

W. S. MEAD.  
Hopples.

No. 205,116.

Patented June 18, 1878.

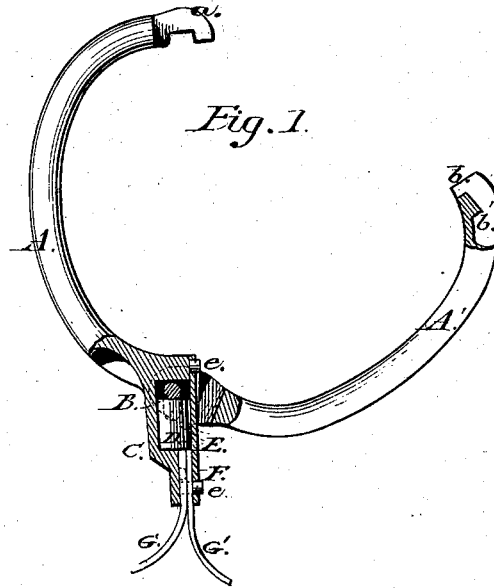


Fig. 1.

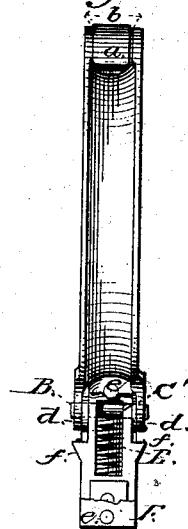


Fig. 2.

Witnesses:  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## IMPROVEMENT IN HOPPLES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 205,116, dated June 18, 1878; application filed May 15, 1878.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM S. MEAD, of New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Hopples for Securing Animals; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention is an improvement in hopples for securing the limbs of animals to keep them confined and prevent them from running or jumping.

It consists of an oval ring of the bracelet form, divided into two sections and hinged together with a rivet, and so fashioned at the ends of the sections as to present a hooked extension and a notch to fit snugly the one into the other, to clasp said ring or hopple about the leg of a horse or other animal.

As an important feature in this invention I provide a spring, which I incase in a box, extending from the section A, provided with a hook before mentioned, which spring bears against the rivet, forming the axis of the hinge, to throw the section having the notched end toward the hook to secure the two sections together.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 is an elevation of my improved device with a part of it broken away to show the spring which bears against the rivet. Fig. 2 is an edge view of the same with the plate covering the spring removed.

Similar reference-letters denote like parts in all of the figures.

Referring to the drawings, A A' are the two sections composing my hopple, hinged together by rivet B, which passes through from side to side. The section A has extending from it the box C, provided with the cavity D, to receive the spring E.

At the opposite end of the section A is a hook, formed in the tongue *a*. The opposite section A' is provided with a groove, *b*, or jaws to receive the tongue *a*, the notch of which fits over the notch *b'*.

The tongue C' in the opposite end of the section A fits between the jaws *d d*, which, together with the rivet B, form the hinge.

A plate, F, serves as a cover and protection to the box C, which is fastened down by studs *e e*, projecting from said box, which are battered down after the spring E is put in place.

The studs *e e* serve, also, to secure the straps G G', one of which is used to couple two hopples together when used to keep the animal from running or jumping, the other when a single one is used for hitching purposes.

When used for hitching, the strap extending from the hopple may be provided with a snap-hook for convenience in attaching to a post or other hold.

The box C is provided on opposite sides with shoulders *f*, against which the outer edges of section A' come when the ring is open sufficiently to receive the leg of the animal.

In operating my device the hands take hold of the two sections A A' of the hopple, and bear in opposite directions in line with the long diameter of the ring. The rivet B moves in the elongated eyes of the box C, pressing against the spring E in the cavity D. When the notch *b*, by this movement, comes below the hook in the tongue *a*, the two sections A A' may be moved laterally in opposite directions to open the hopple. It may now be placed about the leg of the animal and pressed together. The spring E bearing against the rivet B forces the section A' toward the hook *a* in the section A, and the two sections are securely united.

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

The hooked and notched sections A A' of a hopple, the former provided with an extended box, C, having a cavity, D, to receive a spring, E, and studs *e e*, in combination with plate F and rivet B, arranged as described, for the purpose set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM S. MEAD.

Witnesses:

HORACE HARRIS,  
H. A. MERRIAM.