

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DAVID H. CUNNINGHAM, OF ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY.

ELECTRIC-LAMP SOCKET AND SWITCH.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 320,117, dated June 16, 1885.

Application filed November 14, 1884. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DAVID H. CUNNINGHAM, of Elizabeth, in the county of Union and State of New Jersey, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Electric-Lamp Sockets and Switches, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the annexed drawing, forming a part thereof, in which—

10 Figure 1 is a vertical transverse section of a lamp-socket embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a plan view of the lower half of the socket. Fig. 3 is a detail view of the switch. Fig. 4 is a socket without an external metal casing. 15 Figs. 5 and 6 represent different forms of electrical connections, and Fig. 7 shows the application of my improved switch to a lamp-bracket.

Similar letters of reference indicate the same parts in the different figures of the drawings.

The object of my invention is to provide an inexpensive, easily-operated, and efficient lamp-socket and switch for incandescent electric lamps.

25 My invention consists in an insulating-socket formed of two parts—one part to be secured to the bracket or other support of the lamp, and containing one half of the electrical connector and the switch, the other half being 30 adapted to hold the lamp and carry the other half of the electrical connector.

My invention also consists in an electric switch formed of a square prism of insulating material mounted on a spindle, extending 35 through the socket and carrying an insulating-wedge, and two or more contact-springs, touching the sides of the prism, and capable of being separated by the insulating-wedge carried by the prism when the prism is turned in either 40 direction.

It also consists in spring-connectors adapted to form an electrical connection between the conductors of the lamp-support and those of the lamp and securely hold the two parts of 45 socket together.

The socket A is formed of two parts, *a* *b*, which are fitted to each other, and adapted to be held in proper relation to each other by the spring-connectors or by a screw-threaded collar, as shown in Fig. 1, or by friction of one

part on the other, as in the case of the socket shown in Fig. 4.

In the socket shown in Fig. 1, the part *a* consists of a metallic cup having an internally-threaded collar, *c*, capable of screwing on the 55 lamp-support. In the bottom of the part *a* is secured a ring, *d*, of insulating material, either by casting the metal of which the cup is formed around the ring, or in any other practical and convenient way. To the ring 60 *d*, at diametrically-opposite points, are secured two spring clips or connectors, *e* *e'*, having concaved inner faces, and in the part *b* of the socket are secured, at diametrically-opposite points, two spherical-headed screws, *f* *f'*, 65 electrically connected with the lamp-terminals, and adapted to be received between the spring-arms of the clips *e* *e'*. The screws *f* *f'* being connected with the terminals of the lamp B, when the part *b* of the lamp-socket is placed 70 in position for use, the screws *f* *f'* will be received between the spring-arms of the clips *e* *e'*, forming an electrical connection between the lamp and the said clips. To the insulating-ring *d* are secured two springs, 75 *g* *g'*, which extend along the face of the insulating-ring, and are bent upward and provided with enlarged ends *h* *h'*, which are adapted to form an electric contact between their free ends, and are beveled at their extremities along 80 their contact-surfaces, to receive a double wedge-shaped insulating-piece, *i*, carried by an insulating-prism, *j*, fixed to or formed integrally with a spindle, *k*, extending through the part *a* of the lamp-socket. The spindle *k* 85 is provided with a handle or thumb-piece, *l*, by which it may be turned. The spring *g* is connected with one of the wires extending through the lamp-support and forming a part of the lamp-circuit, and the spring *g'* is connected 90 with the clip *e'*, and the clip *e* is connected with the other wire, forming one of the conductors leading to the lamp. When the prism *j* is turned so as to introduce the double wedge *i* between the ends *h* *h'* of the springs *g* *g'*, the 95 springs are separated and the electric circuit is broken at that point, the insulating double wedge preventing the formation of an arc or the passage of the current. The springs *g* *g'* not only act as conductors for the current, but 10

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

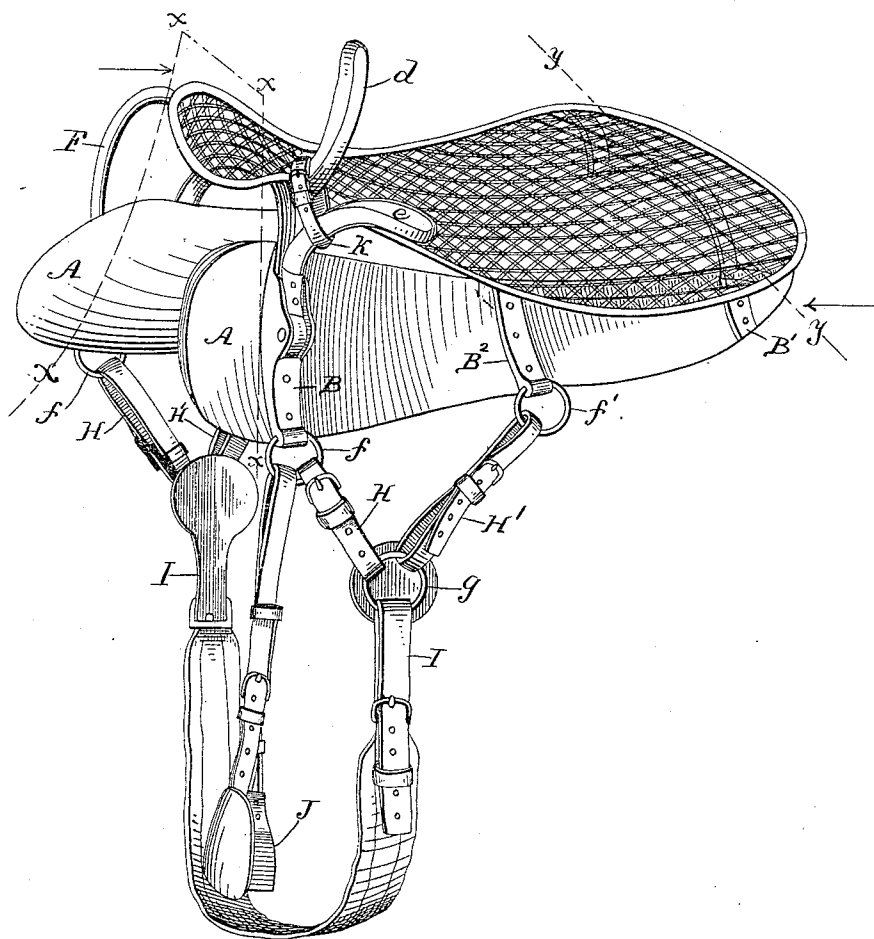
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RIDING SADDLE.

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Fig. 1.



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