(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

J. J. SPEED.

FIRE ARM.

No. 372,182. Patented Oct. 25, 1887.

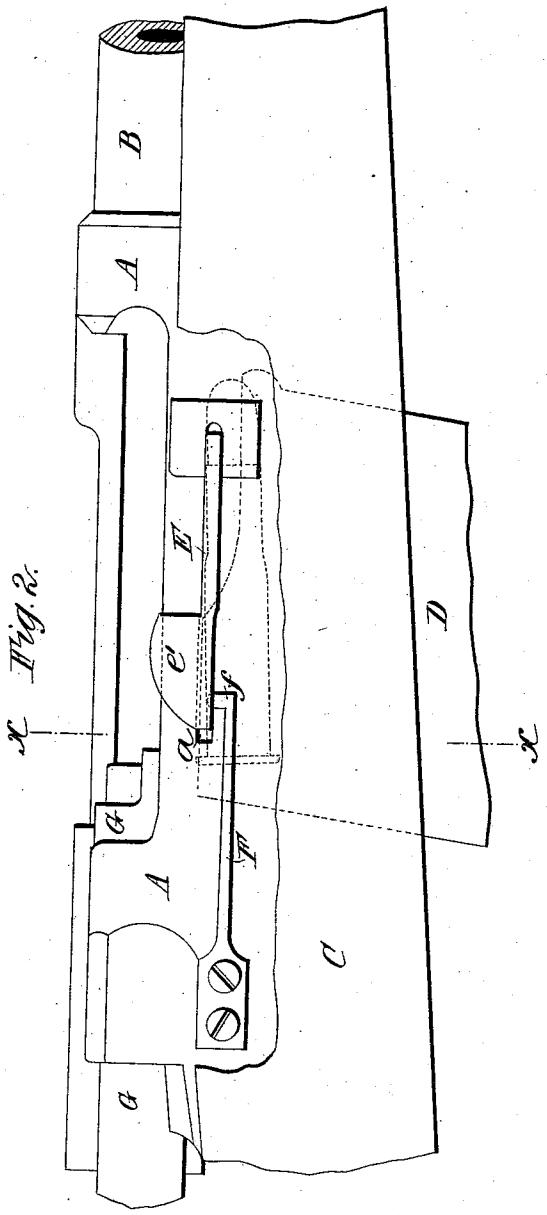


Fig. 2.

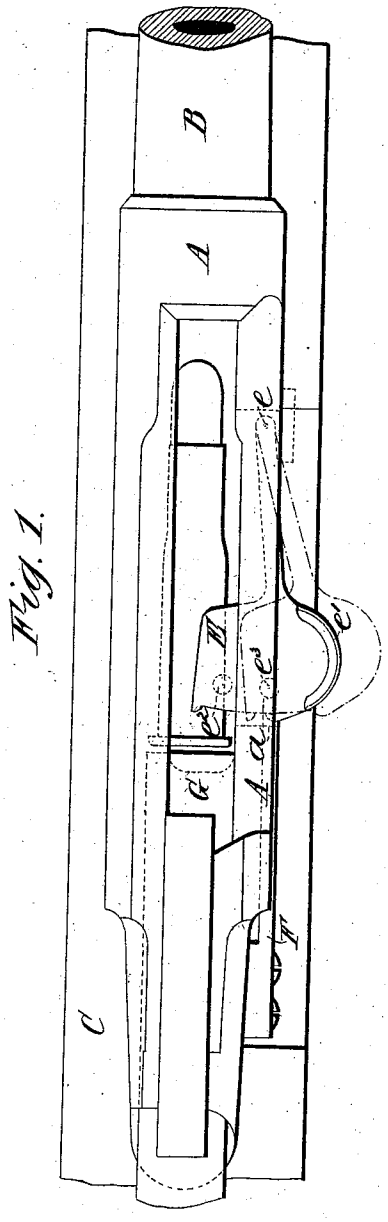


Fig. 1.

Witnesses:
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Julius Leede

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(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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Fig. 4.

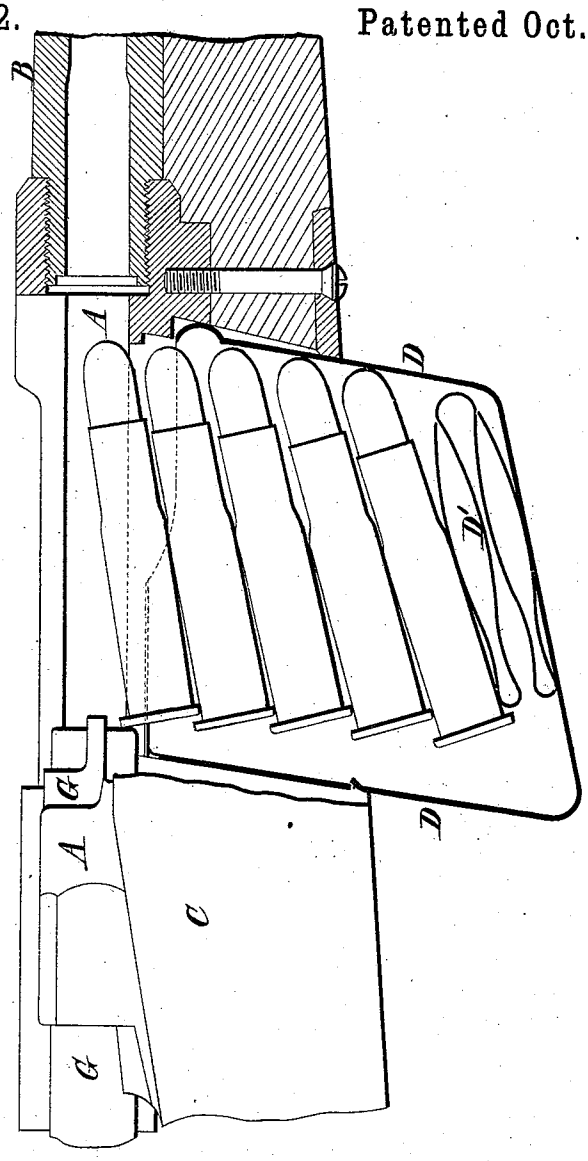
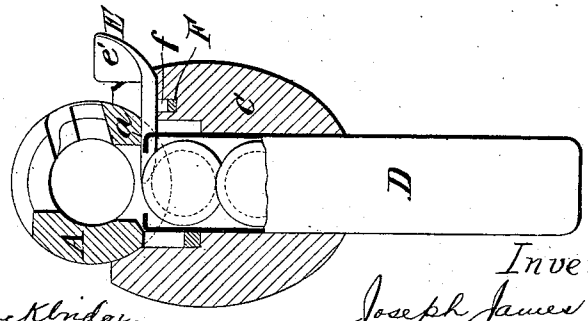


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH JAMES SPEED, OF WALTHAM CROSS, ENGLAND.

FIRE-ARM.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 372,182, dated October 25, 1887.

Application filed July 21, 1887. Serial No. 244,880. (No model.) Patented in England April 30, 1887, No. 6,335.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH JAMES SPEED, mechanical engineer, a subject of the Queen of Great Britain, and a resident of Waltham Cross, England, have invented new and useful Improvements in Fire-Arms, (for which I have applied for provisional protection in Great Britain, No. 6,335, dated April 30, 1887,) of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

My invention relates to magazine or repeating fire-arms; and its object is to provide improved means for enabling a magazine-rifle to be used as a single-loader, while a supply of cartridges is kept in reserve in the magazine. For this purpose I employ a catch which is pivoted to the shoe or body of the gun in a slot formed therein, so that the said catch may be turned into such a position that it will hold down the cartridges in the magazine, and thus prevent the feeding of the uppermost cartridge therefrom by the breech-bolt in its forward movement.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a plan, and Fig. 2 a side elevation, of part of a Lee magazine-rifle with my improved catch applied thereto, showing the said catch in position for holding down the cartridges in the magazine. Fig. 3 is a transverse section on the line *x x*, Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a side elevation, partly in vertical central section, showing the cartridges in the position which they assume when the said catch is withdrawn.

A is the shoe or body of the gun; B, the barrel; C, the stock; D, the magazine, and G the breech-bolt.

E is the catch, which is pivoted at *e* to the body A and works in a slot, *a*, therein. A spring-retaining pawl, F, is attached to the body A and has at its free end a stud or projection, *f*, adapted to enter either of the holes e^2 e^3 in the under side of the catch E, for the purpose of retaining the said catch at either extremity of its movement. The catch E is formed or provided with a projection, *e'*, whereby it may be moved in or out by the thumb or finger. The under side of the said catch is inclined, as shown in Fig. 3, so that when it is pushed inward and comes into contact with the uppermost cartridge in the magazine it will depress the said cartridge clear of the breech-bolt G.

I provide the magazine with a spring, D', which, when the cartridges are inserted, will be compressed, and will then react to push the cartridges upward.

The catch E is shown in full lines in Fig. 1 in the position which it occupies when pushed inward. In this position it holds down the cartridges in the magazine, and thus prevents the feeding thereof into the chamber of the gun by the breech-bolt in its forward movement, so that the rifle can be used as a single-loader. The said catch, moreover, projecting over the uppermost cartridge in the magazine, indicates to the soldier that the magazine is closed, or out of action.

When it is desired to use the cartridges stored in the magazine, it is only necessary to pull the catch E outward into the position indicated by dotted lines in Fig. 1. The magazine-spring D' will then push the cartridges upward into the position shown in Fig. 4, so that the breech-bolt, when moved forward, will thrust the uppermost cartridge into the chamber. The rifle can therefore be used either as a single-loader or a repeater at will.

Any other suitable spring may be used in the magazine D. Moreover, the details of construction of the pivoted catch and its spring-retaining pawl may be somewhat modified, if desired, without departing from the nature of my said invention.

What I claim is—

1. The combination, with a magazine fire-arm, of a catch pivoted to the shoe or body A and working in a horizontal slot in said shoe or body of the gun, whereby it may be moved into position to hold the cartridges down in the magazine, and the arm can be used as a single-loader, or it may be withdrawn from such position and the arm used as a repeater, as specified.

2. The combination, with a magazine fire-arm, of the catch E, pivoted at *e* to the shoe

or body A and working in a horizontal slot, *a*, in said shoe or body, substantially as described.

3. The combination, with a magazine fire-arm, of the pivoted catch E, pivoted to the shoe or body, as shown, and formed with holes e^2 e^3, and the spring F, provided with stud or projection *f*, adapted to enter said holes and hold the catch in place, as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto signed my name in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOS. JAMES SPEED.

Witnesses:
W. R. LOWMAN,
A. STANLEY.