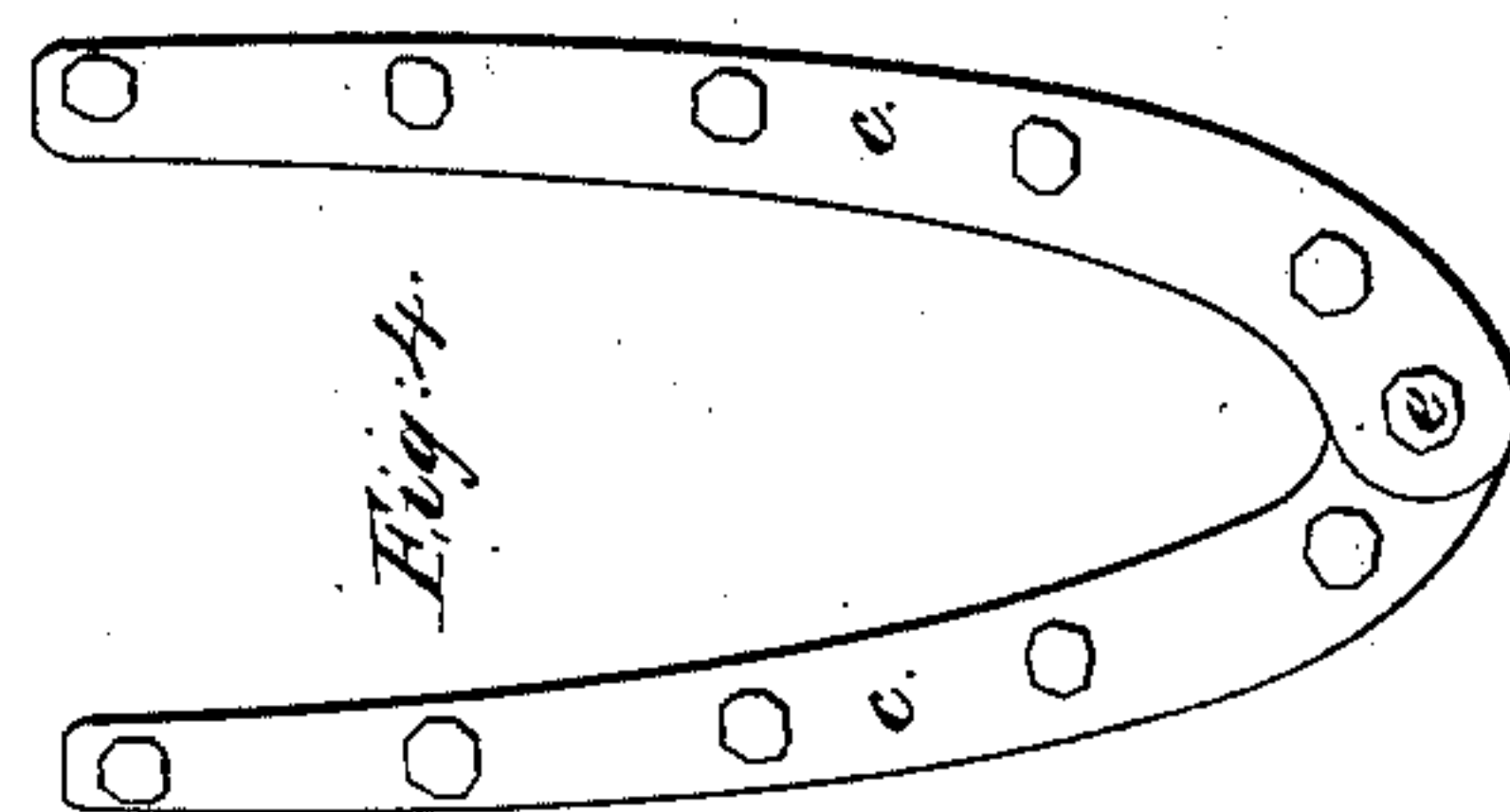
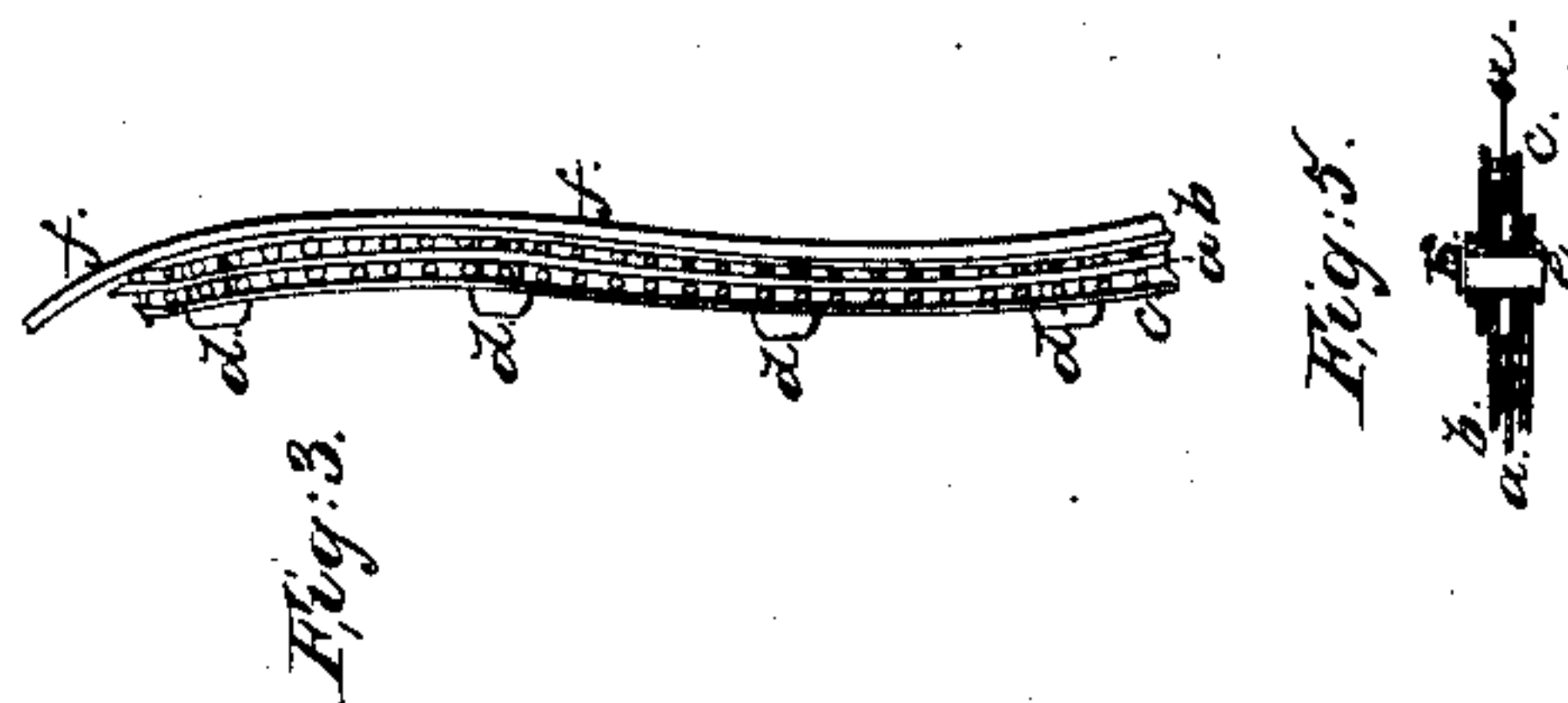
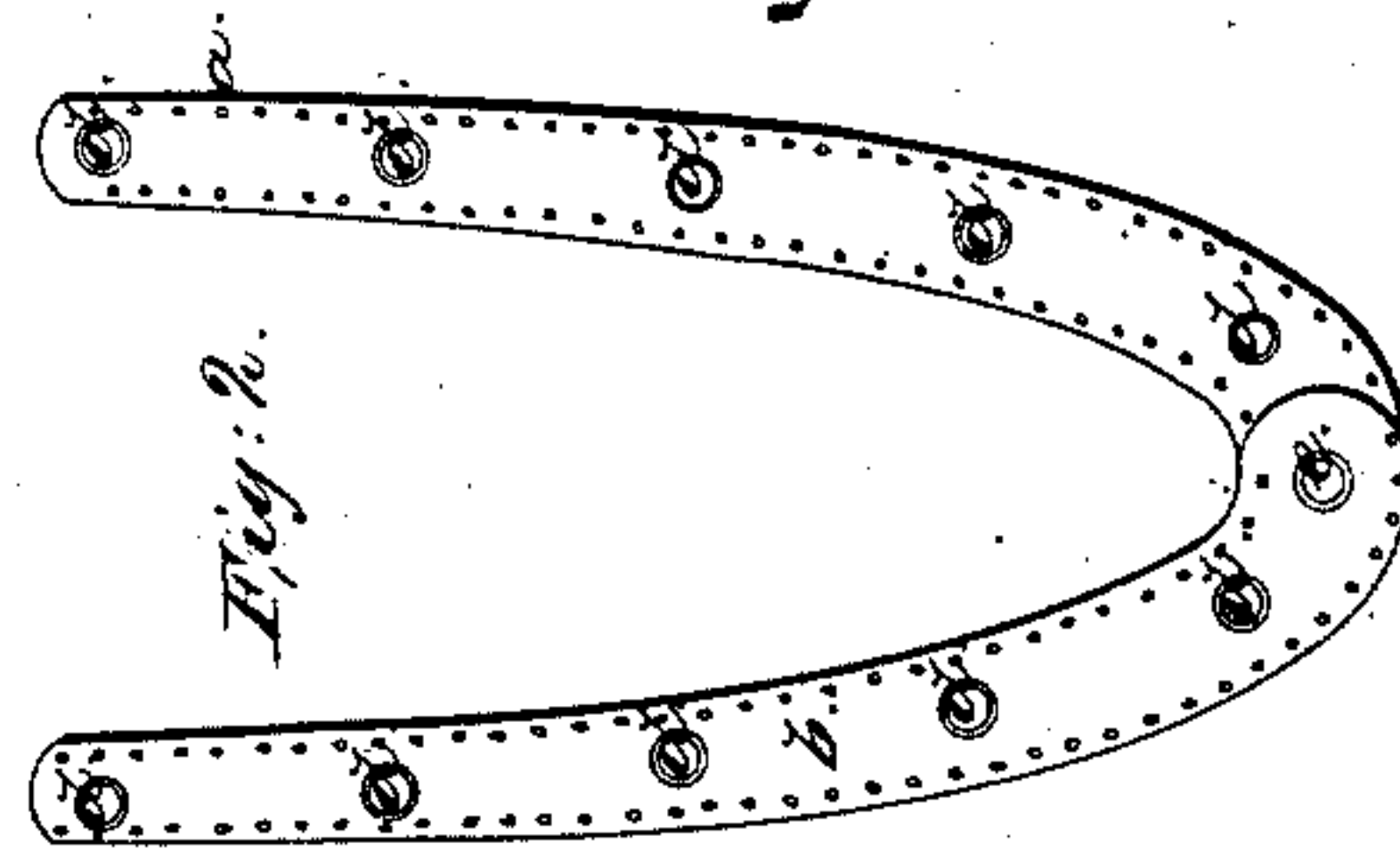
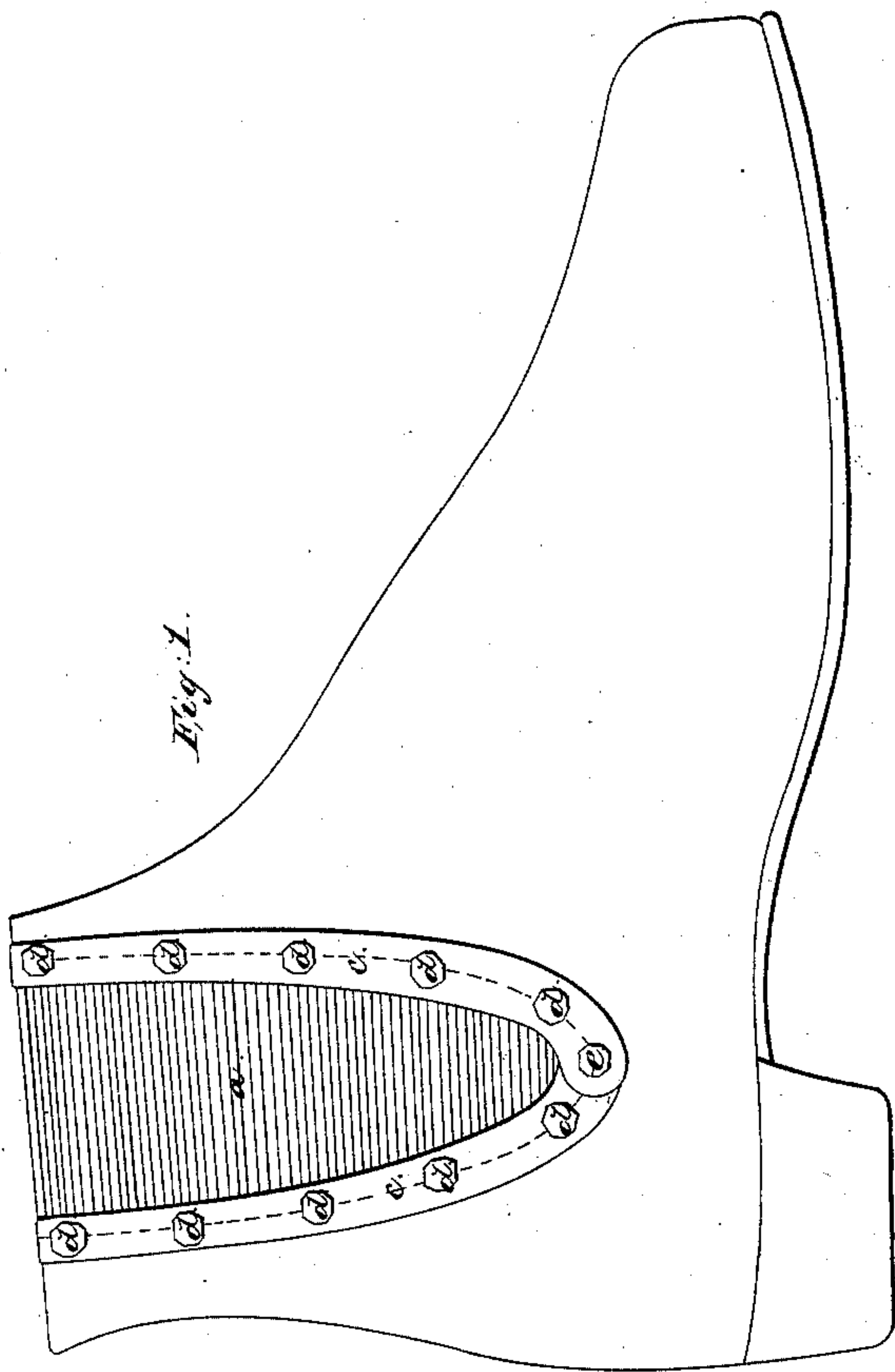


J. M. Hunter,
Shoe Usher,

N^o 38,168.

Patented Apr. 14, 1863.



Witnesses:

C. M. Hill
F. C. Cook

Inventor:

J. Morrison Hunter

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

J. MORRISON HUNTER, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPROVED DEVICE FOR INSERTING THE GORES OF SHOES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 38,168, dated April 14, 1863.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, J. M. HUNTER, of the city and county of New York, in the State of New York, have invented a new and improved method of inserting the elastic gores of shoes, bootees, &c.; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, which are fully described herein, and in which similar letters indicate similar parts throughout the figures.

The chief object of my invention is to so insert the elastic gore as to dispense with the necessity of sewing together the upper-leather and said gore, whereby the gore may be readily removed when worn out, to be replaced by a new piece; and it also enables me to furnish a support to the ankle, preventing too much lateral flexion.

Of the various fastenings which have been devised for shoes, none, probably, are so convenient, so free from objection, and so well adapted to the purpose as the elastic gore of india-rubber fabric inserted at the sides, and commonly known as "Congress boots." This elastic gore, as is well known, sometimes becomes extended, often before the shoe is otherwise worn out, and it would be desirable to replace it; but with the present method of attaching it by sewing it fast to the upper-leather when the shoe is made, it cannot be replaced, except with difficulty, and at too much cost for a shoe partly worn. I attach it by means of a clamp formed of strips of metal or its equivalent, and these strips have also the advantage that they act as splints, affording support to the ankle-joint, and preventing too much lateral flexion—a source of much inconvenience to those who, as is popularly expressed, have "weak ankles."

My construction is as follows: Figure 1 exhibits a side view or elevation of a gaiter-boot to which the elastic gore is affixed by my method. Fig. 2 shows the back or inner pair of strips of metal of which the clamp is com-

posed; Fig. 4, the front or outer pair of strips. Fig. 3 is a transverse vertical section through the inner and outer strips when in place; and Fig. 5 is a horizontal section through said plates, showing the manner in which they may be hinged together at the bottom part of the gore.

It is designed that the curve or opening out of the clamp should be that of the desired form of the gore. The gore *a* is to be cut of such size and shape that it will extend about half across the strips, as shown in dotted line in Fig. 1, and the leather of the boot being cut away to the same size, the surface of the two will be flush. The inner pair of strips, *b*, is then to be put in due position on the inside of the boot, corresponding with that shown as for the outer strips, *c*. That plate is then to be put on and the two secured together, either by eyelets through corresponding holes, *d*, in each, or by screws and nuts. The screw or eyelet at *e* forms the hinge-joint, upon which the clamp may move to conform to the extensions and contractions of the gore. The edges of the leather and of the gore-piece are thus firmly held within the clamp; but for some materials it may be necessary to secure more adhesion than is afforded by merely smooth plates. This can readily be done by striking up a row of burrs or points along each edge of one pair of strips, as seen in Fig. 2, or by serrating the edges and turning the toothed part over toward the material to be held. A strip of chamois or other suitable leather may be placed on the inside, as at *f*, to protect the foot from abrasion.

I claim—

Affixing the elastic gore by means of a clamp of metal or equivalent device, whereby the said gore may be taken out and replaced, substantially as set forth.

J. MORRISON HUNTER.

Witnesses:

PETER COOKE,
C. MCKEE.