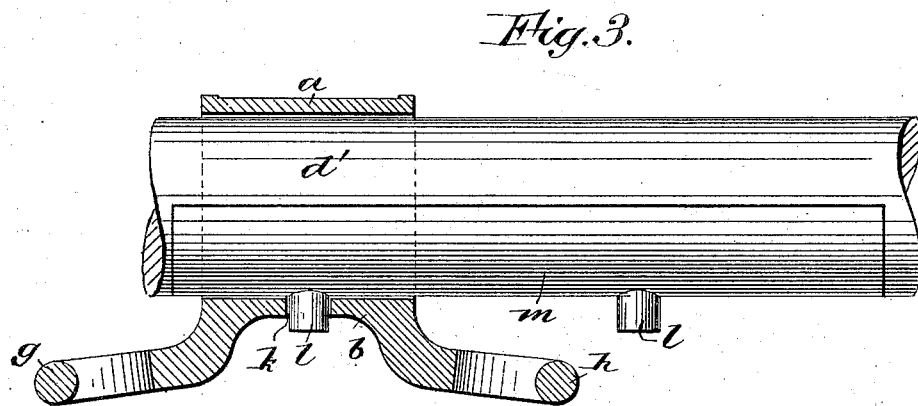
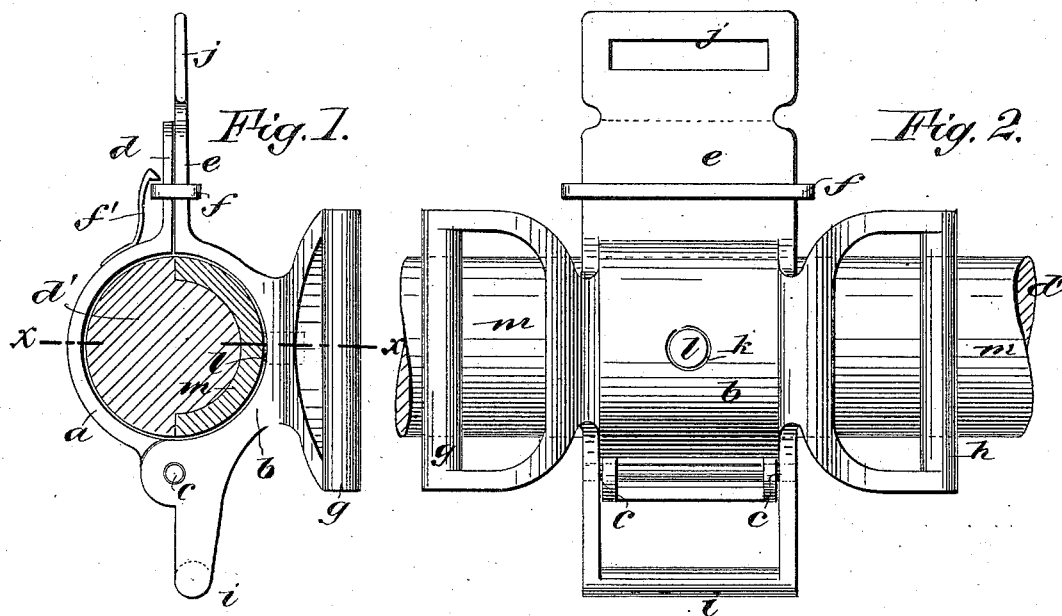


(No Model.)

F. A. BENNETT.
SHAFT BUCKLE FOR HARNESS.

No. 302,701.

Patented July 29, 1884.



WITNESSES:
H. Meyer
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FELIX A. BENNETT, OF PRATHER, INDIANA.

SHAFT-BUCKLE FOR HARNESS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 302,701, dated July 29, 1884.

Application filed December 17, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FELIX A. BENNETT, of Prather, in the county of Clark and State of Indiana, have invented a new and Improved Shaft-Buckle for Harnesses, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention consists of an improved shaft-buckle for single harness contrived to be hitched in the trace and buckled around the shafts in a manner to provide simpler and more substantial means for connecting the shafts, traces, back-strap, and belly-band than is afforded by other means now in use, all as hereinafter fully described.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 is a section of one of the shafts of a one-horse vehicle and an end elevation of my improved buckle applied to it. Fig. 2 is an inside elevation of the buckle and a portion of the shaft, and Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section of the buckle on the line *xx* of Fig. 1.

I make a wide ring or band of metal in two half parts, *a b*, with a hinge-joint, *c*, to clasp or buckle around the shaft *d*, and having flanges *d e* extending from the upper and free ends, to be fastened together by a sliding loop, *f*, with which I provide a spring-hook, *f'*, to hold the loop on. The part *b*, which is the inside of the ring or band, I construct with one loop, *g*, by which the trace is to be connected, and another loop, *h*, to which the breast-strap portion of the trace is to be connected, and to the lower side of this part *b*, I have a loop, *i*, formed for connecting the belly-band, and the top flange, *e*, is also made to terminate in a loop, *j*, for the back-band. The part *b* is also constructed with a hole, *k*, through it to connect with a stud, *l*, of a wear-plate, *m*, which I fit into the inner side of the shaft for about half its circumference, and extending along the shaft about as far as it may be desired to shift the buckle forward or backward

along the shaft for large or small horses, and having two or more studs, *l*, to receive the buckle and hold it in proper position. The shaft is recessed to the depth of the thickness of the plate *m*, to let it in flush with the surface of the shaft, and to hold the plate against the thrusts of the traces and prevent it from slipping on the shaft.

I propose to make this improved shaft-buckle device in malleable metal, and to connect it securely to the traces and back-band, to form part of the harness to be buckled to the shaft and unbuckled by the divided ring *a b* and the slide-loop *f* when the horse is to be hitched to and unhitched from the shafts.

Besides being more substantial and lasting than other forms of shaft-gear, this improved buckle can be connected and disconnected more quickly, it is easily understood, and cannot be hitched up wrong.

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

1. The improved metallic shaft-buckle, consisting of the jointed ring *a b*, having trace-loops *g h*, stud-pin hole *k*, and the fastening-flanges *d e*, substantially as described.

2. The improved metallic shaft-buckle, consisting of the jointed ring *a b*, having trace-loops *g h*, stud-pin hole *k*, belly-band loop *i*, fastening-flanges *d e*, and the back-band loop *j*, substantially as described.

3. The combination of the loop-slide *f* and spring-hook *f'*, with the improved shaft-buckle, consisting of the jointed ring *a b*, having the trace-loops *g h*, substantially as described.

4. The combination of the stud-plate *m*, having one or more studs, *l*, with the shaft-buckle *a b* and with the shaft *d*, substantially as described.

FELIX A. BENNETT.

Witnesses:

JOHN W. SEAMSTER,
THOS. W. PERRY.