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A. R. STOKESBURY & T. B. LAWHEAD.
REIN SUPPORTER.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 13, 1904.

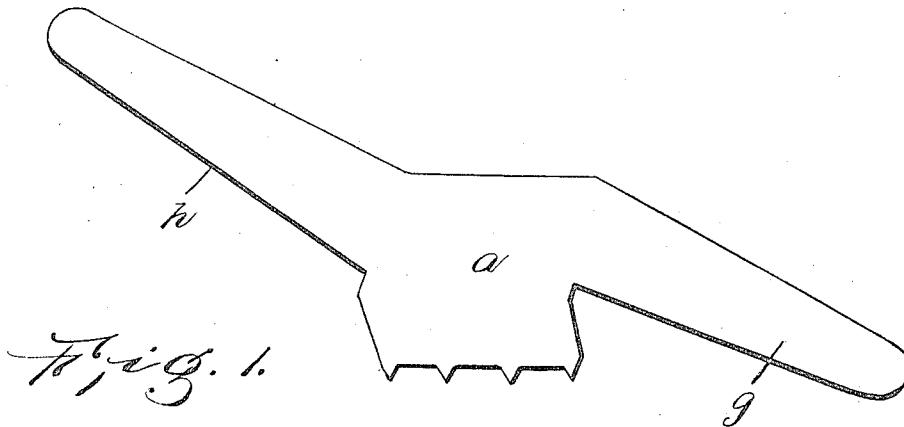


Fig. 1.

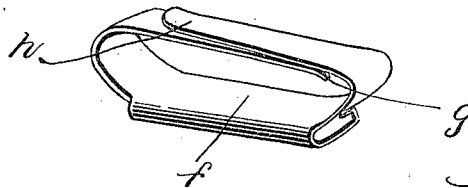


Fig. 2.

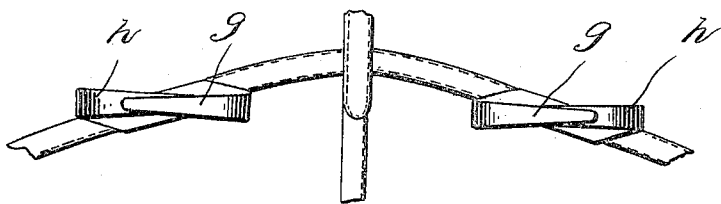


Fig. 3.

Witnesses

Ambridge
Harry Ellis Chandler.

Inventors
H. R. Stokesbury
T. B. Lawhead

Handwritten signature
Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALVARO R. STOKESBURY, OF WASHINGTON COURT-HOUSE, AND THOMAS
B. LAWHEAD, OF GREENFIELD, OHIO.

REIN-SUPPORTER.

No. 812,896.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, ALVARO R. STOKESBURY, residing at Washington Court-House, in the county of Fayette, and THOMAS B. LAWHEAD, residing at Greenfield, in the county of Highland, State of Ohio, citizens of the United States, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Rein-Supporters; and we 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.

This invention has relation to appliances for harness, and has for its object the provision of a supporter for the reins or lines of harness while in use. It is well known that if the reins or lines are not supported or guided in some way on the hip-straps of the horse while driving they are liable to become crossed or to be knocked from the driver's hand by the switching of the tail of the horse, and other mischief is likely to happen.

This invention is directed chiefly to a supporter for the reins for harness at the horse's hips in order to remedy the troubles mentioned, and it will be described with reference to this purpose, though it is to be kept in mind that the invention is known to be useful as line and strap guides at other places on harness and that by slight modifications it may be employed with advantage for other purposes than guides, strictly speaking.

One manner of making, applying, and using the line or rein guide and support is shown in the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification; but in this regard also changes varying in character and extent may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention.

As herein represented, Figure 1 is a plan view of a blank from which the present device is formed. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the formed device. Fig. 3 is an enlarged detail view of a portion of a harness having my invention applied thereto, the position of the guides being shown.

Referring now to the accompanying drawings, and especially to Fig. 1, it will be seen that a sheet-metal or other blank is employed in the formation of the present invention, the

reference character *a* designating an enlarged intermediate portion having the tapering oppositely-disposed fingers *g* and *h*, the latter being directed in the same plane from the upper part of the enlarged intermediate portion *a*. In other words, the elongated tapering finger *g* is directed downwardly from the upper part of the intermediate portion *a*, while the elongated tapering finger *h* is directed upwardly therefrom at the upper side edge of the intermediate portion opposite the upper side edge from which the finger *g* projects. The lower part of the intermediate portion *a* is free of the fingers *g* and *h* with its lower edge barbed, as shown. This lower portion of the intermediate portion *a* is adapted to be bent under the upper portion thereof and in spaced relation thereto with the said barbs bent upon a curve into contact with the corresponding longitudinal edge of the intermediate portion *a*, it being seen that the line of bend between the upper and lower parts of said intermediate portion is also made upon a curve, the longitudinal edges of the folded intermediate portion *a* being curved, as stated, for ornamental purposes. It will be seen that by reason of the peculiar formation of the intermediate portion *a* and its form when bent, as stated, the sides thereof are substantially closed, with the ends thereof open, as clearly shown in Fig. 2. The arm *g* of the blank is then bent over in a slightly-rounding curve over the folded intermediate portion *a*, with the part above the latter spaced therefrom with its end bent downwardly and terminating immediately above one end of the intermediate portion. The other arm *h* of the blank will also be bent over the intermediate portion *a* with its under face upon the upper face of the arm *g* and its extremity bent slightly outwardly therefrom. The reason for turning the extreme ends of the two arms, as stated, is to permit the edge of the rein being easily slipped between the two arms or disengaged therefrom. It will now be understood that the arms *g* and *h* when bent with relation to each other over the intermediate portion *a* form a guide for the rein and that the folded intermediate portion *a* is designed to be clamped to a hip-strap. In other words, the folded intermediate portion *a* forms an attaching-clamp and the arms *g* and *h* the guide.

To fasten the clamp on a hip-strap, one efficient and desirable way of proceeding is to take a small piece of tin, wide enough to cover the barbs on the lower plate of the clamp, then putting it between the two plates over the barbs and forcing the clamp upon the hip-strap edgewise as far as it will go. When the clamp has been thus disposed, the piece of tin may be withdrawn, and by means of a pair of pincers or by flattening down with a hammer the barbs may be made to bite into the hip-strap and the clamp thereby secured in place as firmly as may be desired.

Of course as the hip-straps do not extend at a right angle to the reins when in use and the clamp must extend in line to the straps it is desirable that the eye of the supporter or holder should be in line with the reins. Therefore the supporters are made to provide right and left hand guides, whereby they may be disposed properly, as illustrated in Fig. 3. It will be understood that in the formation of right or left guides or supporters it is simply necessary to form a blank for a left-hand supporter or guide from the blank reversed in formation, as when a right supporter or guide is desired.

It will be seen from the foregoing that the invention is exceedingly simple, and therefore inexpensive of manufacture; that it can be made from a single blank or piece of material; that it is strong and durable; that it may be easily applied to a harness; that it will not injure the latter in its application; that the reins may be easily inserted or removed from the guides, and that the device may be readily removed from the harness, if desired.

What is claimed is—

1. A rein-supporter formed from a single piece of metal having an enlarged intermediate portion and elongated tapering fingers, the intermediate portion being bent upon itself and the fingers being bent back upon the intermediate portion and in engagement with each other.

2. A rein-supporter formed from a single piece of metal and comprising an enlarged intermediate portion and elongated tapering fingers secured to opposite edges of the intermediate portion, the said intermediate portion having one edge provided with barbs, the barbed edge of the intermediate portion being bent at an angle to the latter and in engagement with the opposite edge of the intermediate portion, the bent portions of the intermediate portion being spaced apart, whereby it may be secured to harness, the said fingers being bent back into engagement with each other above the bent intermediate portion for the support of a rein.

3. A rein-supporter comprising an intermediate portion, and oppositely-disposed fingers, the intermediate portion being bent back upon itself and provided with barbs whereby it may be secured to harness, the said fingers being bent into engagement with each other above the bent intermediate portion to form a guide.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures in presence of two witnesses.

ALVARO R. STOKESBURY.
THOMAS B. LAWHEAD.

Witnesses:

W. A. SANDERS,
POPE GREGG.