2 Sheets--Sheet 1.

GEORGE F. SCHMIDT.

Improvement in Riding Saddles.

No. 115,772. Patented June 6, 1871.

Fig. 1.

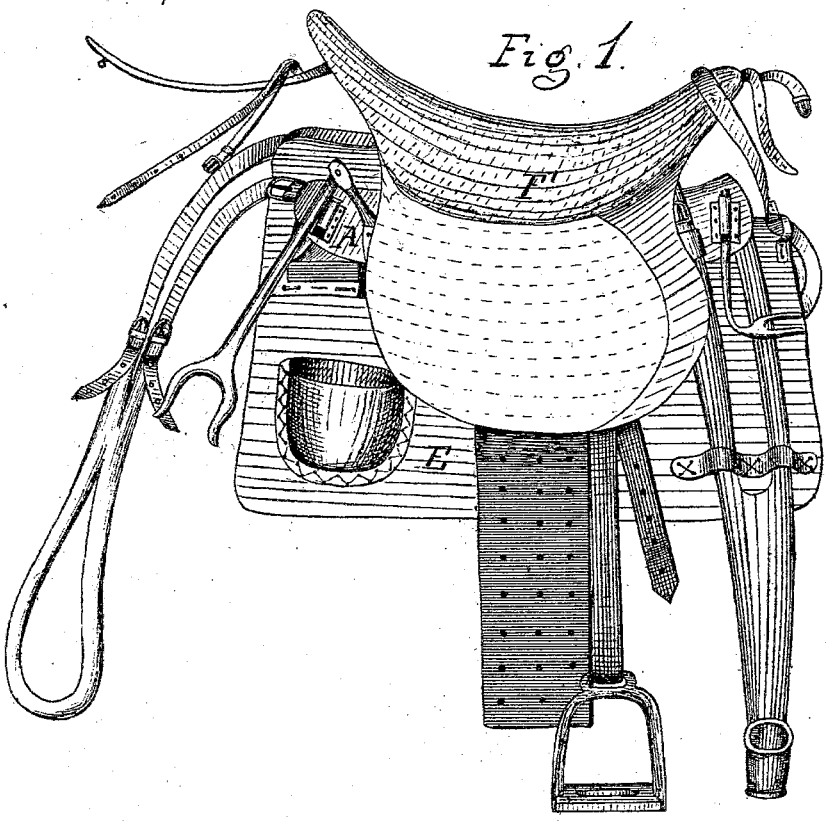

Fig. 2.

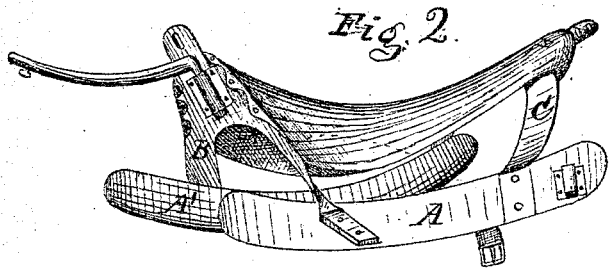

Fig. 3

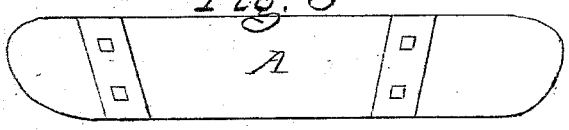

Fig. 4

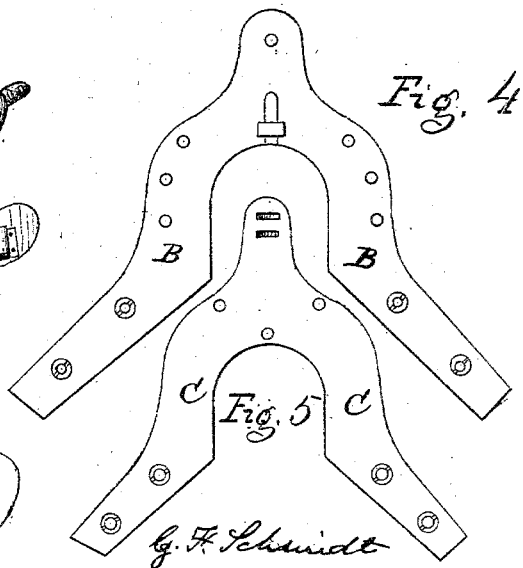

Fig. 5

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2 Sheets--Sheet 2.

GEORGE F. SCHMIDT

Improvement in Riding Saddles.

No. 115,772. Patented June 6, 1871.

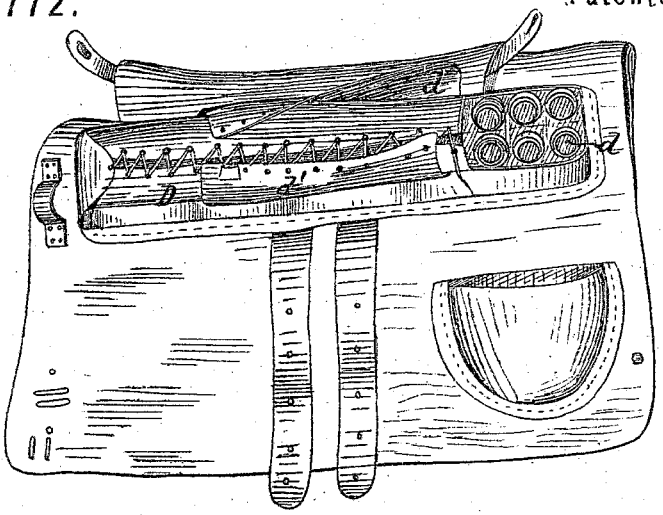

Fig. 6

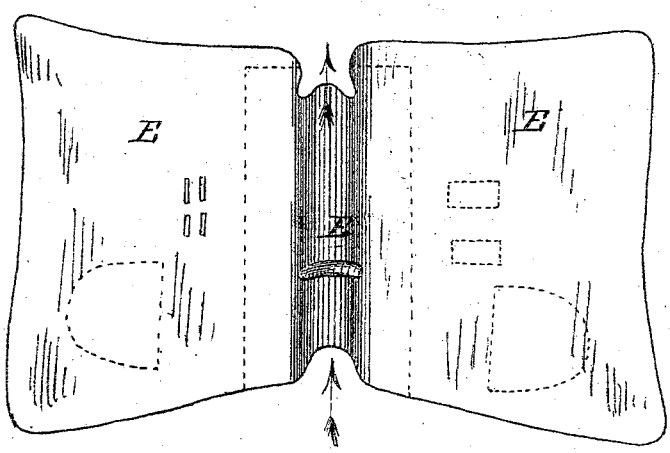

Fig. 7.

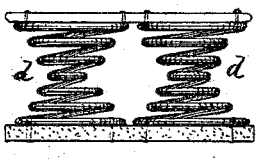

Fig. 8

Attest
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORG F. SCHMIDT, OF KIEL, PRUSSIA, ASSIGNOR TO RUDULPH SCHMIDT.

IMPROVEMENT IN RIDING-SADDLES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 115,772, dated June 6, 1871.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORG F. SCHMIDT, of Kiel, in the Province of Holstein and Kingdom of Prussia, have invented certain Improvements in Spring-Saddles; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the annexed drawing making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of my improved spring-saddle. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the saddle-tree. Fig. 3 is a plan view of one of the spring-bars. Figs. 4 and 5 are views of the cantel and pommel. Fig. 6 is a side elevation with the cover of the seat removed. Fig. 7 is a plan view of the saddle-blanket. Fig. 8 shows the spiral spring and rubber plate to which they are attached to form elastic bolsters.

The same letters are used in all the figures in the designation of identical parts.

This invention relates to saddles of that class which embody springs in their construction, in order that they may readily accommodate themselves to the varying shape of the bodies of different horses, and, at the same time, form a yielding seat for the rider. My improvement consists in combining with the saddle-tree and the saddle-blanket elastic bolsters or cushions, composed of springs, and interposed between the bars of the tree and the blanket, so as to form yielding surfaces of contact with the horse's sides, which sustain the superincumbent weight of the rider and make the saddle easy to the horse by reason of its yielding to the movements of the muscles of the latter while traveling.

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

The tree of my improved saddle is constructed of flat steel springs, of the proper width and thickness, and it is composed of the bars A A′ and the bows B and C, which are riveted or otherwise secured to the bars. The bars are about parallel to each other, the usual distance apart from each other, and slightly curved from front to rear to correspond approximately with the lines of a horse's sides, and the bow B, which forms the cantel, and bow C, which constitutes the pommel, are, respectively, bent into the required shape, substantially as shown, and so that they shall present flat surfaces to the body of the rider. The tree is mounted upon the bolsters or cushions D D′ of the saddle-blanket E. The latter is made of leather, by preference, and cut in such shape that, when it is attached to the tree, a longitudinal arched passage is formed beneath it at E′, centrally between the bars of the tree, which arch spans the spine of the horse without coming in contact therewith, and thus forms a passage through which the air may circulate to keep the horse's back cool, as well as the seat of the saddle. The bolsters are composed of a series of springs, *d*, secured upon a plate, d^2, of elastic, hard rubber, which in turn is securely fastened upon the blanket, the whole being inclosed in a receptacle formed by flaps of leather, which are stitched at one edge to the blanket and then drawn over the springs and laced in the manner clearly shown in Fig. 2. The bars of the tree are strapped upon these bolsters by straps d^1 d^1, or secured thereto in any other convenient manner. The leather seat F is suspended between the cantel and pommel, to which its respective ends are buttoned or otherwise attached, after which it is covered by the ordinary cover F′, which is also fastened to the cantel and pommel.

Suitable devices are formed at various points on the tree and other parts of the saddle for the attachment of the stirrup-girt and the various appliances which go to make up a complete cavalry-saddle. As these devices, however, do not constitute a part of this invention, I shall not describe them, but simply refer to the drawing, where they are best seen in Fig. 1.

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

In combination with the spring saddle-tree A A′ B C, the blanket E and spring-bolsters D D′ attached to the latter, substantially as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing specification I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 15th day of June, 1870.

GEORG F. SCHMIDT. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

JOPS. BRANDT,

P. CASATI, Jr.