(No Model.)

C. KAUFER.

DEVICE FOR HITCHING HORSES.

No. 382,989. Patented May 15, 1888.

Fig. 1.

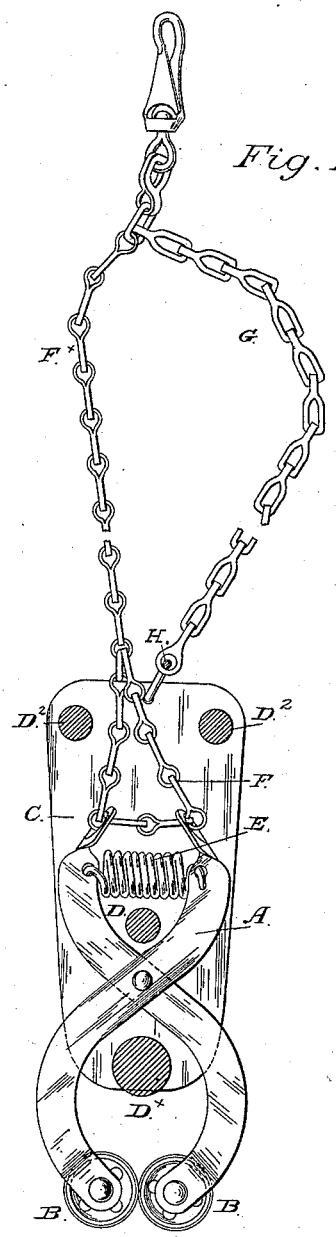


Fig. 2.

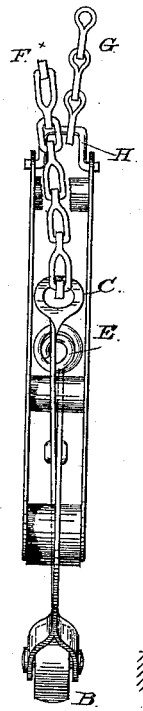


Fig. 3.

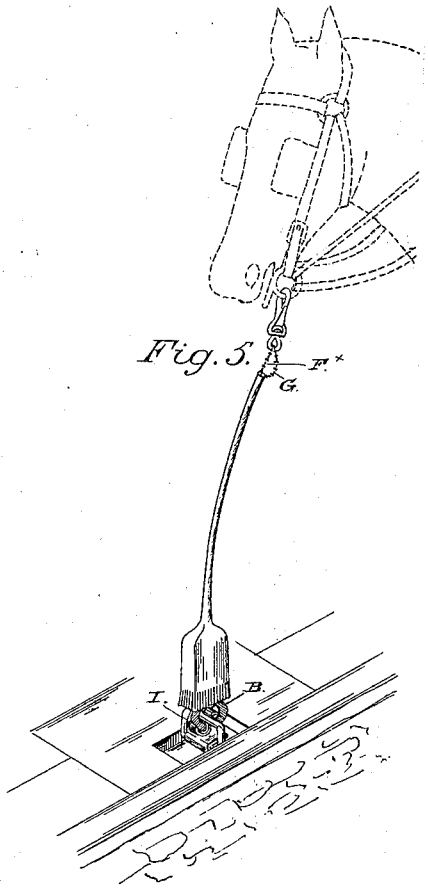
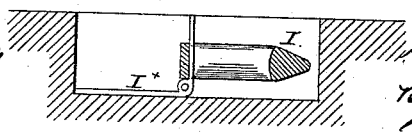


Fig. 4.



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CONSTANTIN KAUFER, OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

DEVICE FOR HITCHING HORSES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 382,989, dated May 15, 1888.

Application filed December 15, 1887. Serial No. 258,042. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CONSTANTIN KAUFER, a citizen of the United States, residing at San Francisco, in the county of San Francisco and State of California, have invented a new and useful Horse-Hitching Device, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates especially to devices for hitching horses to curbs and sidewalks of streets, and has for its object the production of a device wherein the ordinary hitching-post is dispensed with, rendering the device easier to use and much more effective in operation than those heretofore employed.

To attain this end my invention consists, essentially, in a spring-tongs provided with small wheels or rollers in the end thereof, which are adapted to spread apart and admit a loop or ring permanently connected to the sidewalk when the rollers and tongs are dropped down upon it. This spring-tongs is contained in an open-edged casing held in position by studs or pins, two of which pass through the casing above and below the pivoted point of the tongs. Between the short arms of the tongs is placed a retractive spring, and branch chains connect with the short arms, from which extends the hitching strap or chain, and a longer parallel chain is attached to the metal casing and connects with the shorter chain or strap just below the snap-hook, at the upper end of the latter. The parts are all inclosed in leather. By this construction the pull will be upon the short chain or strap, which passes through the short arms of the spring-tongs and prevents the jaws carrying the friction-rollers from opening, while to open the jaws the long chain which connects with the casing is drawn upon.

In the accompanying drawings, which form part of this specification, Figure 1 is a plan or top view of my hitching device with one side of casing removed. Fig. 2 is an edge view. Figs. 3 and 4 are views in detail of the ring or loop countersunk in the pavement or sidewalk. Fig. 5 is a view in perspective.

A represents the spring-tongs, provided with rollers or wheels B, operating on pins in the split ends of the jaws, as shown, being confined between the flat plates of the open-edged metal casing C by studs or pins D $D^{\times}$ D^{2}, the two former studs, D $D^{\times}$, passing between the long arms or jaws and short arms above and below their pivoted point, while the two upper studs or pins, D^{2}, are fixed to the upper end of the casing. All of these studs are provided with thimbles to support the side sheets and prevent them from shutting down and closing upon the tongs.

A transverse retractive spring, E, connects with the two short arms below the branch chains, which keeps the two wheels or rollers and the jaws of the tongs in position at all times, except when the wheels or rollers are engaged, as in opening or closing, to admit the loop or ring in the pavement to pass through into the holding-jaws. A chain or strap, F, is passed through the loops or rings in the short arms, to which is connected the hitching strap or chain $F^{\times}$, provided with a snap-hook at the upper end. To this chain $F^{\times}$, just below the snap-hook, is attached a parallel chain, G, which connects with the metal casing of the tongs through the medium of the clevis or ring H. This chain G is shorter in length than the chain $F^{\times}$, the latter being employed as a dead-pull chain or strap, connecting only with the short arms of the tongs, while the latter is employed for opening the jaws of the tongs, to be hereinafter more fully described.

The top of the hitching loop or ring I is made with rounding or inclined sides and square at the base, as shown, and it is connected to a base-plate countersunk in the pavement, provided with a sort of toe-spring, $I^{\times}$, so that it can be folded down and be flush with the sidewalk or curbing, and not come in contact with the feet of pedestrians.

In practice the foot or toe is pressed down upon the spring-plate, and the loop or ring will be raised to an upright position when the rollers or wheels at the end of the spring-tongs are dropped down upon the top of the raised loop or ring, which by its weight causes the jaws of the tongs to fly open and admit the ring, in which position it is held within the jaws of the tongs. Then the snap-hook at the end of the short chain is snapped into the ring of the bridle and the animal is securely hitched, and all effort to become free will be prevented, as the pull will be upon the short chain or strap, and branch chains passing through the

ends of the short arms of the tongs and acting upon the retractive spring hold the jaws of the tongs firmly together.

In order to open the jaws of the tongs, an upward pull is given to the long chain, which instantly releases the loop or ring from the tongs, when the strap is released from the bridle and placed in the vehicle for use again, as occasion requires.

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

1. A weighted hitching-strap contained in a casing, or otherwise held, which consists of a tongs having wheels or rollers in the ends of the jaws, and two chains or straps of different lengths, one of which is connected to the short arms of the tongs and the other to the metal casing, as described.

2. In a hitching device, the combination, with the long and short parallel straps or chains, arranged as set forth, of a weighted holding-tongs having a retractive spring in the short arms, as described, and rollers or wheels in the jaws thereof, adapted to be opened when struck upon a hitching ring or loop, in the manner as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand and seal.

CONSTANTIN KAUFER. [L. S.]

Witnesses:
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