

H. M. Ritter,
Reversible Latch.

Nº 64,570.

Patented May 7, 1867.

Fig: 1.

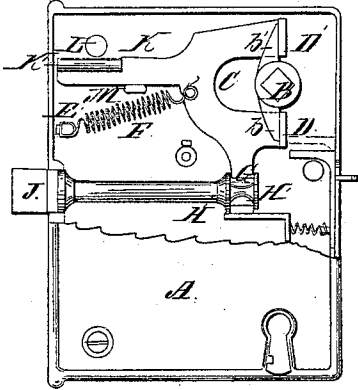


Fig: 2.

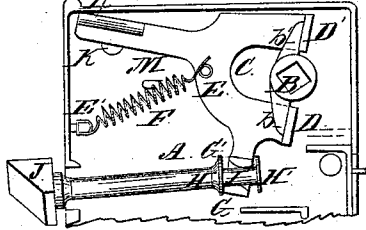
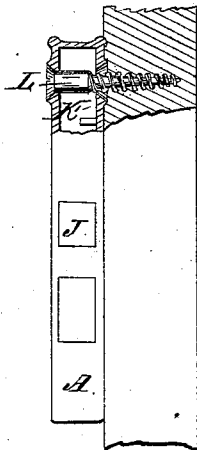
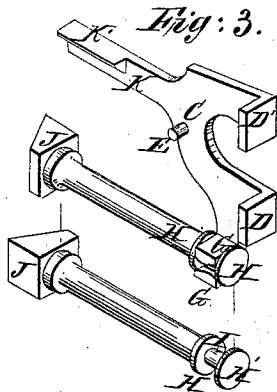


Fig: 4.



Witnesses:
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HENRY M. RITTER, OF CINCINNATI, OHIO, ASSIGNOR TO M. GREENWOOD
AND COMPANY, OF SAME PLACE.

Letters Patent No. 64,570, dated May 7, 1867.

IMPROVEMENT IN REVERSIBLE KNOB-LATCHES.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I HENRY M. RITTER, of Cincinnati, Hamilton county, Ohio, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Reversible Latch-Locks; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification.

This is an improvement in the class of door-locks whose latch, snap, or catch-bolt is susceptible of being turned to the right or left, so as to suit either a right or left-hand door, and the invention consists in, first, a construction of said latch that enables it to be reversed, when off the door, by simply grasping and partially withdrawing and then turning the head, without the necessity of a screw-driver or any other instrument, or any additional spring or other retractor, the latch-spring proper being made effective, both for retraction in ordinary use and for the restoration of the latch to its normal position after reversal; second, a provision whereby the latch is made, for the time being, irreversible by the mere act of attachment to the door.

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a lock embodying my improvement, the lock being attached to the door and a portion of the cap being removed.

Figure 2 shows the latch and its immediate accessories before attachment to the door, the latch being at liberty for reversal.

Figure 3 is a detached representation of the yoke and of the latch in both positions.

Figure 4 is an end view, a portion of the face-plate being removed, showing the wood-screw in position to prevent reversal.

A is the lock-case, and B the latch-operating hub or follower, having the customary horns *b b'*. My yoke C has the usual lugs *D D'*, to receive the impact of the horns *b b'* in the act of retracting the latch. The yoke has also a stud, E, and the case a stud, E', for the engagement of the respective extremities of a spiral spring, F, which spring, in addition to its ordinary duty of retracting the latch, becomes also effective to restore the latch to its working position in the lock after reversal. For this purpose the stud E' is placed at a slightly lower level than the stud E, so as to cause the spring to have a downward as well as a forward draught on the yoke. Projecting from the lower rear corner of the yoke are two cheeks *G G'*, which engage between a collar, H, and button H' on the tail or stem I, extending rearward from a customary bevelled head, J. Projecting forward from the yoke is an arm, K, having a lip, K', which, in conjunction with one of the wood-screws L and a stump, M, and the cylindrical portion of the hub B, restricts the yoke to a rectilinear reciprocation whenever the lock is in place on the door and the said screw driven home; while, on the other hand, a withdrawal of the said screw, by liberating the upper side of the yoke-arm K, permits said yoke to vibrate around the hub as a centre so as to enable the operator, by grasping the head of the latch between the thumb and the finger, to withdraw it sufficiently clear of the case to liberate it for reversal, the spring F operating to retract the latch and yoke to their normal or resting position within the case the moment that the latch is released from the grasp of the operator, when the wood-screw L being inserted, the yoke and latch are again restricted to their proper rectilinear motion and the latch made for the time being irreversible. I have selected as the type of my invention a form thereof adapted to what is known as an "upright" lock, but the same principle is applicable to locks of various forms. A wire or plate spring, F', see fig. 6, may in some cases be substituted for the spiral spring to retract the latch.

I claim herein as new, and of my invention—

In the described combination with the hub B, guiding-stump M, and spring F, the reversible latch I J, adapted for retention to a right or left position by direct contact of its yoke C K with one of the wood-screws employed to fasten the lock to the door, substantially as set forth.

In testimony of which invention I hereunto set my hand.

HENRY M. RITTER.

Witnesses:

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