

G. W. SCHOFIELD.
Breech Loading Fire Arm.

No. 104,211.

Patented June 14, 1870.

FIG. 3

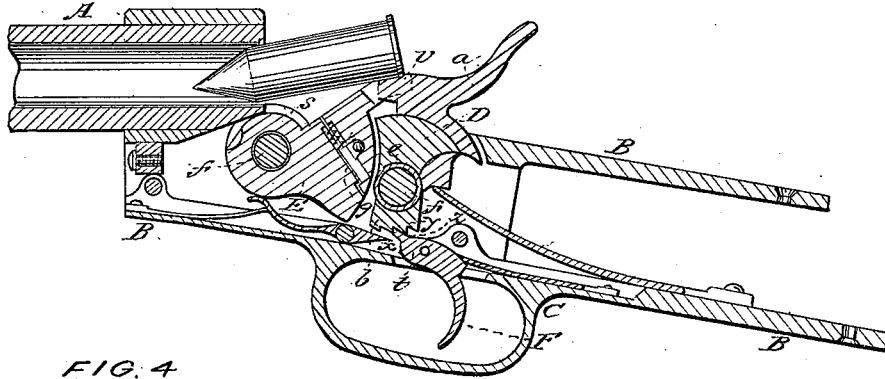


FIG. 4

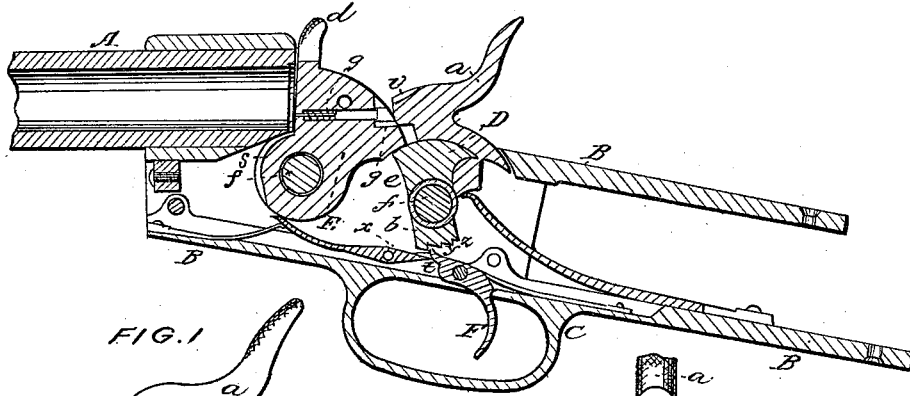


FIG. 1

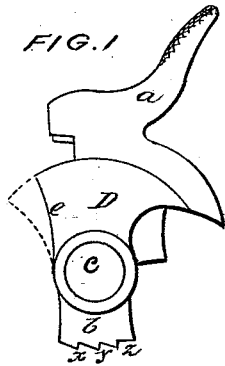
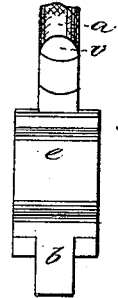


FIG. 2



WITNESSES:

John C. Cox
Hemis Dring

INVENTOR:

Geo. W. Schofield
by Cox and Cox
attorneys

United States Patent Office.

GEORGE W. SCHOFIELD, OF UNITED STATES ARMY.

Letters Patent No. 104,211, dated June 14, 1870.

IMPROVEMENT IN BREECH-LOADING FIRE-ARMS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE W. SCHOFIELD, of the United States Army, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Breech-loading Fire-Arms, of which the following is an accurate and full description, reference being had to the accompanying drawing.

My invention relates to a combined or connected hammer and tumbler swinging on a single pivot, the hammer above and the tumbler below the pivoting point, and operating in rear of and in line with a breech-block also swinging upon a single pivot, the hammer and breech-block acting in certain positions separately, and in others conjointly.

The nature of my invention consists in an improvement upon certain breech-loading fire-arms, as shown in the American patent granted to L. Geiger, January 27, 1863, and also in the American patent granted H. Berdan, January 9, 1866, by making the combined hammer, tumbler, and locking-brace in one piece, with the notches on the tumbler of the shape and construction herein shown and described, so that the piece can be loaded at half or less than full-cock, or be carried safely and conveniently loaded or not loaded by means of a quarter-cock.

Description of the Accompanying Drawing.

Figure 1 is a plan view, showing the form of the body or lower portion of the hammer, the hammer proper and the tumbler; the dotted lines indicate an old form.

Figure 2 is a front view of the invention, showing the groove in the upper part of the head of the hammer.

Figure 3 is a sectional view of the invention in position, a portion of the frame being broken out, showing the piece at half-cock, and the cartridge partially inserted.

Figure 4 is the same as fig. 3, but shows the piece at quarter-cock.

General Description.

A is a portion of the barrel of the arm.

B is the frame of usual construction.

C is the guard-plate.

D is the combined hammer and tumbler, with the notches $x y z$ made in one piece, and groove v , which may be used or not, at option, as the face of the head of the hammer is distant from or in proximity to the base of the firing-pin; when distant it is not required—when near it is.

The head may be either grooved or beveled, the object being to permit the insertion of the cartridge when the piece is at half-cock.

c is a hole to receive a bolt upon which the hammer and tumbler pivot.

e is the locking-brace, formed by making a shoulder on the front face of the hammer, which conforms to the surface of the breech-block immediately adjacent to and back of the thumb-piece.

E is the breech-piece swinging upon the pivot f ,

and provided with a thumb-piece, d , for moving it backward and forward, a recess (not shown) to receive the ejector, (not shown,) a firing-pin, g , passing horizontally through the upper part of the breech-block, on a line with the axis of the bore, having a spring acting backward, a circular groove, s , to allow the cartridge free entrance to the chamber, which groove passes around about one-half of the lower circular portion of the breech-block.

A slot is cut in the lower end of the groove to receive the forward end of the rear guard, which, by means of a spring below, acts upon the breech-block when thrown forward near to or against the end of the barrel.

F is the trigger, provided with the sear t .

The balance of the component parts shown in the drawing being old are not particularly described.

The invention is thus operated:

To load, force back the hammer a to the second or half-cock, thus bringing the point of the sear t into the notch y , and the face e clear of the part E; the breech-block E is thus freed; throw this back by means of its thumb-piece d ; insert the cartridge into the chamber, return the breech-block E to place, and the piece is loaded.

To fire, force back the hammer a to the third or full-cock, which brings the point of the sear t into the third notch z of the part D; press upon the trigger F, which removes the sear t , thus freeing the hammer and firing the piece.

To carry the arm safely when loaded, and conveniently either loaded or empty, when the operation of loading is performed, as above described, let down the hammer to the first or quarter-cock by the usual means; this securely locks the breech-block without permitting the hammer to strike or rest upon the firing-pin.

Claims.

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

1. A hammer, tumbler, and locking-brace made in one piece, of the shape and construction shown, moving on a single pivot in rear and operating in conjunction with a swinging breech-block, so that the piece can be loaded when at half or less than full-cock, or the breech-piece locked against the end of barrel and the piece safely carried at quarter-cock, arranged and operated substantially as shown and described.

2. The breech-block E, and the hammer and tumbler D in their improved and modified relations to and with each other, substantially as herein shown and described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing improvement in breech-loading fire-arms, as above described, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 29th day of January, 1870.

Witnesses: GEORGE W. SCHOFIELD. [L. s.]

JOHN C. COX,

EDM. F. BROWN.