

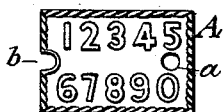
C. P. HOUSUM.

Tag for Marking Animals.

No. 206,569.

Patented July 30, 1878.

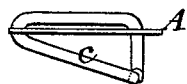
*Fig. 1.*



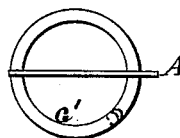
*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 3.*



*Fig. 4.*



*Witnesses*

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES P. HOUSUM, OF DECATUR, ILLINOIS.

## IMPROVEMENT IN TAGS FOR MARKING ANIMALS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **206,569**, dated July 30, 1878; application filed June 18, 1878.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CHARLES P. HOUSUM, of Decatur, in the county of Macon and State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Tags for Marking Animals, &c.; and the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents a front view of the tag with embossed characters thereon. Fig. 2 represents the same with some of the embossed characters erased. Figs. 3 and 4 represent in side view the same tag in connection, respectively, with a triangular link and a circular wire ring.

My invention relates to that class of animal-marking devices in which a patent has been granted to myself and H. W. Hill on the 11th of June, 1878, consisting of a device composed of a tag and connecting-link and pinchers to secure them to an animal. In this class of devices, of which a large number may be used, if efficient, it is important to reduce the primary weight and cost of the metal without diminishing its efficacy, and also to improve the form, so as to facilitate its adaptation and use.

Having this object in view, my invention consists in a sheet-metal tag formed of an oblong plate having a perforation adjacent to one of its ends and a groove or crescent perforation cut out of the edge of its opposite end, and provided with a series of figures or characters embossed thereon, as will be described hereinafter.

In the drawings, A represents an oblong sheet-metal tag, perforated centrally at *a* adjacent to one of its ends, and formed with a

groove, *b*, cut out of the edge of its opposite end, so as to receive and hold in position over the central portion of the tag a wire link, *c*, or ring *c'*, without requiring said link or ring to be introduced consecutively through two round holes of a tag—an operation that becomes difficult if any one of the links is slightly changed in form from the others. Each tag is provided with a series of characters, one or more of which can be punched out or erased to form various combinations to suit different owners. These characters can be marked, impressed, or embossed at the same time that the tag is formed, and the openings *a* and *b* can also be formed at the same time or afterward, if so desired.

To attach the improved tag to an animal's ear, the link *c* is preferable, as it lies flat upon the tag; but a circular ring, *c'*, formed of wire, with beveled ends, can also be used with the same tag by forming it so as to have its interior diameter, when closed, equal to the distance between the perforations *a b*.

Having now fully described my invention, I claim—

A sheet-metal tag stamped and embossed with figures or characters, and formed of an oblong plate having a perforation, *a*, adjacent to one of its ends, and a groove or crescent perforation cut out of the edge of the opposite end, through both of which a link or ring is to pass, substantially as and for the purpose described.

CHARLES P. HOUSUM.

Witnesses:

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JOHN S. BIXBY.