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Hughes

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[54] **TONGUE STRAP**

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[51] **Int. Cl.** **H01k 29/00**

[58] **Field of Search** 119/96, 134; 54/7–9; 128/223; 2/338, 340

[56] **References Cited**

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Assistant Examiner—J. N. Eskovitz
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A tongue strap for animals comprising a long, narrow flexible band, preferably of rubberoid material, formed with a first transverse slot near one end, a second transverse slot farther from that end and a third transverse slot still farther from that end, the other end of the band being threaded through the first slot from the inside to the outside to form a first adjustable loop to enwrap the animal's tongue, and the one end of the band being threaded through the third slot from the outside to the inside and then through the second slot from the inside to the outside and then being brought into and secured in mating relation to the other end of the band to form a second adjustable loop to enwrap the lower jaw of the animal.

4 Claims, 5 Drawing Figures

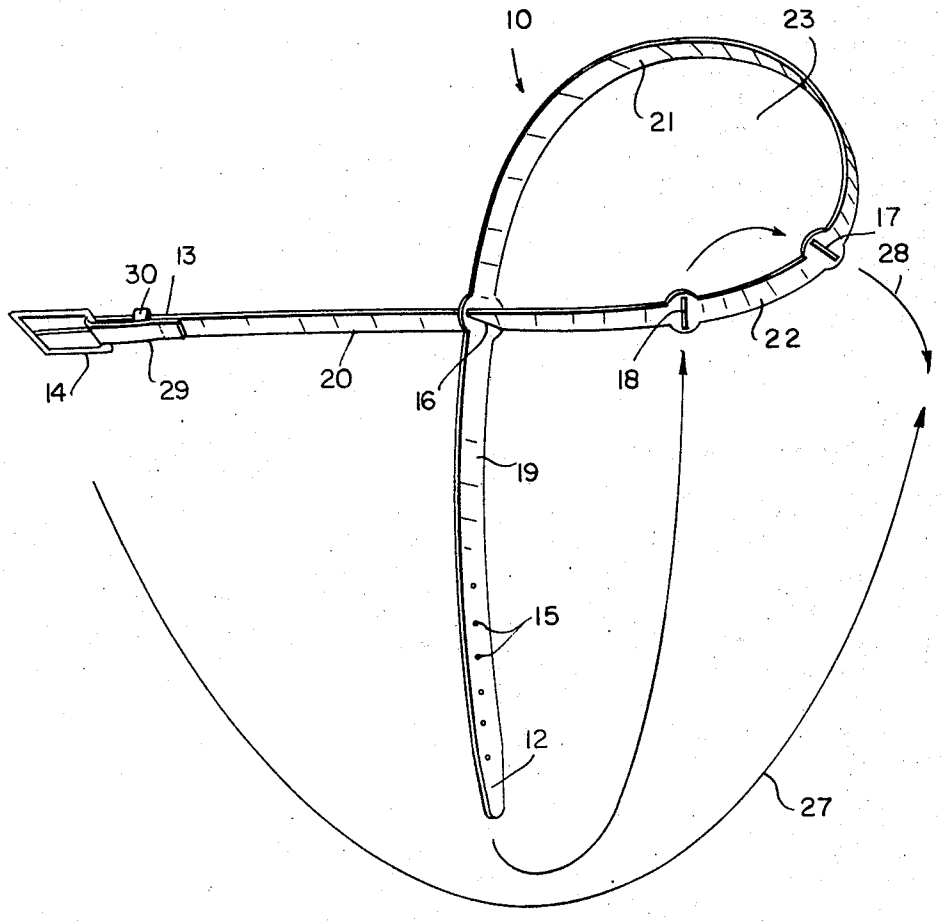


Fig.1

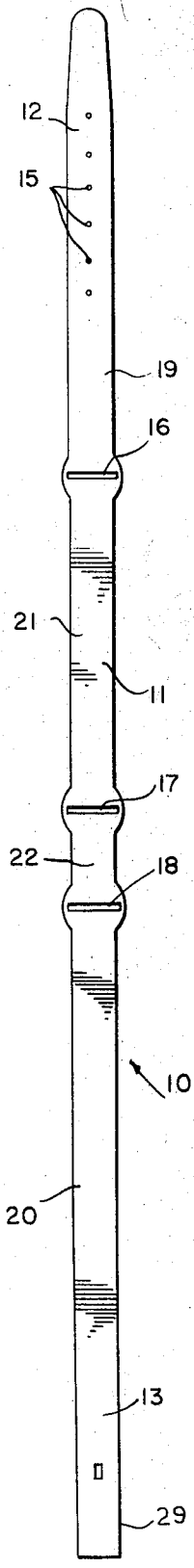




Fig.5

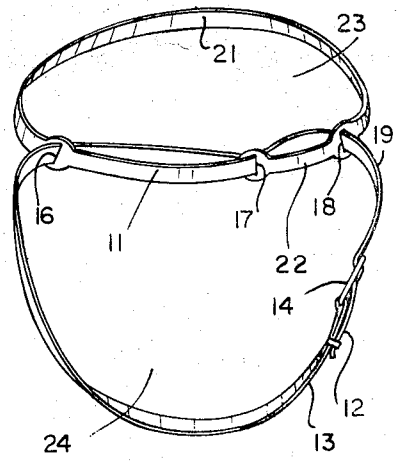


Fig.3

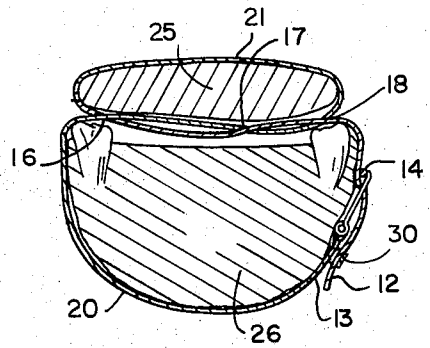
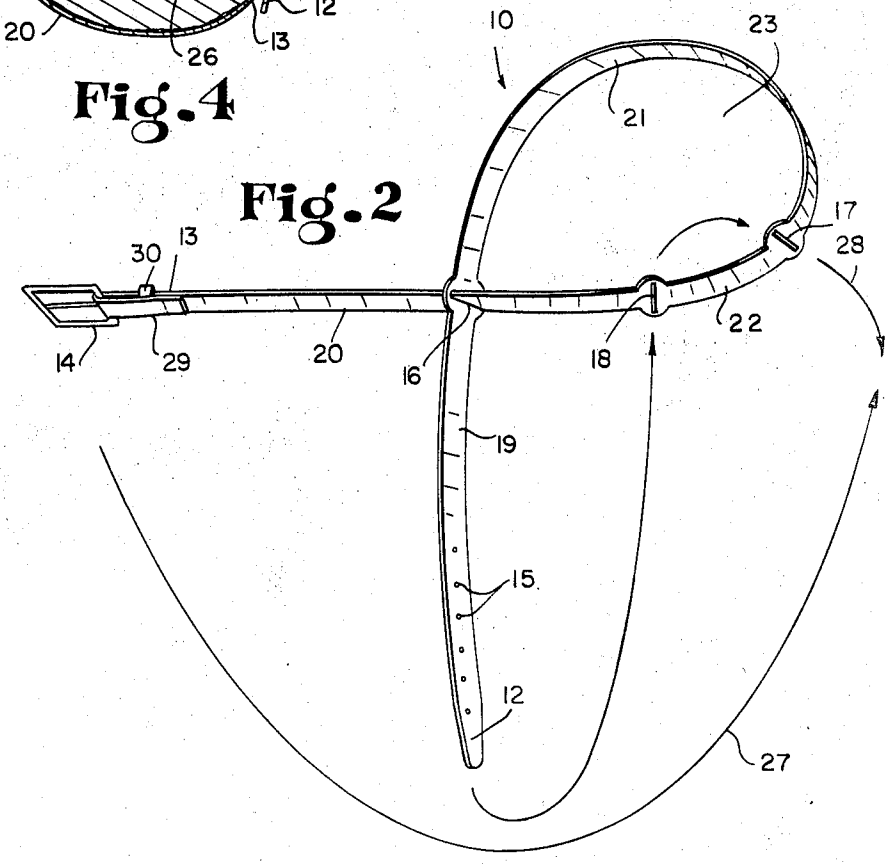


Fig.4

Fig.2



TONGUE STRAP

The present invention relates to a tongue strap for animals, and primarily for untrained horses. A young and untrained horse will frequently fight, and seek to eject, the bit which is placed in his mouth and to which the bridle is attached. Sometimes he actually succeeds in ejecting the bit; but even more often his struggles will result in injury to his own tongue. In training horses, then, it is desirable so to restrain the animal's tongue that he cannot use it to push against the bit; and the primary object of the present invention is to provide a strap constructed, arranged and designed to accomplish that function.

Further objects of the invention will appear as the description proceeds.

To the accomplishment of the above and related objects, this invention may be embodied in the form illustrated in the accompanying drawings, attention being called to the fact, however, that the drawings are illustrative only, and that change may be made in the specific construction illustrated and described, so long as the scope of the appended claims is not violated.

In the drawings:

FIG. **1** is a plan of a flexible band constituting the major element of my invention and embodying my invention;

FIG. **2** is a perspective view showing the tongue strap in the condition in which it is offered for sale to users;

FIG. **3** is a perspective view illustrating the strap as threaded and secured for use;

FIG. **4** is a reduced, somewhat diagrammatic section through the tongue and lower jaw of a horse and showing the tongue strap in use position; and

FIG. **5** is an illustration of the head of a horse wearing the tongue strap of the present invention.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, the reference numeral **10** indicates generally the body of a tongue strap constructed in accordance with the invention. Said body comprises a long, narrow, flexible band **11** tapered at one end **12** and provided at its other end **13** with a tab **29** adapted to be folded back upon the body of the band to mount a buckle **14** or other equivalent fastening means. In the illustrated embodiment, the end **12** of the band is provided with a plurality of longitudinally spaced holes **15** for selective cooperation with the tang of the buckle **14.**

Near said one end **12,** the band **11** is formed with a first transverse slot **16** through which, as is clearly illustrated in FIG. **2,** the end **13** of the band is adapted to be threaded from the inside to the outside to form a first loop **23.** For obvious reasons, this threading is performed before the buckle **14** is mounted on the band end **13** and the tab **29** is folded back and secured in place, after a retaining ring **30** is sleeved on the band end.

Farther from the end **12,** the band is formed with a second transverse slot **17** and, still farther from said end, the band is formed with a third transverse slot **18.**

Since the length of the slot **16** must be somewhat greater than the width of the section **20** of the band, and the length of the slots **17** and **18** must be somewhat greater than the width of the body section **19,** the band body is widened, as shown, in the region of each of said slots.

In use, the pre-formed loop **23** is slipped over the end of the horse's tongue and moved back to a point near the proximal end of the horse's mouth. Either before or after so positioning the loop, the section **19** of the band will be threaded inwardly through the slot **18** and then outwardly through the slot **17.** Now, the band section **20** will be pulled through the slot **16** to tighten the loop **23** comfortably about the horse's tongue **25** and the band sections **19** and **20** will be swung downwardly on either side of the horse's lower jaw **26** until their ends are brought together, the end **12** will be threaded through the buckle and the sections **19** and **20** will be drawn up into relatively tight embracing relation with the jaw.

Thus, the horse's tongue **25** will be closely tethered against movement away from the bottom of his mouth and against withdrawal of its distal tip to a point behind a bit (not shown) whereby the horse might struggle to dislodge the bit.

It will be seen that, because the section **20** of the band is slidably received in the slot **16,** the size of the loop **23** is adjustable. Likewise, the size of the loop **24** is adjustable through the medium of the buckle **14** with its tang selectively enterable in the plural holes **15.** Any other suitable adjustable fastening means may, of course, be provided to secure together the ends **12** and **13** of the band. It will be seen that the intermediate band section **22** will underlie the horse's tongue.

Any suitable material may be used for the band, but I presently prefer a synthetic rubber.

In one physical embodiment of my invention which has been successfully used, the band body is approximately one-sixteenth inch thick and five-eighths inch wide except in the regions of the slots where the width is 1⅛ inch. Each slot is one-eighth inch in width and three-fourths inch in length. The section **19** from its tapered tip to the center line of the slot **16** is 6⅝ inches long, the section **21** from the center line of the slot **16** to the center line of the slot **17** is 4¾ inches long, the section **22** between the center lines of the slots **17** and **18** is 1⅜ inches long and the section **20** from the center line of the slot **18** to the fold retaining the buckle **14** is 9⅛ inches long. I have found that these dimensions are such that a device so constructed may be effectively used on almost any size horse.

I claim as my invention:

1. A tongue strap for animals comprising a long, narrow, flexible band, said band being formed with only a first, a second and a third transverse slot, each slot being proportioned and designed to receive and pass a portion of the length of said band, said first slot being disposed nearer to one end than to the other end of said band and said other end of said band passing through said first slot from the inside to the outside of said band to form a first loop, said one end of said band then passing from the outside to the inside of said band and into said loop through said third slot and from the inside to the outside of said band through said second slot, and cooperative fastening means to join said ends to form a second loop.

2. The tongue strap of claim **1** in which said first loop is proportioned and designed to surround the animal's tongue, the band portions disposed between said second and third slots are proportioned and designed to underlie the tongue, and said second loop surrounds the animal's lower jaw.

3. The tongue strap of claim **2** in which said fastening means is adjustable whereby the sizes of said loops respectively may be adjusted.

4. The tongue strap of claim **1** wherein the portions of said band extending from said third slot to said one end and from said first slot to said other end are narrower than the portions of the band wherein said slots are formed.

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