July 21, 1925. 1,546,378

L. H. HAMLEY

SADDLE CONSTRUCTION

Filed July 5, 1924

Fig 1

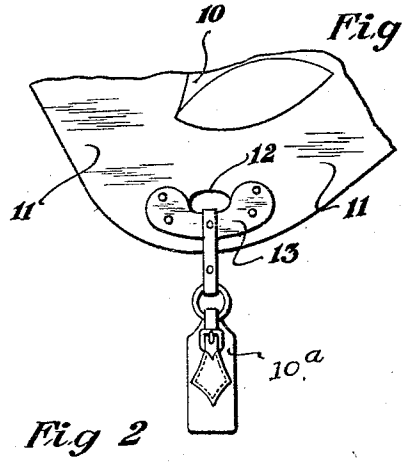
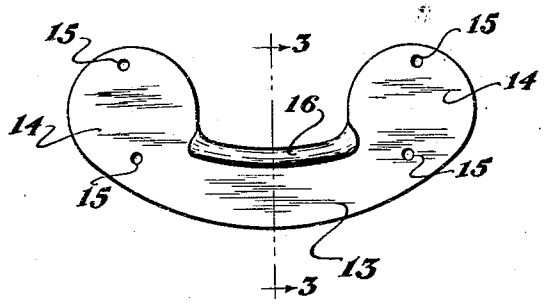


Fig 2



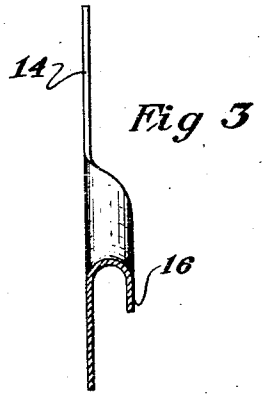


Fig 3

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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SADDLE CONSTRUCTION.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LESTER H. HAMLEY, a citizen of the United States, residing at 601 West Court Street, Pendleton, county of Umatilla, and State of Oregon, have invented new and useful Improvements in Saddle Constructions, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates to what is known as saddle rigging, and has for its objects, the provision of a unique saddle structure whereby the saddle may be secured to a horse without danger of producing what are commonly known as saddle sores or ring sores, and at the same time reduce the expense of producing the saddle. Additionally it is an object of this invention to provide a novel plate, adapted to be employed in saddle construction, for the purpose of receiving the latigo and permitting of the drawing of the saddle tautly about a horse without danger of undue strain upon the leather rigging ordinarily employed in the construction of western saddles, said plate being designed to absorb the wear and tear incident to the use of a saddle.

These and such other objects as may hereinafter appear, are attained by the novel construction, combination, and arrangement of the various elements of the device, all of which are fully illustrated in the accompanying drawing, hereby made a part of this specification, and in which:

Figure 1 is an elevation showing the device attached to a saddle, the saddle being fragmental;

Figure 2 is a back or inside view of the plate, the subject of this application for patent; and

Figure 3 is a vertical section on the line 3—3 of Figure 2.

Like reference characters are used to designate similar parts in the drawing referred to above and in the description of the device which follows.

Ordinarily, a saddle comprises a tree, indicated in Figure 1 by the numeral 10, and a leather rigging, designated by the ordinal 11 in said figure. Through said leather rigging 11, apertures 12 are provided, said apertures in an all-leather rigging being adapted to receive the latigo 10^a, whereby all the strain of the saddle is centered upon the lower edge of the leather about aperture 12, resulting in the distortion and eventual destruction of the leather rigging. Such riggings require at least two thicknesses of leather, in order to give them sufficient strength to stand the strain of affixing the saddle securely to the horse, making them exceedingly expensive, and considering the short life of all-leather riggings, such riggings are commercially not satisfactory.

In the invention here described, the leather rigging may be constructed of a single thickness of leather, and upon the lower side of aperture, a plate, designated 13, is attached. A similar plate 13 is, of course, attached to the opposite side of the saddle, the construction of the plate admitting of its being reversed.

The plate 13 comprises a sheet of metal formed somewhat after a half ring, having enlarged end portions 14, through which rivet holes 15 are punched. It is through said holes or apertures 15 that rivets are forced for the purpose of securing the plate 13 to the rigging 11 of the saddle.

Upon the upper portion of plate 13 and intermediate ends 14 a lip 16 is formed by turning the material of the plate 13 inwardly and downwardly, so that a groove or overlapping section is provided, such portion of the plate 13 being adapted to receive therebeneath the abutting portion of the leather rigging 11.

When plates 13 are so affixed by the apertures 12 in the rigging 11, the latigo 10^a is inserted through apertures 12, and, when pulled taut, presses upon the lip 16, thereby transferring the strain and stress of the saddle to the plate 13. In view of the attachment of the plate 13 to the rigging 11 in the manner here described and illustrated, the principal stress and strain which is centered upon the lip does not distort the rigging 11, for such strain is distributed about the whole of the rigging through the attachment of said plate 13 to the rigging by rivets passing through apertures 15 in said plate 13.

The frictional wear of the latigo 10^a upon the saddle is absorbed by the lip 16, for no portion of the latigo 10^a at any time comes in contact with the raw or finished edge of the leather about the apertures 12.

The construction here illustrated, as previously indicated, has all the advantages of an all-leather rigging, but none of the drawbacks of short life, early distortion, destruction, or tremendous expense. None of the unhappy effects of a cincha rigging are pro-

duced by this plate rigging, for ring or rigging sores so common with the cincha rigging are entirely avoided. There can be no lumpiness about the rigging of such a character as will cause abrasions or soreness upon a horse's back.

Having thus described the invention, what I claim is new and novel and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is:—

1. In a saddle, a tree, a covering therefor, a rigging affixed to said tree and having apertures therethrough upon its opposite sides, a latigo, and a plate adapted to be inserted in said apertures, said plate comprising a half ring member adapted to receive said latigo upon its interior surface.

2. The combination described in claim 1, and in which said plate is provided with an inwardly projecting lip for preventing contact of the latigo with the rigging.

3. In saddle manufacture, a plate comprising a half ring structure having enlarged ends, and a lip intermediate said ends and bent inwardly and downwardly to provide a friction protecting surface about the edges of an opening in a saddle rigging.

4. A plate as described in claim 3, and which is reversible, whereby the same plate is adapted to be used upon opposite sides of a saddle.

LESTER H. HAMLEY.