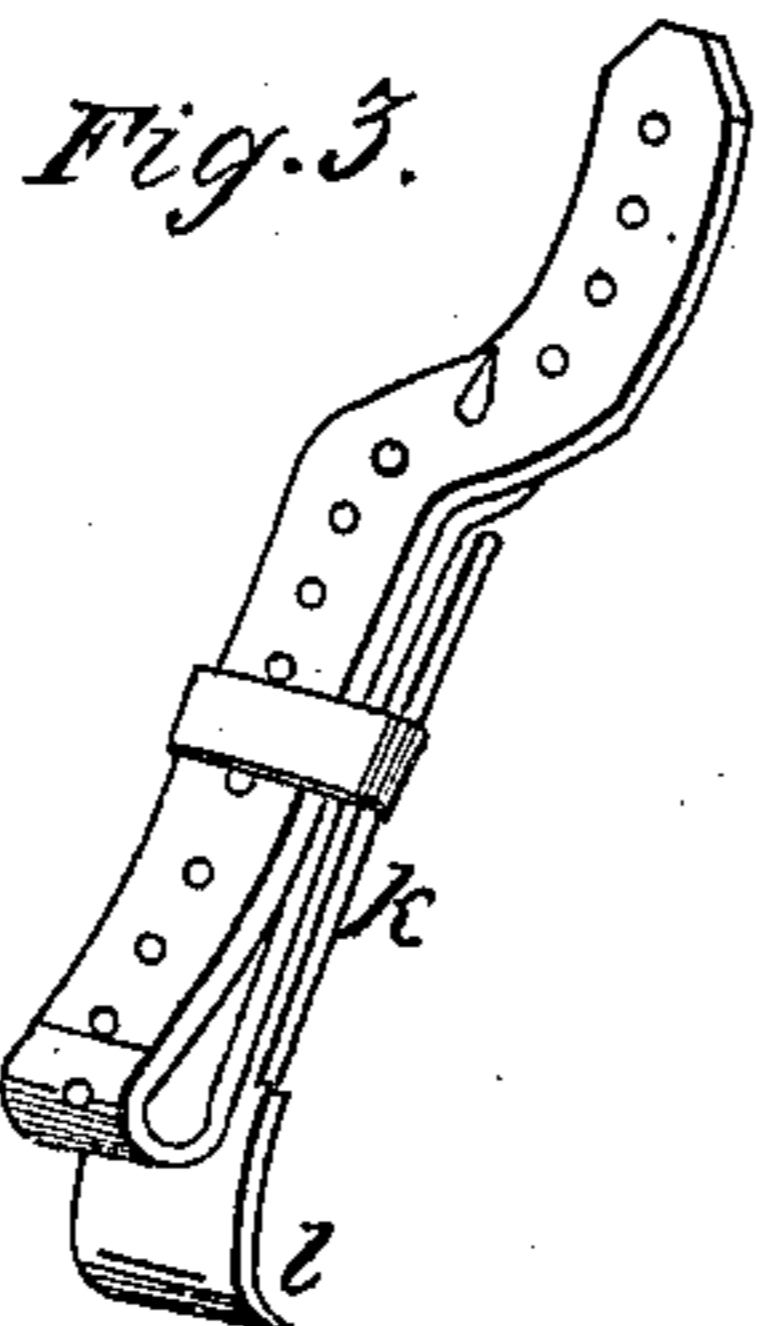
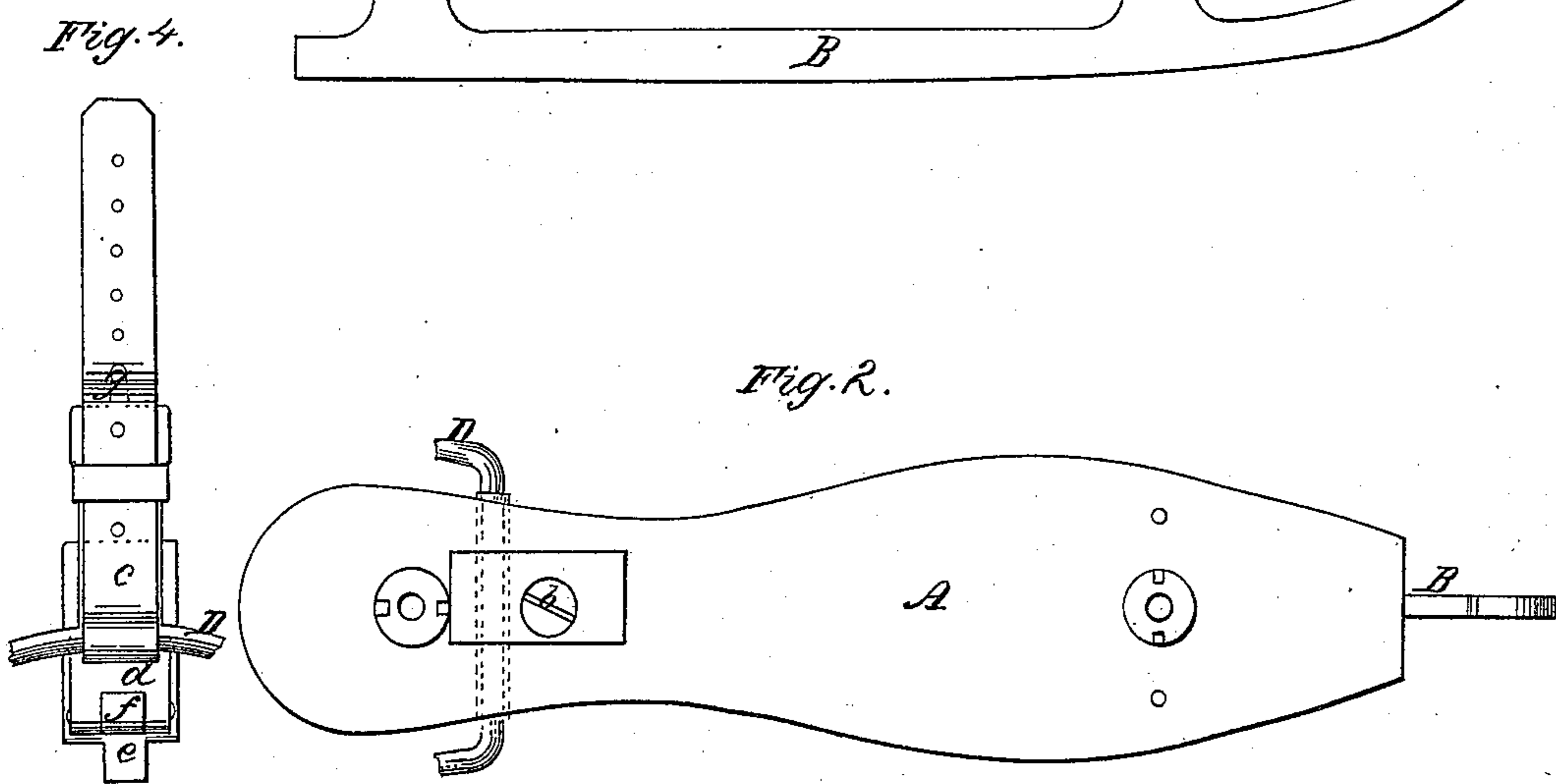
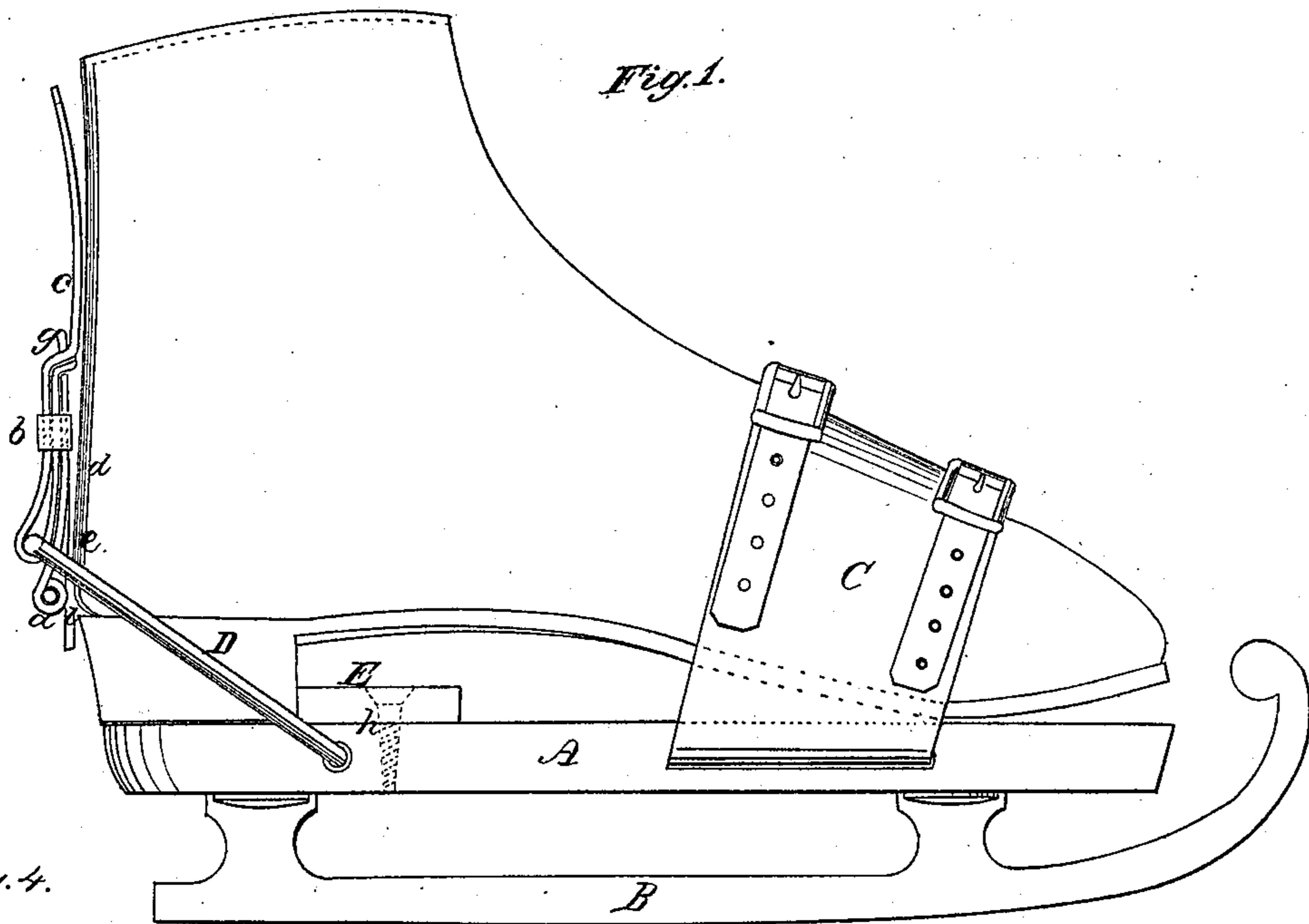


*J. L. Plimpton,*

*Skate,*

*Nº 34,590,*

*Patented Mar. 4, 1862.*



*Witnesses.*  
*A. Hawley*  
*James G. and*

*Inventor.*  
*James L. Plimpton*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES L. PLIMPTON, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## IMPROVEMENT IN FASTENINGS FOR SKATES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 34,590, dated March 4, 1862.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JAMES L. PLIMPTON, of No. 145 Tenth street, in the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Skate-Fastening; 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, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents a side elevation of a skate put on the foot with my improved fastening. Fig. 2 is a plan of a skate, showing a portion of the fastening. Fig. 3 is a modification of a portion of the fastening.

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

The object of this invention is to obtain a simple skate-fastening which may be applied to any ordinary skate, and when so applied to the skate may be more readily attached to or detached from any common boot or shoe having a heel than by any other known mode of fastening a skate and not injuring the boot or shoe or requiring any alteration in the same.

The invention consists in the employment or use of a bail or connecting-link, one end of which is attached to the foot or sole plate of the skate, and the other is made to fasten at the back of the heel at or near where the heel is joined to the upper-leather, in combination with a suitable stop placed upon the upper face of the sole-plate of the skate, so as to form a clasp for clamping the heel of the boot or shoe in a diagonal direction in such a manner as to cause the sole-plate of the skate to be firmly pressed and held against the bottom of the boot or shoe heel, as hereinafter to be fully described.

To enable others skilled in the art to fully understand and construct my invention, I will proceed to describe it.

A represents the wooden, or it may be metal, sole-plate of the skate, and B the runner of the same, which may be attached to the sole-plate by screws and nuts, as in the accompanying illustration, or in any other suitable manner, and be of any devised shape or style.

C represents the usual toe-strap, made of stout leather and put through an oblong slot made transversely through the sole-plate near the front end of the same. This strap is to receive the toe of the boot or shoe, and is furnished with the usual buckles and punctured

ends to allow it to be contracted or expanded to accommodate a longer or smaller foot, as may be desired.

D is a connecting-link, of metal or other suitable material, which may be made in a variety of forms, the most convenient form, however, being that of a metal bow or bail, which is fitted in an opening made transversely through the sole-plate when the skate is fastened on the foot, or it may be secured to metal ears attached to the sides of the sole-plate in any suitable manner. Secured to this connecting-link D by a looped strap c is a lever d and catch e. The said lever is attached at its lower end to the back side and near the lower end of the catch e by a knuckle or hinge joint a, and at its upper end terminates in a fixed tongue g, similar to that of a common buckle. The strap c being first put around the connecting-link and doubled up, its ends are put through the metal loop b on the outside of the lever and fastened by the tongue g, entering one of the holes in each of the ends of the strap, they being together. The catch is made of metal, and on its inner side near the bottom is furnished with two or more projecting lips i, which fit in the channel or groove formed around the heel of the boot or shoe where the union of the heel with the upper leather is made, the plate of the catch above the lips resting against the back part of the boot or shoe. The back side of this catch is provided with a knuckle f, which fits between the forked ends of the lever, and which forms the stationary portion of the hinge-joint of the lever.

E is a compensating stop attached to the upper face of the sole-plate of the skate to prevent the heel from being pressed forward when the connecting-link is fastened in place on the upper part of the back of the heel, and said stop, in connection with the sole-plate of the skate, forming a jaw of a clamp, encompassing the lower front corner of the heel. This stop may be made of wood or other suitable material in oblong, rectangular, or other suitable form, and is attached to the top of the sole-plate by a pivot-screw h, said screw being screwed into the sole-plate at or near where the front edge of the heel comes on the sole-plate. The hole in the said stop, through which the pivot-screw passes to secure it to the sole-plate, is made at one side of the cen-

ter and nearer to one end than the other, so that by turning the stop horizontally on its pivot the skate may be adapted to different-sized boots and shoes. This stop, instead of being of rectangular form and having only four sides, may be in the form of a cam or eccentric and answer the same purpose, though perhaps not as well as the stop before described.

The operation of fastening the skate on the foot is as follows: The toe of the foot is inserted in the toe-strap of the skate, and it is adjusted so as to allow the toe of the boot to protrude through it flush with the end of the sole-plate. The strap is then adjusted so as to have one of its sides touch the inner square face of the boot or shoe heel. The connecting-link D is then turned up so as to allow the projecting lips of the catch to be inserted in the channel around the top of the heel, when by taking hold of the lever and turning it up against the heel of the foot the projecting lips are firmly pressed down on the upper edge of the heel of the boot or shoe, and the skate thereby firmly fastened on the foot. The connecting-link when the lever is turned up to fasten the skate on the foot being above the hinge-joint of the lever and between it and the boot, the strain upon the same keeps it and the lever from dropping down and the skate from becoming spontaneously loosened on the foot. By taking up or letting out the loop by which the connecting-link is connected to the lever a greater or less leverage may be obtained.

Fig. 3 represents a modification of a portion of the fastening, which consists simply of a lever *k* with a hooked end *l* instead of the lever and catch before described, the fastening in other respects being precisely the same.

By the within-described fastening a skate can be put on the foot in less than one minute or taken off as quickly.

The fastening is cheap, and, being mostly of metal, is very durable.

I do not wish to be understood as confining myself to the precise combination of parts herein described for fastening the skate to the heel of a boot or shoe, as many variations may be made therein without departing from the main features of my invention—as, for instance, the connecting-link D may be used with an adjustable lever and a permanent stop, or it may be used with a simple lever and an adjustable stop, or by making the connecting-link adjustable so as to expand and contract, or by applying it to the sole-plate of the skate so as to slip backward and forward, it may be used with a permanent stop and a simple lever or without any lever at all, by providing the connecting-link with a suitable projection to catch into the back part of the heel. In all of the combinations the connecting-link is employed in forming a clasp for clamping the heel of the boot or shoe in a diagonal direction, and either of the modifications named is sufficient to fasten a skate firmly to one particular-sized heel; but a fixed connection-link with an adjustable stop to compensate for the different lengths of heels, and an adjustable lever or analogous device to compensate for the different heights of the heel, as herein described, will allow the same skate to be readily adjusted, so as to fasten firmly to a variety of heels.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination of the connecting-link D and sole-plate A with an adjustable or permanent stop, substantially as described.

2. The connecting-link D, lever and catch, or equivalent device, in combination with the stop E and sole-plate A when combined and arranged to operate substantially as described.

JAMES L. PLIMPTON.

Witnesses:

EDWARD W. HODGSON,  
JAMES LAIRD.