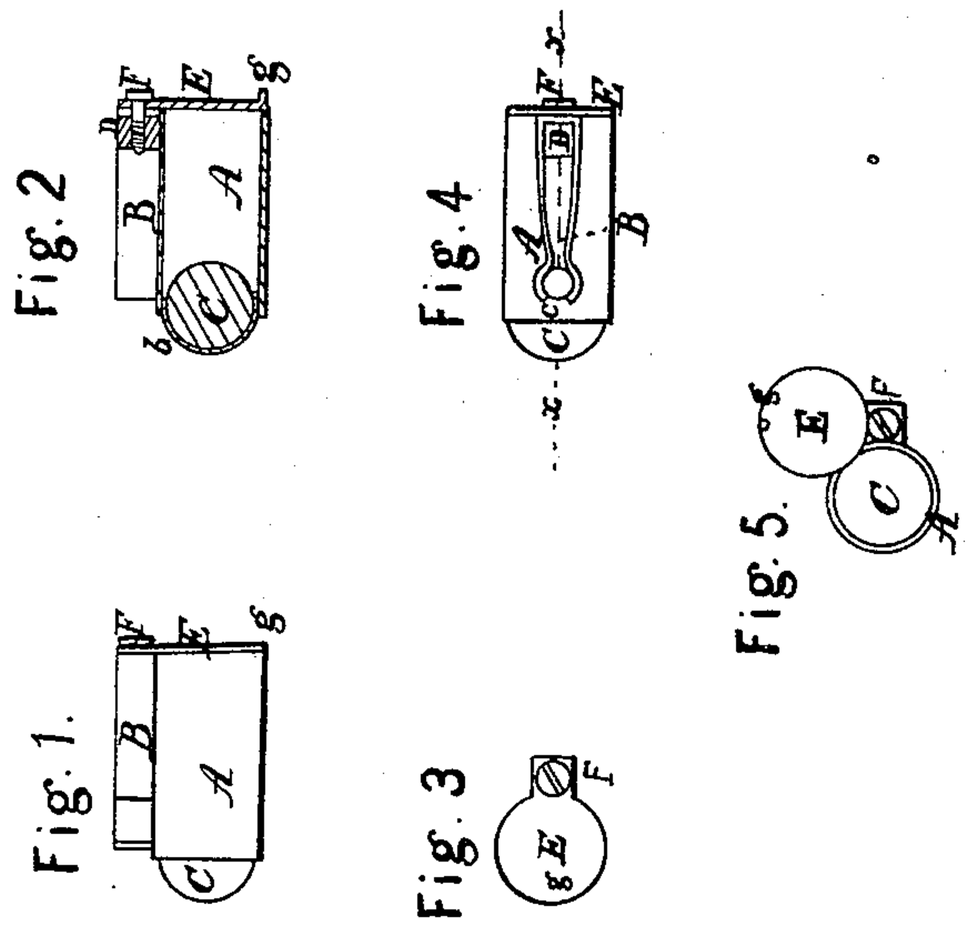
J. Johnson.

Charger for Fire-arms.

No. 13547. Patented Sept. 11. 1855.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEE JOHNSON, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

## CHARGER FOR FIRE-ARMS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 13,517, dated September 11, 1855.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOSEE JOHNSON, of Washington, in the District of Columbia, have invented a new and Improved Charger for Fire-Arms; 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 accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a side view. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section taken through the line *x x*, Fig. 4. Fig. 3 is an end view, with the cut-off valve closed. Fig. 4 is a top view, showing the cap in the clamp. Fig. 5 is an end view with the cut-off valve open.

Similar characters refer to like parts in the several figures.

The nature of my invention consists in an improved charger for fire-arms, which is composed of the combination of a projecting ball, hollow cylinder, and cut-off valve combined in such a manner as to form a chamber of a proper capacity to contain a charge of powder, and also to admit of the ball projecting out from the end of the cylinder a sufficient distance, so as to allow its oval or globular form to serve as a muzzle-piece to guide it (the ball) into the gun, thus obviating the necessity of using a muzzle-piece—the ball itself being a more ready and effective guide.

My invention also enables me to patch the ball in the most approved way, as will be described.

My invention further consists in using in connection with my charger a clamp of a peculiar construction for the purpose of holding a cap, thus enabling me to embrace the entire charging for a gun in my charger, all of which may be taken from or returned to the pocket or cartridge-box at a single motion, thus saving the time usually spent in getting the cap in cartridge loading.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe its construction and operation.

A is the cylinder, which is formed with a hollow of a size equal to that of the caliber of the gun which it is designed to charge. Said cylinder is of sufficient length to contain the proper quantity of powder for a charge, also a part of the ball, as seen in Fig. 2.

C is the ball, inserted in the end of the cylinder in the manner as will be described in the operation.

B is the clamp for holding the cap, or rather to the post or projection D on the cylinder, by means of a screw, F, as seen in Figs. 2 and 4.

E is the cut-off valve or cover, which opens and closes over the end of the cylinder, as clearly shown in in the drawings. Said valve is also secured to post D on cylinder A by means of screw F, as seen in Figs. 2 and 4. It will be seen that clamp B and cut-off valve E are both secured to the charger by means of one screw in such a manner that should they become loose by use or otherwise they both can be tightened by "the one" screw, thus combining economy and convenience in their attachment.

*h*, Fig. 2, is the patch, which is confined between the cylinder and the ball, and patches the ball when the same is forced into the gun.

*g* is a projection or nipple on cut-off valve E, for opening and closing the same.

The manner of using my charger is as follows: First, the charger, which is secured to the cylinder, is filled or charged by opening cut-off valve E, as seen in Fig. 5. The patch is placed over the hole in the cylinder. The ball is then laid on the patch over the hole, and pressed down in even with the end of the cylinder. The patch is then cut off smoothly, leaving no surplus cloth to retard the velocity of the ball. Then a short ramrod is applied to it, by which the ball is pressed through the cylinder into the position as seen in Figs. 1, 2, and 4. Said ramrod is provided with a shoulder, which comes in contact with the end of the cylinder exactly at the time the ball reaches the point, as shown in the drawings, thus always positioning the ball at the proper place. The powder is then put in and valve E is closed, as seen in Fig. 3. Third, the cap is inserted in the clamp, as seen in Fig. 4, and the charge is complete. To transfer the charge from the charger to the gun, open valve E, as seen in Fig. 5, pour the powder into the caliber of the gun, invert the charger, and apply the projected ball to the muzzle of the gun, slip the ramrod through the cylinder, forcing the ball out of the same and down to the powder at the breech of the gun, slip the charger off over the end of the ramrod, and withdraw the rod, then apply the cap in clamp B to the nipple of the gun and press it on,

after which a slight pull sidewise breaks the hold of the clamp on the cap, and it (the cap) is left on the nipple, and the charge is complete. These chargers are designed to be loaded at home, or in camp, or at any time and place convenient, and as many of them carried by the sportsman or soldier as he will be likely to shoot times; or he can carry a smaller number and charge them at his convenience. They are made of a thin material, and are no more burdensome than most other arrangements for carrying ammunition.

The object of my invention is to facilitate the rapid muzzle-loading of rifles, and at the same time to retain all the advantages of the most approved style of patching rifle-balls. In all muzzle-loading-rifle cartridges the patch is closed entirely around and fastened to the ball, in which case it is well-known that the patch clogs and greatly retards the velocity of the ball; but with the aid of my invention it will be seen by examining Fig. 2 that the patch lies behind and its edges pass around between the ball and the caliber of the gun, thus patching the ball perfectly, yet leaving the forward side of the ball perfectly clear, so that when the gun is discharged the patch drops near the muzzle without retarding the velocity of the ball in the least degree. It has been proved by experiment that a rifle can be loaded with the aid of my charger in less time than with the rifle-cartridge now in use.

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

1. The combination of the projecting ball C, cylinder A, and cut-off valve E, arranged and combined in the manner and for the purposes as herein described and set forth.

2. Using clamp B in connection with the charger, for the purpose of facilitating the rapid completion of the process of loading fire-arms, as described.

JOSEE JOHNSON.

Attest:
JOHN S. HOLLINGSHEAD,
O. C. WILLSON.