

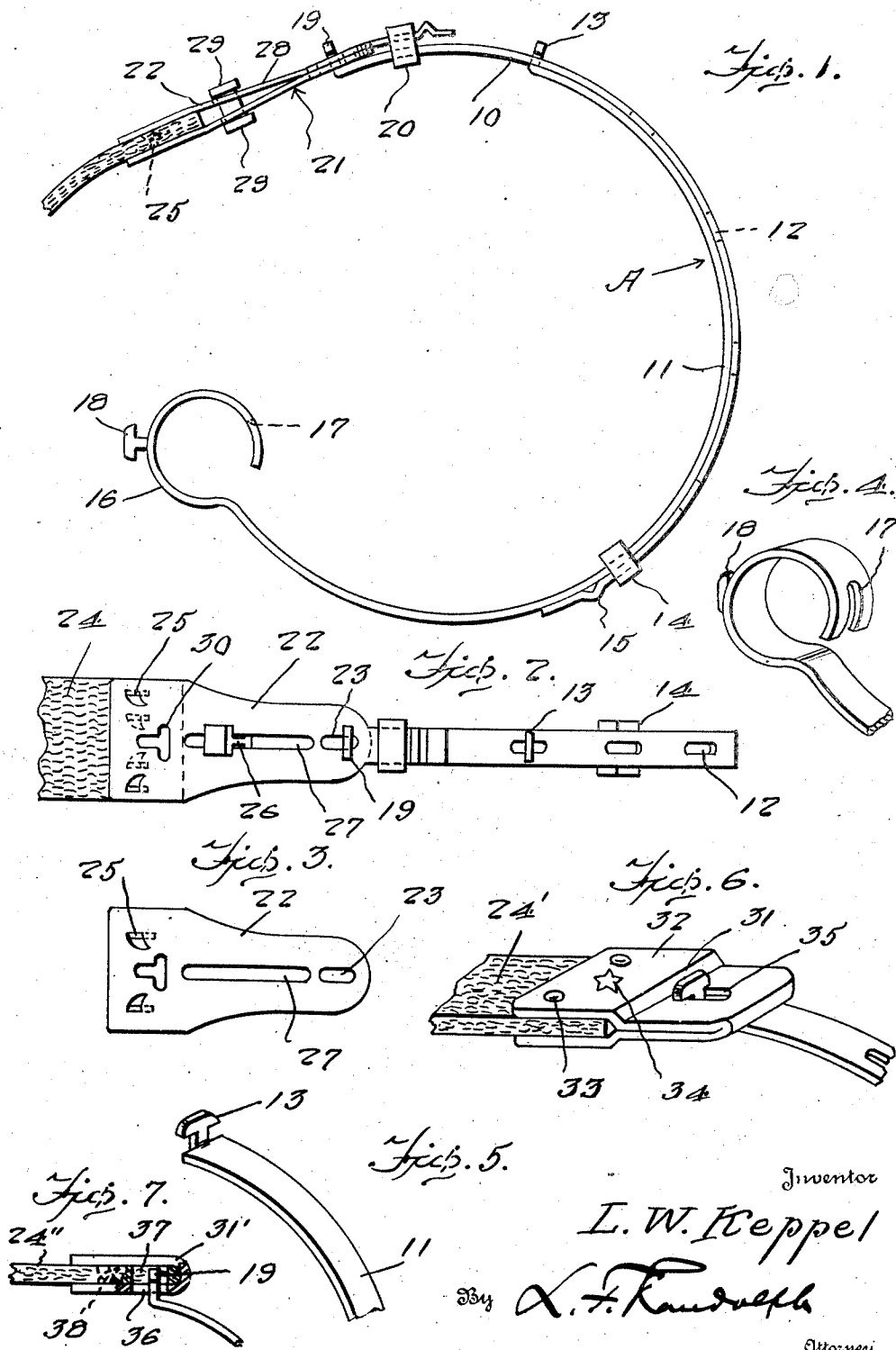
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EMERGENCY SKID CHAIN SNAKE

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EMERGENCY SKID CHAIN SNAKE

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3 Claims. (Cl. 81—15.8)

This invention relates to a snake or device for use in applying emergency skid chains to automobile wheels and tires.

At the present time, the mudguards or fenders of automobiles practically completely cover the top and side of the tire and render it difficult to apply skid chains to the wheels, and especially to apply them without soiling the person and clothing, since the hand must be placed behind the wheel as is necessary to insert the strap of the skid chain between the spokes or through the slots in the wheel disk.

The present invention provides a novel construction or snake to attain the end desired with facility, without soiling of the hands or clothing, a construction which is simple, durable and inexpensive, and a construction which may be compactly disposed within a kit or elsewhere when not in use.

The more specific objects and advantages will become apparent from a consideration of the description following taken in connection with the accompanying drawing illustrating an operative embodiment.

In said drawing—

Figure 1 is a view in side elevation, showing the device connected to an emergency skid chain or the equivalent;

Figure 2 is a top or plan view of the parts of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a bottom plan view of one form of chain or strap-engaging clamp;

Figure 4 is a perspective view of portions of the device;

Figure 5 is a perspective view of one section of the device;

Figure 6 is a perspective view showing the use of a modified form of clamp, and

Figure 7 is a longitudinal sectional view showing a still further form of my modified clamp.

Referring specifically to the drawing, wherein like reference characters designate like or similar parts, the snake is generally designated A and preferably consists of two sections 10 and 11, each preferably of flexible metal and adapted for adjustment relatively to each other, so as to conform to the various sizes of tires now in use. To this end, the section 10 preferably has a series of slots 12 therethrough and section 11 preferably has a terminal T-shaped lug 13, adapted to be entered in the slot 12 and then turned 90°. Head 13 may be placed in any of the slots 12 according to the size or adjustment desired. In addition, an endless clamping loop or band 14 surrounds and is slidable along the

sections 10 and 11 and engageable against a hump or deflection 15 on section 10, to provide better binding and clamping action and such part 15 prevents accidental detachment of the band 14, in addition.

At one end, section 11 has an arcuate curl or enlargement 16 which will prevent passage of that end of the snake between the spokes or openings in the disk of a wheel. The enlargement 16 is practically a circle and its free end is returned toward and terminates short of the section 11 and is provided with a longitudinally extending slot 17. A T-shaped lug or projection 18 is struck out from the enlargement 16 or otherwise provided thereon.

The free end of the section 10 has a T-shaped lug or head 19 thereon and also has an endless band 20 slidable along the section in the rear of the head 19. Lug or head 19 and band 20 are used to removably secure a clamp in place, which in turn is engaged with an emergency anti-skid chain, strap or the equivalent. One form of such clamp is shown in Figures 1 to 3. This clamp is generally designated 21 and it has a pair of jaws 22 of suitable metal. Such jaws have aligned slots 23, which are applicable over the lug or head 19 and following which the plates are turned 90°. The anti-skid chain, strap or the equivalent is suggested at 24 and it is gripped between the other portions of the plates or jaws 22 and penetrated by spurs 25 struck out from one or both of such jaws and extending longitudinally, so as not to cross or sever the threads, when element 24 is a strap. Jaws 22 may be clamped onto the element 24 through the movement of a slide 26, which moves in elongated slots 27 in the jaws, at inclined portions 28 of the latter, such slide having heads 29 at top and bottom, whereby they will engage the portions 28 somewhat like a cam and force the jaws into tight gripping engagement with the element 24.

The said jaw 22 may have registering slots as at 30, adapted to engage the lug 18, when the device is not in use, so as to hold the same in compact condition to occupy minimum space in a chest, or any other location. Also, with clamp 21 removed, the lug or head 19 may be engaged in the slot 17 to hold sections 10 and 11 in compact form.

It will be realized that when the snake is positioned around a tire, the jaw 21 may engage the anti-skid device 24, following which element 16 is engaged as a handle and drawn toward the operator, thereby moving the anti-skid device 24

into position for fastening, following which it is released at the jaw or clamp 21 through sliding of the member 26.

It will be realized that various changes may be resorted to provided they fall within the spirit and scope of the invention. For instance, in Figure 6, I disclose a modified form of clamp or coupling 31, which may form a permanent part of the anti-skid device or chain here designated 24'. Such coupling 31 is made from a single strap of metal and bent upon itself and having jaws at 32, engaging opposite sides of the anti-skid device and fastened thereto as by means of rivets 33, or by driving the spurs or barbs into the chain strap by closing the clamp or coupling in a vise or by blows of a hammer. In addition, a star or other indicia 34 may be provided on one of the parts 32, to indicate the outer surface or any particular surface of the anti-skid device, as an aid in correctly applying and positioning it. The portion of the coupling 31 beyond the anti-skid device, is provided with an elongated slot as at 35 engageable by the head or lug 19.

The aforesaid coupling 31 may be modified as shown in Figure 7. Here the anti-skid device or chain is designated 24'' and the coupling 31' is of U-shape and does not extend beyond the anti-skid device. The lower flange of the coupling is slotted as at 36 and the anti-skid device is cut away in line therewith as at 37, so as to receive the head or lug 19. In this form the strap 24'' is secured to the coupling by means of spurs 38 struck out of the coupling.

I claim as my invention:

1. A device of the class described comprising a section having an enlargement at one end curled and having its free end returned toward and ter-

minating short of the section, said free end being provided with a slot, a head at the other end of the section, a second section having a head engageable in said slot, said second section having slots engageable by said first mentioned head, said last mentioned head being disengageable from the first mentioned slot, and a clamp detachably connected to an end of an anti-skid device, at one end thereof, and having means for detachably engaging said last mentioned head to connect the device to one end of the anti-skid device.

2. A device of the class described comprising a section having an enlargement at one end curled and having its free end returned toward and terminating short of the section, said free end being provided with a slot, a head at the other end of the section, a second section having a head engageable in said slot, said second section having slots engageable by said first mentioned head, and means on the second section for detachable connection of an anti-skid device thereto, said means being engageable with the last mentioned head, when the last mentioned head is detached from the first mentioned slot.

3. A device of the class described comprising a section having an enlargement at one end curled and having its free end returned toward and terminating short of the section, said free end being provided with a slot, a head at the other end of the section, a second section having a head engageable in said slot, said second section having slots engageable by said first mentioned head, means engageable with the second mentioned head for detachable connection of an anti-skid device thereto, said means comprising jaws and a slidable clamp, surrounding said jaws.

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