J. M. MAY.

BARBED WIRE FENCE.

No. 264,728. Patented Sept. 19, 1882.

Fig. 1.

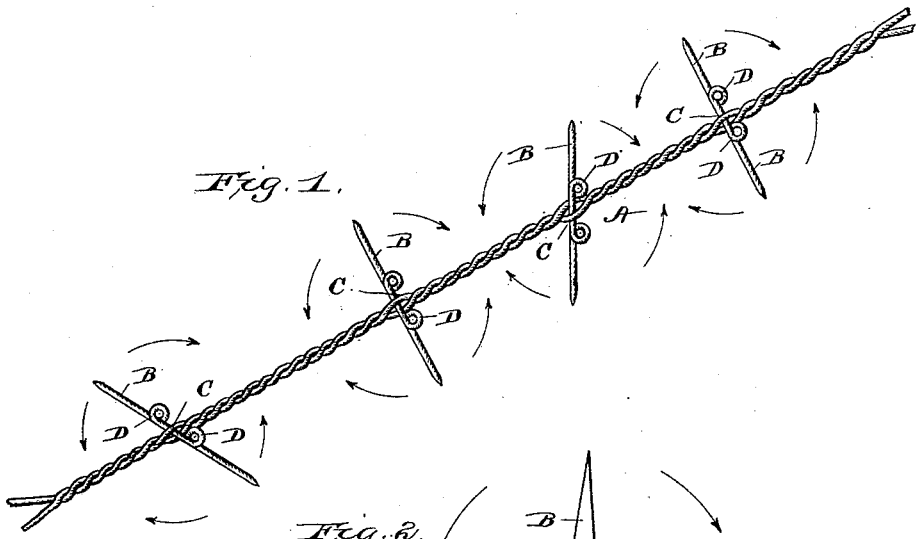


Fig. 2.

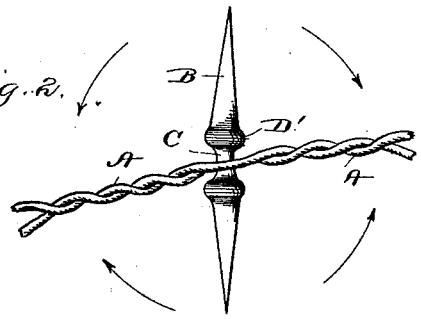
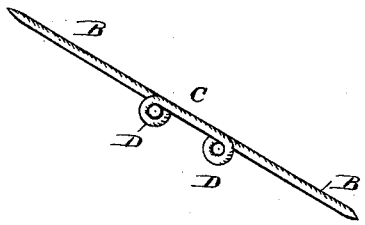


Fig. 3.



Witnesses.
Edwin L. Yewell.
H. Aubrey Toulmin

Inventor.
J. M. May.
By C. M. Alexander
Attorney.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN M. MAY, OF CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA.

BARBED-WIRE FENCE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 264,728, dated September 19, 1882.

Application filed April 30, 1879.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN M. MAY, of Cedar Rapids, in the county of Linn, and in the State of Iowa, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Barbs for Barbed-Wire Fence and Fastening the Barbs to the Wire; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, making a part of this specification.

My invention relates to certain improvements in barbs for wire fences; and it consists in providing a barb which will be capable of movement independently of the wires which form the fence proper and by which it is sustained, such movement being a slight shift or slide of the barb in the direction of its own longitudinal axis, combined with a partially rotary movement of the barb, the latter being the essential end sought to be obtained by my invention. The object and purpose of providing a barb adapted to have these movements independently of the fence is to prevent the severe laceration and pricking of animals which result from the use of the ordinary and common barbs, which, on account of their rigidity, do not yield to the pressure of the animal coming in contact therewith, while in my case, when the animal comes against the barb, (which is usually at an angle thereto,) it moves, gives, or recedes from it, thus warning him of his nearness to the fence, and yet causing him no injury, the effect being rather to exert a scraping tendency and pressure against him than to cause a puncture or laceration.

In the drawings forming a part of this specification like letters of reference indicate corresponding parts, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a portion or section of a barbed-wire fence having my improved barbs applied thereto; Fig. 2, a view showing a modification in the detail construction of my barb applied to the wires of fence; and Fig. 3, a detached view of the barb, showing more clearly its detail construction.

The letter A indicates a portion or section of the wires of a wire fence, the same being twisted together after the usual manner, and the letter B a barb applied thereto, the same being placed between the strands of the fence, a loop therefor being left between the strands of sufficient size to permit of an easy and unobstructed play or swing of the barbs, as indicated by the arrows in the drawings. The said barbs are formed usually of wire, their ends being pointed in the ordinary manner, and a neck or space, C, made thereon by turning or bending the wire, as at D, the enlargements or shoulders thus formed having the function of preventing the displacement of the barbs from the fence-wires.

It will be observed that the length of the neck C is somewhat greater than the diameter of the strands or than the space they occupy on said neck, the object of which is to permit of the easy swing or oscillation of the barb, as hereinbefore pointed out, that they may readily yield to the contact of the animal, rather than offer him a positive resistance.

It is also observable that these shoulders may be otherwise formed than by bending or turning the wire of the barb, as above mentioned, an illustration of which modified construction is seen in Fig. 2 of the drawings, in which instance the barb is made of cast-iron, the enlargements D being cast therewith, the gist and essential feature of my invention being, as herein previously indicated, to provide a barb capable of a swinging or oscillating movement within the fence-wires, and with means for loosely retaining them therein, irrespective of the peculiar detail, form, or construction.

When an animal comes in contact with a barb made after the plan of this invention the barb will swing around or move with his body and cause him to feel a pressure or sensation without bringing him in direct contact with the point of the barb, thus resulting in warding him off from the fence, and yet avoiding the cruel consequences usually attending the use of this class of fences.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

A barb for wire fences having a shank or neck intermediate between its ends, formed by bending or otherwise enlarging the body

of the barb, the said shank being adapted to fit between the strands of the fence, and of such length as to permit of a swinging or oscillating movement of the barb, as specified, substantially as and for the purposes herein set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 22d day of April, 1879.

J. M. MAY. [L. S.]

Witnesses:
A. D. COLLIER,
H. D. PARKHURST.