(No Model.)

C. B. EASTY.

TRACE FASTENER.

No. 556,742. Patented Mar. 24, 1896.

Fig. 1.

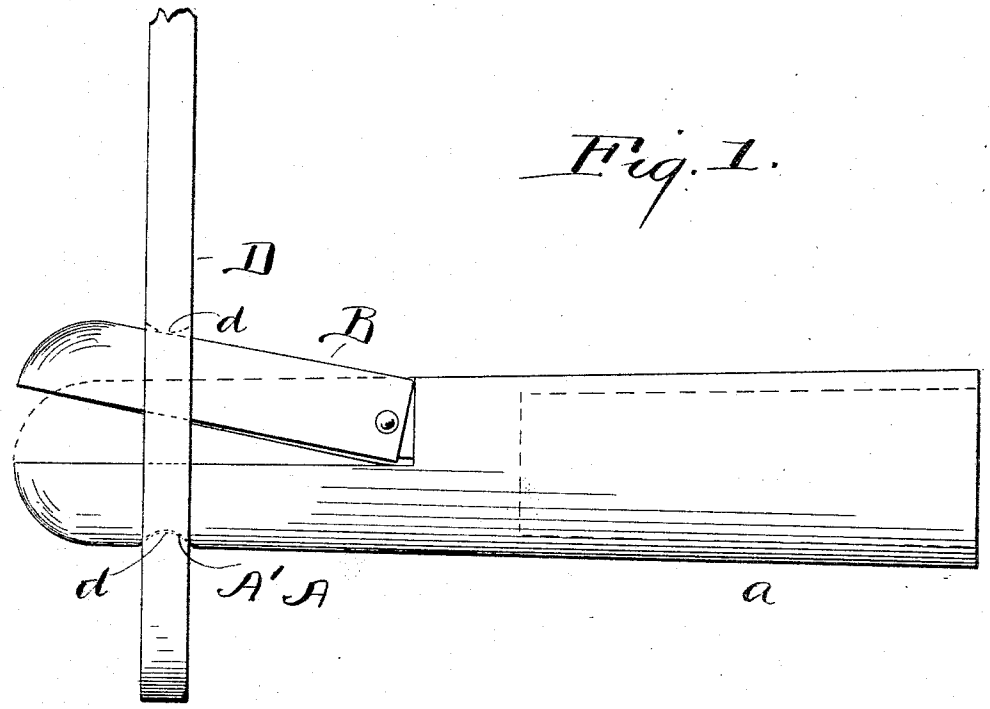
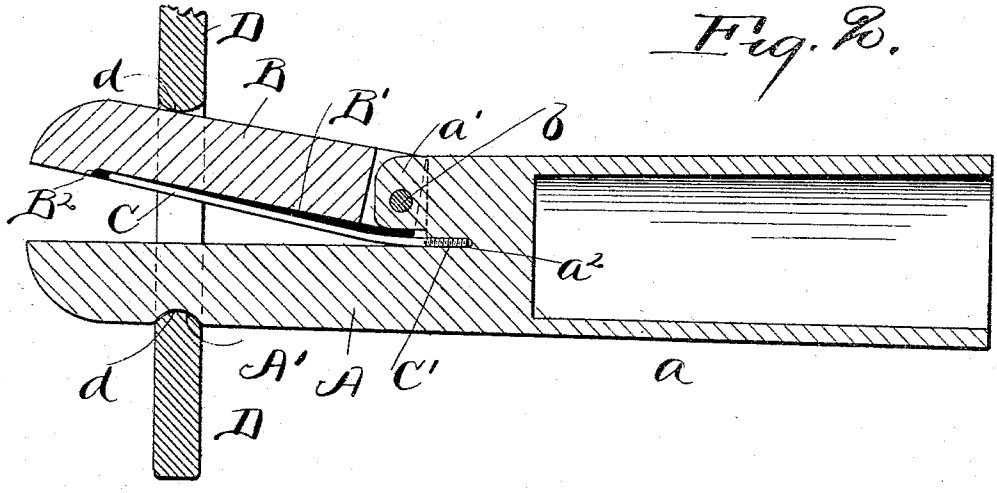


Fig. 2.



Witnesses.
E. B. Gilchrist
Groom

Inventor.
Charles B. Easty.
By M. D. Leggett & Co.
his attorneys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES B. EASTY, OF GLENVILLE, OHIO.

TRACE-FASTENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 556,742, dated March 24, 1896.

Application filed February 27, 1895. Serial No. 539,378. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES B. EASTY, of Glenville, in the county of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Trace-Fasteners; 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 the same.

My invention relates to improvements in trace-fasteners for attaching the rear ends of traces to the whiffletree; and it consists in certain features of construction and combinations of parts hereinafter described and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a top plan showing a trace-fastener embodying my invention and a trace secured to the same. Fig. 2 is a top plan, in central longitudinal section, of the same.

My improved trace-fastener comprises a stationary jaw A and a movable jaw B. Jaw A is arranged in line and integral with the metallic socket or body portion *a* of the fastener, that is adapted to fit over the end of a whiffletree. Jaws A and B are arranged in the same horizontal plane, and jaw B is pivoted, at or near its inner end, at *b*, to a lug or ear *a'* of body portion *a* in such a manner as to render it capable of movement toward and from the stationary jaw in a horizontal plane.

A spring C, composed preferably of a piece of stiff wire, acts in the direction to retain jaw B separated from jaw A. Spring C preferably engages the inner side of jaw B, that is preferably recessed or grooved longitudinally upon said side, as at B', to receive the spring and accommodate the closing of said jaw B against jaw A, as required to slip the trace over the outer ends of jaws A and B. Spring C is preferably externally screw-threaded at its inner end, as at C', and said threaded end of the spring engages a correspondingly screw-threaded hole a^2 in body portion *a*. Groove or recess B' does not extend to the free end of jaw B, but is just long enough to accommodate the location of the spring in the closing movement of the jaw, and the end wall or shoulder B^2 at the outer end of said recess or groove would, therefore, limit endwise displacement of the spring that would occur if spring C should turn in the direction required to effect said displacement; and the spring is screwed into body portion *a* such a distance relative to the location of wall or shoulder B^2 that it (the spring) cannot become entirely displaced from the device and lost.

A trace D is shown engaging the trace-fastener. The trace has a lateral hole *d* to accommodate the slipping of the trace over the outer end of the trace-fastener when jaw B is closed against jaw A, as shown in dotted lines, Fig. 1, against the action of spring C. The trace is slipped onto the trace-fastener, as already indicated, into engagement with a recess or depression A' formed in and transversely of the forward side of stationary jaw A, upon which engagement jaw B will be separated from jaw A by the action of spring C, resulting in a close engagement of the forward wall of hole *d* in the trace with the wall of depression A', and in a correspondingly close engagement between the rear wall of said hole *d* and rear side of jaw B.

What I claim is—

1. A trace-fastener comprising the body portion *a;* jaw A rigid with the body portion and provided with the recess or depression A'; jaw B pivotally supported from the body portion and provided, upon its inner side, with the groove B' and shoulder B^2, and the spring C screwed at its inner end into the body portion, all arranged and operating, substantially as shown, for the purpose specified.

2. A trace-fastener comprising a body portion *a*, jaw A rigid with the body portion and provided with a recess or depression A'; jaw B pivotally supported from the body portion and provided, upon its inner side, with a groove B' extending longitudinally of said jaw, and a piece of spring-wire C engaging and extending longitudinally of said groove, and said wire, at its inner end, being suitably secured to the body portion, all arranged and operating substantially as shown, for the purpose specified,

In testimony whereof I sign this specification, in the presence of two witnesses, this 15th day of November, 1894.

CHARLES B. EASTY.

Witnesses:
C. H. DORER,
ELLA E. TILDEN.