(No Model.)

E. J. HOFFMAN.

Life-Protector for Railroad-Rails.

No. 228,353. Patented June 1, 1880.

Fig. 1

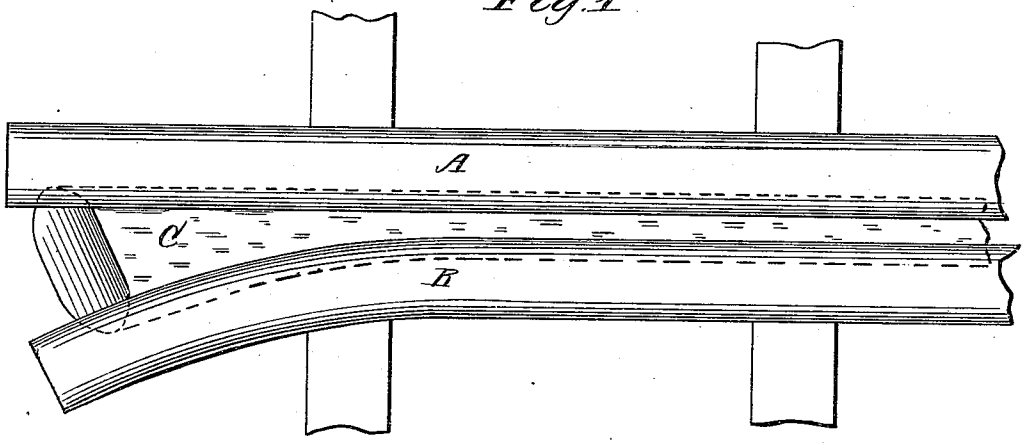


Fig. 2.

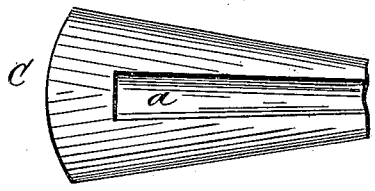
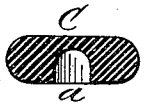


Fig. 3.



Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD J. HOFFMAN, OF VERMILLION, DAKOTA TERRITORY.

LIFE-PROTECTOR FOR RAILROAD-RAILS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 228,353, dated June 1, 1880.

Application filed March 17, 1880. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD J. HOFFMAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Vermillion, in the county of Clay and Territory of Dakota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Life-Protectors for Railroad-Rails; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters or figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a top-plan view of two railroad-rails, showing the elastic cushion in position between the same. Fig. 2 is an under-side plan view of the cushion in broken section, and Fig. 3 a cross-section of the same.

The present invention has relation to a device adapted to be placed between the main-line rail and guard-rail of a road to prevent persons from becoming caught in the frogs and guard-rails while switching or coupling cars.

The invention consists of a cushion composed of rubber or other elastic material, to be inserted between the closely-adjacent rails of a railway, as will be hereinafter described.

In the accompanying drawings, A represents the main rails of a track, and B the guard-rail, both of which are of the usual form and construction.

My invention, which consists of the cushion C, is placed between these two adjacent rails, as illustrated in Fig. 1, said cushion being composed of elastic material, such as rubber, of the desired length to fill the space between the rails. The cushion C is flaring at its ends, to fit the increased width of the space between the rails caused by the curve of the guard-rails at their outer ends, the cushion being held in place by the elasticity of the material from which it is composed and the flanges of the rails.

To give the cushion a sufficient amount or degree of elasticity it is recessed upon its under side, as shown at *a*, so that when the car-wheels pass over it will yield to the extent required, but will be sufficiently rigid to bear up a person when stepping upon it.

Having now fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In combination with the closely-adjacent rails of a railway-track, an elastic cushion adapted to fill the space between the same, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. The combination, with the closely-adjacent rails of a railway-track, of an elastic cushion flaring at its ends, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

EDWARD J. HOFFMAN.

Witnesses:
W. C. MCNAMARA,
CHAS. B. BIRD.