

A. A. HOTCHKISS.  
ANIMAL TRAP.

No. 111,745.

Patented Feb. 14, 1871.

Fig. 1.

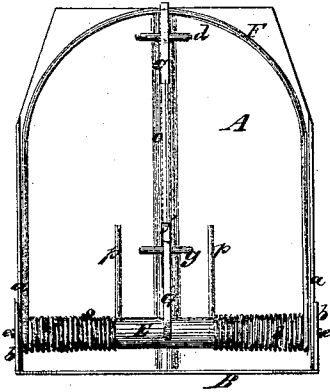


Fig. 2.

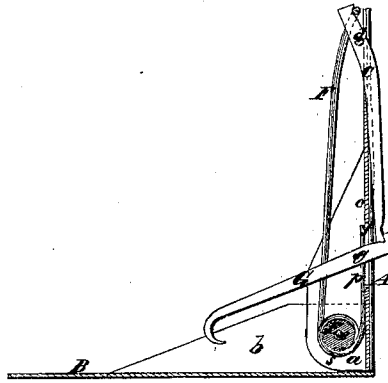


Fig. 3.

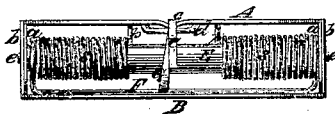
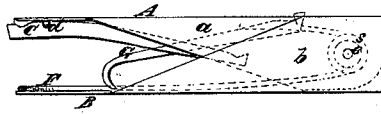


Fig. 4.



Witnesses.  
Fried Haynes  
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per [Signature]

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# United States Patent Office.

ASAHEL A. HOTCHKISS, OF SHARON, CONNECTICUT.

Letters Patent No. 111,745, dated February 14, 1871.

## IMPROVEMENT IN ANIMAL-TRAPS.

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, ASAHEL A. HOTCHKISS, of Sharon, in the county of Litchfield and State of Connecticut, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Animal-Traps; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing forming a part of this specification.

This invention relates to that class of animal-traps the frame of which is of angular form, consisting of a horizontal base and an upright to which is attached a bait-hook, setting-lever, and choking-bow. These traps are very effective, but as heretofore constructed with the base and upright rigidly secured together are objectionable, owing to the difficulty of packing a number of them together, and of the great space they occupy when packed.

The object of this invention is to obviate this objection; and, to this end,

It consists in hinging the base and upright together in such manner that they may be folded to lie parallel with each other, and consequently require very little packing-space.

In the accompanying drawing—

Figure 1 is a front view of my improved trap, showing it set;

Figure 2 is a central section thereof in the same position;

Figure 3 is a front view, representing it closed; and

Figure 4, a side view of the trap, also representing it closed.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

To enable others to understand the construction and operation of my invention, I will proceed to describe it with reference to the drawing.

A and B are two metal plates, the side portions of which, near their adjacent ends, are bent at right angles to their bodies or main portions to form flanges *a a* and *b b*.

These flanges constitute braces as well as bearings for the pin *e*, which extends right through all of the said flanges and serves to secure the plates A and B together, and to form the pivot of the hinge on which the two plates fold up, as shown in figs. 3 and 4, the flanges *a a* and *b b* forming the other parts of the hinge.

The flanges *a a*, on the plate A, fit between those, *b b*, on the other plate, and are rounded off to permit the folding and opening of the plates.

Running longitudinally along the plate A is an inwardly-extending groove-like bend, *c*, the outer end of which is slotted, and extending across this slotted portion on the inner side of the plate is a wire bridge, *d*, by means of which a setting-lever, C, is pivoted to the plate.

This lever is recessed at its inner end to hold the choking-bow when set, and notched at its outer end to engage with the outer end of the bait-hook G, and can be swung over on the inner side of the plate, as shown in figs. 3 and 4, to facilitate the packing of the trap.

The bait-hook G extends through a slot, *f*, in the lower part of the bend *c*, and is pivoted to the plate by a bridge, *g*. It can be made to lie nearly parallel with the plate to which it is attached, so that its outer extended portion will be within the bend *c*.

The choking-bow *f* is of a size nearly to correspond with the plate, and has its ends coiled to form a spring, S, whose ends, P P, bear against the plate A, and as the bow itself, when not set, bears against the plate B, the two plates, when not compressed together, are, by the spring, opened or brought to the position at right angles to each other, as shown in figs. 1 and 2. They are prevented from opening beyond that position by the lower edge of the plate A coming in contact with the face of the plate B and acting as a stop.

A wooden sleeve, E, in that portion of the pin *e* which is between the flanges *a a*, serves to keep the coils of the spring S in place.

As the plates A B are parallel with each other when closed, and their appendages do not project beyond them, the trap requires very little space in packing, and when used is just as effective as when the plates are rigidly secured or formed together.

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

The trap, constructed substantially as described, with its base B and upright A hinged to fold as and for the purpose herein set forth.

ASAHEL A. HOTCHKISS.

Witnesses:

C. M. HATCH,  
HERMAN BEACH.