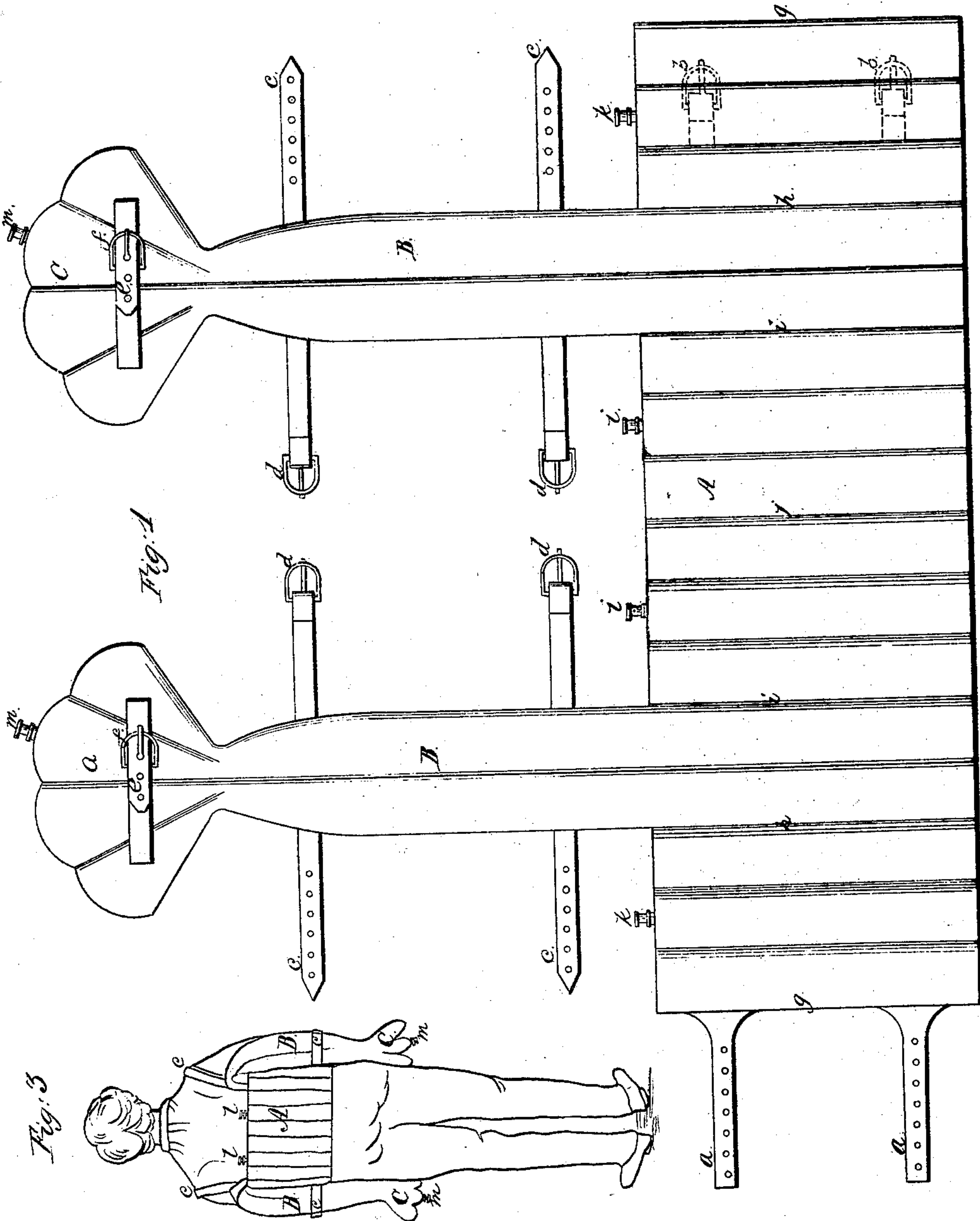
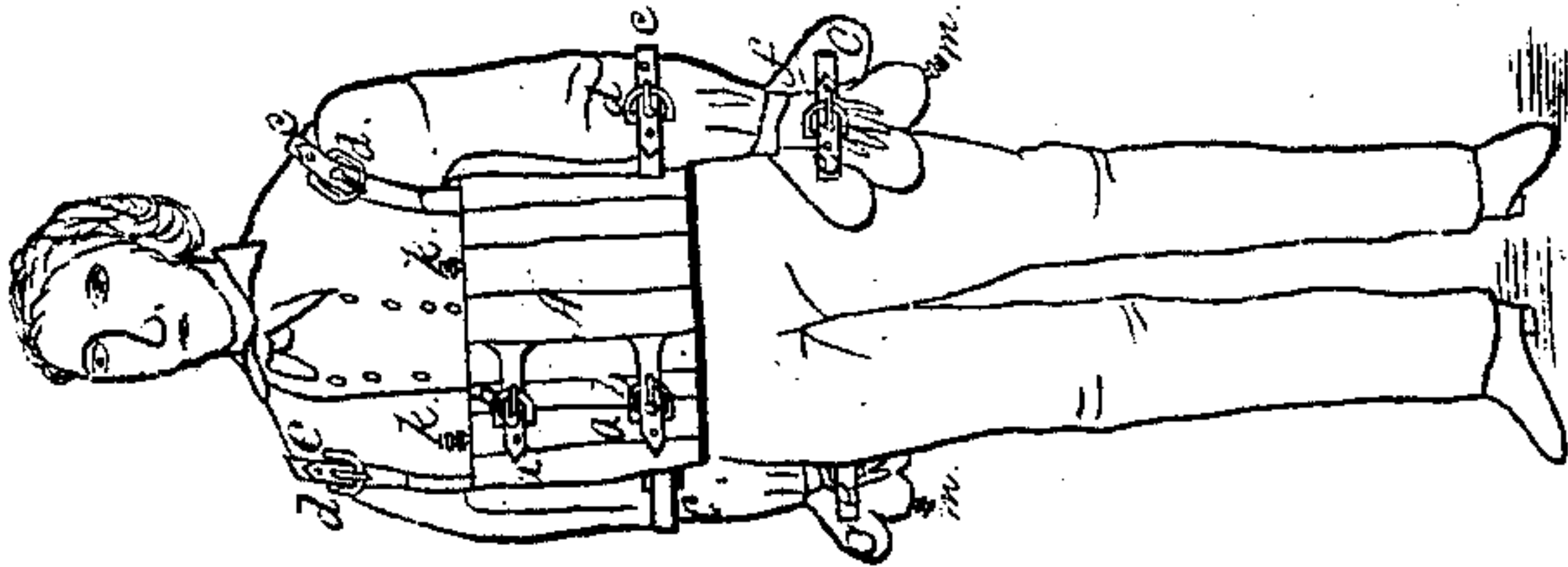


A. J. Gibson. Life Preserver.

N^o 18,809.

Patented Dec. 8, 1857.

Fig. 2



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ABRAM J. GIBSON, OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS.

IMPROVEMENT IN LIFE-PRESERVERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 18,809, dated December 8, 1857.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ABRAM J. GIBSON, of Worcester, in the county of Worcester and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and Improved Life-Preserver for the Prevention of Drowning; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a view of the life-preserver extended to show its construction. Fig. 2 is a front view of a man with the life-preserver secured to him. Fig. 3 is a back view of the same.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in each of the several figures.

My improved life-preserver, which I term the "swimming life-preserver," consists of a deep belt of india-rubber, india-rubber cloth, or other water-proof and air-tight flexible material, constructed with air-chambers and having combined with it in the manner hereinafter described hollow floats of similar material, which are of sufficient length to reach along a person's extended arm and which terminate in hollow paddles made to fit the hands, for the purpose of aiding the wearer in swimming.

A is the belt, which may be from twelve to eighteen inches in depth and of a size to completely encircle the body, and provided with straps *a a* and buckles *b b* to secure it in front.

B B are the arm-floats, and C C the paddles in which they terminate, said floats and paddles being so attached to the belt that when the belt is on the body the floats C C will fit along the side of the arm which is next the body and the paddles fit to the hand, which enables the arms to rest on the top of the floats B B when the wearer is in the water. The arm-floats B B are furnished with straps *e e* and buckles *f f* to secure them to the hands.

In order to prevent the life-preserver becoming worthless by rupture or puncture in any part I divide it into several air-chambers, each of which is inflated at a different mouth-

piece. Two chambers in the belt extend from *g g* to *h h* and are inflated at mouth-pieces *k k* at the top edge of the belt. Two others extend from *i i* to *j* and are inflated at mouth-pieces *l l* at the top edge of the belt, and two others, extending from *h h* to *i i* in the belt, constitute continuations in the two chambers in the arm-floats B B and paddles C C, and are inflated at the same time as the said arm-floats and paddles through mouth-pieces *m m* at the extremities of the paddles. The handles are broad and in the shape of fins.

This life-preserver possesses many advantages over the ordinary life-preserver, and a few of these may be mentioned, viz: The arm and hand floats insure the greatest buoyancy to the upper part of the body and prevent the accidents sometimes resulting from the use of preservers in the form of belts through said belts getting too low and allowing the head of the wearer to be forced under water. The buoyant paddles are of great aid to the wearer in swimming to a place of safety or to the aid of other persons not so well provided; and in aiding other persons the arm-floats and paddles are of the greatest possible service, as their great buoyancy enables the wearer to support in the water without effort any person who can reach his arm and who is capable of laying hold of one of his hands or paddles.

I do not claim the belt, nor do I claim the construction of an inflated life-preserver with separate air-chambers; neither do I claim of itself the use of buoyant paddles fitted and attached to the hands as an aid in swimming; but

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

A life-preserver composed of a belt A, arm-floats B B, and buoyant paddles C C, arranged and connected and furnished with straps or their equivalents to attach it to the person, substantially as herein described.

ABRAM J. GIBSON.

Witnesses:

W. W. RICE,
T. L. NELSON.