

J. C. RIETHMÜLLER.
CHECK FOR COTTON-BALES.

No. 172,937.

Patented Feb. 1, 1876.

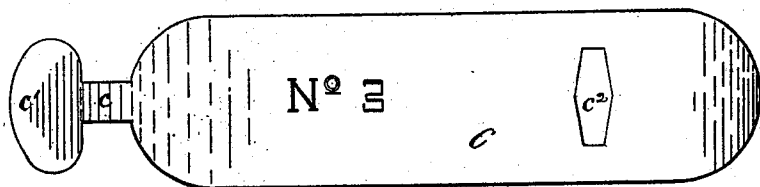


Fig. 1.

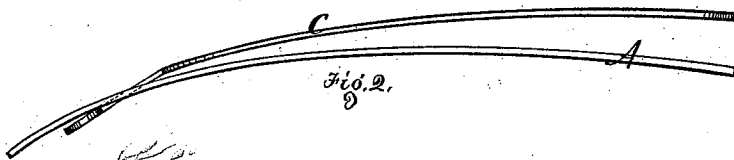


Fig. 2.

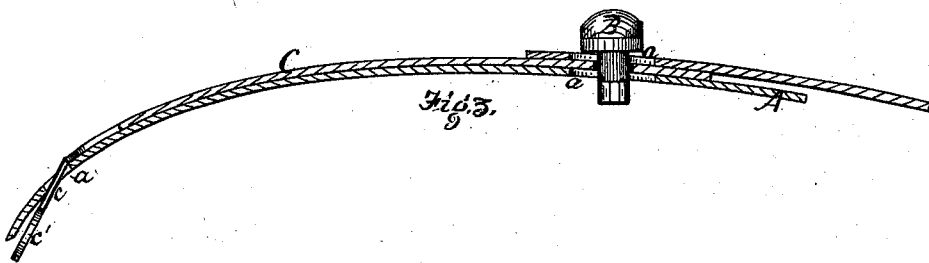


Fig. 3.

WITNESSES.

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JOHN C. RIETHMÜLLER, OF ALLEGHENY, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN CHECKS FOR COTTON-BALES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **172,937**, dated February 1, 1876; application filed November 30, 1875.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN C. RIETHMÜLLER, of Allegheny, in the county of Allegheny and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Check or Mark for Cotton-Bales; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a view of a check for cotton-bales. Fig. 2 is a view of the check and tie, the locking device removed; and Fig. 3 is a central longitudinal section of check, band, and locking device.

Like letters refer to like parts wherever they occur.

My invention relates to a check or device for marking cotton-bale bands.

In handling and shipping cotton it commonly happens that the private mark of the owner or consignee is defaced or obliterated, either accidentally or intentionally, giving rise to much loss and trouble, so that if practicable it is desirable to employ a check system between consignor and consignee, and it is furthermore necessary that the check should be so connected to the bale-band that it cannot be fraudulently removed.

With these requisites of a check in view, I have devised a check for cotton-bales, which I will now proceed to specifically describe, so that others may make and use the same.

In the drawing, A indicates a bale-band, having a series of slots, *a*, such as are commonly made in the band when a button, B, or similar locking device is employed. C represents a check, which is provided at one end with a constricted portion, *c*, equal to, or less than, the width of the slots *a* of the bale-band, so that when the portion *c*¹ of the check has been passed through slot *a* the check may be applied against the band. The opposite end of the check is slotted, as at *c*², at a point corresponding with a slot of the band to permit the passage of the shank or button B.

In employing a check of the form described, the button *c*¹ is passed through a slot in the band, then the check is turned and applied against the band, the locking-slot *c*² registering with the locking-slots through which, after the bale has been compressed, the usual

button is passed, the end of the check being preferably held between the ends of the band, as shown.

To obtain greater security, I prefer to form the locking-slot *c*² of the check at right angles to the band-slots; but such a construction is not quite so convenient as parallel slots for locking the band.

If preferred, both ends of the check may be formed with the constricted portion or neck *c*, and the check secured by passing the ends through two slots instead of securing one end by the locking devices.

The main features of this invention, it will be observed, are, first, securing the check to the band by slot and button or equivalent connections; and, secondly, securing the check by means of the locking devices; so that in either case any tampering with the mark of the bale will be at once apparent. The detailed construction or form herein specified is that which I have found best adapted to the object in view.

I am aware that characters and figures have been made upon the band, and upon the locking device itself, thus converting the buckle into a check, and lay no claim to such devices; but,

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In combination with a slotted bale-band and its locking device, a check, having a slot which crosses that of the bale-band when the parts are in position to lock a bale.

2. A check for bale-bands, having a constricted portion or neck and button to engage with a slot in the bale-band.

3. In combination with a slotted bale-band, a check provided with a neck or constricted portion to engage with the slot of the bale-band.

4. In combination with the locking device of a bale-band, a check secured or held by the locking device, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

In testimony whereof I, the said JOHN C. RIETHMÜLLER, have hereunto set my hand.

JOHN C. RIETHMÜLLER.

Witnesses:

ALLAN C. BAKEWELL,
T. B. KERR.