

J. O. ADAMS.
HARNESS.

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971,426.

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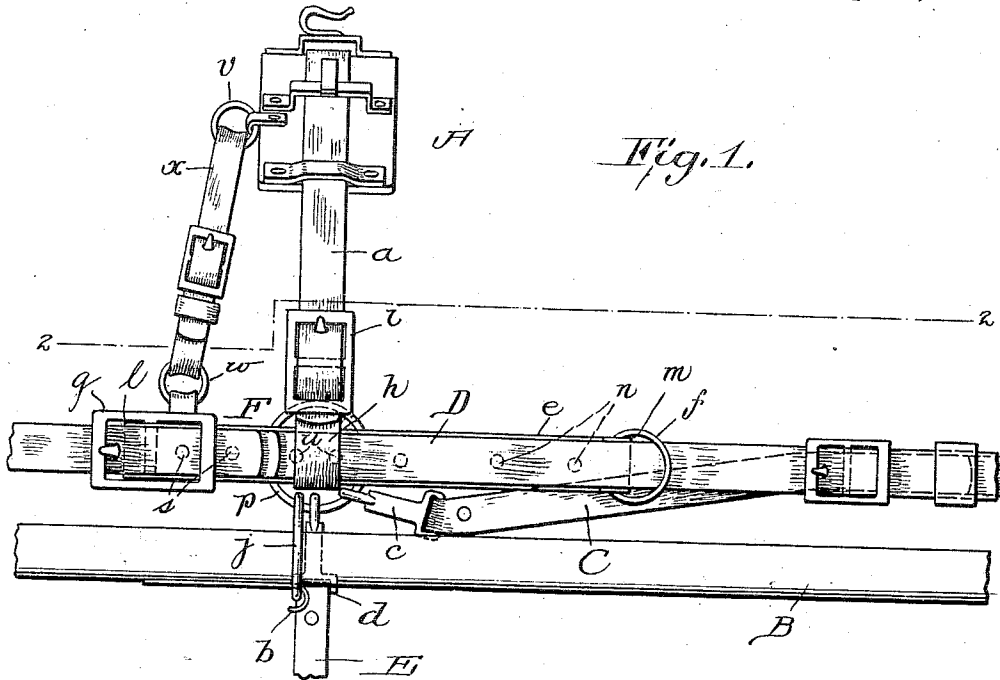


Fig. 1.

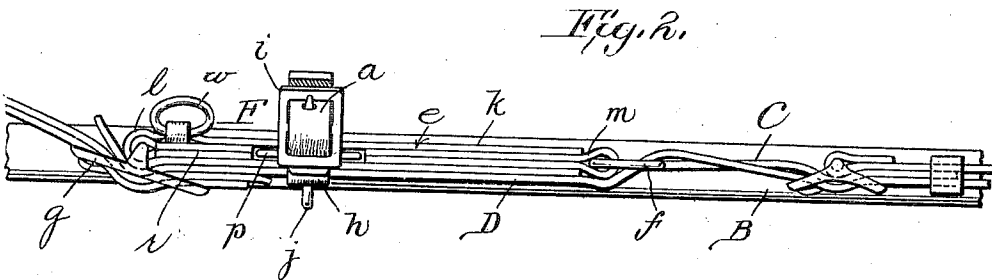


Fig. 2.

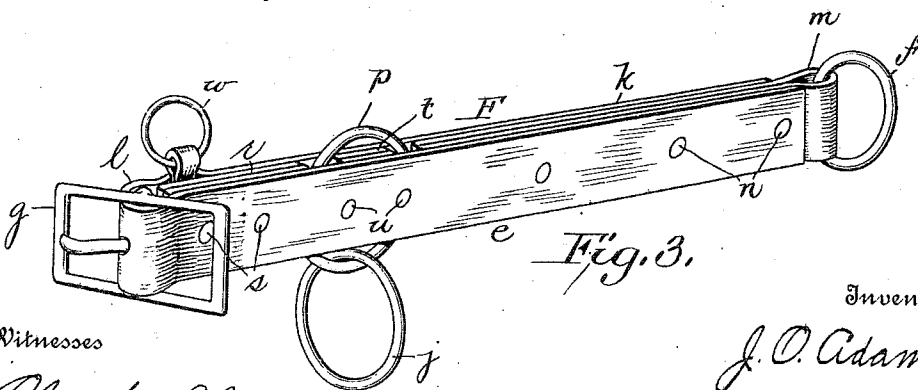


Fig. 3.

Witnesses

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HARNESS.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JEFFERSON O. ADAMS, a citizen of the United States, residing at New Iberia, in the parish of Iberia and State of Louisiana, have invented new and useful Improvements in Harness, of which the following is a specification.

My present invention pertains to harness; and it contemplates the provision in a harness, of convenient, durable and otherwise advantageous couplings for effecting connection between the depending straps of a harness saddle, on the one hand, and traces, breeching-straps and a belly strap, on the other, as well as for effecting connection between the said harness elements and shafts or thills with a view of enabling a draft animal to back a vehicle when occasion demands.

With the foregoing in view, the invention in all of its details will be fully understood from the following description and claim when the same are read in connection with the drawings, accompanying and forming part of this specification, in which:

Figure 1 is a side elevation illustrating one of my novel couplings as the same appears when in use, and also showing a portion of a shaft or thill as properly arranged relative to the coupling. Fig. 2 is a horizontal section taken in the plane indicated by the line 2—2 of Fig. 1, looking downward. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of my novel coupling *per se*.

Similar letters designate corresponding parts in all of the views of the drawings, referring to which:

A is a harness saddle, having depending straps *a*, one of which is shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

B is a shaft or thill, having a hook *b* at its underside.

C is a strap designed to be connected with a breeching or rear portion (not shown) of a harness, and having a snap-hook *c* at its forward end.

D is a trace.

E is a belly strap having snap-hooks *d* at its ends, one of which is shown, and F is one of my novel couplings.

The strap C and the trace D are of course duplicated at the opposite side (not shown) of the harness, and two of my novel couplings F are employed in each harness. The couplings, however, are identical in con-

struction and therefore a detailed description of the one will suffice to impart a definite understanding of both.

The coupling F shown comprises a stiff longitudinally-disposed body *e*, a ring *f*, preferably of metal, loosely mounted and permanently connected at the rear end of the body, a buckle *g* permanently connected at the forward end of the body, a loop *h* connected to the body at an intermediate point in the length thereof and carrying a buckle *i* designed for the connection of the saddle strap *a*, and a ring *j*, preferably of metal, loosely connected with the body *e*. The body *e* is preferably made up of the elements best shown in Figs. 2 and 3, viz: a strap *k* bent longitudinally upon itself and having a loop *l* at its forward end to receive the bar of the buckle *g*; a looped strap *m* carrying the ring *f* and interposed and secured by rivets *n* between the rear portions of the strap *k*; a metal ring *p* carrying the before-mentioned ring *j* and interposed between the side portions of the strap *k*; a filler *r*, of leather, interposed and secured by rivets *s* between the side portions of the strap *k* immediately in rear of the bar of the buckle *g*; and a filler *t* interposed and secured by rivets *u* between the side portions of the strap *k* and arranged within the ring *p* and having for its office to hold the said ring *p* against undue play either vertically or horizontally. The ring *p* carries on its lower portion not only the metal ring *j*, but also the snap-hooks of the breeching strap and the belly strap; and it will also be noticed in this connection that the breeching strap passes loosely outside the ring *f* at the rear end of the body, which ring receives the trace D which is connected to the forward buckle *g* and may be continued forward the same and connected to either a breast-strap (not shown) or hames on a collar (also not shown). The ring *j* is strongly, though loosely connected with the body *e* in the manner described, and it serves by receiving the shaft B and engaging the hook *b* thereof to enable a draft animal equipped with a harness constructed in accordance with my invention, to readily back a vehicle when occasion demands.

With a view of maintaining the forward portion of my novel coupling against sagging particularly when a breast-strap is con-

5 nected with the coupling, I prefer to sus-
 pend the said forward portion of the coup-
 ling from the saddle A through the medium
 of the means shown, viz: rings *v* and *w* con-
 10 nected to the saddle A and the forward por-
 tion of the coupling, respectively, and an
 adjustable suspension strap *x* directly inter-
 posed between and connected to the said
 rings. I do not desire, however, to be un-
 15 derstood as confining myself to the said
 means or any other means for suspending
 the forward portion of the coupling, inas-
 much as the same is not essential to the practical use of my improvements.
 20 It will be gathered from the foregoing
 that my novel coupling permits of the ready
 connection of the various elements described
 with the saddle, and also permits of the
 harness being expeditiously and easily con-
 25 nected with the shafts or thills of a vehicle
 and as readily disconnected therefrom when
 desired. It will also be gathered that the
 coupling as a whole is well adapted to with-
 stand the rough usage to which harness
 30 members are ordinarily subjected, and that
 because of the compactness and neatness of
 its construction, it is calculated to enhance
 rather than detract from the finished ap-
 pearance of a harness.
 While I have shown and described one
 form of my invention, it is to be understood
 that I am not limited to the details or the
 form or relative arrangement of parts dis-
 closed, but that modifications may be made

therein without departing from the spirit 35 thereof.

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

In a harness, a coupling comprising a 40
 longitudinal strap bent in the direction of
 its length upon itself, a buckle having its
 bar disposed in the loop at the forward end
 of said strap, a filler arranged between and
 riveted to the sides of said strap and located 45
 immediately in rear of the said bar of the
 buckle, a looped strap interposed and fas-
 tened by rivets between the rear portions of
 the first-named strap, a ring interposed be-
 tween the sides of the first-named strap and 50
 located intermediate the said filler and the
 looped strap, a filler arranged in and
 adapted to hold said ring against undue
 play and also arranged between and fas-
 tened by rivets to the sides of the first-named 55
 strap, a ring carried in the said looped strap,
 and a ring loosely mounted on the lower
 portion of the first-named ring and ar-
 ranged at right angles thereto for the pur-
 pose of receiving and coöperating with a 60
 shaft or thill.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing wit-
 nesses.

JEFFERSON O. ADAMS.

Witnesses:

L. F. PELLEROW,
 GEO. W. ADAMS.