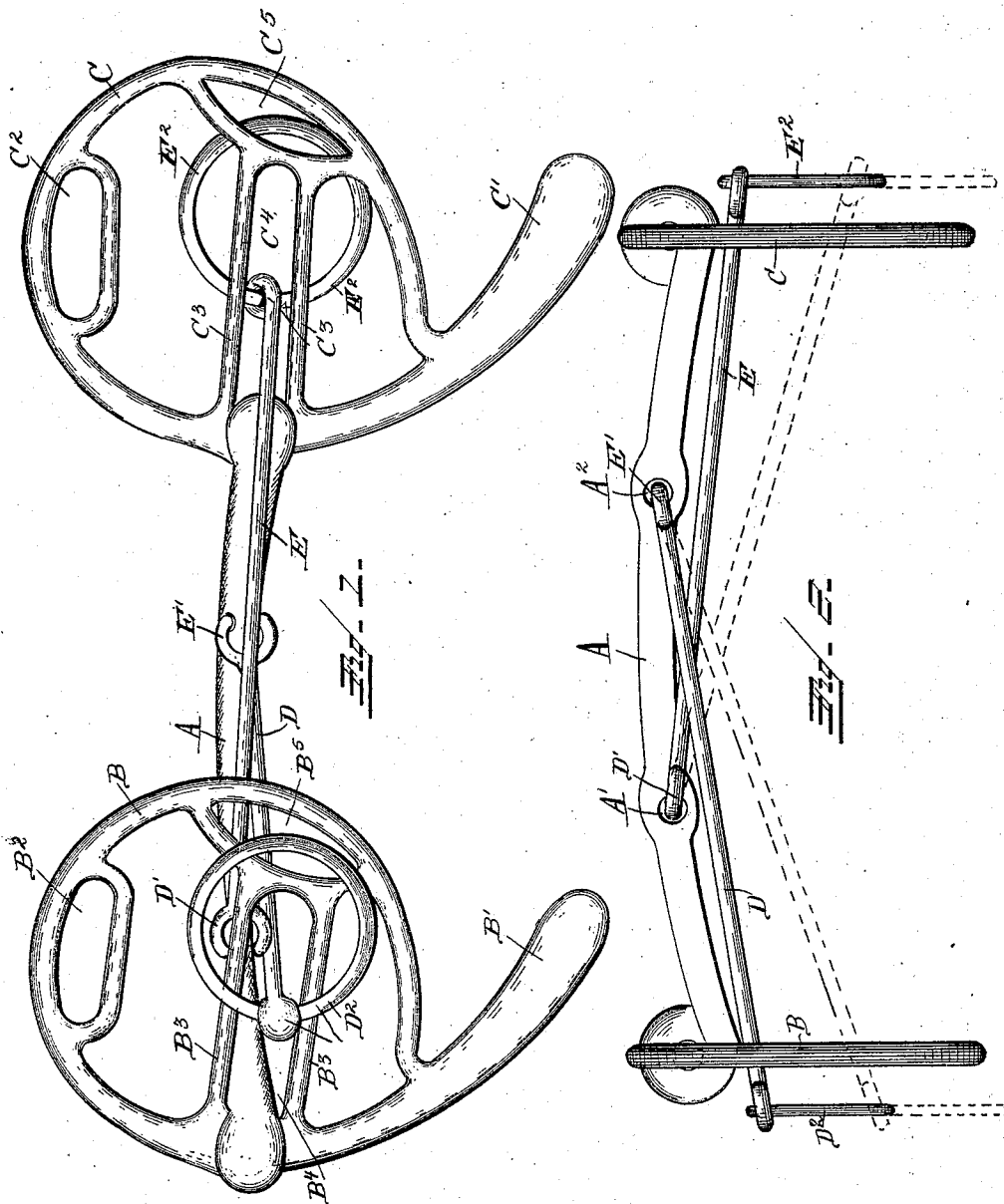


(No Model.)

M. F. BIGELOW.
BRIDLE BIT.

No. 577,001.

Patented Feb. 16, 1897.



Witnesses
Jos. Gregory
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MELVIN F. BIGELOW, OF ALDEN, IOWA.

BRIDLE-BIT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 577,001, dated February 16, 1897.

Application filed May 28, 1896. Serial No. 593,494. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MELVIN F. BIGELOW, a citizen of the United States, residing at Alden, in the county of Hardin and State of Iowa, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Bridle-Bits; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to bridle-bits.

My object is to provide an improved, simple, and powerful bridle-bit adapted for use either with gentle or vicious horses and which will effectually prevent the animal from taking the bit in his teeth.

Having this object in view, the invention consists of certain peculiar features and novel combinations appearing more in detail hereinafter.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective side elevation; and Fig. 2, a top view, dotted lines showing the position of the levers when driving an ugly horse.

A designates a forwardly-curved mouthpiece, which is fastened at its ends to respective check-pieces B and C. These check-pieces are substantially circular in shape and are provided with the usual arms B' and C', respectively. The upper portions of the check-pieces are provided with respective eyes B² and C², which receive the check-straps.

B³ and C³ respectively represent parallel bars that cross the check-pieces from front to rear, thereby providing respective slots B⁴ and C⁴.

B⁵ and C⁵ represent eyes to which are connected the driving-reins when the bit is being used on a gentle horse.

The mouthpiece A is provided with two eyes A' and A², which are located not far from its respective ends. I employ two levers D and E, having respective eyes D' and E' on their

ends, and these eyes are locked in the eyes A' and A², as shown. The levers cross each other and their free ends extend through the respective slots B⁴ and C⁴, being adapted for movement therein. The free ends of the levers are provided with respective rings D² and E², which receive the driving-reins when the bit is being used on an ugly horse.

Assuming that the bit is in use on an ugly horse, as the pull on the reins increases the levers are drawn backward in the slots in the check-pieces and, owing to the powerful leverage exerted, the animal is quickly brought under complete control.

When used on a gentle horse, the levers being free to move back and forward, they in no wise interfere with driving or trouble the animal.

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

1. In a bridle-bit, the combination with a mouthpiece, of levers pivoted thereto and crossing each other being adapted to work in the mouth of the horse, substantially as described.

2. In a bridle-bit, the combination with a mouthpiece, of check-pieces connected to the ends of the mouthpiece, and adapted for connection with the driving-reins and levers pivoted to the mouthpiece and crossing each other, said levers having their free outer ends provided with rings for attachment of the driving-reins, the free ends of said levers working in the check-pieces, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

MELVIN F. BIGELOW.

Witnesses:

W. B. MILLER,
JOHN TOMLINSON.