

T. Skelton,

Hame Fastener,

Nº 85,250.

Patented Dec. 22, 1868.

Fig: 1

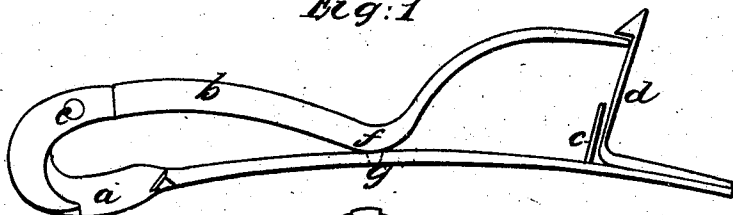


Fig. 3.

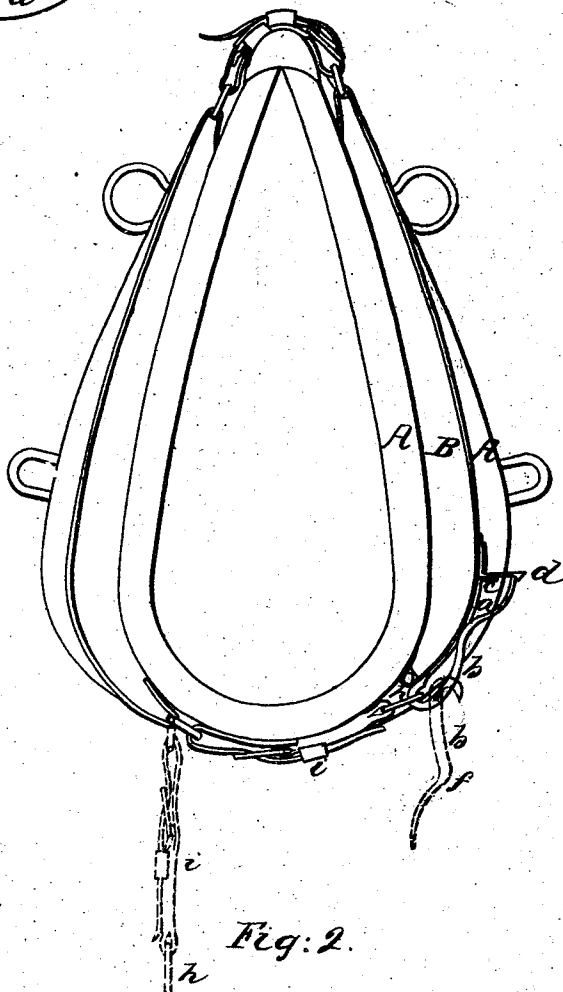
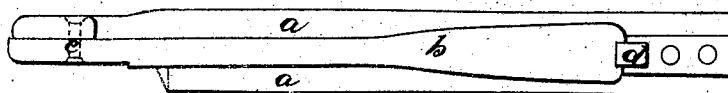


Fig. 2.



Witnesses.

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THOMAS SKELTON, OF ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS.

Letters Patent No. 85,250, dated December 22, 1868.

IMPROVED HAMES-FASTENER.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS SKELTON, of Rockford, in the county of Winnebago, in the State of Illinois, have invented a new and improved Mode of Fastening Hames; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

The object of this invention is to furnish a fastening for hames in horse-harness, that will be easily and quickly operated, either to fasten the hames upon the collars, or to release the hames for removal, and that will be effectual, and entirely secure, as a fastening, and from liability to accident; and

It consists of a combination of devices, which, together, operate to effect the result, when attached to the hames in the manner to operate as hereinafter set forth.

To enable those skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will describe its construction and operation.

Figure 1 is a side view of the fastener;

Figure 2 is a plan view of the same; and

Figure 3 shows a full collar and hames, with my improvement attached, and in which—

A represents a common collar of a harness, and B, the hames, all constructed in the usual manner; and, to one side of the hames, is attached the fastener, by means of rivets, screws, or other convenient and secure devices.

The fastener consists of a hook-plate, *a*, which is firmly secured to the hames B by any means.

Upon this plate is a stud, *c*, which supports and prevents the spring-catch *d* from advancing too far forward, and near the end of the hook, on plate *a*, is pivoted, at *e*, a hooked and bent lever, *b*.

Upon this bent lever is a projecting stud, *f*, which, when in position, fits into hole *g* in plate *a*.

i is the common strap, used in fastening the hames upon the collar, having rings at each end, but, instead of the rings going into the loops formed at the lower ends of the hames by the metal straps, which strengthen the hames, one ring only is so inserted, while the other is passed over lever *b* into the hook-part, as seen in fig. 3 in red lines.

When the lever is raised to the position, as seen in black lines in fig. 3, the stud *f* enters hole *g* in the plate *a*, and the end of the hook-lever is caught by the spring-catch *d*, and held securely in position, as seen in figs. 3 and 1.

The stud *f*, entering hole *g*, prevents any lateral strain from throwing the fastening from position, and the spring-catch holds the lever to its position.

To release the fastening, it only needs the fore-finger to be placed under the upper end of the lever, and with the thumb of the same hand pressing against the spring-catch, at the same time lift the lever with the finger, when the lever will fall down and release the strap, as is shown in red lines in fig. 3, and the operation is complete, only requiring a single hand to release and fasten the hames effectually.

Various forms of construction may be used in making hook-plate *a* and hook-lever *b*, without varying the principle of construction or operation of my invention.

For instance, plate *a* may be formed with a slot in the hook-end, and the hook-end of the lever *b* pivoted to the hook-end of plate *a* in such way that the hook-end of lever *b* will work in such slot, or the lever may be formed so as to be caught by a spring-catch in various ways, and not depart from my invention.

I am aware that fastenings for hames have been used, in which a hook-lever was employed for tightening and releasing the hames-strap, but such were not constructed like mine, as the hook-lever alone held and operated the hames-strap, the whole strain being upon the said hook-lever.

Another objection to the use of such as have heretofore been made is that the arms, to which the hook-lever is pivoted, project at nearly right angles, and so far from the hames as to be always in the way, and liable to be broken by striking against obstacles, or so deranged as to be useless and inoperative; and, further, the spring used in such fastening always operates against the power applied to tighten or release the hames.

Slides have also been used for retaining the hook-lever, by sliding them upon the hames-plate, and over the end of the hook-lever, which must, from necessity, be close to the hames-plate, requiring both hands of the operator to remove the slide, and throw open the lever, to release the strap, which alone is a great inconvenience and hindrance.

While, in my improvement, the fastener is close in contact with the hame, the hook-end of the hames *a*, when the lever is in position to hold the hames, takes all the strain, and none is on the hook-lever; and to tighten or release the hames, only one hand of the operator is required to effect the release, or to secure the hames.

Hook-levers have also been used in the strap or connection between the hames, which serve to tighten or release the hames. Such construction cannot be used where pole-straps or neck-yoke straps are used, for such pole-straps or neck-yoke straps would always surround and prevent the operation of such device.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

In a hames-fastener, the combination of hook-plate *a*, bent lever *b*, having stud *f*, and pivoted together as described; stud *c*, spring-catch *d*, with the rings *h* and strap *i*, arranged with relation to each other, and to operate together, in the manner and for the purpose described.

THOMAS SKELTON.

Witnesses:

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