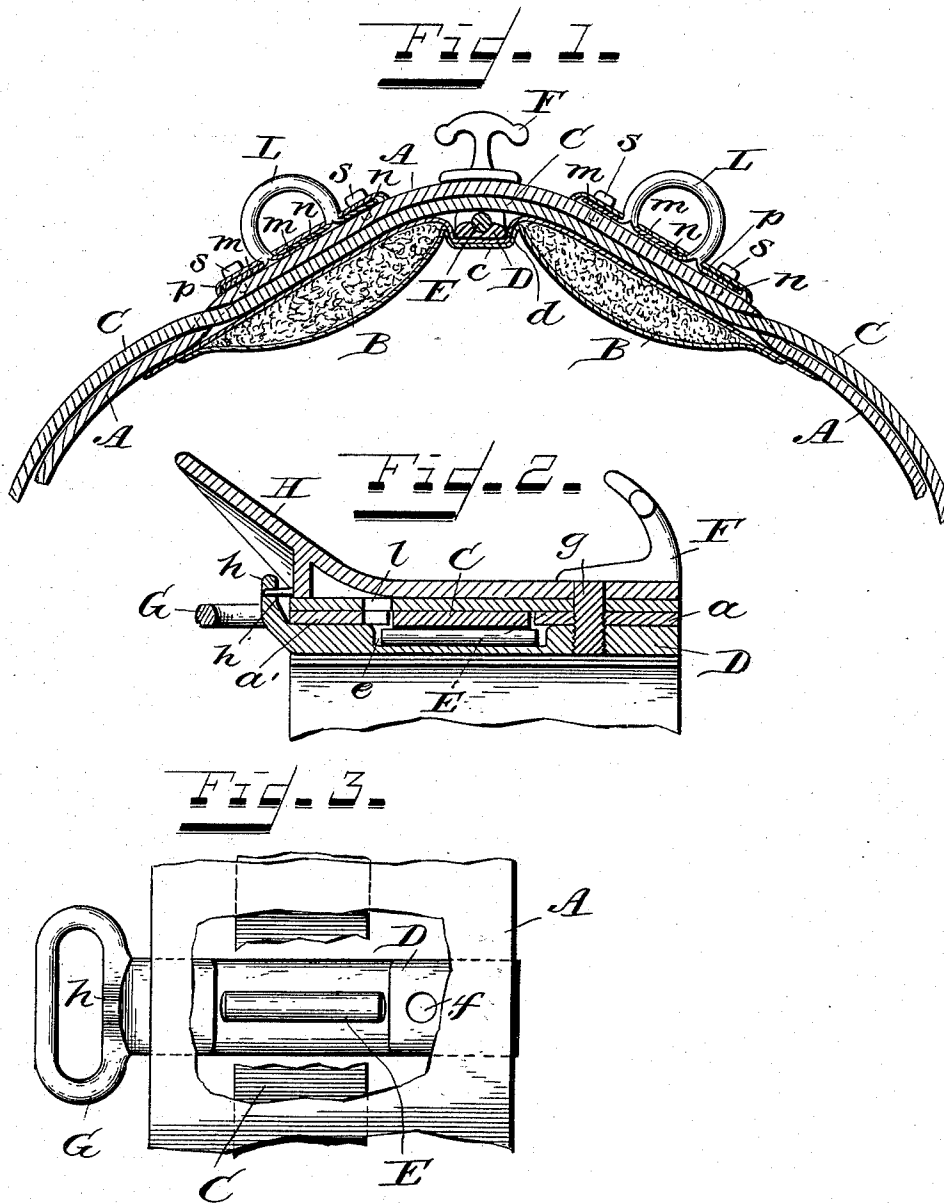


(No Model.)

C. A. WHITE.
GIG SADDLE.

No. 518,435.

Patented Apr. 17, 1894.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CORNELIUS A. WHITE, OF CARLISLE, KENTUCKY.

GIG-SADDLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 518,435, dated April 17, 1894.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CORNELIUS A. WHITE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Carlisle, in the county of Nicholas, State of Kentucky, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Gig-Saddles, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

My improvements relate more particularly to the fittings for gig saddles whereby the saddle may be readily reversed in position to bring the wear on the saddle padding on the opposite sides thereof and to certain improvements in the construction of the terrets and tug bearer strap, all of which will be hereinafter more particularly pointed out and claimed.

In gig saddles as usually constructed, the saddle seat, the check rein hook, the terrets and tug bearer straps are all securely stitched or otherwise fastened to the saddle, so that they can not be removed or replaced without practically tearing out the stitching and destroying the saddle, and as a result when one portion of the saddle is worn out the entire saddle is practically worthless. Especially is this so with the wear on the padding. The wear in the padding where it comes in contact with the shoulders of the horse, is ordinarily on the front side of the padding and with the usual construction and fastening of the saddle seat and check rein hook it is impossible to reverse the position of these parts without tearing the saddle.

One part of my invention consists in such construction that the saddle seat and hook may be reversed readily and at a moment's notice, so that the wear on the padding may be changed when desired.

Ordinarily metal terrets are employed on gig saddles which in use are very apt to wear sharp at the edges and to cut and destroy the reins.

Another part of my invention consists in the construction of the terrets of leather so that damage to the reins cannot occur and in so securing the terrets that they may be turned readily to bring the wear on the opposite side of the terret.

In ordinary gig saddles the tug bearer straps are securely stitched to the saddles so that if the horse should fall while in the shafts there can be no "give" to the parts to

relieve the strain and the shafts are very apt to be broken.

A third part of my invention consists in the construction of a single tug strap passing from side to side of the saddle and supported on a roller underneath the saddle seat so that should any extra weight be thrown on one side of the tug strap, the strap will slip with reference to the saddle.

In the drawings—Figure 1, is a sectional view in elevation of a portion of the saddle, showing my invention. Fig. 2, is a cross-section of the same taken centrally through the saddle. Fig. 3, is a top plan view of same with portions of the saddle broken away to show the construction.

A, is the skirt of the saddle composed of leather or any other suitable material, located on the under side of which and securely stitched thereto, are the pads B, B. Between the pads and skirt there is formed a lengthwise channel or socket by means of the strips of leather *a, a'* secured on each side of the skirt, and through this channel or socket the tug bearer strap C is passed, the lower end of this strap being provided with any suitable means not shown, for the reception of the shafts of the vehicle.

At the central portion of the saddle between the skirt and the pad covering *c*, is formed another socket or channel *d*, extending centrally across the saddle at right angles to the tug bearer strap.

D, is a plate of metal or other suitable material of suitable size, to be inserted within this central socket *d*. This plate which is intended to hold the check rein hook, I have called a check hook plate. Within this plate D a longitudinal recess *e* is formed to receive the roller E preferably made of hardened steel, the tug bearer strap C passing over and resting on this roller. With this construction, instead of having the tug bearer strap in two parts, each secured to the saddle, I am able to provide a single strap passing over the roller so that if any undue strain is thrown on the one side of the strap, the strap can give, sliding on the roller E so that the strain is removed from the saddle proper. At one side of the recess *e* in the check hook plate D, is a screw threaded hole *f*, to receive the screw *g* on the check rein hook F. At the other end of this check hook plate D, is a loop G which loop forms the means of attachment

for the crupper strap. At the inside of this loop, an upwardly extending lug *h* is formed on the check hook plate D.

H is the saddle seat shaped in the usual way and provided with an opening at the upper end to allow for the passage of the check rein hook screw *g*, taken into the check hook plate, the screw and hook serving to secure the front of the seat to the saddle. To secure the rear end of the seat to the saddle, the lug *h* on the check hook plate D is provided with a central opening within which takes a pin *k* on the under portion of the saddle seat. Instead of this particular construction it is obvious that other similar means may be employed for securing the seat to the check hook plate, for example, instead of the pin *k*, on the saddle seat and a loop on the check hook plate to be engaged by same, the position of these parts may be reversed and the loop formed on the rear of the saddle seat with pin or hook on the plate to engage same. Any means for coupling the seat to the plate, consisting of an element on each part engaging and locking with each other, so that the parts may be readily separated, will accomplish this result.

In addition to the opening in the skirt A and strip of leather *a* for the passage of the check rein hook screw *g*, another opening *l* is left in the skirt and the other leather strip *a'*, the two openings being at the same distance from the outer edges of the skirts.

Now when in use the padding has been worn in front, to reverse the saddle so that the unworn portions of the padding shall then be in front to come in contact with the shoulders of the horse, the check rein hook is unscrewed so that the saddle seat may be removed, the check hook plate drawn out of its socket and inserted on the other side of the socket, the seat is then turned around fastening in the opposite direction and the check hook plate screwed back to place, when as will be seen, the saddle is reversed, the screw *g* then passing through the opening *l* in the skirt and strip *a'*.

The terrets L, L, are formed of leather, two pieces of leather folded, the one over the other, so as to form a ring and leaving the ends of the leather *m, m*, and *n, n*, extending out at right angles or radially from the ends of the terret. These ends are passed through the jockey plates *p, p*, and the radial extensions of the terrets afford a means whereby the terret is clamped between the jockey plate and the skirt by the screws *s, s*, which also secure the jockey plates to the skirt. The construction of these terrets of leather and providing them with these out-turned feet, enables me to reverse the terrets whenever they become worn on one side by the action of the reins. Constructing the terrets of leather also takes all the wear off of the reins and no sharp edges can be formed by wear thereon, to cut or destroy the reins.

Should it be desired to use my saddle for a breaking saddle, a strap provided with crupper loop and check strap can be readily substituted for the metallic seat ordinarily used, and in this event with my leather terrets nothing can be broken, should the horse fall or roll on the saddle.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a reversible saddle, the combination, with a saddle skirt and cover, and a permanent recess between said skirt and cover, of a plate and crupper loop integral therewith sliding in said recess, and means, such as described for coupling the saddle seat to said plate, substantially as shown and described.

2. In a reversible saddle, the combination, with a saddle skirt and cover, and a permanent recess between said skirt and cover, of a plate and crupper loop integral therewith sliding in said recess, saddle seat, with means, such as described, for coupling the same to the plate at one end and a check rein hook to secure said seat and plate at the other end, substantially as shown and described.

3. In a reversible saddle, the combination, with a saddle skirt and cover provided with a permanent recess between the same, and said skirt having openings into said recess from above at each end thereof, of a plate and crupper loop integral therewith sliding in said recess, saddle seat with means, such as described, for coupling same to the plate at one end and check rein hook to secure said seat and plate at the other end, through either of said openings in the skirt, whereby the plate may be removed and reversed without taking the saddle apart, substantially as shown and described.

4. In a gig saddle, the combination, with the skirt and pads, provided with a permanent recess between the same extending through the saddle from side to side and having also a lengthwise recess or channel between the same, of a plate and crupper loop integral therewith sliding in said first mentioned recess, saddle seat, with means for attaching the same to the plate at one end, and check rein hook to secure said plate and seat at the other end, and a single tug bearer strap riding in said lengthwise channel, with roller thereon by which roller said strap is supported to allow a lengthwise movement thereof, substantially as shown and described.

5. In a gig saddle the combination with the skirt, of jockey plate with means for removably securing it to the skirt and leather terrets provided with out turned feet whereby the terrets may be clamped between the jockey and skirt substantially as shown and described.

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