E. E. MORSE.
Whiffletree-Hook.

No. 205,121. Patented June 18, 1878.

Fig 1.

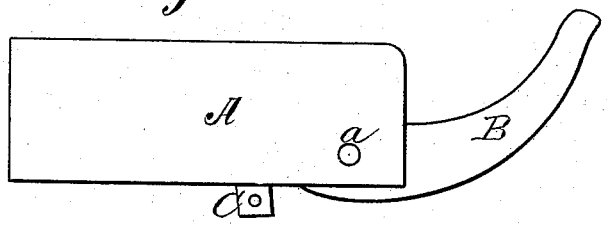


Fig 2.

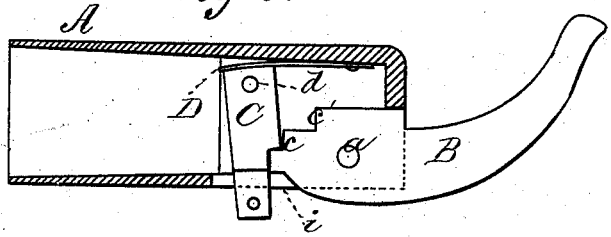
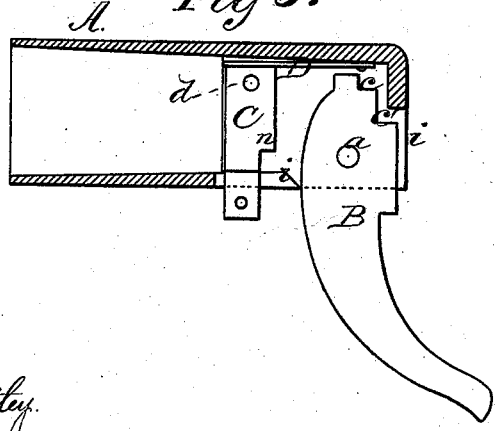


Fig 3.



WITNESSES
Mary F. Utley.
F. J. Masi.

INVENTOR
Edwin E. Morse,
by E. W. Anderson,
ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWIN E. MORSE, OF SOUTH BETHEL, MAINE.

IMPROVEMENT IN WHIFFLETREE-HOOKS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **205,121**, dated June 18, 1878; application filed March 16, 1878.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWIN E. MORSE, of South Bethel, in the county of Oxford and State of Maine, have invented a new and valuable Improvement in Safety Whiffletree-Irons; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a representation of a side view of my improved whiffletree-iron. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section thereof, showing the hook locked; and Fig. 3 is a like section, showing the hook unlocked.

This invention has relation to improvements in hooks for the ends of whiffletrees.

The nature of the invention consists in combining with a vibrating hook projecting from the socket-iron through its slotted end, and having a notched inner end, a vibrating latch projecting through the said iron, and provided with a shouldered end engaging said hook, and a spring bearing against the heel of the latch and maintaining its engagement with the hook, whereby means are provided for releasing the hooks and allowing the traces to slip off therefrom, as will be hereinafter more fully set forth.

In the annexed drawings, the letter A indicates a metallic socket-iron, into which the end of the single-tree is inserted; B, the trace-hook; C, the latch, and D the spring.

The iron A has at its outer end a longitudinal slot, *i*, of such dimensions as to allow the hook B, that is inserted in it and secured to the iron by a pivot-pin, *a*, to vibrate to the extent of an arc of forty-five degrees. At its inner end the hook is stepped or notched, as shown at *c c'*, for a purpose hereinafter shown.

The latch C is inserted into the slot *i* at right angles to the length of the single-tree, and is pivoted to the iron by a pin, *d*, so as to vibrate freely in its length. It is provided upon its front edge with a rectangular rabbet, forming a shoulder, *n*, with which the end of the trace-hook is engaged when in position.

The latch is held to its engagement with the hook by a spring, D, the front end of which is secured to the socket, with its rear end bearing against the heel of the latch. This latter is provided, at its end projecting beyond the socket-iron, with an eye or other equivalent device, to which is attached a cord leading to the driver's seat, by drawing upon which the latch is swung back to the inner end of the slot *i*, free from the hook, which then, being unsupported, swings to the front in the position shown in Fig. 3, and allows the trace to slip off from it.

The hook is prevented from undue forward vibration by the shoulder *c'*, which abuts against the end of the socket-iron, while the shoulder *c* forms the lip at the end of said hook for engaging the latch.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The combination, with the socket-iron A, having longitudinal slot *i*, of the curved trace-hook B, having shoulders *c c'* vibrating in said slot, the rabbeted latch C, and spring D, secured to the socket-iron and bearing against the heel of the latch, substantially as specified.

In testimony that I claim the above I have hereunto subscribed my name in the presence of two witnesses.

EDWIN E. MORSE.

Witnesses:
WILBER F. LITTLE,
THOS. B. SEEVEY.