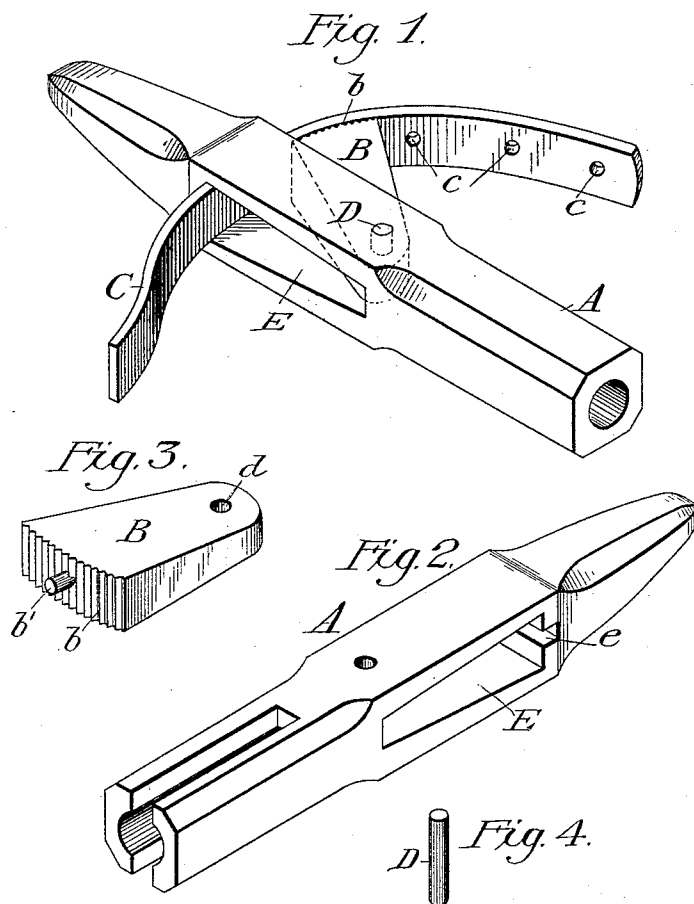


(No Model.)

J. W. JONES.
WHIFFLETREE IRON.

No. 561,055.

Patented May 26, 1896.



Witnesses.
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JOHN W. JONES, OF ONONDAGA, MICHIGAN.

WHIFFLETREE-IRON.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 561,055, dated May 26, 1896.

Application filed February 5, 1896. Serial No. 578,296. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN W. JONES, a citizen of the United States, residing at Onondaga, in the county of Ingham and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Whiffletree-Irons, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in whiffletree-irons; and its object is to furnish a simple, safe, and reliable whiffletree-iron, one that will not allow the traces to become unhitched when they are slack or when the vehicle is going down hill, as frequently happens with the whiffletree-irons now in use. I accomplish this object by the construction illustrated in the accompanying drawings, forming part of this application, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective of my device, showing part of a trace in connection therewith. Fig. 2 is a detail in perspective of a slight modification of the main iron, viewed from the rear; and Figs. 3 and 4 are similar views of the pivoted catch and its pin, respectively.

The same letters are used to indicate the same parts in the different views.

A represents the main iron, adapted to be fitted on the end of an ordinary whiffletree. Of course there is a suitable iron at each end of the whiffletree.

E is a horizontal slot near the outer end of the iron. In the outer wall of E is a seat or notch *e*, extending from the rear face to a point about half-way to the front of the iron A.

B is the catch, adapted to be pivoted in the slot E, as shown in Fig. 1, by the pin D, that passes through the hole *d* in the inner end of

the catch. The outer end of this catch is a corrugated surface whose general outline is a curved surface concentric with a point a little in the rear of the pin-hole *d*. From the middle of this face *b* extends a pin *b'*, adapted to rest in the notch *e* and forming the bearing for the trace. C is the rear portion of a trace having a series of holes *c* of a size to admit the pin *b'*.

It will be noticed that the pin *b'* is of a length sufficient to pass entirely through the trace and rest in the seat *e*, thus having a support at each end for the catch B. This makes a much stronger and safer fastening device than usual.

To fasten the trace, all that is necessary is to push the catch B to the rear, pass the rear end of the trace C through the slot E, and slip the pin *b'* in one of the holes *c*. Then pull the trace forward and the catch B will engage the trace by its wedge-like action, and at the same time the pin *b'* will afford a positive catch. To unhitch the trace, reverse the process.

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

The combination with the main whiffletree-iron having a slot to receive a pivoted catch and a seat in the end of the slot, of the cam-shaped catch pivoted in the slot and carrying on its outer face a pin adapted to be supported in the seat in the slot.

JOHN W. JONES.

Witnesses:

WALTER E. WILCOX,
FRANK VAN VLERAH.