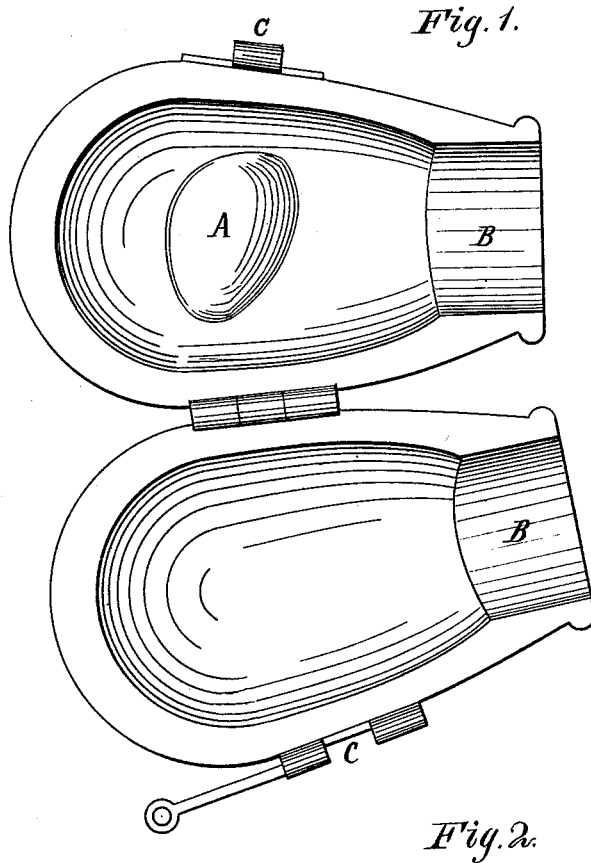


M. A. BELCHER & G. F. PERRENOT.
Shackle.

No. 220,117.

Patented Sept. 30, 1879.



WITNESSES:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MELVIN A. BELCHER AND GEORGE F. PERRENOT, OF ROCKPORT, TEXAS.

IMPROVEMENT IN SHACKLES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **220,117**, dated September 30, 1879; application filed June 16, 1879.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, MELVIN ANDERSON BELCHER and GEORGE FRANCIS PERRENOT, of Rockport, in the county of Aransas and State of Texas, have invented a new and Improved Manacle, of which the following is a specification.

Figure 1 represents the manacle opened, showing its interior. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the closed manacle.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

The object of this invention is to furnish a manacle or shackle for the hands and feet, that will offer effectual resistance to any attempt to break them while on the hands or feet, and that will, when on the hands, prevent one from using any instrument for effecting his escape.

The manacle or shackle is constructed of malleable cast-iron or other metal, and those for the hands are made in the shape of a flat oval, as shown in the drawings, divided lengthwise in two equal parts, each part being hollowed out to conform to the shape of the open or partly-closed hand, and one of the parts is provided interiorly with a boss or projection, A, to fit the palm of the partly-closed hand; or a cross-bar of iron may be substituted for this.

The neck B is made to fit closely around the wrist of the prisoner.

The two parts are hinged together on one side, and on the opposite side are provided with a double joint, C, similar to the hinge that serves as a lock when fastened together by a screw-bolt after the manner of the ordinary hand-cuff.

It is intended to have staples in the side of these manacles, so that the two hands may be chained together.

We do not confine ourselves to any particular shape of the manacle, provided they are made to cover the hand in whatever position.

The feet manacles or shackles are hollow and in the shape of a shoe to fit the feet, and fit closely around the ankle, opening on the instep with a hinge, and fastening as do the hand-manacles, or by some other suitable device.

The feet-manacles may be used on all convicts working in gangs in lieu of the ball and chain with greater assurance of the safe-keeping of the prisoner, while allowing him more freedom of motion. These manacles may be provided with a staple in each heel, and secured together by a chain of convenient length, if considered necessary, though the manacle itself is sufficient to prevent escape.

The hand-manacles of a prisoner may be chained to the foot-manacles, so that the hands cannot be raised to strike or offer resistance.

It is obvious that the use of these would render convicts powerless to make any rapid movement to escape.

Having thus described our invention, we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. The within described manacle or shackle, made in two parts, hinged together on one side and capable of being locked on the other, and provided with an internal boss or projection, A, substantially as herein shown and described.

2. A manacle for the human hand or foot divided longitudinally into two equal parts, hinged together and provided with a cavity to receive the hand or foot, said cavity being graduated in size at the arm or ankle part, as and for the purpose specified.

MELVIN ANDERSON BELCHER.
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Witnesses:

W. R. YARRINGTON,
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