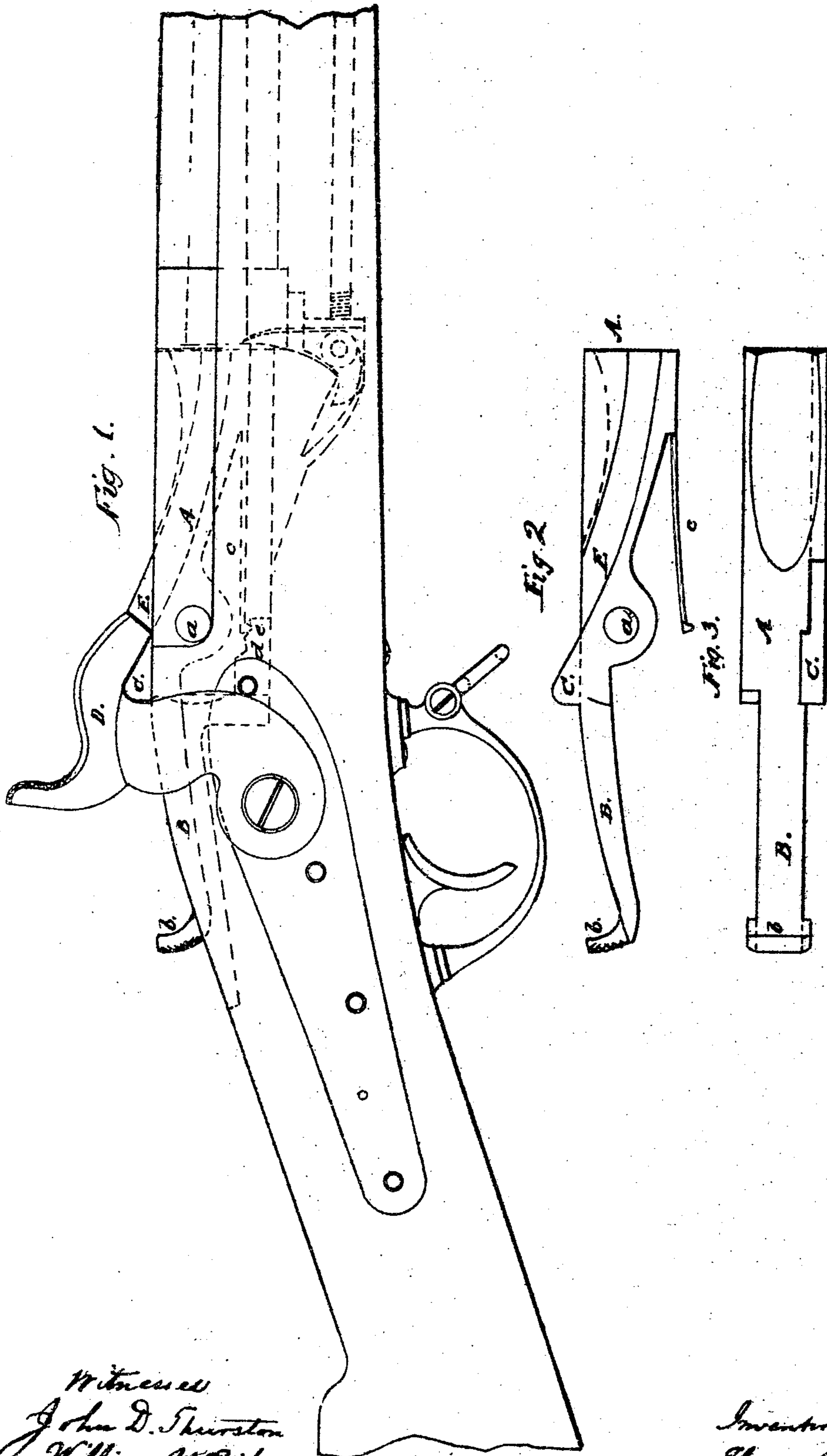


No. 72,076.

PATENTED DEC. 10, 1867.

H. O. PEABODY.  
BREECH LOADING FIREARM.



Witnesses  
John D. Thurston  
William W. Rickard.

Inventor  
Henry O. Peabody



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

H. O. PEABODY, OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND, ASSIGNOR TO THE  
PROVIDENCE TOOL COMPANY, OF SAME PLACE.

## IMPROVEMENT IN BREECH-LOADING FIRE-ARMS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 72,076, dated December 10, 1867.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HENRY O. PEABODY, of the city and county of Providence, in the State of Rhode Island, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Breech-Loading Fire-Arms; and I do hereby declare that the following specification, taken in connection with the drawings making a part of the same, is a full, clear, and exact description thereof.

Figure 1 is a side elevation of so much of a breech-loading fire-arm as is necessary to exhibit the application of the improvement. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the breech block detached. Fig. 3 is a top view of the same.

The invention herein described is especially suited to be applied to that variety of breech-loading fire-arms which is described in the Letters Patent of the United States granted to me on the 22d day of July, A. D. 1862, and in the reissue Letters Patent for the same invention, bearing date March 13, 1866.

I propose, by the present improvement, to cause the hammer to act as a means for insuring the bringing of the breech-block to the position in which it should be when the gun is to be fired, and also of locking fast such breech-block, so as to prevent any tendency to displacement by the recoil of the charge, and incidentally by this improvement to dispense with the guard-lever upon the under side of the stock for working the breech-block.

All the parts of the weapon, except in the particulars hereinafter mentioned, are constructed and arranged substantially as described in the reissue Letters Patent above mentioned, and to which reference may be had.

In the accompanying drawing, the breech-block A, which it is understood is hinged at *a*, so as to swing in a mortise cut in the breech, at the rear of and in line with the bore of the barrel, is furnished with a tail-piece, B, extending backward, the end of which should be turned up and from a thumb-and-finger hold, *b*. When the breech-block is in the proper position for its anterior end to cover the chamber of the gun, the tail-piece B is received into a chamber made in the stock or tang of the barrel, so that its top surface, with the exception of the portion *b*, is flush with the surface of the stock. By means of this

tail-piece, in place of the guard-lever heretofore used, the breech-block can be readily operated in manipulating the gun, where the hammer, as will be presently explained, does not act to hold the breech-block fast.

For the purpose of locking the breech-block simultaneously with firing the cartridge, and for insuring the breech-block being in place at the time of discharge, I place upon the top surface of the breech-block, and upon the side nearest the hammer, a raised protuberance, C, whose outline is such that it exactly fits the neck of the hammer when the latter is down, the shank of the hammer being bent over far enough to cause the under surface of the hammer's neck, when the hammer is down, to be imposed upon the upper surface of the protuberance C. Inasmuch as, in depressing the anterior end of the breech-block, the protuberance C would require to move in an arc which would intersect the arc which the hammer-head D occupies, it is quite obvious that the breech-block cannot be moved without first drawing back the hammer to the half-cock, so that its head will be out of the path of travel of the protuberance C; and it is also obvious that, if it so chances that the breech-block has not been brought to the position for firing after the insertion of a cartridge, it will be quite impossible for the hammer to strike the firing-needle E until after the action of the hammer in falling, has, by the impact of the under surface of its head against the upper surface of the protuberant plane C, brought the breech-block into its proper relation to the barrel.

Upon the under side of the breech-block I attach a flat spring, *e*, the end of which is bent, and plays into one or the other of two notches, *d e*, Fig. 1, according as the anterior end of the block is depressed to allow a cartridge to be properly inserted, or is raised so that the block may be in line with the barrel, and the office of which is to retain the breech-block in that one of the two positions named in which it may for the time be placed.

As an incident of the improvements in construction described, I am enabled to dispense with the guard-lever for operating the breech-block heretofore employed, and to that extent simplify the weapon. In practice, also, one



motion will be saved in manipulating the arm, inasmuch as, in bringing the hammer to the full cock, its rear edge will strike against the thumb-and-finger piece *b*, in case the breech-block is in the position for loading, and cause the block to be brought to the position for firing.

I do not claim, broadly, the combination of the breech-block with the hammer, so that the action of the latter, in falling, shall insure the proper adjustment of the former with reference to the chamber of the piece; but

What I do claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

Combining the breech-block *A*, hinged at its posterior extremity, and operating as described, with the hammer *D* by means of the protuberant inclined plane *C*, or its equivalent, substantially as described, for the purposes specified.

H. O. PEABODY.

Witnesses:

JOHN D. THURSTON,  
WILLIAM W. RICKARD.