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HOLDBACK FOR THILLS.

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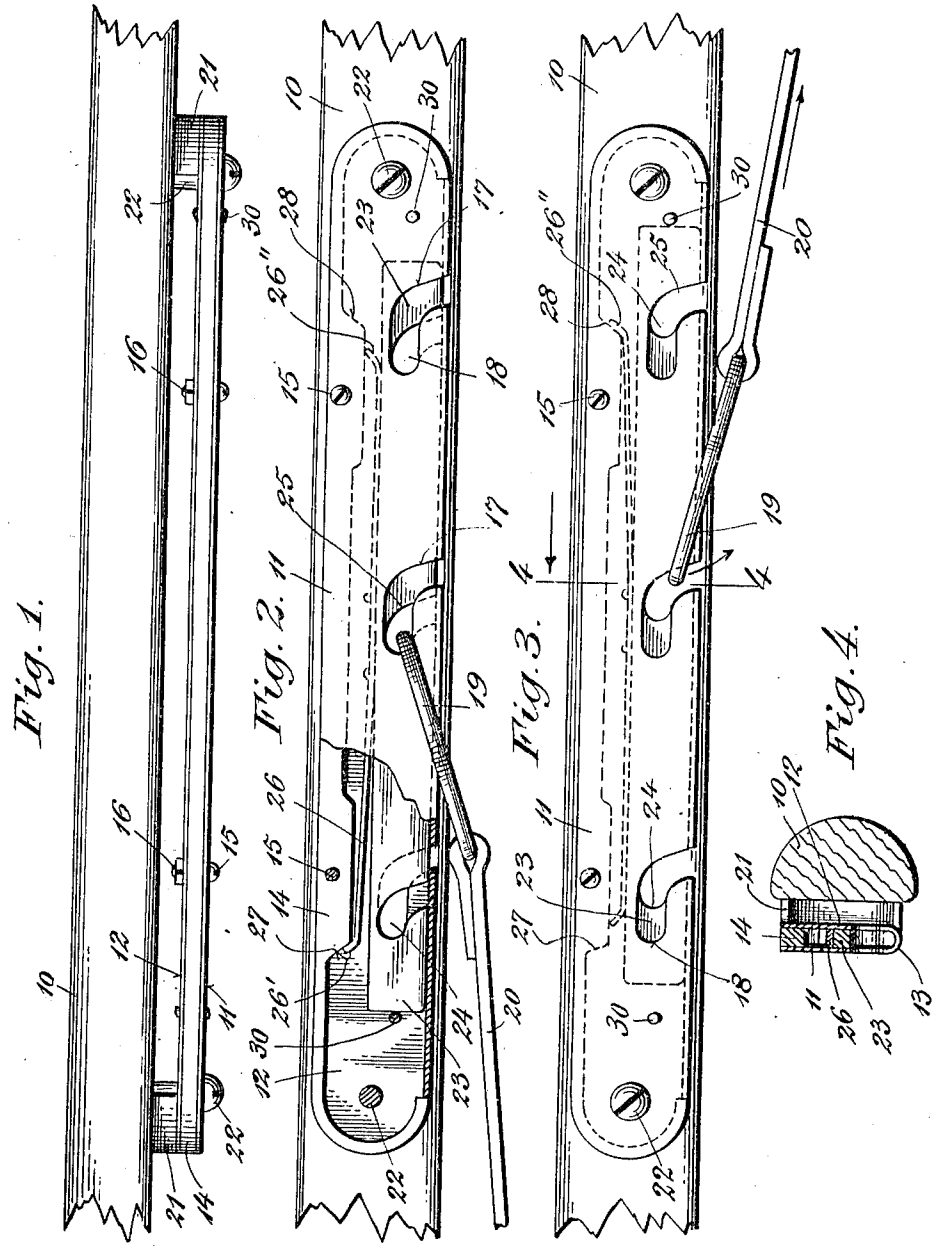

Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

WITNESSES:

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JACOB V. BAYER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Owosso, in the county of Shiawassee and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Holdbacks for Thills, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to holdbacks for vehicles, and has for one of its objects the provision of an improved device having a series of notches into which the holdback strap may be inserted according to the amount of room required by the horse and its position between the shafts.

The invention has, furthermore, for its object the provision of a device of this character in which a slide, having notches, is provided for the purpose of locking the strap in position in one direction; while, if a pull is exerted on the strap in the opposite direction, said slide will be moved to release the strap.

A further object of the invention resides in the combination with such slide, of means whereby the same will not only be locked against accidental displacement but will furthermore be firmly seated within the casing to prevent rattling between the parts.

Further objects of the invention will hereinafter appear and be particularly defined in the claims.

The invention has been clearly illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which similar characters denote similar parts and in which—

Figure 1 is a top view of one of the thills of a carriage, equipped with my improved holdback. Fig. 2 is a side view of the same, partly broken away and showing the holdback strap in operative position. Fig. 3 is a side view showing the effect produced by a pull on the holdback strap in the opposite direction, and Fig. 4 is a vertical cross section on line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

The present device is especially adapted as a safety member, *i. e.* it will firmly hold the strap when in normal position, but in case of attempted runaway, or other forward pull, when unhitched, the horse would disengage itself, or rather the strap, from the device, automatically.

Referring to the drawings, 10 denotes one of the thills of a carriage, which may be of any suitable or desired construction. Secured to the inner side of this thill is the holdback which comprises a stationary casing consisting of the front plate 11 and a rear plate 12 both of which are however formed in one piece from sheet metal, bent as shown at 13 in Fig. 4, thus forming a trough having the substantially parallel sides 11 and 12. A filler or spacer member 14 maintains the upper edges of the plates in properly spaced relation, the different parts of the holdback being secured together by screws 15 and nuts 16. The lower portion of the channeled member is provided with a series of slots having inclined faces 17 and horizontal portions 18, the latter being adapted to receive and hold the metallic loop 19 attached to the back strap 20. In order to provide for sufficient play room for the loop 19, the channel member is spaced from the thill by blocks 21, and the holdback member in its entirety is secured to the thill by screws 22, or in any other suitable manner.

In Fig. 2 the loop 19 is illustrated as being locked against accidental displacement by a slide 23 provided with notches 24 which are adapted, when the slide is in the position shown in Fig. 3, to register with the slots 18 of the channel member thus providing a free passage for the loop 19 to leave the holdback member. Again referring to Fig. 2 it will be noted that the front end of the slot 18 of the channel member is closed by the inclined wall 25 of the slot in the slide, so that consequently there is no tendency for the loop to drop out of position even if the strap should hang loose. In order to maintain the slide in its locking position, I preferably employ a strap member 26 secured to the slide and extending longitudinally thereof, both ends being slightly hook shaped as shown at 26′ and 26″ to engage inclined ledges 27 and 28 respectively of the filler member 14, and in accordance to either the forward or the backward position of the slides which in Fig. 2 is shown in its rearward or locked position, while in Fig. 3 the slide is shown in its forward position.

From the foregoing it will be understood that when a horse is backed into position between the thills, and the loops are caught in the proper notches of the holdback, the slide 23 will be naturally pulled backward and thus close the notches 18 of the channel member. On the other hand if, either through cause of runaway, or in order to

take the horse out of the shafts of the carriage, the pull on the strap and loop 19 should be forward instead of rearward, the slide 23 would also be moved forward and thus allow the loop to leave the holdback member.

Many changes may be made in the organization and particular construction of some of the elements of my improved device without departing from the spirit of the invention, as for instance stops or abutments 30 may be employed to limit the movement of the slide 23 in both directions.

I claim:—

1. The combination with a notched bar of a slide having slots and movable relatively thereto to bring said notches into and out of register with the slots, and means for holding said slide against accidental displacement in either register or non-register position.

2. A holdback comprising a notched bar, a slide having slots adapted to register with the notches of the bar, and movable longitudinally thereof, and a spring secured to one member and having a hook shaped end adapted to engage the other member to hold said slide against accidental displacement relatively to the bar in either register or non-register position.

3. A holdback comprising a notched bar, a slide having slots adapted to register with the notches of the bar, and movable longitudinally thereof, and a spring secured to said slide and having a hook shaped end adapted to engage said bar for holding the slide against accidental displacement relatively to the bar in either register or non-register position.

4. The combination with a channeled holdback casing having a series of notches, of a slide having slots adapted to register with the notches of said casing, a spacing member disposed between the free edge portions of the channel member and having inclined abutment faces, and a spring secured to the slide and having a hook shaped end to engage said abutment face to prevent accidental displacement between the slide and said casing.

5. The combination with a casing formed of sheet metal and bent to form a trough with substantially parallel sides, and having notches in its connecting bend-portion and extending into said parallel sides, and a spacer member disposed between the free edges of the casing sides, of a slide mounted for longitudinal movement in said casing and having slots adapted to register with the notches of said casing, and means for locking said slide against accidental displacement in either direction.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JACOB V. BAYER.

Witnesses:

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