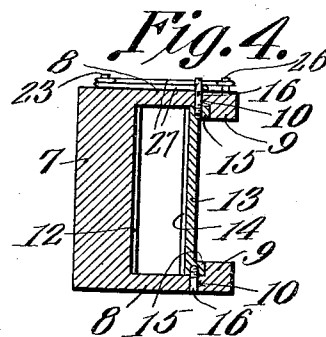
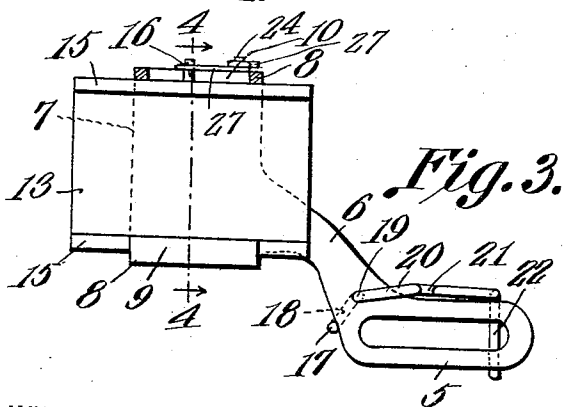
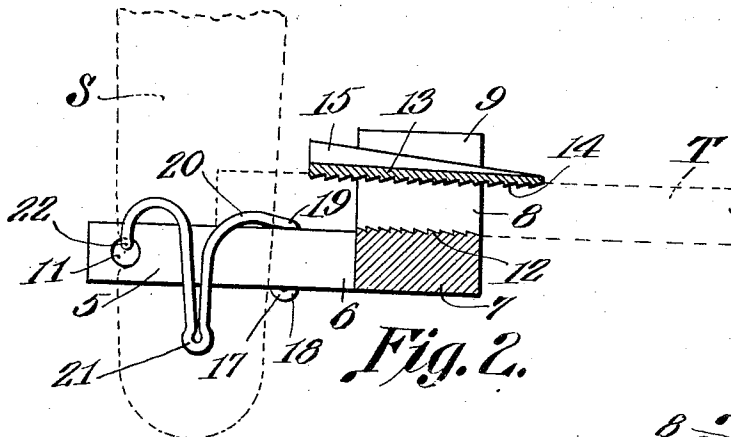
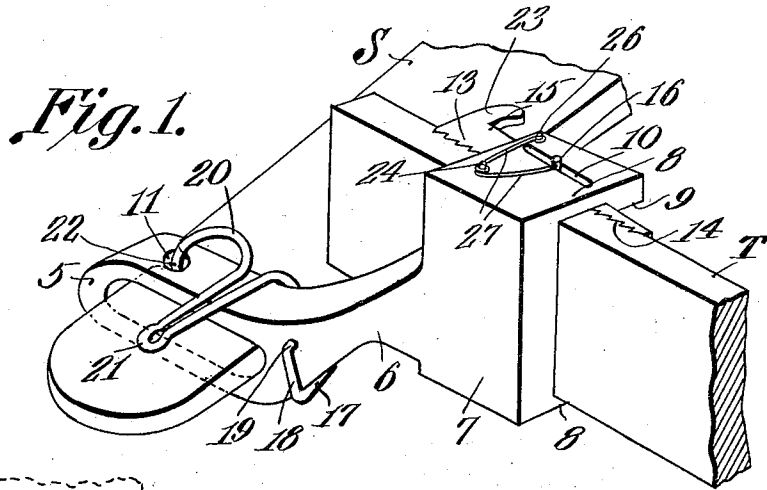


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TRACE HOLDER.
APPLICATION FILED APR. 9, 1912.

1,061,095.

Patented May 6, 1913.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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TRACE-HOLDER.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented May 6, 1913.

Application filed April 9, 1912. Serial No. 689,611.

1,061,095.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS C. MARTIN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Nashville, in the county of Davidson and State of Tennessee, have invented a new and useful Trace-Holder, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to trace holders, and has for its object to provide novel means for attaching traces or tugs to the swingle trees of vehicles.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a device of this character which is readily applicable to the swingle tree and which is adapted to receive and clamp the heel of the tug or trace.

A further object is to provide novel means for locking the trace holder to the swingle tree.

This invention also contemplates a device of this character which shall be simple, durable and inexpensive in construction, and which shall be convenient and efficient in use.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, which will be apparent as the invention is better understood, this invention is embodied in the novel construction and combination of parts hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings wherein the invention is illustrated, and wherein,—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the trace holder as in use. Fig. 2 is a plan view thereof, a portion thereof being shown in section. Fig. 3 is a side elevation, partially in section. Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

Referring in detail to the drawings, wherein similar reference characters have been employed to designate corresponding parts, a fragmental portion of one end of a swingle tree has been designated by the letter F and the heel or rear end of a trace or tug has been designated by the letter T. Ordinarily the heel or the tug or trace is provided with an opening through which the end of the swingle tree is inserted, and it is frequently the case that the strain on the tug or trace causes the heel thereof to be torn from the swingle tree, this objection being overcome by the provision of the trace holder to be presently described.

In carrying out the invention, there is provided a cockeye 5, which is adapted to engage on the end of the swingle tree and which has an integral arm 6 projecting for-

wardly and upwardly from the forward end thereof. A jaw 7 is secured to and preferably integral with the forward or outer end of the arm 6 and has the ears 8 projecting from the upper and lower ends thereof, these ears being provided with inner lugs or extensions 9 at their outer ends. A clamping jaw 13 is arranged between the ears 8 and has ribs 15 at its upper and lower ends, which ribs contact with the lugs 9, the abutting portions of the ribs and lugs being tapered or arranged diagonally relative to the jaws, in order that when the clamping jaw 13 is moved forwardly, the said jaw is also moved toward the other or stationary jaw 7, and vice-versa. The ribs 15 are of a thickness coincident with the length of the lugs 9, and the jaw 13 is somewhat longer than the jaw 7 in order that the movable jaw 13 may have suitable "play" between the ears 8. The inner or adjacent faces of the jaws 7 and 13 are provided with ratchet teeth 12 and 14, respectively. The ears 8 are also provided with diagonal elongated slots 10, and pins or other members 16 are engaged or screw-threaded into the upper and lower ends of the movable jaw 13, the said pins working in the slots 10 in order to retain the ribs 15 in continual contact with the lugs 9 and in order to prevent the removal of the movable jaw from the ears 8 without removing the said pins.

The cockeye 5 is locked on the end of the swingle tree by means of a latch pivoted to the arm 6 and having a portion adapted to be projected through the cockeye and to engage the swingle tree. This latch is bent from wire and comprises a portion 19 journaled through the arm 6, a downwardly projecting portion 18 at one end of the journaled portion 19 and which has a finger 17 bent from its outer end to contact with the bottom of the arm 6, an arm 20 projecting from the other end of the journaled portion 19 and having a doubled portion 21 forming a finger piece adapted to seat on the upper side of the cockeye, and a finger 22 bent from the free end of the arm 20 and projectable through an aperture 11 in the sides of the cockeye at the end opposite the arm 6. The finger 17 engages the bottom of the arm 8 in order to give a downward tension to the outer or free end of the arm 20 in order to normally retain the finger 22 in the aperture 11, and the finger piece 21 projects beyond the cockeye in order to permit the arm 20 to be raised or swung upward to free the

finger 22. The swingle tree is provided with an aperture or notch through which the finger 22 is adapted to be projected in order to lock the cockeye 5 upon the swingle tree.

5 The upper rib 15 is provided with a thumb piece 23 projecting from its rear end in order to facilitate moving the member 13. The member 13 is also spring pressed forwardly by means of a resilient wire having one end engaged to a pin or lug 26 adjacent the rear end of the slot 10 in the upper ear 8 and having its other end engaged to the upper pin 16, with the intermediate portion wound around a pin or lug 24 projecting from the upper end of the jaw 7. This spring 27 tends to force the jaw 13 forwardly in order to retain the jaw in engagement with the trace, thereby eliminating the detachment of the trace should the same become slackened.

In use, the trace holder is engaged to the end of the swingle tree in the manner indicated, it being understood that one of the trace holders is engaged to each end of the swingle tree, and the heel of the trace or tug is then inserted between the ears 8 and the jaws 7 and 13. After the trace or tug has been adjusted to the proper position relative to the stationary jaw 7, the jaw 13 is forced forwardly in order to clamp the trace or tug between the two jaws, the ratchet teeth provided on the inner faces of the jaws serving to bite the trace or tug and to prevent the same from slipping out of position. In this manner, the trace or tug is securely attached to the swingle tree and the pull or draft on the trace or tug will tend to draw the movable jaw 13 forwardly in order to more tightly clamp the trace or tug between the jaws, thereby eliminating the possibility of the trace or tug being withdrawn from the holder. The trace or tug may be readily released by forcing the movable jaw 13 rearwardly, which will move the jaws apart to permit the withdrawal of the trace or tug. The trace holders may also be readily disengaged from the swingle tree by raising the arm 20 of the latch by means of the finger piece 21, in which event the finger 22 will be withdrawn from the cockeye to free the swingle tree.

A device constructed in accordance with the present invention will be substantial, simple, durable and inexpensive, and in its use will be both convenient and efficient. The teeth 12 and 14 of the jaws 7 and 13, respectively, may be modified, that is, may be sharpened or made blunt to properly engage the trace or tug, and it is understood that this device may be constructed of various materials, may be made in various sizes and proportions, and is otherwise susceptible of alterations and deviations in its details

within the scope of the appended claims without departing from the spirit of the invention.

Having described the invention, what is claimed as new is:—

1. A trace holder embodying a jaw provided with a cockeye and provided with ears projecting from the upper and lower ends of the jaw having inner tapered lugs at their outer ends, a clamping jaw arranged between said ears and having tapered ribs at its upper and lower ends contacting with the said lugs, so that the clamping jaw is moved toward the aforementioned jaw when the clamping jaw is moved forwardly, the adjacent faces of the jaws being toothed and being adapted to receive a trace, the ears having elongated slots therein, and pins carried by the upper and lower ends of the clamping jaw and working in the said slots to hold the ribs in continual contact with the lugs.

2. A trace holder embodying a cockeye having an aperture through its sides adjacent its rear end, an arm projecting from the forward end of the cockeye, means carried by the arm for engaging a trace, and a latch for locking the cockeye to a swingle tree and comprising a wire bent to form a portion journaled through said arm, a downwardly projecting portion at one end of the journaled portion and having a finger bent from its outer end to contact with the bottom of the arm, an arm projecting from the other end of the journaled portion and having a double portion forming a finger piece adapted to seat on the upward side of the cockeye, and a finger bent from the free end of the latter arm projectable through the aperture in the sides of the cockeye to engage the swingle tree.

3. A trace holder embodying a jaw provided with a cockeye and provided with two ears, a clamping jaw slidable between the said ears and operably engaged thereto so that when the said jaw is moved forwardly, the same is moved toward the aforementioned jaw, the jaws being adapted to receive a trace, the ears having elongated slots therein, pins carried by the clamping jaw and working in the said slots to hold the clamping jaws in operative position, and a spring connecting one of the ears and the corresponding pin together for pressing the clamping jaw forwardly.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

THOMAS C. MARTIN.

Witnesses:

M. P. HOODENPYL,
M. C. THOMPSON.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."