

(No Model.)

T. B. THOMAS.  
SPREADER FOR HAMMOCKS.

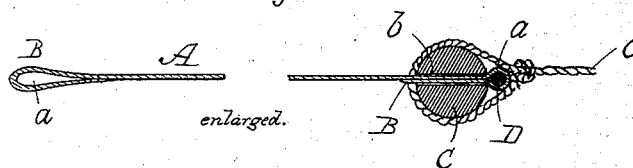
No. 384,728.

Patented June 19, 1888.

*Fig. 1.*



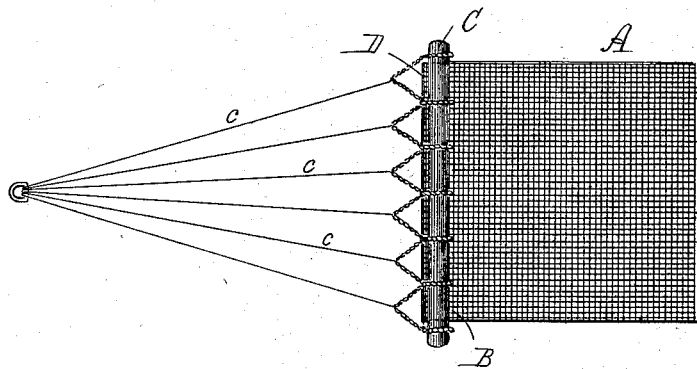
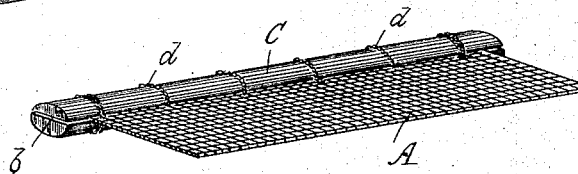
*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 4.*



*Fig. 5.*



*Fig. 3.*

Witnesses.  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## SPREADER FOR HAMMOCKS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 384,728, dated June 19, 1888.

Application filed March 9, 1888. Serial No. 366,703. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, THEODORE B. THOMAS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Quincy, in the county of Norfolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Spreaders for Hammocks; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters or figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to spreaders for hammocks; and it consists, primarily, in a stiff piece of material, preferably tough springy wood, having intact ends, and with a longitudinal slot extending through from side to side and adapted to receive the ends of the hammock, which pass freely therethrough.

My invention consists, secondly, in the arrangement of the hammock and spreader with respect to each other, by which the hammock is secured to the spreader; also in the position and adjustment of the suspensory cords which serve to further clamp the spreader upon the ends of the hammock.

The drawings represent, in Figure 1, a perspective view of a hammock-spreader embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a section transversely of the spreader but lengthwise of the hammock. Fig. 3 is a plan of the hammock with the suspensory cords. Figs. 4 and 5 are modifications of the spreader.

In said drawings, A represents a hammock of ordinary construction, with its ends B B turned back and sewed or otherwise fastened to the body of the hammock. If necessary, the extremities may be woven and incorporated into the hammock. In this way a loop, *a*, is formed, which extends entirely across the hammock at each end.

In Fig. 1 I have shown a spreader, C, preferably oval or circular in cross-section, and of a length somewhat greater than the width of the hammock. This bar, in preference composed of tough springy wood, is formed in one piece, and has cut in it a longitudinal slot, *b*, which extends through from side to side. In some instances and for economy in material it

may be composed of two pieces. In this event said pieces are bolted or securely fastened together at the ends, as shown in Fig. 4.

To secure the spreader C to the hammock, the looped ends B B are passed into the slot *b* until they extend therethrough and beyond. A cord or circular rod, D, of larger diameter than the width of the slot is now passed or threaded through the loop *a* and then cut off even with the edges of the hammock. The latter is now drawn back until said cord contacts against and coincides with said slot, when the spreader and hammock are united. One end of this fastening-cord may be attached permanently to the hammock to prevent its displacement or loss. By this arrangement the spreader is very easily made and quickly affixed to the hammock, while the construction of the latter is of the simplest form. Furthermore, no cutting or wearing of the web-cords ensues, since the pull or tension is uniform upon each one, and is transversely of the fastening rod or cord D, preferably of soft material.

The suspensory cords are shown at *c c* as disposed at suitable intervals along the spreader. Said suspensory cords encircle the spreader and are secured thereto by any proper hitch or knot, preferably a running knot. Thus when the hammock is in use the weight of the occupant tends to tighten said knots and contract the width of the slot *b*, the more effectually securing the spreader to the hammock.

In attaching the suspensory cords about the spreader the cords are passed through the body of the hammock between the warp and the web cords, thence about the spreader and returned back upon themselves and knotted, as before premised.

In lieu of the cord D, a rod, preferably circular in cross-section, composed of wood or metal, may be substituted therefor with equally good results.

An evident modification, as shown in Fig. 5, is to make the spreader of two pieces and lay one on each side of and across the looped end B of the hammock, first passing a cord or rod, D, through the loop *a*. Whipping-cords *d d* are then passed about said pieces, and the latter are bound tightly together, with the ham-

mock end between them. The fastening rod or cord lengthwise of and contiguous to the spreader effectually prevents the end from escaping or slipping out. The suspensory cords  
5 are attached about the spreader, as hereinbefore described, and the hammock is completed and ready for use.

What I desire to claim is—

1. The hammock A, its ends B B looped  
10 at *a*, and the slotted spreader C, through which the said ends pass, combined with the fastening-cords D, located in said loops transversely of the hammock, and the suspensory cords *c c*, which encircle said spreader, substantially as  
15 herein described.

2. In a hammock having looped ends, as stated, a spreader composed of two pieces disposed on opposite sides of the looped end, combined with a fastening cord or rod transversely of said hammock within the looped  
20 end, said cord resting lengthwise of the spreader, and the whipping-cords which encircle the latter, for purposes specified.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

THEODORE B. THOMAS.

Witnesses:

H. E. LODGE,  
E. K. BOYNTON.