(No Model.)

J. M. BASINGER.

TRACE CARRIER.

No. 260,523. Patented July 4, 1882.

Fig. 1.

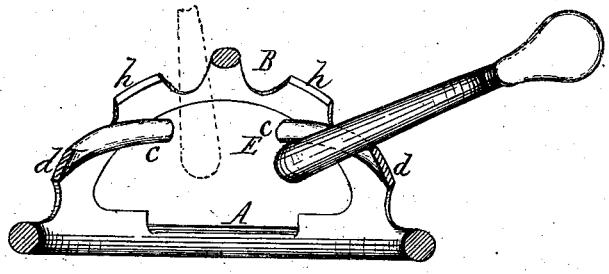


Fig. 2.

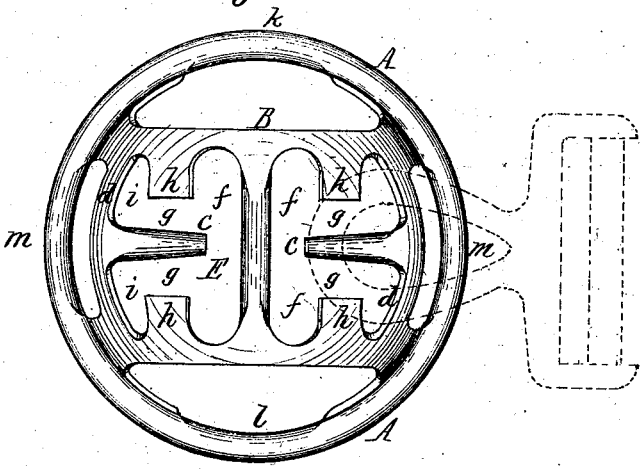
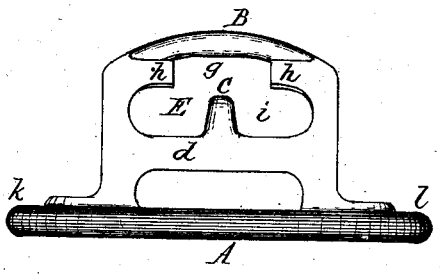


Fig. 3.



Witnesses.
Theo. L. Popp.
Edw. J. Brady.

J. M. Basinger Inventor.
By Wilhelm & Bonner
Attorneys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES M. BASINGER, OF BUFFALO, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR OF TWO-THIRDS TO WILLIAM C. LETCHWORTH AND OGDEN P. LETCHWORTH, BOTH OF SAME PLACE.

TRACE-CARRIER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 260,523, dated July 4, 1882.

Application filed May 9, 1882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES M. BASINGER, of the city of Buffalo, in the county of Erie and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Trace-Carriers, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improvement in that class of trace-carriers which are provided with hooks or tongues to which the cockeyes are attached; and the object of my invention is to produce a trace-carrier of this class which is simple in construction, and in which a cockeye can be readily engaged with such hook, and when placed thereon will be securely held against accidental displacement, while the cockeye can be readily detached when desired.

My invention consists of the peculiar construction of the trace-carrier, as will be hereinafter fully set forth, and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a sectional elevation of my improved trace-carrier. Fig. 2 is a top plan view thereof. Fig. 3 is an elevation at right angles to Fig. 1.

Like letters of reference refer to like parts in the several figures.

A represents the ring or circular frame which forms the base of the trace-carrier, and which is secured to the harness in any suitable and well-known manner.

B represents a raised or elevated frame, which extends in the form of an arch across the base-ring A, and which is cast with or otherwise secured to the latter. The raised frame B is provided on opposite sides with inwardly and upwardly projecting tongues, hooks, or studs *c*, which rise from horizontal pieces *d* or from the base-ring A, as may be preferred. Each tongue *c* projects into an opening, E, formed in the raised frame B. The uppermost part, *f*, of this opening is located above the point or upper end of the tongue, and is made of such width that a cockeye can be introduced into this portion of the opening with the flat side of the cockeye at right angles to the tongue, or thereabout, and be lowered into the raised frame B a sufficient distance to permit the opening of the cockeye to be engaged over the tongue. The opening E is contracted near the middle of the tongue *c*, as shown at *g*, by pieces *h*, projecting toward the tongue to such an extent that only the narrow inner portion of the cockeye can pass through this contracted space. The opening E is again enlarged on both sides of the base or root of the tongue, as shown at *i*, so that the widest portion of the cockeye can rest in this portion of the opening.

The trace-carrier is secured to the harness by attaching the back and crupper straps to the portions *k l* of the ring A, respectively, and the hip-straps to the portions *m* of the ring, or in any other suitable manner. The cockeye is attached to the trace-carrier by inserting the cockeye into the upper enlarged portion, *f*, of the opening E, as indicated by dotted lines in Fig. 1, and engaging the opening of the cockeye over the tongue *c*, with the inner narrow end of the opening resting against the tongue. The cockeye is then moved along the tongue toward the base thereof, whereby the narrow portion of the cockeye passes through the contracted portion *g* of the opening E until the cockeye rests on the bar *d*, to which the tongue *c* is attached. In this position of the cockeye, which is represented in full lines in Fig. 1 and in dotted lines in Fig. 2, the tongue projects through the opening of the cockeye and prevents the cockeye from moving outward, and the projecting pieces *h* overlap the sides of the cockeye and prevent the cockeye from moving upward, and in this manner the cockeye is firmly attached to the carrier and prevented from becoming accidentally detached in moving the harness about. The cockeye is, however, easily disconnected from the carrier, when desired, by moving the cockeye inwardly or toward the center of the ring A until the narrow end of the opening of the cockeye rests against the tongue, and then raising the cockeye along the tongue, whereby the narrow portion of the cockeye passes upwardly through the contracted portion *g* of the opening E, and finally lifting the cockeye out of the upper enlarged portion, *f*, of the opening E. If the narrowest portion of the cockeye is somewhat wider than the contracted portion *g* of the open-

ing E, the cockeye is slightly tipped or placed in a laterally-inclined position in passing it through this contracted space. My improved trace-carrier is therefore adapted to receive and hold securely cockeyes which vary somewhat in their size. The tongues *c* are depressed below the surface of the elevated frame B, and the trace-carrier has therefore no projecting parts which are liable to catch the tail of the animal or which would be liable to catch in objects in moving the harness about.

My improved trace-carrier is readily cast complete of malleable iron or other suitable metal.

I claim as my invention—

1. A trace-carrier provided with an elevated frame, B, having a tongue, *c*, and an opening, E, constructed with enlarged portions *f i* and a contracted portion, *g*, substantially as set forth.

2. A trace-carrier composed of a base-frame, A, an elevated frame, B, having a horizontal bar, *d*, a tongue, *c*, an opening, E, and projecting pieces *h*, forming the contracted spaces *g*, substantially as set forth.

JAMES M. BASINGER.

Witnesses:
JNO. J. BONNER,
EDW. J. BRADY.