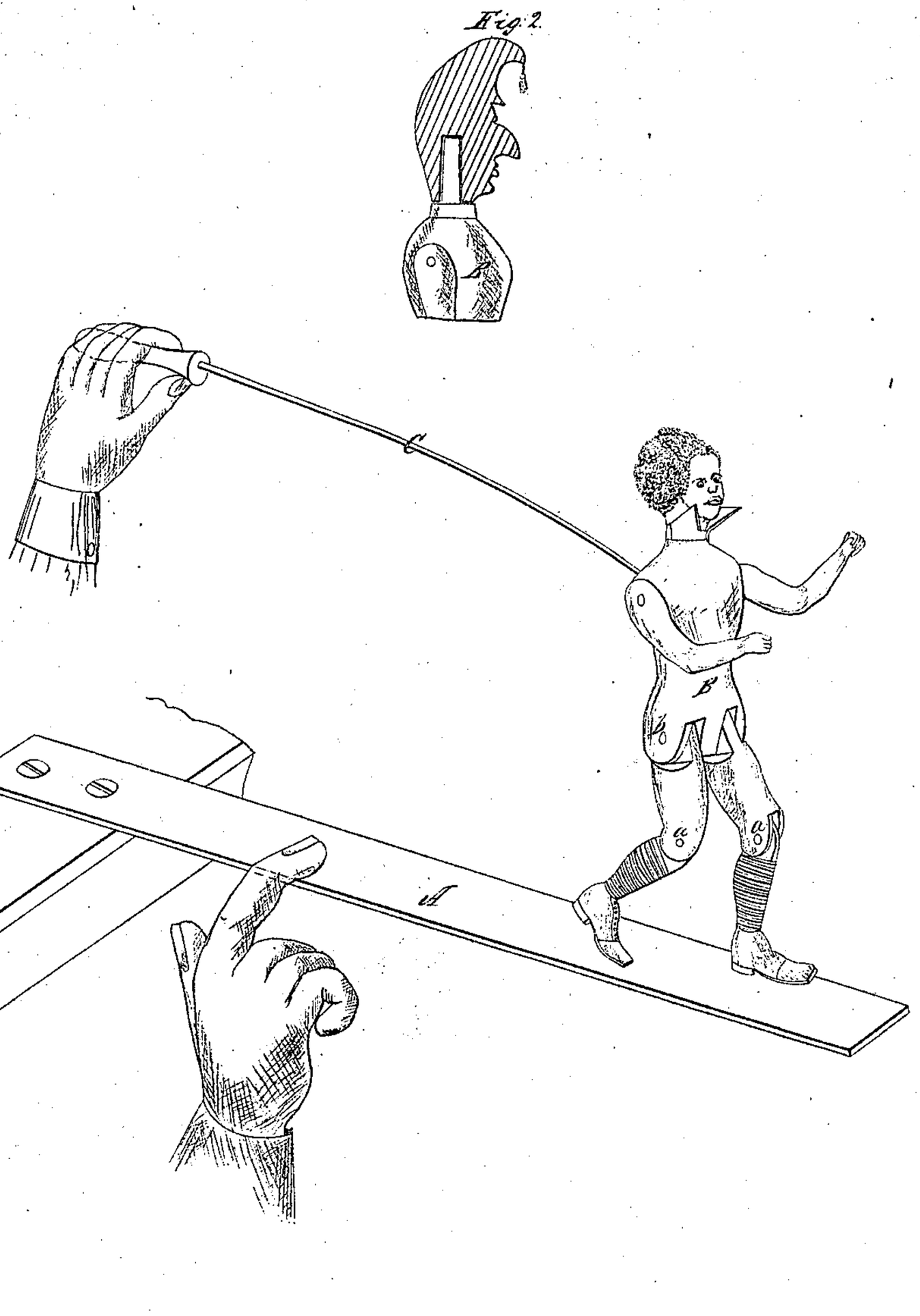
T. N. & J. N. CROW.

AUTOMATIC DANCER.

No. 40,740. Patented Dec. 1, 1863.

Fig. 2.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS N. CROW AND JAMES N. CROW, OF MOTT HAVEN, NEW YORK.

AUTOMATIC DANCER.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **40,740**, dated December 1, 1863.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, THOMAS N. CROW and JAMES N. CROW, both of Mott Haven, in the county of Westchester and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Automatic Dancer; 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 a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents a perspective view of our invention. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the upper part of the body of the dancer.

Similar letters of reference in both views indicate corresponding parts.

This invention consists in combining with a spring-board or other device, to which a vibratory motion can be imparted, a human or other figure with jointed limbs in such a manner that by imparting to said spring-board a vibrating motion and holding the feet of said figure in close proximity to the surface of the board the figure begins to dance in the most ludicrous and comical manner.

The invention consists, also, in the employment or use, in combination with the spring-board and jointed figure, of an elastic rod inserted in the back of the figure in such a manner that the motions of the dancing figure on the vibrating board are perfectly free and unobstructed.

To enable those skilled in the art to make and use our invention, we will proceed to describe it.

A represents a thin board or strip of sheet steel or other elastic material, which will assume a vibrating motion if one end is firmly held down on a table and slight taps are applied to the loose end with the finger or in any other desirable manner. The dancer B (represented by the figure of a negro or any other human figure) is suspended over the spring-board A and the limbs of said dancer, and particularly the legs, are connected to the body by means of pivots *a b*, leaving the same free to swing up and down at pleasure. If a vibrating motion is imparted to the board and the legs of the dancer come in contact with its surface, the vibrating motion of the board is transmitted to the legs, and the figure begins to dance in the most comical manner.

In order to facilitate the motions of the dancer we suspend the same from an elastic rod, C, which may be provided with a suitable handle, and which is inserted in the back of the figure B.

The dancer can be made to perform in the most simple manner by placing one end of the spring-board on a chair and holding it tight by sitting down on it. One hand takes hold of the elastic rod C and holds the dancer in the proper position above the board, while the other hand by slight taps produces a vibrating motion of the board.

Instead of the board A, however, any other surface may be used to which a vibrating motion can be imparted—such, for instance, as a drum-head—and the vibrating motion might be produced by some mechanical contrivance, such as a clock movement. The spring-board, the dancer, and the elastic rod, however, constitute the principal elements of our invention, and they are sufficient to make the dancer perform as above described.

The effect of the toy may be varied by making the head of the figure movable, and providing heads of different shape, so that the head of the negro can be removed and that of a clown put in its place, as indicated in Fig. 2 of the drawings.

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

1. The employment or use of the spring-board A, or its equivalent, in combination with the figure B, having jointed limbs and otherwise constructed and operating in the manner and for the purpose substantially as specified.

2. The combination of the elastic rod C with the figure B and spring-board A, substantially as and for the purpose described.

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