

(No Model.)

C. H. SMITH.
BUCKLE GUARD.

No. 417,950.

Patented Dec. 24, 1889.

Fig. 1

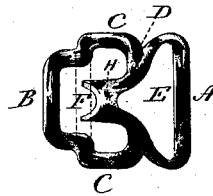


Fig. 2

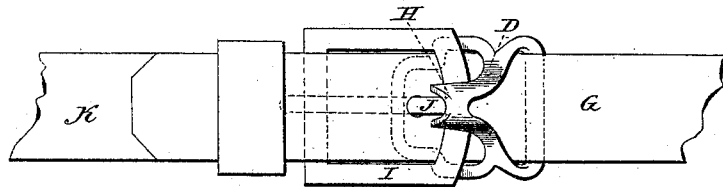


Fig. 3

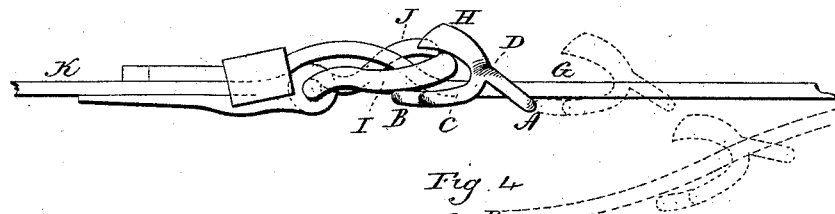
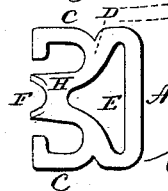


Fig. 4



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES H. SMITH, OF NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT, ASSIGNOR TO THE
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BUCKLE-GUARD.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 417,950, dated December 24, 1889.

Application filed October 24, 1889. Serial No. 327,997. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES H. SMITH, of New Haven, in the county of New Haven and State of Connecticut, have invented a new Improvement in Buckle-Guards; and I do hereby declare the following, when taken in connection with accompanying drawings and the letters of reference marked thereon, to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, and which said drawings constitute part of this specification, and represent, in—

Figure 1, a face view of the guard complete; Fig. 2, a face view of the guard as applied to the strap; Fig. 3, a side view of the guard as applied to the strap; Fig. 4, a modification.

This invention relates to an improvement in a guard for that class of buckles in which a tongue is hinged to one bar of the frame and extending toward the end of the frame, so that the free end of the tongue may bear upon the frame such as used in harnesses, particularly buckles employed for the breeching-straps of harnesses. The tongue of the buckle necessarily projects through the hole in the strap to the outside, and, thus protruding, is liable to catch the hairs of the horse's tail.

Various constructions of guards have been made to cover or form a shield over the end of the tongue. It is to such guard that my invention particularly relates, it having for its object a simple construction which may leave the buckle substantially exposed, yet cover the end of the tongue, and one which will leave the buckle-strap substantially free for adjustment when occasion requires; and the invention consists in the construction as hereinafter described, and particularly recited in the claim.

The guard is best made of cast metal, and consists of a frame composed of a bar A and a parallel bar B, forming the two ends of the frame connected by sides C C. The width of this frame corresponds to the width of the strap.

Between the bars A B is a cross-bar D, dividing the frame into two loops E and F, the cross-bar D being raised above the plane of the end bars A B and so that the strap may

pass over the bar A through the loop E below the bar D, through the loop F, over the bar B, and as seen in Fig. 3, G representing the strap. The central bar D is constructed to form a shield H, projecting over the loop F toward the end bar B, and, as represented, the shield is preferably recessed upon its under side to correspond to the tongue of the buckle.

In Figs. 2 and 3, I represents the buckle frame, and J the tongue.

The buckle-guard of my invention is adapted to be applied to the free strap, while the buckle is applied to the standing strap, as represented in Figs. 2 and 3.

K represents the standing-strap, to which the buckle is secured in the usual manner.

Before the free strap is introduced through the buckle the guard is set onto the free strap, as represented in broken lines, Fig. 3, with the shield toward the buckle or end of the strap to be introduced to the buckle. The free strap is then introduced through the buckle in the usual manner and engaged therewith, and after it is thus engaged the guard is moved onto the buckle, so that the cross-bar B comes upon the under or inner side of the buckle, while the shield H passes over the tongue upon the outer side, and as clearly seen in Fig. 3. The guard bearing upon the rear side of the buckle and upon the outer side of the tongue covers the tongue, and while thus covering the tongue it prevents the possible throwing of the tongue from the end of the frame of the buckle on which it rests, so that accidental detachment of the buckle is avoided, as well as the tongue completely guarded. This guard leaves the buckle exposed, and the guard appears as if a permanent part of the buckle and is an ornament to the buckle.

The guard is extremely simple and cheap in its construction, cannot be misunderstood in its application, and does not interfere with the adjustment of the strap.

To disengage or readjust the strap, the guard is moved away from the buckle, as represented in broken lines, Fig. 3, so as to leave the tongue free. Then the strap and buckle are disengaged in the usual manner, the guard

still remaining on the strap ready for replacing after readjustment shall have been made.

As represented in Fig. 1, an offset is made in the sides C C near the bar B, this offset
5 shortening the bar B, corresponding to the width between the sides of the buckle-frame; but this construction is not essential, as the bar B may extend directly across from side to side, as indicated in broken lines, Fig. 1,
10 and without the offsets it is not necessary that the bar B should extend entirely across from side to side, as it is only necessary that the guard shall take a bearing upon the inner side of the buckle. Therefore the sides of
15 the frame at that end may simply be turned inward at right angles, as represented in Fig. 4, the short projections affording sufficient bearing upon the inner side of the buckle. This, however, forms substantially a loop
20 through which the free strap passes.

I claim—

The herein-described buckle-guard, consisting of a frame composed of two sides C C and ends A B, said frame having a cross-bar D between its two ends and forming a loop 25 E between it and the end A, the said cross-bar being above the plane of the ends of the frame, and the said cross-bar constructed with a shield H, turned away from the loop E and toward the opposite end of the frame, and 30 so that the said shield and the portion of the frame beneath it are adapted to embrace the buckle and tongue, substantially as described.

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Witnesses:

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