

J. O. WHITCOMB.

Hand Hemmer.

No. 32,035.

Patented April 9, 1861.

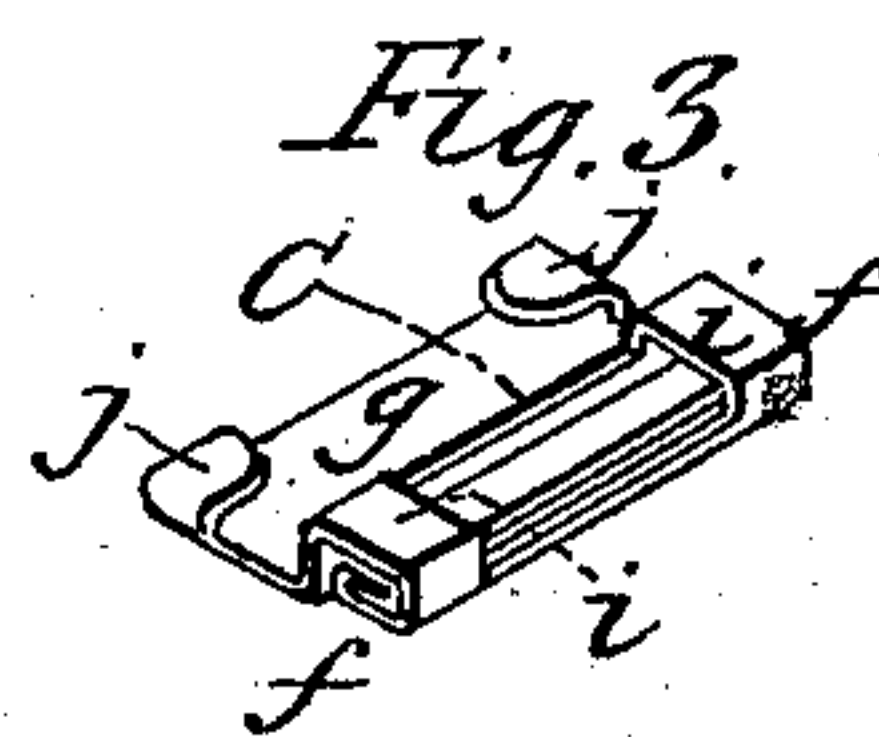
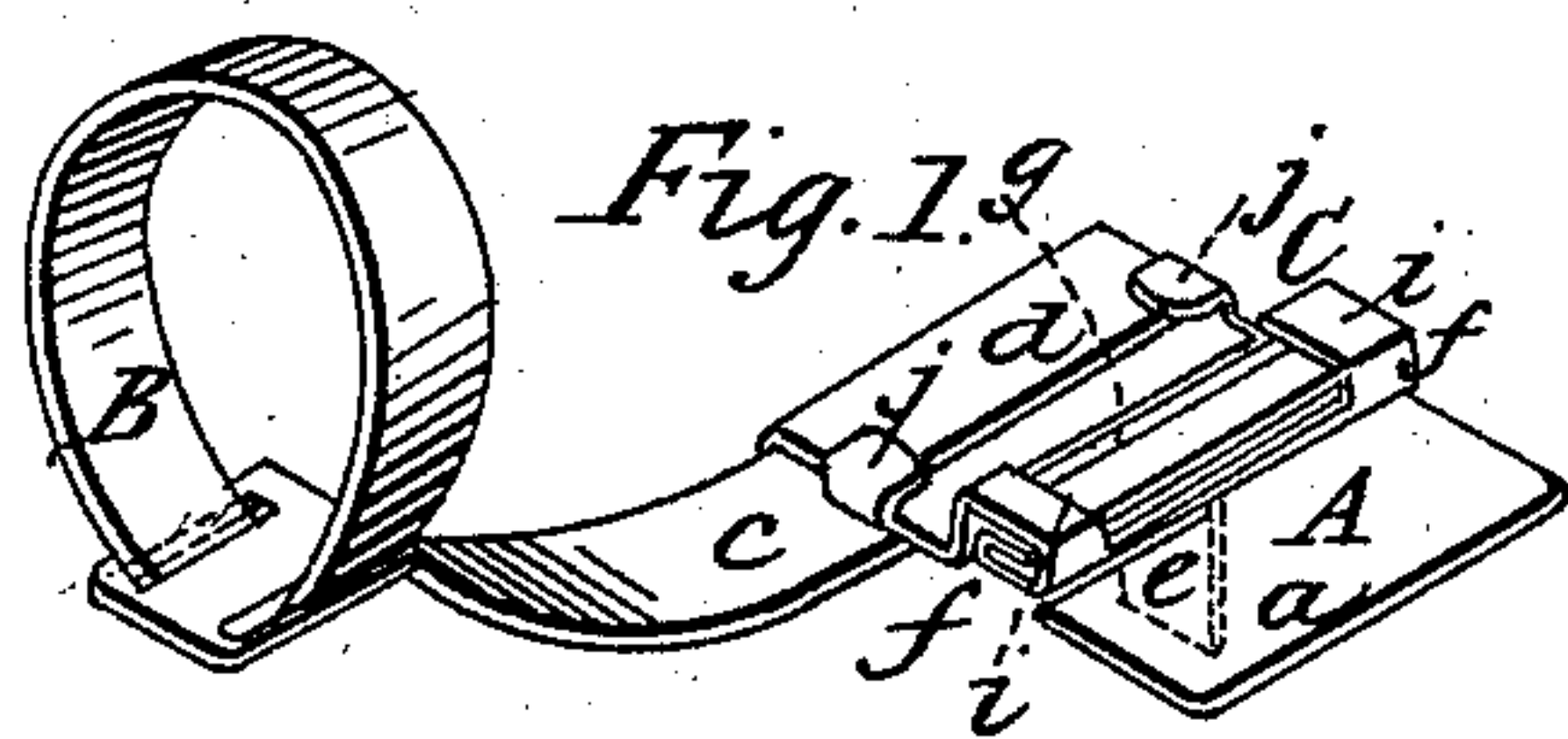
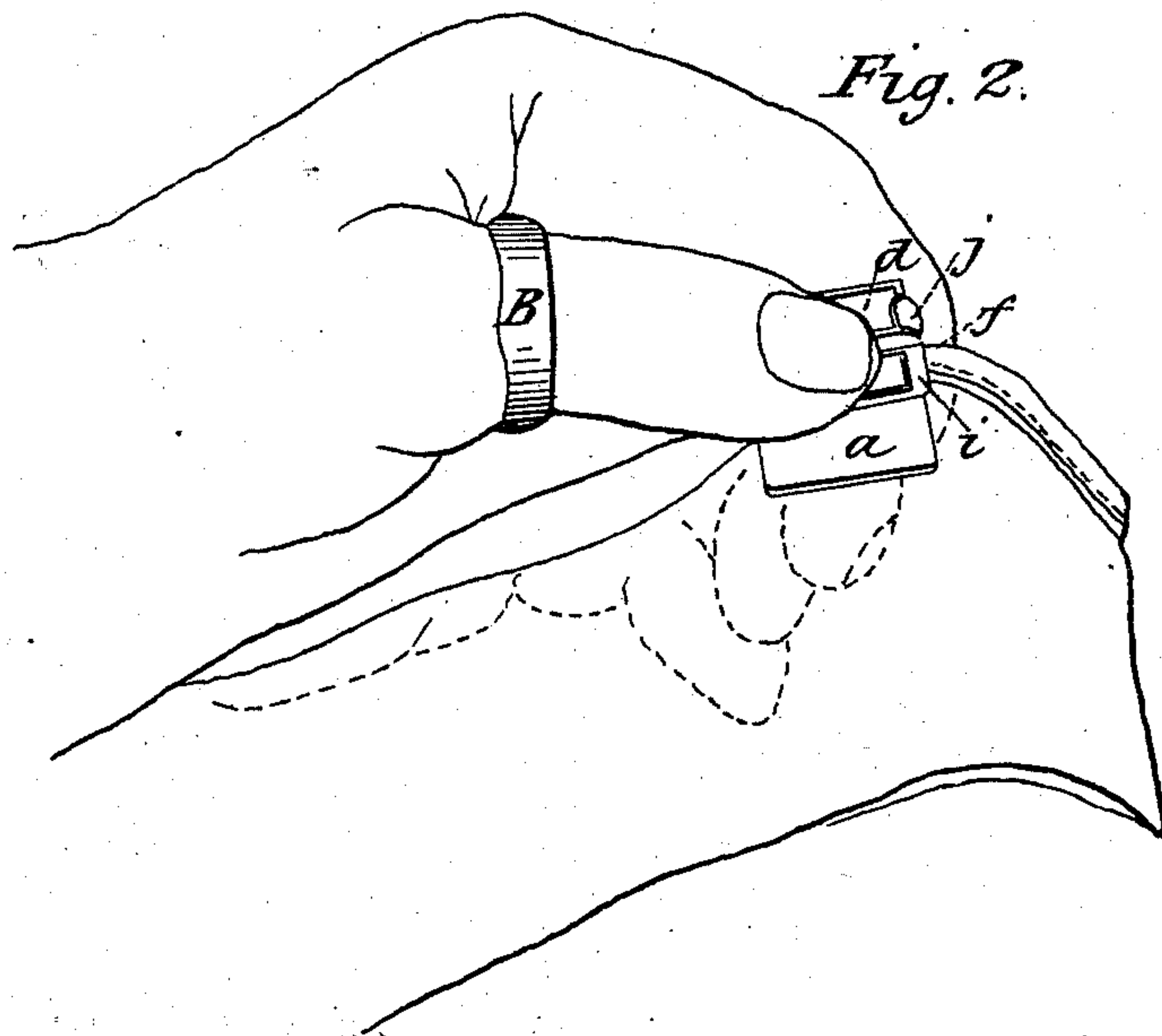
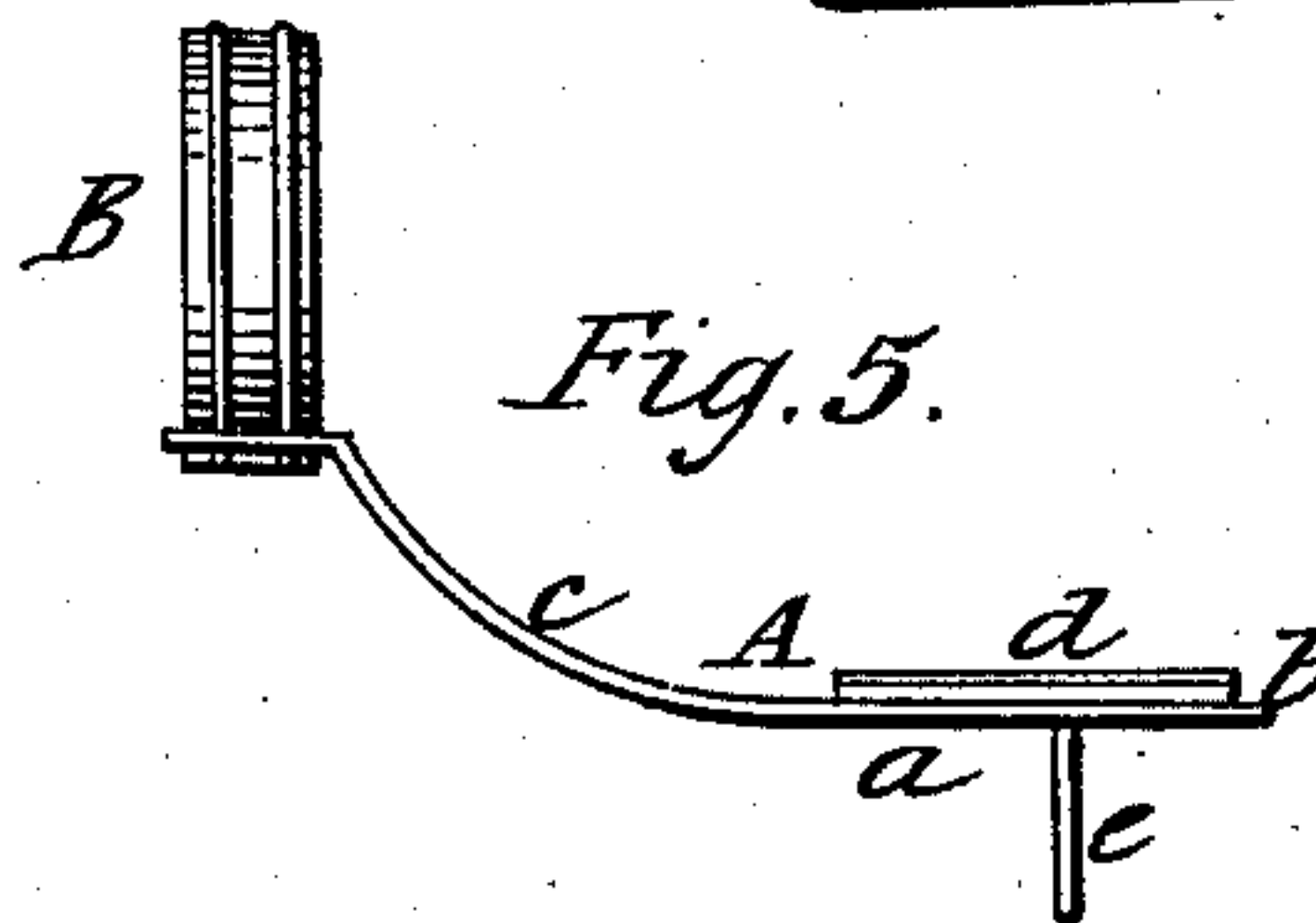
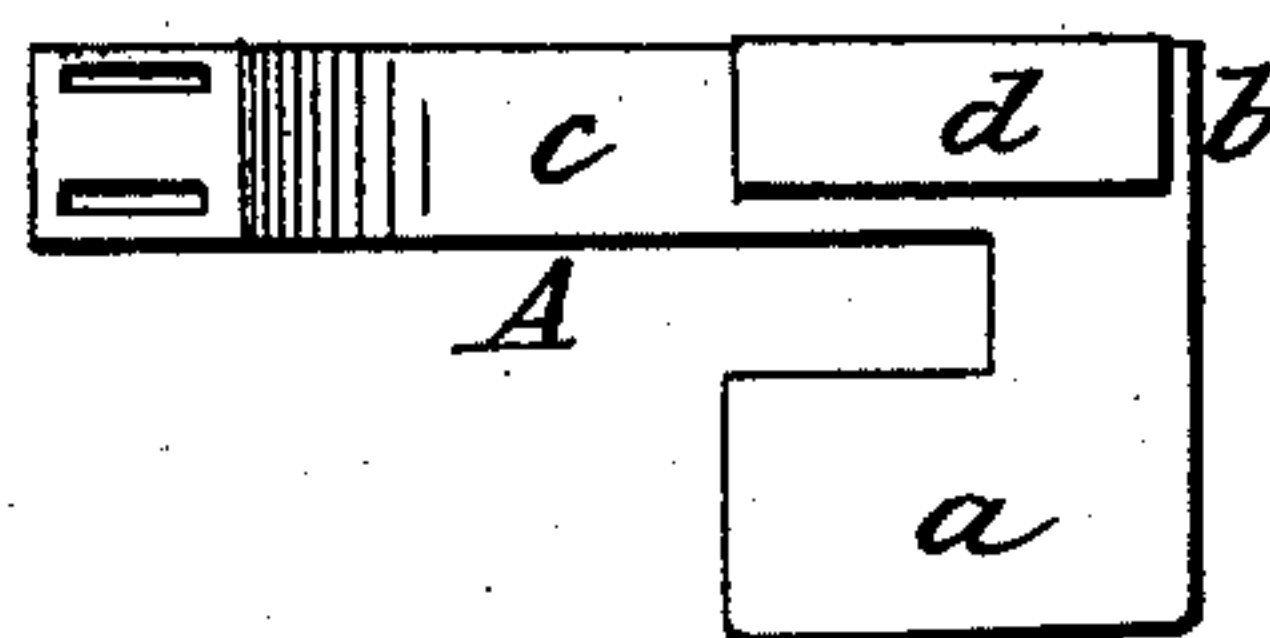


Fig. 4.



Witnesses:
James Laird
mrs. J. O. Whitcomb

Inventor:
J. O. Whitcomb.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

J. O. WHITCOMB, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF AND JOSEPH DODIN, OF SAME PLACE.

IMPROVEMENT IN HEMMERS FOR HAND-SEWING.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 32,035, dated April 9, 1861.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES O. WHITCOMB, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Hand-Hemmer for Folding Hems in Sewing by Hand; 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.

My improved hemmer is composed of two plates and a flexible strap, one plate resembling in most respects the hem-folder used in sewing-machines, and being attached to the other plate, which is of such form that by the aid of the strap placed on the thumb it may be held in the left hand in such manner that the cloth to be hemmed may be worked freely through it by that hand to effect the folding of the hem as fast as the stitching is proceeded with by the needle used in the right hand.

Figure 1 in the drawings is a perspective view of the hemmer complete. Fig. 2 illustrates the manner in which it is held in the hand in hemming. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the folder detached. Fig. 4 is a top view of the plate A, to which the folder is attached, and by which it is held. Fig. 5 is a side view of the said plate with the thumb-strap attached.

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

The form and construction of the plate A are illustrated in the Figs. 1, 2, and 4. The principal portion *a b* of the said plate is made flat, and of sufficient size to enable it to have a proper support upon the first and second fingers of the left hand and to form a bearing for the fabric while the hem is being folded. From the back of this portion *a b*, even with one side thereof, there extends a narrow tongue, *c*, which is curved to fit the thumb, and to which is attached the thumb-strap B, of india-rubber webbing, tape, or other elastic or flexible material, of suitable size to fit the thumb, and on that side of the said portion *a b* next to which the said tongue *c* is situated a portion, *d*, of the plate is turned over the said portion *a b*, such portion *d* being flat and nearly close to and parallel with *a b*. From that portion of *a b* opposite to which *d* is situated a piece, *e*,

is extended downward at a right angle to enter between the first and second fingers and rest against the first finger.

The folder *c* consists simply of a plate, provided at one edge for the purpose of turning the fold of the hem, with a flattened scroll, *f*, like what is common in sewing-machine hemmers. The scroll *f* is raised entirely above a flat portion, *g*, of the said plate, which is intended to slip between the portion *a b* and the portion *d* of the plate A, and is made with two lips, *jj*, to fit over the edges of and clasp the portion *d*. This construction of the folder is to enable it to be attached to and detached from the plate A, as it is intended to use folders of different sizes, according to the various widths of the hem desired.

In order to provide for the hemmer being managed with the left hand when the hem is once started, an opening, *i i*, is made in the upper part of the scroll *f*, to expose the portion of the fabric within the scroll to be acted upon by the thumb of the left hand for the purpose of feeding the fabric forward.

To use the hemmer, the thumb-strap B is slipped on to the left thumb far enough to allow the end of the said thumb to enter the opening *i i*, as shown in Fig. 2, and the rest *e* to pass between the first and second fingers. The edge of the fabric to be hemmed is then inserted between the plate A and the scroll of the folder, leaving about one inch of the edge protruding from the front end of the folder, and the fabric is drawn backward by taking hold of it with the thumb and forefinger of the left hand behind the rest *e*, while with the right hand the edge is turned over the first turn of the folder until it appears through the aperture *i i*. The end of the thumb of the left hand is then placed on that portion of the fabric exposed through the opening *i i*, and by moving the thumb forward in an oblique direction over the edge of the fabric the latter, adhering to the thumb and slipping over the metal, is caused to pass under the second and last turn of the scroll of the folder, thus completing the folding of the hem. By repeating this movement of the thumb the fabric is urged forward as fast as required for sewing and the hem folded as the forward movement of

the cloth is proceeded with. The sewing is performed as the fabric passes over the forefinger after leaving the folder.

I do not claim the hem-folder composed of a flattened scroll; but

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

1. The plate A, with its rest *e*, tongue *c*, and thumb-strap B for holding the folder C and supporting the fabric while the hem is folded, substantially as herein described.

2. Providing an opening, *i i*, in the scroll of the folder for the admission of the end of the thumb, substantially as and for the purpose herein specified.

J. O. WHITCOMB.

Witnesses:

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