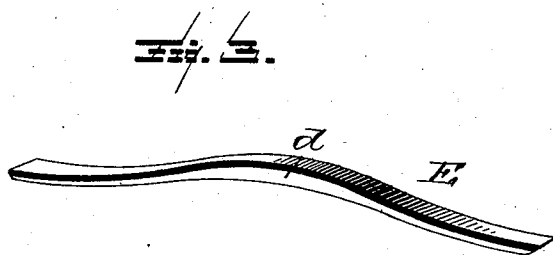
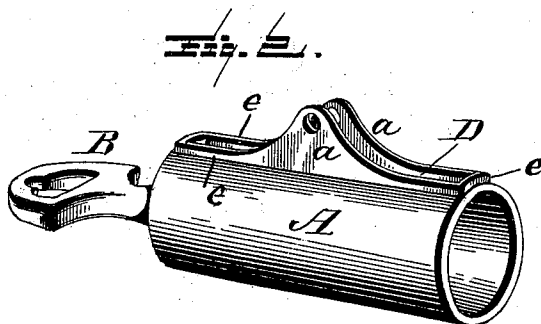
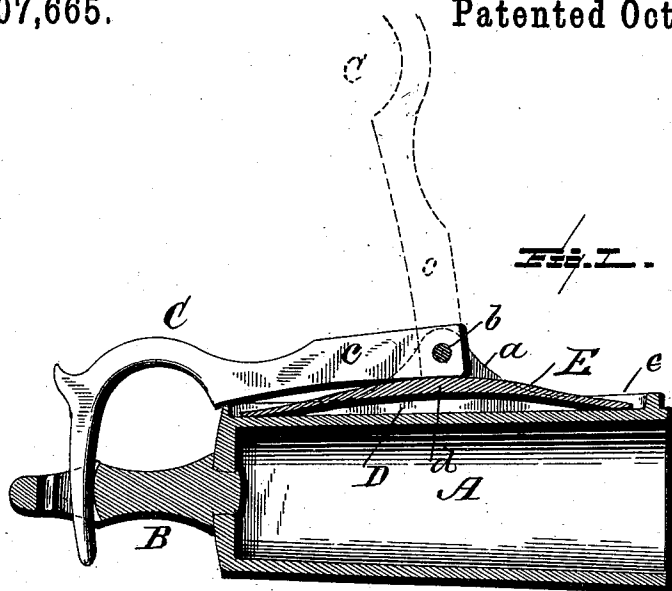


(No Model.)

R. S. McBEAN & J. W. McBURNETT.
WHIFFLETREE HOOK.

No. 507,665.

Patented Oct. 31, 1893.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT SINCLAIR McBEAN AND JOHN WESLEY MCBURNETT, OF COLORADO,
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WHIFFLETREE-HOOK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 507,665, dated October 31, 1893.

Application filed April 21, 1891. Renewed April 10, 1893. Serial No. 469,791. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, ROBERT SINCLAIR McBEAN and JOHN WESLEY MCBURNETT, citizens of the United States, residing at Colorado, in the county of Mitchell and State of Texas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Trace-Fastenings; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

Figure 1 of the drawings represents a longitudinal vertical section of our improvement in trace fastening; Fig. 2 a perspective view of the socket with the spring and hook removed; Fig. 3 a detail view in perspective and on an enlarged scale of the spring.

The present invention has relation to that class of trace fastenings consisting of a spring-actuated hook which engages with the usual eye-bolt upon the end of the whiffle-tree whereby the end of trace is securely held thereon. In some instances a coil spring was used and frequently a flat spring to retain the pivoted hook in engagement with the eye-bolt on the whiffle-tree. In the latter case which has been found the most desirable form of spring, it was necessary to rivet one end of the spring, to the metal socket which fits over the end of the whiffle-tree, thereby greatly weakening the spring and as a consequence rendering it liable to break from its fastenings, thus resulting in the complete destruction of the spring and rendering the device wholly useless. It is the purpose of the present invention to remove these difficulties by providing means whereby the necessity of riveting the spring to hold it in place is removed, and by the peculiar construction of the spring in connection with the means of holding it in place, increased strength is obtained and a greater amount of elasticity is secured, thus providing a device of this character that will be materially enhanced in value, as a more perfect action of the pivoted hook is obtained, and in strength and durability it possesses marked superiority over the trace-fastenings heretofore in common use. These several objects above enumerated are attained by the construction substantially as shown in

the drawings and hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings A represents a metal socket which is slightly tapering and adapted to fit over the end of a whiffle-tree and properly secured thereto, the outer end of the socket being closed and has suitably connected to it an eye-bolt B of the usual construction. This eye-bolt may be of any suitable shape and of any preferred construction and may be made with the socket or separately and afterward secured thereto, as shown, the socket, eye-bolt and the pivoted hook being susceptible of many changes and modifications without departing from the principle of our invention, and therefore we reserve the right to make any such changes as would come within ordinary mechanical skill. This hook C which may be of any of the well known forms, when down as shown in full lines Fig. 1, engages with the eye-bolt B, and when the end of the trace is slipped over the end of the eye-bolt, it will be securely held thereon by means of the hook. Now in order to avoid the necessity of riveting the usual flat bow spring to the socket A as heretofore, a flanged seat D is provided upon the upper side of the socket and the seat has pivot lugs *a* to receive the pivot *b*, whereby the shank *c* of the hook is securely held between the lugs and forms a pivotal connection therewith. Now it will be seen that the seat D has flanges *e* upon its four sides which prevent any lateral displacement of the spring and the end flanges act as stops to limit the longitudinal motion of the spring when it is compressed by the pivoted end of the shank *c*. This flanged seat holds the spring in position without the use of any rivets or other fastenings which would materially weaken the spring and render it liable to break and thus render the device wholly useless.

The spring which is represented at E is in the shape of a bow spring and has a body *d* of increased thickness to form a bearing for the end of the shank *c* of the hook, thereby compensating for frictional wear and removing the danger of the spring weakening at that point.

It will be seen that every provision is made for securing both a strong, durable and suc-

cessfully operating device of this character without in any manner increasing the cost of manufacture.

Having now fully described our invention,
5 what we claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

In a trace-fastening, a socket having an eye-
bolt and a seat having flanges upon its four
sides and pivot-lugs extending up therefrom,
10 in combination with a suitable hook pivoted
between the lugs, and a bow spring loosely

resting on the flanged-seat, substantially as
and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony that we claim the above we
have hereunto subscribed our names in the 15
presence of two witnesses.

ROBERT SINCLAIR McBEAN.

JOHN WESLEY McBURNETT.

Witnesses:

CLAYTON H. THOMAS,

ABSALOM R. EARNEST.