a retracted position permanently.

By means of the catch above described it will be seen that after the arm is cocked it is held in that position not only by the engagement thereof with the trigger, but also because of the engagement of the end of the catch with the notch *k* in the hammer, thus rendering necessary the withdrawal of the member *h* from engagement with the hammer by the thumb before pressure on the trigger will release the hammer to fire the arm.

The location of the screw *m* is sufficiently far back of the curved-down end of the member *h* to permit the latter to spring freely downward as the hammer strikes the end thereof in cocking operation.

The herein-described construction provides a simple and effective safety-catch for firearms which may be used or not, as desired, and which when used is of such construction as to require certain mental concentration on the part of the user owing to the double operation required in order to fire the arm—that is, the operation of the safety-catch by the thumb and the operation of the trigger by the finger.

Having thus described our invention, what

we claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

In a firearm of the class described, a hammer, a trigger, a safety-catch, a spring on the latter normally holding said catch in position to engage the hammer when the latter is brought to cocking position, a screw slidable in a slot in the frame of the arm and having a threaded engagement with said catch, whereby said catch may be operated, and so whereby it may be drawn against the frame more or less, substantially as described.

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