

H. LOCKARD & T. AGENS.  
Bridle Bit.

No. 165,678.

Patented July 20, 1875.

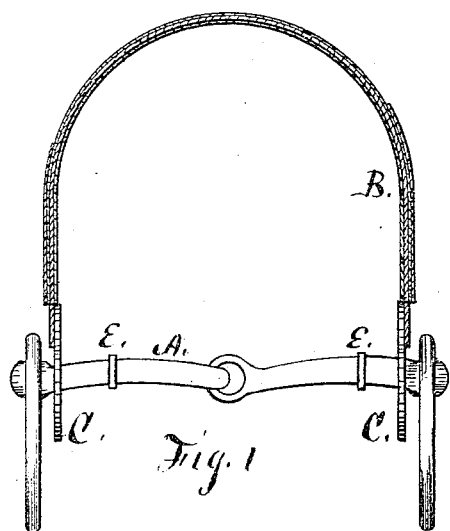


Fig. 1

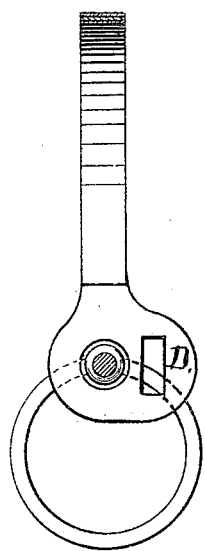


Fig. 2

Witnesses.

Horace Harris  
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Inventor.

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per  
Thos. Agens

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HIRAM LOCKARD AND THOMAS AGENS, OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY; SAID LOCKARD ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF HIS RIGHT TO SAID AGENS.

## IMPROVEMENT IN BRIDLE-BITS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 165,678, dated July 20, 1875; application filed November 6, 1874.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, HIRAM LOCKARD and THOMAS AGENS, of Newark, in the county of Essex and State of New Jersey, have invented a certain Improvement in Bridle-Bits, of which the following is a specification:

Our invention consists in an attachment to and arrangement of a bridle-bit, whereby a hard-mouthed horse may be easily controlled, and any horse may be held when inclined to run away, and also in putting on the bits an elastic composition as a covering.

We use an ordinary snaffle-bit, and attach to the two ends of the bit A the two ends of an elastic nose-piece or bow, B. This bow makes a loose connection with the bit—that is, the ends slip loose on the bit. A mild pressure on the reins will make no change in the relative position of the ends of the bow and the bit; but if an extra strain is put on the reins, when a horse is hard-mouthed or inclined to run, the ends of the bow will slip on the bit inward toward the center, which tends to double up the bit, and throw the joint of it forward against the roof of the horse's mouth, which is a pressure no horse can stand for a moment, and therefore he is immediately brought in check, and yet receives no injury. The cheek-piece C of the bow is made with a slot, D, in it, or otherwise, to receive the cheek-piece of the bridle, or it may be made without; also, the ends of the bit next to the cheek-piece are made square for about one inch, more

or less, and the hole in the cheek-piece of the bow is made to correspond thereto, and a flange, e, is put on the bit at about one inch from the cheek-piece; or some other device may be used, as a strap, to keep the cheek-piece of the bow from pressing too far into the center; or the end of the bit may be made round, and have a flange on it, as above named; or the flange may be dispensed with entirely in some cases. The front of the bow may be made adjustable by having a sliding spring put in it to accommodate it to the different sizes of the heads of horses.

Another part of our invention consists in covering the bit with an elastic coating of gutta-percha, to make it comfortable in the horse's mouth and to avoid the frost in the bits.

We claim—

1. In a bridle-bit, the metal spring nose-band B, substantially as and for the purposes specified.
2. The nose-band, in combination with the stops e on the mouth-piece, substantially as described, and for the purposes set forth.
3. The mouth-piece covered with an elastic coating of gutta-percha, for the purposes set forth.

HIRAM LOCKARD.  
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Witnesses:

HORACE HARRIS,  
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