H. HOLT.

Breeching-Strap for Harness.

No. 212,467. **Patented Feb. 18, 1879.**

Fig. 1.

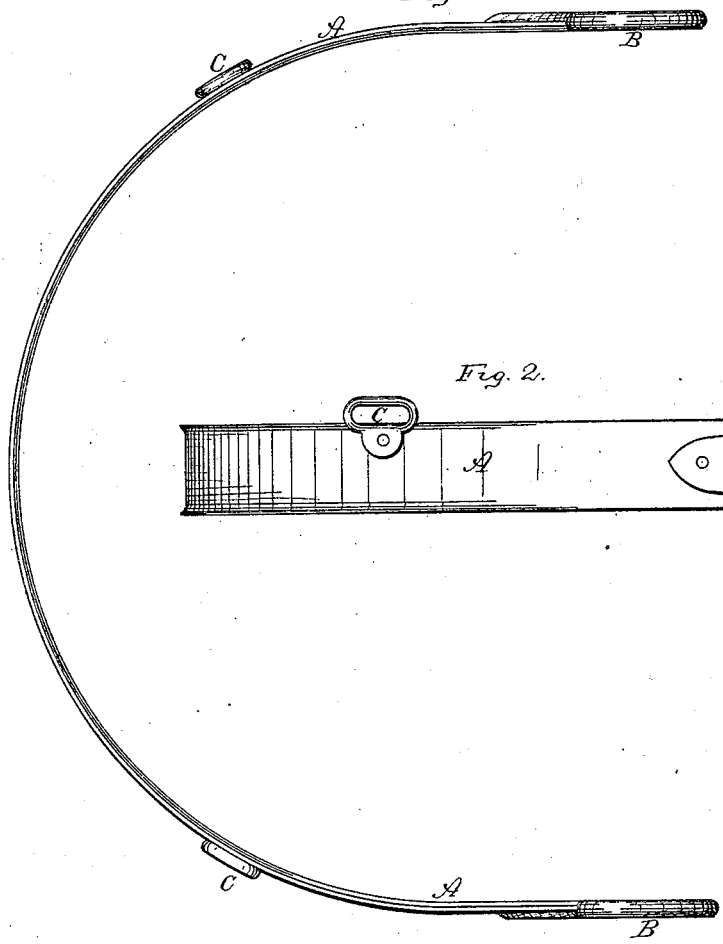


Fig. 2.

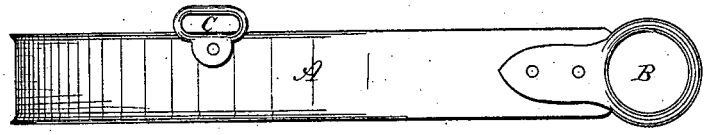
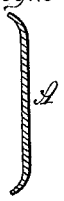


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HORACE HOLT, OF RUTLAND, OHIO.

IMPROVEMENT IN BREECHING-STRAPS FOR HARNESS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **212,467**, dated February 18, 1879; application filed December 30, 1878.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HORACE HOLT, of Rutland, in the county of Meigs and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Breeching-Straps for Harness; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and use it, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form part of this specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in breeching-straps for harness; and it consists in making the breeching of some thin elastic metal, and connecting it to the harness, so as to form a part thereof, in the usual manner, the edges of the said breeching being turned outward, so that they will not come in contact with the horse, as will be more fully described hereinafter.

Figure 1 is a plan view of my invention. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the same, and Fig. 3 a vertical section.

A represents the breeching, which is made from a strip or sheet of steel, of any desired width and length, the edges of which are preferably turned outward, so that there is no liability of their coming in contact with the horse. To the ends of this breeching are riveted or otherwise secured the metallic rings B for the holdback-straps, and to the upper edge are riveted or otherwise secured the loops C, for the supporting side straps to be fastened in. After the parts have been secured together they are varnished, or otherwise finished so as not to be affected by the action of water or moisture, and are thus rendered rust-proof.

By thus making the part A of steel, or any equivalent elastic metal, it can be made for less than half the price of leather breeching; it does not wear the hair from the horse under any circumstances; it does not need oiling in wet weather; it retains its curved shape, so as to always keep in place while the harness is in use, and it is much more durable.

The great objection to leather breeching arises from the fact that the stitching or the pores in the leather catch against the hairs of the horse, and where there is much friction of the breeching against him it wears the hair away. Where the breeching is made of metal, having only a smooth finished surface to come in contact with the hair, it will never rub it off under any circumstances, no matter how much friction may be brought upon the breeching. Not only is steel or other elastic metals adapted for breeching, but it also answers for belly-bands and girths for horses, as being not only less liable to rub and chafe them, but being stronger and more durable.

I am aware that a flat metal plate has been detachably fastened to the shafts for the horse to bear against in backing the vehicle; but this is used only as a part substitute for harness, and not in connection with the common harness. My breeching is connected to, and can only be used in connection with, the common harness.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

A breeching made of metal, and having its edges turned outward, so as not to come in contact with the horse, substantially as specified.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 19th day of December, 1878.

HORACE HOLT.

Witnesses:
F. A. LEHMAN,
J. W. GARNER.