GEORGE OLDHAM, Jr.

Improvement in Trace-Buckles.

No. 114,184 Patented April 25, 1871.

Fig. 1.

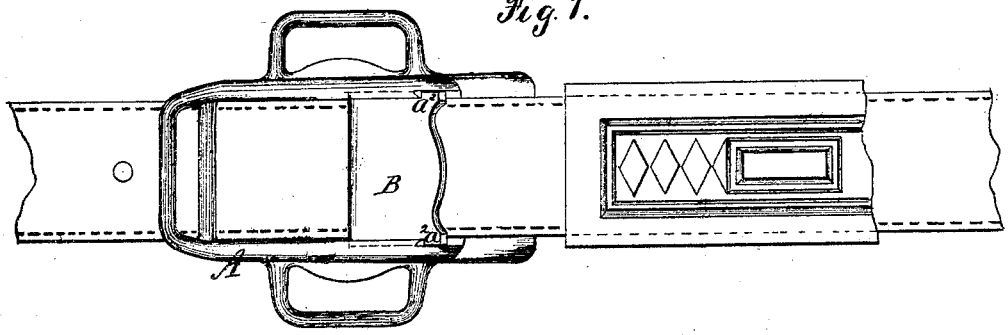


Fig. 2.

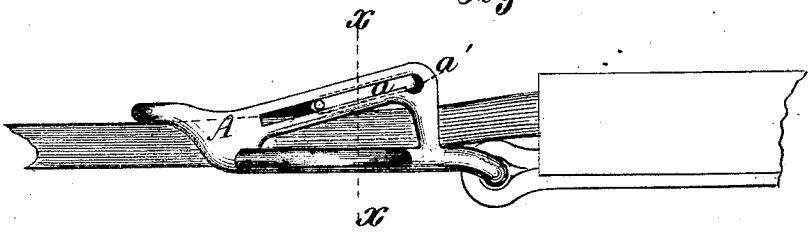


Fig. 3.

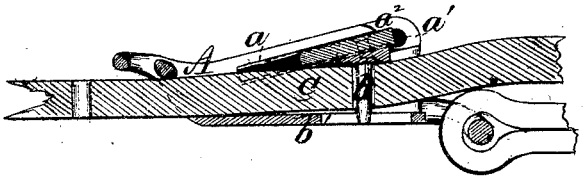


Fig. 5.

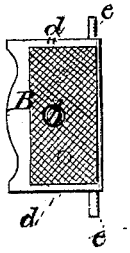
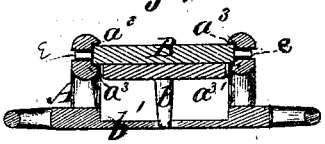


Fig. 4



Witnesses.

A. Ruppert

J. W. Myster

Inventor.

Geo. Oldham Jr.

Per Edson Brothers

Attys

United States Patent Office.

GEORGE OLDHAM, JR., OF CUBA, NEW YORK.

Letters Patent No. 114,184, dated April 25, 1871.

IMPROVEMENT IN TRACE-BUCKLES.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE OLDHAM, JR., of Cuba, in the county of Allegany and State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Trace-Buckles; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing forming a part of the same, and in which—

Figure 1 represents a plan view of my improved buckle;

Figure 2, a side view thereof;

Figure 3, a longitudinal central section;

Figure 4, a transverse section through the dotted line *x x* of fig. 2, with trace-strap removed; and

Figure 5 is an inverted view of the wedge-shaped slide or plate, having the pin which passes through the said trace-strap, exhibiting its under side.

Similar letters of reference in the several figures refer to like parts.

This invention refers to an improved trace-buckle; and

It consists of a wedge-shaped plate or slide, in combination with an inclined grooved frame; and of a grooved or slotted frame of a trace-buckle, so constructed upon the inner sides of the longitudinal bars or pieces thereof as to furnish a bearing surface both for the lower and upper sides of its slide with the fastening-pin at the points of contact of said slide with said frame, and supplied with means for retaining said plate or slide in an elevated position, or up out of the way, when not in use, substantially as hereinafter set forth and claimed.

To enable those skilled in the art to which my invention appertains to make and use the same, I will proceed to describe its construction and operation.

In the annexed drawing—

A designates the frame of the buckle, which is supplied with the inclined slots or grooves *a a*, but to which, of themselves, I make no claim.

At the upper extremities of these slots are formed notches or recesses, a^1 a^1, which communicate with the said slots, and into which drop the pins or projections formed on the slide or plate when elevated or thrown up out of the way while not in use.

To permit of the said slide being thus elevated, and, when elevated, held in such a position as to remain as placed until it is desired to lower the same, which is accomplished by the hand, the inclined longitudinal pieces of the frame A are reduced or made narrower at a^2 a^2, a point directly over each of the recesses a^1 a^1 and extending down to the same, as seen in fig. 1, whereby shoulders, inclined as shown in figs. 1 and 2, and against which the slide above referred to rests in an inclined position when elevated, are formed.

The said longitudinal bars of the frame A are supplied at the points of contact, between them and the wedge-shaped slide, with bearing surfaces or inclined planes, a^3, &c., for the same, or latter, both above and below the said slide, for the purpose of holding the said slide down when in use.

As these inclined planes or bearing-surfaces are located at points short distances above and below the planes of the upper and lower surfaces of the slots *a a* of the said bars of frame A, as shown in fig. 4, it will be observed that, by such arrangement, shoulders are formed, against which portions of the edges of the said slide rest when lowered, whereby the said slide, while locked or slid up and down, is prevented from having lateral movement, thereby overcoming a defect heretofore experienced in securing the said slide or operating the same.

B refers to the slide above alluded to, which is provided with projections or pins, *e e*, entering the inclined slots *a a* of frame A, and of a wedge shape, as plainly shown in fig. 3, the lower side of said plate or slide being narrowed to form flanges *d d*, and supplied with teeth formed by serrating the same, as shown in fig. 5, or otherwise, for the purpose of assisting the said slide, in conjunction with the pressure obtained from its wedge shape, in holding the said slide down in position upon the trace-strap which it is intended to secure in place.

This slide is provided with a pin, *b*, of sufficient length to pass entirely through the trace-strap *c*, and an aperture cut in the bottom plate *b'* of frame A, the object of which is obvious from the drawing.

By constructing the said slide B in a wedge shape it will be observed that the entire lower surface thereof is brought to bear upon the trace-strap, whereby the whole pressure of the said slide is utilized, rigidly securing the said trace-strap in place, and obviating the mutilating or damaging of the trace, sustained where the pressure is confined to any particular point, as is the case with those buckles heretofore used.

Having thus described my invention,

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The buckle-frame A A, provided with the inclined slide-ways a^3 a^3, the tongue-stays a^2 a^2, and recesses a^1 a^1, communicating with the slots *a a*, all arranged in connection with a suitable tongue-plate, substantially as described and set forth.

2. The wedge-shaped slide or tongue-plate B, provided with ears or lugs *e e* and flanges *d d*, and operating in connection with the frame A having slots a^1 a^1 and inclined slide-ways a^3 a^3, substantially as herein set forth and described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention I have hereunto set my hand this 20th day of March, A. D. 1871, in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

GEORGE OLDHAM, JR.

Witnesses:

EDWIN R. NASH,

THEODORE F RUDE.