

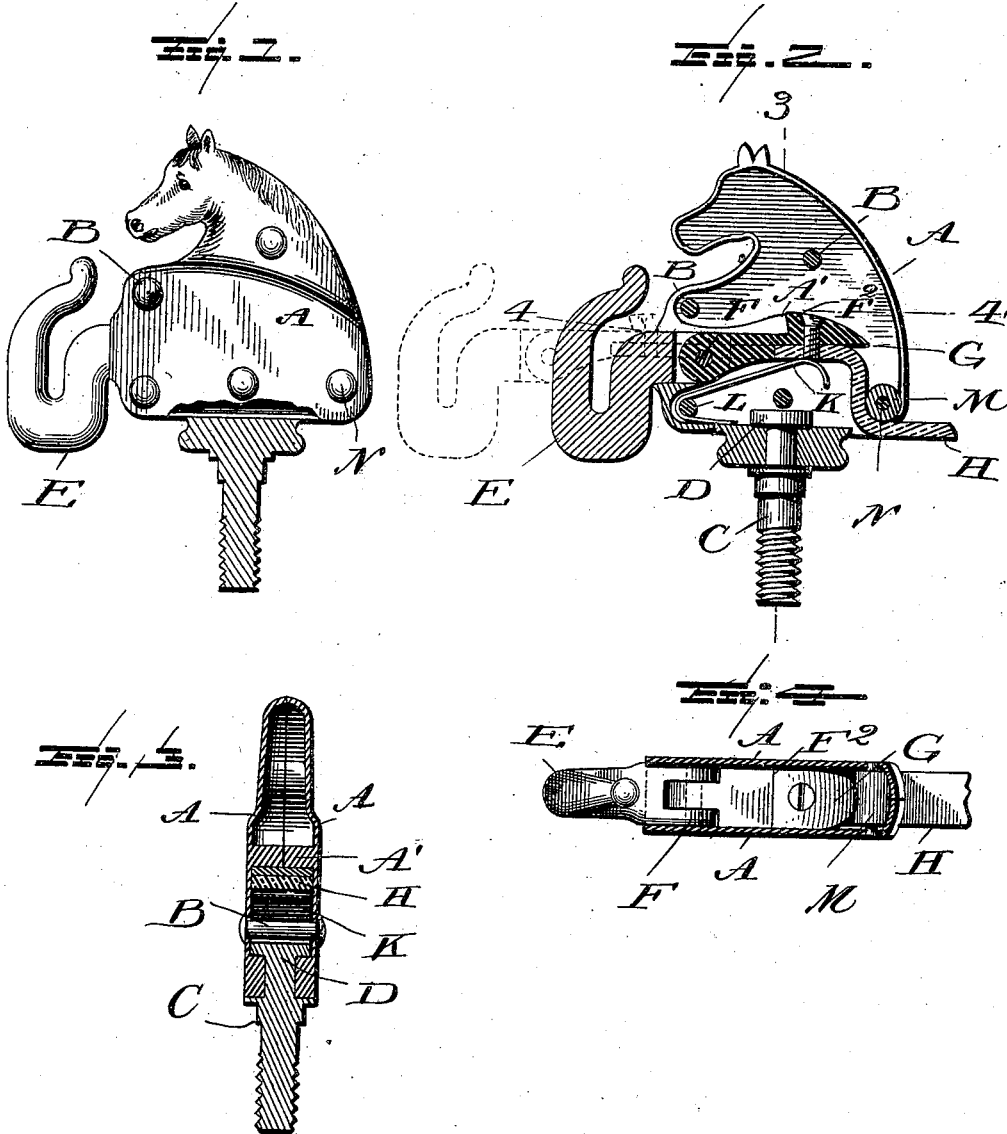
No. 649,163.

Patented May 8, 1900.

W. H. FERRIS.  
CHECKING OR UNCHECKING DEVICE.

(Application filed May 2, 1899.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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PLACE.

## CHECKING OR UNCHECKING DEVICE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 649,163, dated May 8, 1900.

Application filed May 2, 1899. Serial No. 715,276. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM H. FERRIS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Washington, in the District of Columbia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Checking or Unchecking Devices; and I do 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 the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to new and useful improvements in devices for checking and unchecking horses, and especially to a device of this character in which the check-hook is detachably held to a plate mounted on the saddle of the harness, means being provided whereby the rear end of the shank portion of the hook is released from engagement with a shoulder or catch of the plate, thus allowing the hook to which the check-strap is connected to be drawn forward, giving the horse freedom to lower its head, and the device checked up by manipulating the reins, which are connected to a strap or cord attached to the check-hook.

More specifically, the present invention resides in the provision of a checking and unchecking device in which the check-hook is made up of two sections hinged together, one section comprising the check-engaging hook, the other having a hooked end, which is held normally in engagement with a shoulder or catch on the plate secured to the saddle of the harness by means of a spring, which spring yields as the hooked end of the hinged section of the hook is drawn down to disengage same from the plate, thus allowing the hook to be withdrawn in the act of the horse throwing its head forward.

To these ends and to such others as the invention may pertain the same consists, further, in the novel construction, combination, and adaptation of parts, as will be hereinafter more fully described and then specifically defined in the appended claim.

My invention is clearly illustrated in the accompanying drawings, which, with the letters

of reference marked thereon, form a part of this application, and in which drawings similar letters of reference indicate like parts throughout the several views, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of my checking and unchecking attachment for harness. Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal section through the device, showing in dotted lines the hook as released from the plate to which the hook is adapted to be held. Fig. 3 is a sectional view on line 3 3 of Fig. 2, and Fig. 4 is a sectional view on line 4 4 of Fig. 2.

Reference now being had to the details of the drawings by letter, A designates two complementary portions of the plate, which may be of any ornamental shape desired, said portions being held together by means of rivets B or other fastening means. Swiveled to the two sections of the plate is the threaded shank C, having the shoulders D, which confine the shank to the two plates and allowing the plates to rock on the portion of the threaded shank between said shoulders.

The hook E, to which the check-strap is designed to be held, is of such a shape as to allow the strap to engage same and be readily released therefrom, and said hook has hinged thereto a shank portion F, hinged at F' to the forked arms of the hook E. The free end of said shank portion F is provided with a hook F<sup>2</sup>, through the head of which a screw G is passed, which is provided to fasten the strap H to the under recessed face of shank portion F in the manner illustrated in Fig. 2 of the drawings.

In order to hold the hooked end of the shank portion F in its highest position and in engagement with the shoulders A' of the plate-sections, a spring K is provided, one end of which bears against the bottom of the plate-sections and is mounted on a pin L, while the free end of the spring bears yieldingly against the under side of the shank portion F or the strap attached thereto, as plainly seen in Fig. 2 of the drawings. Mounted on a pin N, carried by the plate-sections, is an antifriction wheel or roller M, Fig. 2 of the drawings, and under this passes the strap H, which may be either connected to the rein or be attached in any suitable manner to a cord passing

within convenient reach of the driver. This connection is not shown, as it does not form any part of the present invention.

If preferred, the shank portion C may be made integral with one of the complementary sections of the plate, as illustrated in Fig. 1.

Importance is attached to the provision of making the shank portion of the hook with a hinged catch, to which catch is fastened one end of the strap which passes over the anti-friction-wheel. By having the hinged portion or catch the latter may be disconnected from the shoulder on the casing without first overcoming the pulling force that the horse exerts in attempting to lower its head before being unchecked. As the horse is pulling either on an overdraw or straight check the outer hooked portion of the check-hook will be respectively pulled slightly up or down sufficient to throw the strain on the walls of the aperture in which the shank of the hook works and allow the hinged catch portion to be easily released. By this construction spring-actuated dogs are dispensed with, which require a separate cord or strap to release same.

The operation of my improved device will be readily understood, as when it is desired to allow the horse to lower its head the strap H is pulled upon by the driver and the shank portion F will be disengaged from the shoulder A', and the check-hook E may be drawn

out from the plate-sections A, and when it is desired to check up the horse the strap H is drawn upon and the hinged check-hook is drawn back into the socket in the plate-sections, and the tension of the spring K will cause the hooked end F<sup>2</sup> to engage with the shoulder A', as will be readily understood.

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

As an improved article of manufacture a checking and unchecking device for a harness comprising two complementary hollow plates forming a casing when fastened together, each plate having a laterally-extending shoulder A' extending half the width of the casing and having their faces flush, combined with a check-hook having a pivoted shank portion with a hook at its free end for engagement with said shoulder, a strap secured to the under face of the pivoted shank portion, an anti-friction-roller under which said strap passes and a spring designed to normally hold the hook, of said pivoted shank portion, in engagement with said shoulder, as shown and described.

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

WILLIAM H. FERRIS.

Witnesses:

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E. C. GOODWIN.