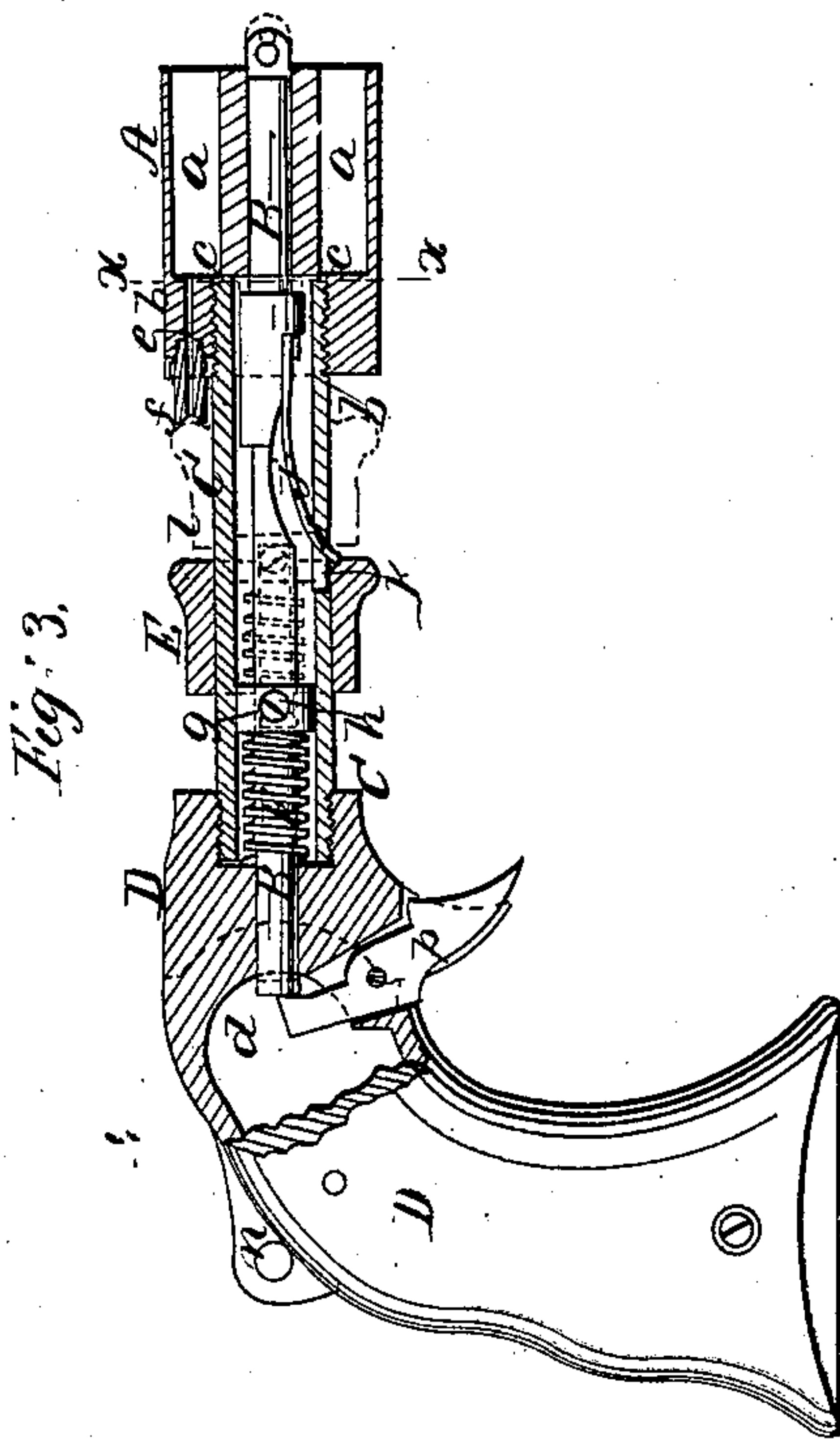
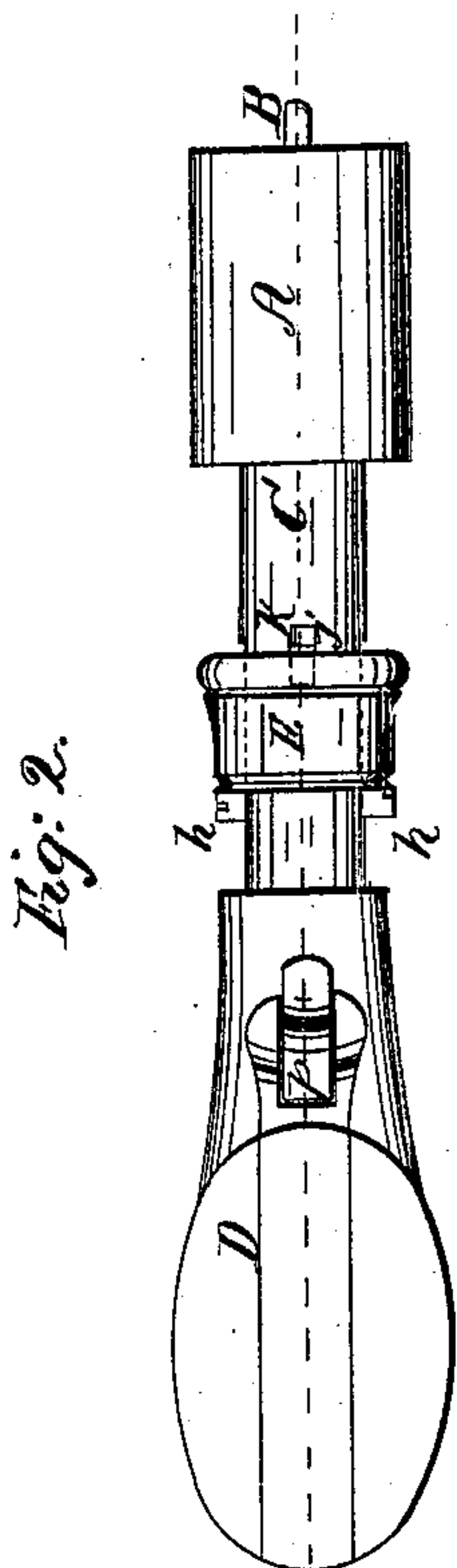
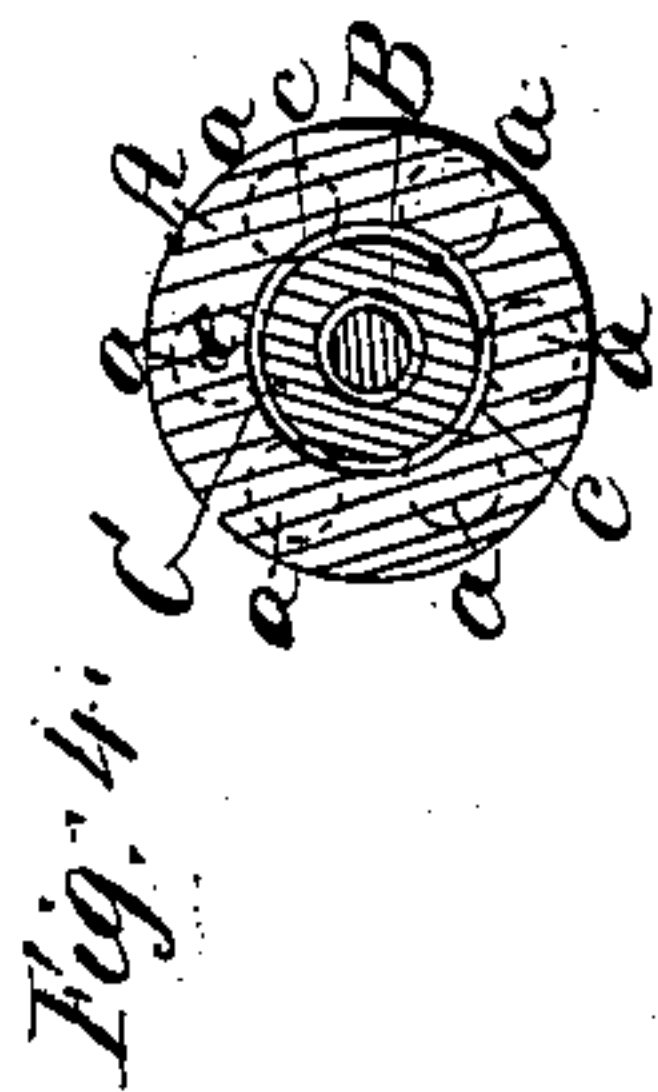
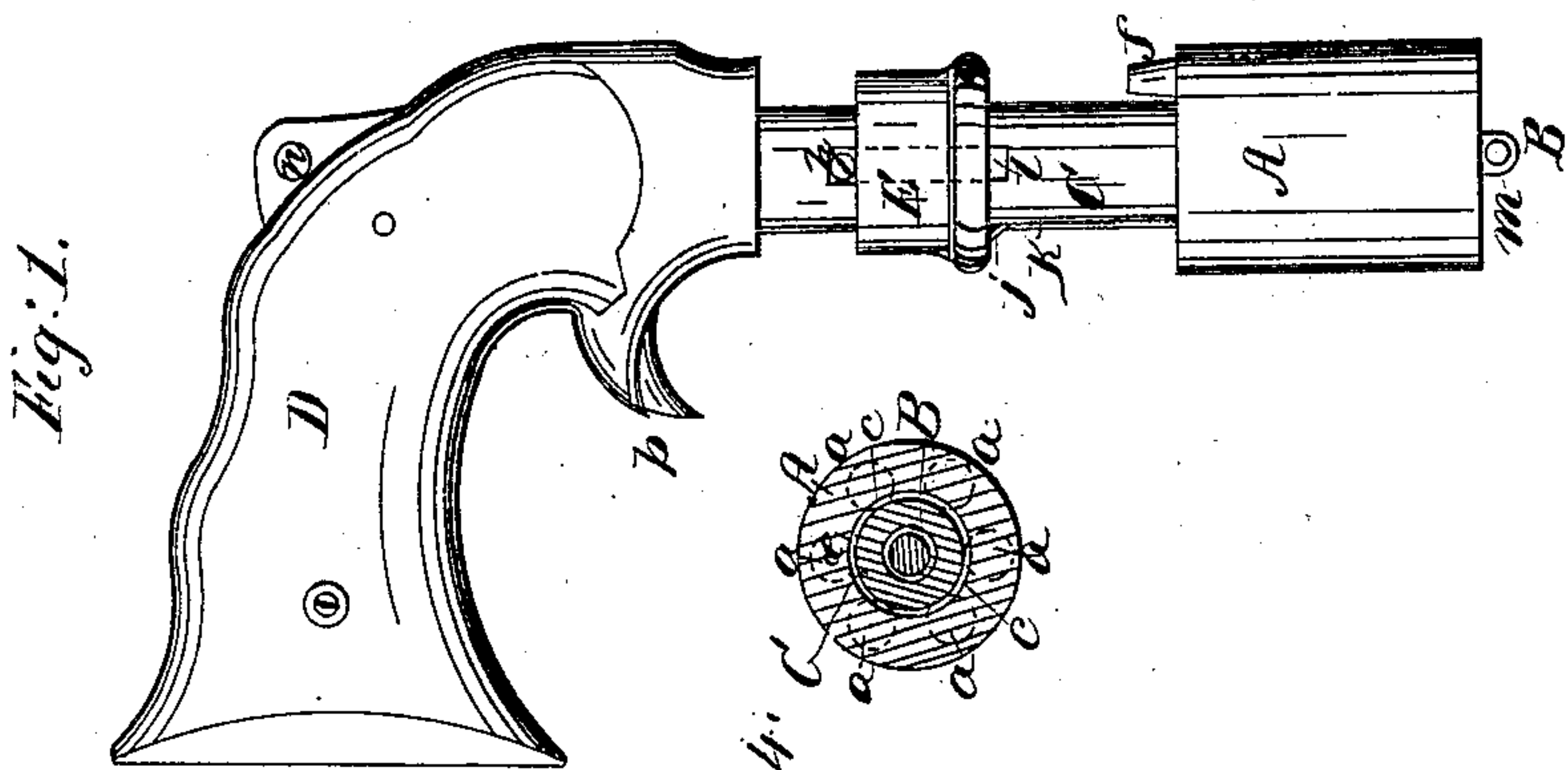


*North & Couch,*  
*Shooting Game.*  
*No 24,573.* *Patented June 28, 1859.*



*Witnesses:*  
*Maria W. Barnes*  
*Jonathan Barnes*

*Inventor:*  
*Henry North*  
*John C. Couch*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY S. NORTH AND JOHN O. COUCH, OF MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT.

## ANIMAL-TRAP.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 24,573, dated June 28, 1859.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, HENRY S. NORTH and JOHN O. COUCH, both of Middletown, in the county of Middlesex and State of Connecticut, have invented a new and Improved Fire-Arm, which we term a "Game-Shooter;" and we 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 side view of the game-shooter. Fig. 2 is a back or bottom longitudinal view of the same. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal sectional view of the same. Fig. 4 is a transverse section taken in the plane indicated by the line *x x* of Fig. 1.

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

Our invention consists in a fire-arm of novel construction with several barrels or chambers, which are so combined as to be fired from a single vent, and whose lock is so constructed and applied as to permit the attachment of a bait in such a manner that any animal seizing and attempting to carry off the bait will produce the discharge of the piece in a direction to shoot it. The same piece, by being provided with a stock, may also be used as a pistol.

To enable others to make and use our invention, we will proceed to describe its construction and operation.

A is a cylinder, having several bores, *a a*, arranged in a circle concentric with the axis of the cylinder, either parallel with the said axis or at a slight angle thereto, and having a central bore to receive a rod, B, which passes loosely through it. The said cylinder is also counterbored centrally from the rear, of a size somewhat larger than a circle inscribed within the bores *a a*, which receive the charges, and to a depth to meet the bores *a a*, and a screw-thread is cut in the counterbore, as shown at *b b*, Fig. 3, to permit a tube, C, which we term the "breech-pin," to be screwed into it, so that the end of the said breech-pin abuts close up to the front of the counterbore. This breech-pin C has a rabbet turned in the outer portion of its extremity, as shown at *c c* in Figs. 1 and 2, to form a small annular channel, which makes a communication between all the bores *a a*.

The interior of the tubular breech-pin C is considerably larger than the exterior of the said central rod, B, which passes right through the rear of the breech-pin and into a cavity, *d*, in a stock, D, in which the rear end of the breech-pin is secured.

*e* is a vent drilled through the rear of one of the bores *a a*, to communicate with a nipple, *f*, that is screwed into the rear of the cylinder A, outside of the breech-pin.

E is the hammer, made in the form of a ring, and fitted to slide on the exterior of the tubular breech-pin C.

F is the mainspring, of helical form, coiled around the central rod, B, and having its bearings between the stock D, or a suitable stop at the rear of the breech-pin, and a collar, *g*, which is fitted to slide freely upon the central rod and within the breech-pin. The said collar *g* has screwed into it or otherwise secured to it two lugs or pins, *h h*, which protrude through slots *i i* in opposite sides of the breech-pin and occupy positions in rear of the hammer, the said slots being parallel with the axis of the breech-pin.

*j* is a curved spring, constituting the sear, attached securely to the central rod, B, and working through a slot, *k*, in the hollow breech-pin, for the purpose of catching against the front of the hammer, in which a slight groove, *l*, is provided for the point of the sear to enter to prevent it slipping out too easily.

*m* is an eye at the front extremity of the central rod, B, which protrudes through the front of the cylinder for the purpose of attaching the bait.

*n* is an eye provided on the stock to afford facility for suspending the arm from a tree or attaching it to any fixed body.

*p* is a trigger suitably arranged within the stock, to be pressed by the forefinger while the stock is grasped in the hand for the purpose of forcing forward the central pin through the breech-pin and cylinder.

The operation of the game-shooter is as follows: Before it is cocked the hammer E, the sear *j*, the collar *g*, and the spring F are respectively in the positions shown in red outline in Fig. 3 and the other parts in the condition shown in black outline; and it is while the parts are in this condition that the chambers *a a* should be loaded and the bait applied to



the front end of the stem. To cock it, the hammer E is drawn back by the hand until its face passes the end of the sear *j*, which then springs out of the slot *k* far enough to prevent its return when released from the hand, leaving all the parts in the condition shown in black outline in Fig. 3. When the arm is suspended by the eye *n*, or otherwise secured in a suitable place, and a percussion-cap applied on the nipple, all the chambers will be discharged at once by a comparatively slight pull on the bait, for as the central rod, B, is drawn forward the sear, coming in contact with the front of the slot *k*, is forced inward until its extremity passes clear of the inner edge of the hammer and leaves it entirely under the influence of the spring F, which, pressing forward the collar *g*, with its pins or ears *h h*, against the back of the hammer, drives the latter forward against the cap in the nipple and causes its explosion. The fire from the cap only communicates directly with one chamber *a*; but the fire communicates from that chamber to all the others through the channel *c c*. Before recocking, the central rod should be pushed back a short distance to bring the extremity of the sear to a position to catch the hammer when the latter is brought back again.

The arm having been loaded, cocked, and primed, as above described, may be held in the hand by the stock D and fired like a common pistol by pressing back the trigger *p*, which act pushes forward the central rod and has the same effect as the drawing of it forward by the seizure of the baited end.

What we claim as our invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination of the many-chambered cylinder A with the breech-pin C by means of a central counterbore in the said cylinder meeting the chambers *a a*, and a groove or recess, *c*, all around the end of the breech-pin, substantially as herein described, whereby

communication is made between the chambers of the cylinder and all are enabled to be fired at once with a single vent.

2. Fitting the hammer in the form of a ring to slide along the exterior of the breech-pin C, as herein described.

3. The combination, with the hammer applied to slide along the exterior of the hollow breech-pin, of a rod, B, sliding through the center of the cylinder and within the breech-pin, and a spring-sear, *j*, attached to the said rod and working through a slot, *k*, in the breech-pin, substantially as herein described.

4. The combination, with the hammer applied outside of the hollow breech-pin, of a collar, *g*, or its equivalent, applied within the breech-pin, and having pins or ears *h h* projecting through slots *i i* in the sides of the breech-pin, behind the hammer, and a helical spring, F, applied within the breech-pin, behind the said collar or equivalent, substantially as herein described.

5. The extension of the central rod, B, which carries the sear, directly through the cylinder and through the hollow breech-pin, so that it may be operated either by a pull at its front end or by a push at its rear end, substantially as herein described.

6. In combination with the many-chambered cylinder A, hollow breech-pin C, hammer E, central rod, B, sear *j*, and spring F, and collar *g*, as described, the stock D and trigger *p*, applied, as described, to make a weapon that can be baited and set for shooting game by the seizure of the bait, or that can be used in the hand like an ordinary pistol or fire-arm, as herein set forth.

HENRY S. NORTH.  
JOHN O. COUCH.

Witnesses:

MARIA W. BARNES,  
JONATHAN BARNES.