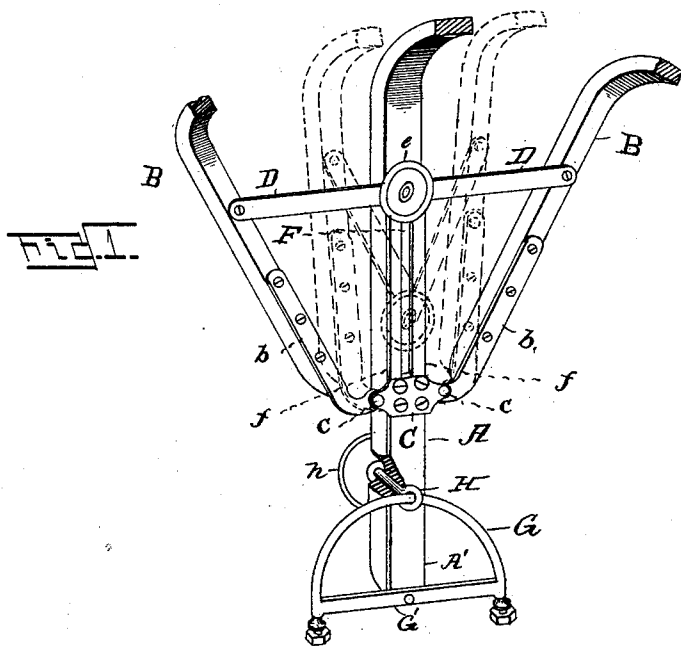
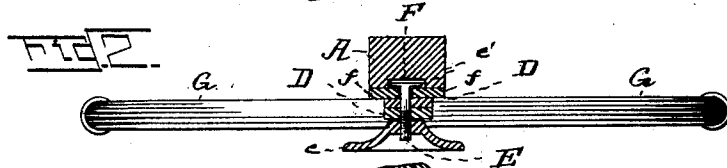
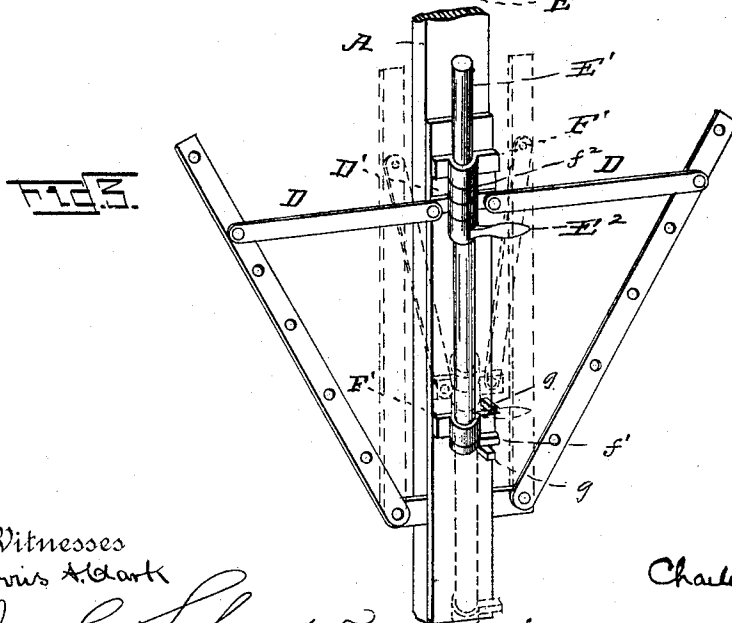


(No Model.)

C. L. PRITCHARD.  
VEHICLE TOP.

No. 362,039.

Patented Apr. 26, 1887.



Witnesses  
Morris Clark

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Inventor

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By his Attorney

*Jos. W. Dyer.*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES L. PRITCHARD, OF DUBUQUE, IOWA.

## VEHICLE-TOP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 362,039, dated April 26, 1887.

Application filed April 26, 1886. Serial No. 200,168. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CHARLES L. PRITCHARD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Dubuque, in the county of Dubuque and State of Iowa, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Vehicle-Tops; and I 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.

My invention relates more particularly to a buggy-top; and the improvements therein embrace means whereby the top can be more easily spread or folded and secured, and whereby it can be tilted forward or backward and securely held at any angle to the seat; and the novelty lies in the construction and arrangement of parts, all as will be more fully herein-after described and claimed.

For a better understanding of my improvements in detail, attention is invited to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 represents in perspective one side of a buggy-top frame embracing my improvements, and showing in dotted lines the position of the several parts when folded, and with the main or center bow broken away to show the means for enabling the top to be tilted and secured at any angle; Fig. 2, a transverse section of the main or center bow, the overlapping ends of the bow-braces, and the set-screw passing through these parts at this point; and Fig. 3, a view similar to Fig. 1 of a modification of the top spreading and folding devices.

Like letters of reference denote corresponding parts.

A denotes the main or center bow of a buggy-top, and B B the two branch bows, which are pivotally attached to the former by means of metal straps *b b*, that are riveted to the projecting ears *c c* of a metal plate, C, secured to the main or center bow, A. These branch bows B B have another connection with the main or center bow, A, by means of two braces, D D, which are pivoted at their outer ends to the bows B B, near their bending-points, and extend across to the bow A, where their inner ends are overlapped, as in Figs. 1 and 2. A bolt, E, passes through these overlapping ends of the braces D D, and has on its outer end, which is screw-threaded, a tightening hand-

nut, *e*, and on its inner end a head, *e'*, which head fits and works in a slot or groove, F, cut lengthwise in the main or center bow, A. This slot or groove is partly covered by two metal straps, *f f*, secured to the main or center bow, so as to establish a perfect guide for the bolt E, which has movement up and down between these metal straps in folding or spreading the top.

To fold or spread the top, the hand-nut *e* is loosened, so as to permit the bolt E to accede to the movements of the bows, and when the top is spread or folded either position can be securely maintained by tightening this hand-nut *e*. In spreading the top, the braces D D draw the bolt upward in the guide, and in folding these braces force it down, as shown in Fig. 1.

In the modification, Fig. 3, the braces D D are pivoted to a sliding side flanged bracket, D', through which and through guides F F, secured to the main or center bow, A, passes a vertically-sliding bolt, E. This rod carries at its lower end a one-armed collar, *f'*, and is provided just above the bracket D' with a fixed collar, *f''*, and just below said bracket with a fixed handle, E', by means of which said rod and the bracket D' can be raised or lowered to spread or fold the top accordingly, these movements being limited by the fixed guides F F. When the top is folded, it can be secured by turning the handle E' around to the right between two lugs, *g g*, extending out from the main or center bow upon opposite sides of the lower fixed guide, F, and when the top is spread it can likewise be secured by a similar movement of the handle E', which will turn the bolt and bring its one-armed collar *f'* around to a position between the two lugs *g g*, and thus lock the parts. By a reverse movement of this handle E' the parts are unlocked, and the top is then ready to bespread or folded, as the case may be.

In Fig. 1, G represents a bow or crescent shaped bar, connected transversely at its two ends by a cross-bar, G', and which ends are adapted for attachment to the seat or seat-irons. To the center of this cross-bar G' of the bow or crescent G is attached the main or center bow, A, by means of a metal strap, A', secured to said bow A and loosely riveted to the cross-bar G'. This bow A is again connected to the

bow or crescent proper by means of a screw-threaded eyebolt, H, the eye of which encircles the bow or crescent, while the stem passes through the bow A, and has on its outer end a tightening hand-nut, h, similar to the hand-nut e of the bolt E. By loosening this nut h the entire top can be tilted forward or backward, and then secured at any desired angle within the radius of a semicircle by merely tightening this nut h. An adjusting device of this character is equally as well adapted for use with the top shown in Fig. 3.

Instead of forming a guide for the bolt E by grooving the main or center bow, A, a grooved metal casting would answer just as well, and, in fact, be more durable; and, furthermore, instead of using an eye on the end of the screw-bolt H, its equivalent, a hook, could be used with as good an effect, and hence I do not wish to be confined to the particular construction of these parts. A top of either construction renders valuable service at all times, because it

can be adjusted to protect the occupant of the vehicle from the sun, wind, or rain. Besides, it is of a very cheap and simple construction, and very easy to operate, and quickly adjustable.

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

In a buggy-top, the combination, with the main or center bow, A, and its pivoted branch bows B B, of a pair of braces, D D, pivoted to the latter, and having loose connections with a vertically-sliding bolt, E, moving in a guide or guides, F, upon the main or center bow, and adapted to be raised or lowered and locked in either position, substantially as described and shown.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

CHARLES L. PRITCHARD.

Witnesses:

GEO. H. SCOTT,  
MONROE M. CADY.