

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM FLETCHER WHITNEY, OF UKIAH, CALIFORNIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN HARNESS-BUCKLES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 181,229, dated August 15, 1876; application filed February 16, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, W. F. WHITNEY, of Ukiah city, in the county of Mendocino, and in the State of California, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Harness-Buckles; and do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, making a part of this specification.

The nature of my invention consists in the construction and arrangement of a trace-buckle, as will be hereinafter more fully set forth.

In order to enable others skilled in the art to which my invention appertains to make and use the same, I will now proceed to describe its construction and operation, referring to the annexed drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan view of my trace-buckle. Fig. 2 is a side view, and Fig. 3 a longitudinal section, of the same.

A represents a plate of any suitable dimensions, provided with side flanges B B, which stand parallel and project a certain distance beyond the ends of the plate A. Near one end the side flanges B are formed with inward-projecting flanges C, as shown in Fig. 1, and at this end the flanges B are connected by a bar, D, to which the hame-tug E is fastened in the ordinary manner.

The plate A with the flanges B C and bar D are, preferably, all made of one piece of metal, either cast or otherwise, and made plain or ornamental, as desired.

At the opposite end of the buckle the flanges B are rounded, as shown, and between them is pivoted a curved plate, G, to which the tongue *a* is permanently attached. The trace H is inserted under the curved plate G, between the flanges B B and under the flanges C C, and the tongue *a* enters the hole in the trace, as shown in Fig. 2. On the sides of the buckle are the loops *b b*, made of wire and attached to the buckle.

This buckle is self-securing, and it combines leverage and pressure in front of the tongue-hole, and leverage in rear of it. Both ends may be made alike, so that the trace-point may pass half-way, and the hame-tug the other half-way, into the loop, giving the advantage of shifting the pad backward or forward, as the size of the horse may demand.

This buckle may be used for any purpose for which harness-buckles may now be used.

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

The plate A, with flanges B B and C C, and cross-bar D, made in one piece, in combination with the curved pivoted plate G, having the tongue *a* permanently secured thereto, substantially as and for the purposes herein set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 31st day of January, 1876.

W. F. WHITNEY. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

J. S. HAILE,

E. M. BARNES.