

H. N. Walter,
Washing Machine,
No. 2,137, Patented June 22, 1841.

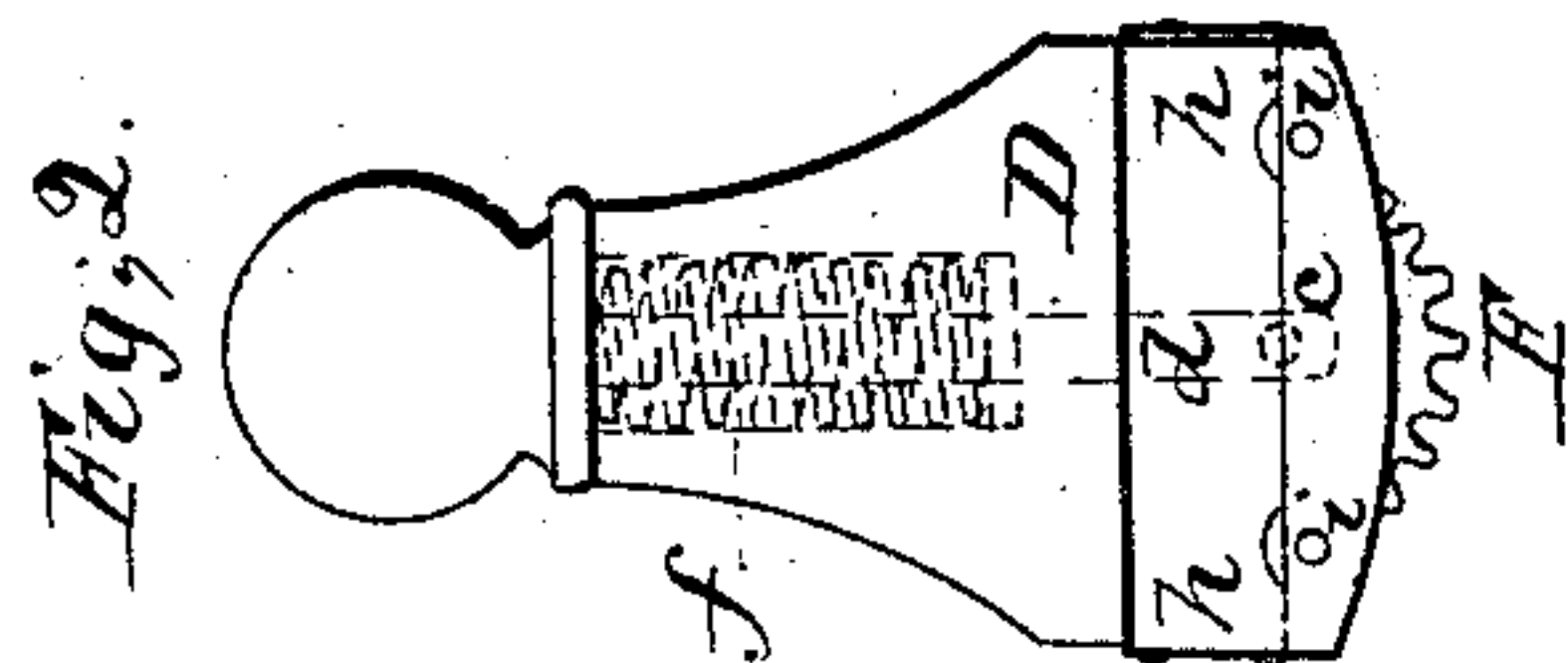
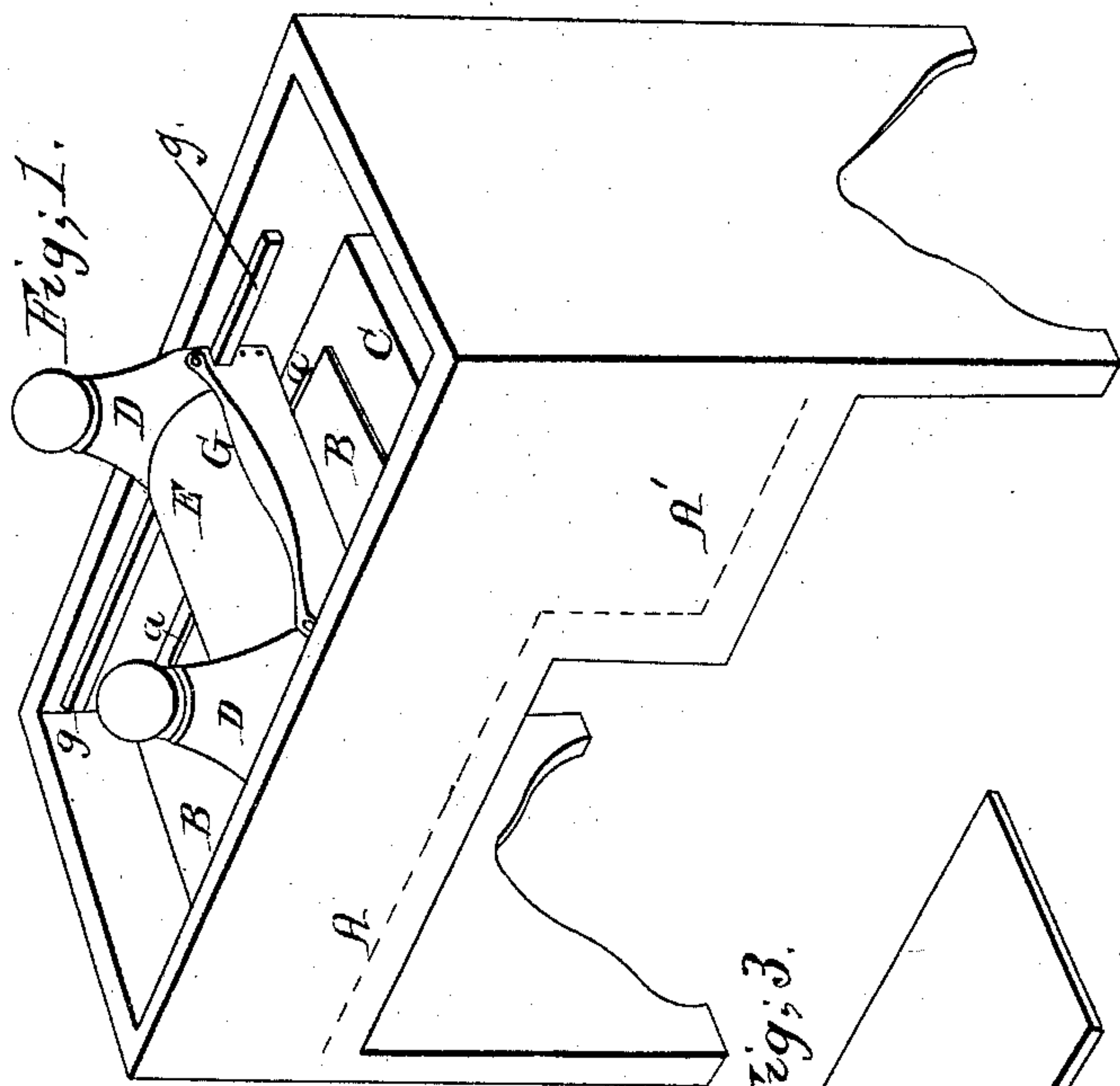
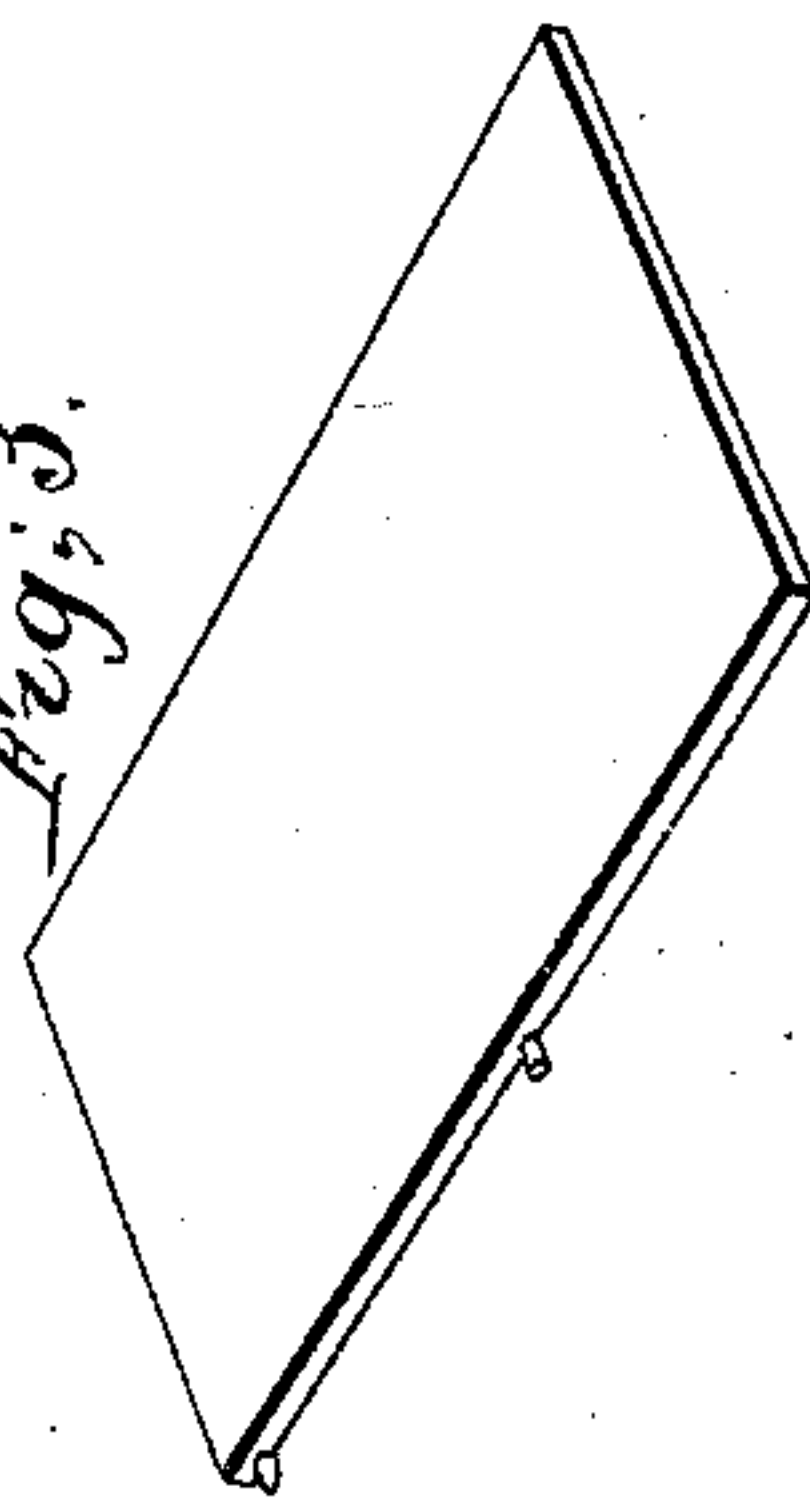


Fig. 3.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HORATIO N. WALTER, OF NORWICH, NEW YORK.

MACHINE FOR WASHING CLOTHES.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 2,137, dated June 22, 1841.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, H. N. WALTER, of Norwich, in the county of Chenango and State of New York, have invented certain
5 new and useful Improvements in the Manner of Constructing a Washing-Machine for the Purpose of Washing Clothes and other Articles Used in Domestic Economy; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full
10 and exact description thereof.

In my washing machine the clothes to be washed are placed upon a flat board which lies horizontally within a trough, or cistern, containing the suds, or water, by which the
15 cleansing is to be effected. Over this board, and upon the clothes laid upon it, a fluted roller is to be passed back and forth, which roller revolves in suitable head blocks, and is pressed down by the action of spiral
20 springs, so as to enable it to yield to the inequality of thickness in the articles to be washed. The roller is covered on its upper side by a plate of sheet metal, which extends from one head block to the other, and with
25 them constitutes a frame for containing the fluted roller. This fluted roller frame is held down, as it traverses back and forth, by guide pieces attached to the sides of the cistern, and which enter into grooves made on
30 each end of the frame, to receive them.

In the accompanying drawing, Figure 1, is a perspective view of the machine; Fig. 2, an end view of the vibrating frame, containing the fluted roller, and Fig. 3, the wash
35 board beneath the fluted roller, upon which the clothes are to be laid.

A, A, is the trough, or cistern, the end A', constituting a reservoir of sufficient depth for rinsing and containing clothes not
40 placed upon the wash board.

B, B, is the wash board, shown separately in Fig. 3. This board rests upon the bottom C, of the shallow portion of the cistern at the end A. It is represented as plain, but it
45 may be fluted, if preferred, but this is not deemed necessary. It slides in between ledges *a, a*, which are rabbeted.

b, b, are pins projecting from the sides of the wash board, and which are received into
50 the rabbets; the forward pins *b'*, serve to prevent the wash board from being raised up by the water, when it is drawn forward, until said pins are clear of the ledges *a, a*, when it may be raised and removed.

55 D, D, are head blocks, or ends of the

frame which contains the fluted roller which is to bear upon the clothes.

E, is a plate of zinc, or other metal, which is so formed as to make a cap, or covering, for the fluted roller; wood, however, may be
60 substituted, if preferred, for the metal plate E. The lower portion of the fluted roller is seen at F, Fig. 2; its gudgeons, one of which is shown in dotted lines at *c*, are received into the lower ends of two sliding
65 rods *d*, which have metallic plates, or buttons, *e*, at their upper ends, that receive the action of the spiral springs *f*, contained within the head blocks; the whole of this arrangement being represented by dotted
70 lines in Fig. 2. The roller F, I make about five or six inches in diameter.

On the sides of the cistern there are ledges *g, g*, to which grooves, *h, h*, on the head blocks are fitted; on the lower sides of the
75 grooves *h, h*, I affix friction rollers *i, i*, which bear against the lower sides of the ledges *g, g*, and enable the roller frame to traverse to and fro with facility, as it is borne up by the clothes over which it is
80 passed.

G, is a handle by which the roller frame is to be actuated. The fluted roller thus combined, will readily yield either at one
85 or both ends, so as to keep up an equal pressure upon the clothes, notwithstanding the unavoidable inequality in its quantity, or thickness.

The manner of using this washing machine will be readily understood from the
90 foregoing description of it; all that is necessary being to lay the articles to be washed as level as may be upon the wash board, to move the fluted roller apparatus backward and forward upon them with one hand,
95 while with the other the clothes may be turned over, and regulated, as may be found necessary.

Having thus, fully described the nature of my improved washing machine and
100 shown the manner in which the same operates, what I claim therein, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The manner in which I have constructed the fluted roller frame, and combined the
105 same with the trough, or cistern, as herein set forth, that is to say, I claim the arranging of the fluted roller, so that its gudgeons shall be received in sliding rods which are acted upon by spiral springs, contained in
110

two head blocks, which head blocks are connected together by a cap, or covering, which incloses the fluted roller, the whole being constructed substantially in the manner herein described.

2. I claim, also, the combining of the said fluted roller frame with the cistern, by means of ledges attached to said cistern, and received within grooves on the head blocks, said

grooves being furnished with friction rollers 10 on their lower sides, and the roller frame being made to work back and forth, horizontally, upon a horizontal wash board, for the purpose, and in the manner herein set forth.

H. N. WALTER.

Witnesses:

JAMES M. D. CARR,
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