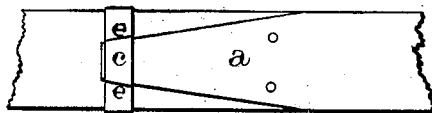


H. S. SMITH.  
HOOP-FASTENER.

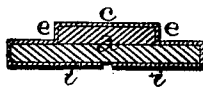
No. 177,434.

Patented May 16, 1876.

*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*



WITNESSES.

*J. W. Warner,*  
*F. B. Burnham,*

INVENTOR.

*H. S. Smith*  
per  
*F. A. Schmann, atty.*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HEMAN S. SMITH, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR OF PART OF HIS  
RIGHT TO A. T. BRIGGS AND W. H. THRALL, OF NEW YORK CITY, AND  
F. A. LEHMANN, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

## IMPROVEMENT IN HOOP-FASTENERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **177,431**, dated May 16, 1876; application filed  
November 20, 1875.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HEMAN S. SMITH, of Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Hoop-Fastener; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and use it, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form part of this specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in fastenings for hoops; and it consists of a strip of sheet metal that is stamped so as to clamp the sides of the tapered end of the hoop to prevent it from splitting, and then has its ends bent over inside of the hoop, so as to clamp and hold both ends at the same time, as will be more fully described hereinafter.

The accompanying drawings represent my invention.

*a* represents an ordinary hoop, of any desired size and construction, one end of which is tapered, as shown. Placed around this hoop, so as to embrace this tapered end and the edges of the other end, is the fastening *c*, which consists of a narrow strip of sheet

metal, stamped so as to have the two shoulders *e* formed on it. These shoulders slightly diverge from each other, so as to fit the shape of the tapered end of the hoop, and so that when forced into position it will grasp the sides and compress the end together in such a manner that it cannot split or be otherwise injured. The two ends *i* are then bent around under the edges of the other end, as shown, thus making a strong, cheap, and durable fastening without the use of nails.

I am aware that staples and bands have been used as a fastening for hoops, and these I disclaim.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

A hoop-fastener made of the strip *c*, bent and shaped substantially as shown and described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 20th day of November, 1875.

H. S. SMITH.

Witnesses:

ROBERT M. BARR,  
F. A. LEHMANN.