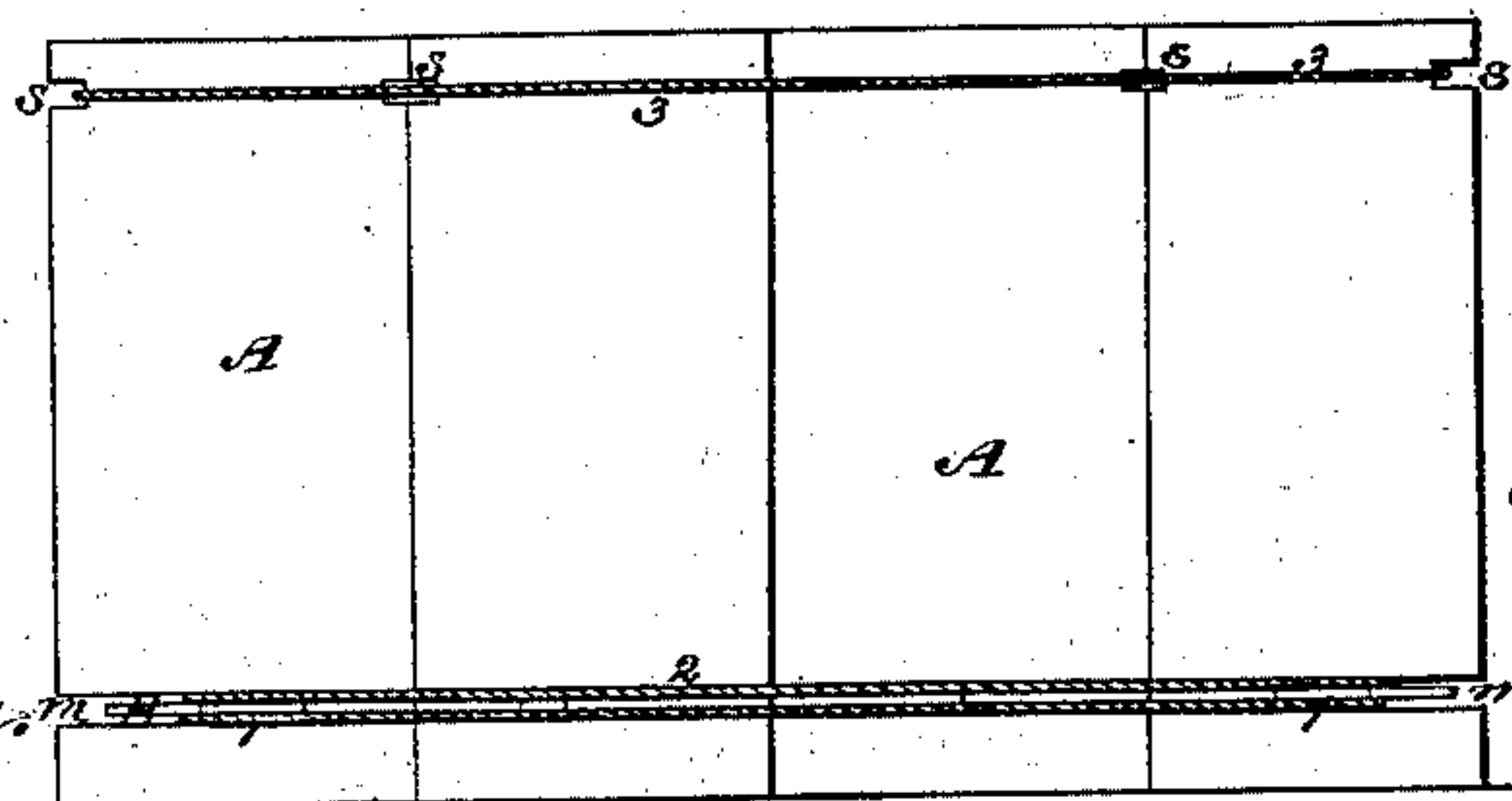
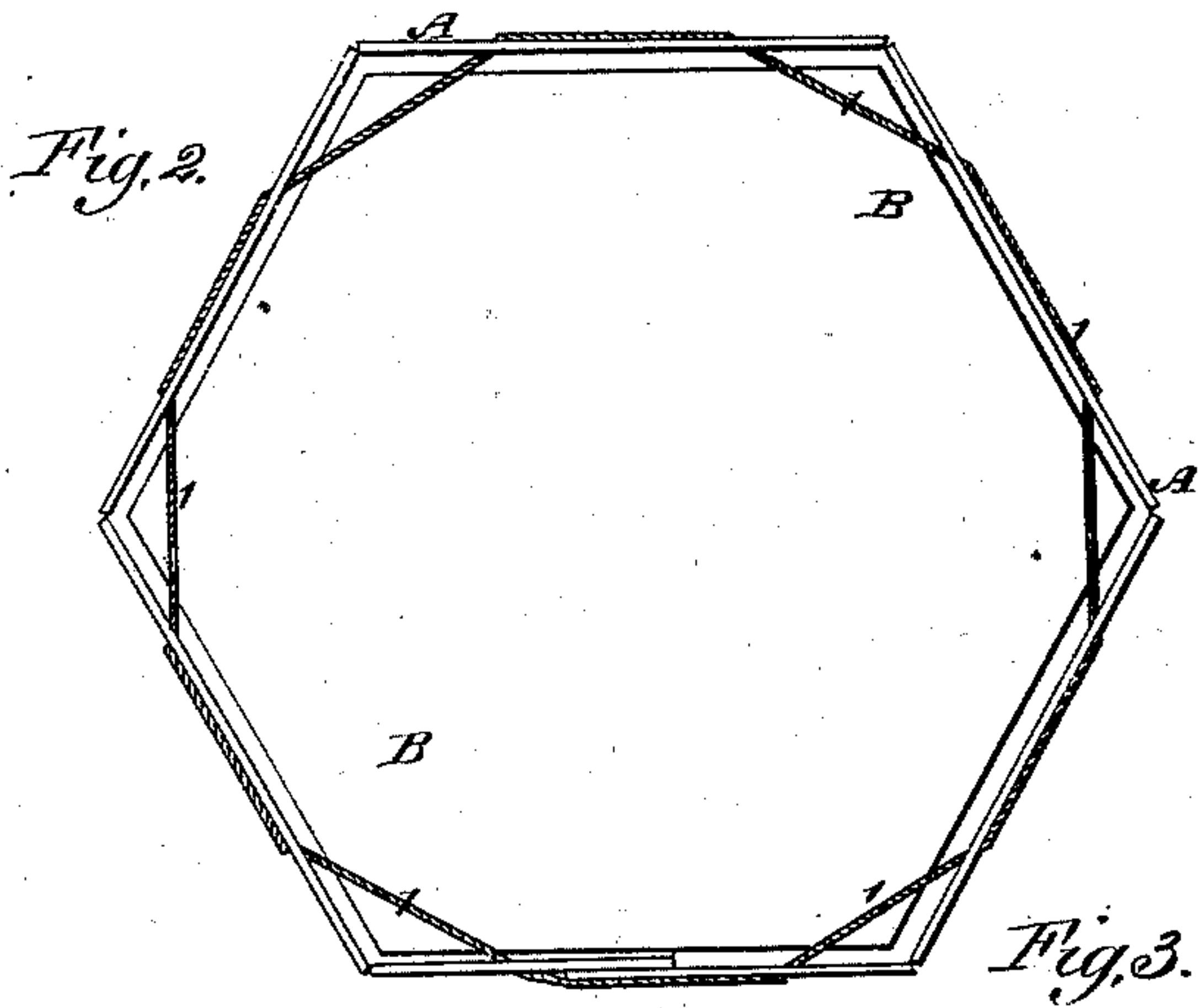
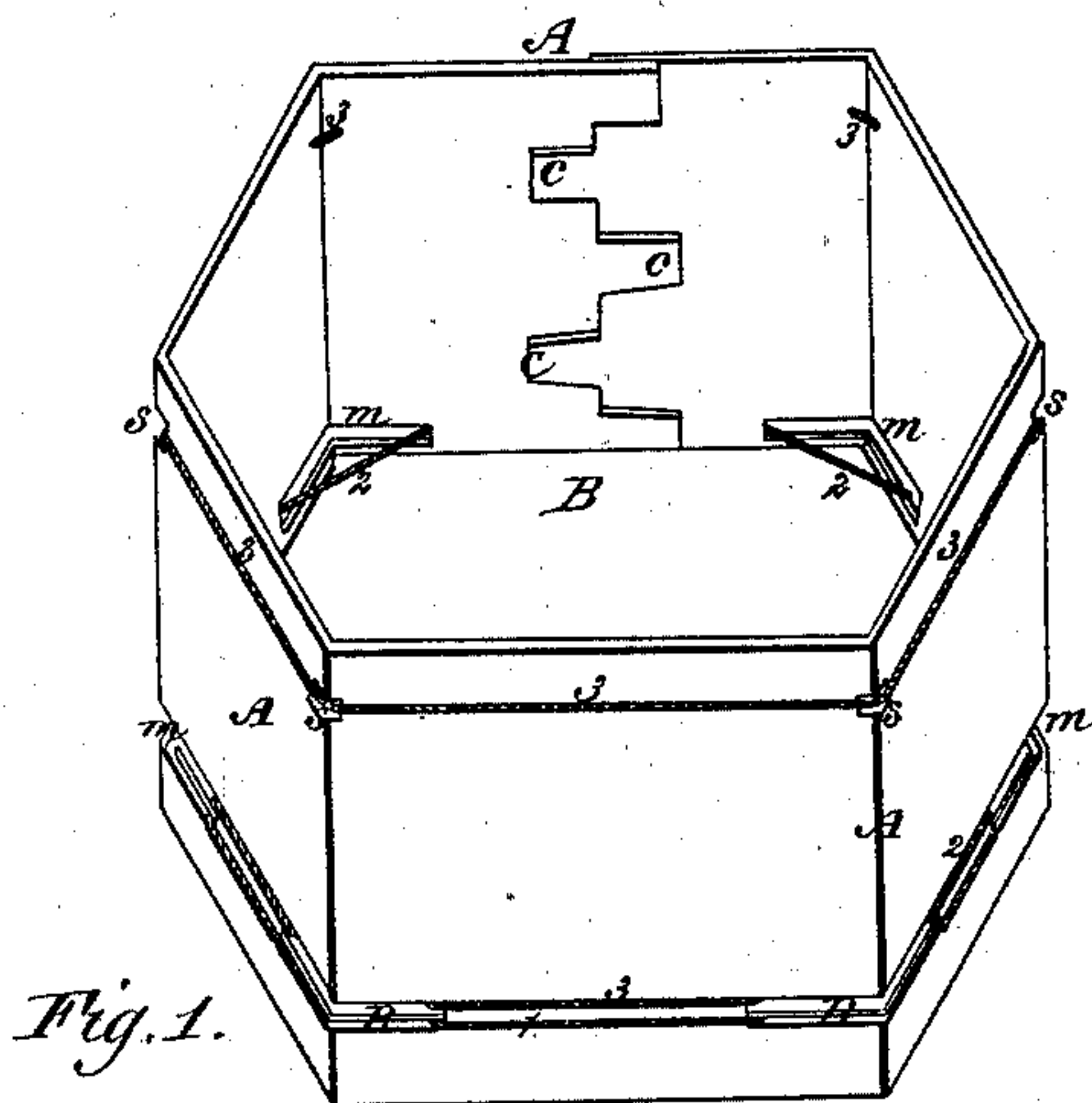


J. H. Doolittle,

Fruit Basket,

Nº 49,390,

Patented Aug 15, 1865.



Witnesses.

Andrew H. Lacy.

Geo. A. Boyd.

Inventor.

J. H. Doolittle

By his attorney

J. C. McAntire.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN H. DOOLITTLE, OF DERBY, CONNECTICUT.

IMPROVEMENT IN FRUIT-BASKETS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **49,390**, dated August 15, 1865.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN H. DOOLITTLE, of Derby, of New Haven county, in the State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fruit Baskets or Boxes; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification.

My invention relates more particularly to that class of small boxes which are employed in large numbers for holding berries or small fruits, such as strawberries, &c., and has for its main objects economy of construction, lightness, and durability; and to these ends my invention consists in forming a box of a strip of thin wood so nicked or creased crosswise as that it may be bent round into a polygonal form, in connection with a bottom piece retained in its place by means of cords, all as hereinafter more fully explained.

To enable those skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe the construction of my improved fruit basket or box, referring by letters to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of one of my fruit-baskets. Fig. 2 is a bottom view of same. Fig. 3 is a side view of the same.

In the several figures the same parts are indicated by the same letters of reference.

A is a strip of thin wood, (or other suitable material,) which is prepared of a length about equal to the designed perimeter of the box or basket to be formed, and which should be cut partly through on straight lines crosswise of the strip where the corners of the box are to be formed.

The width of the strip A represents the depth or height of the box or basket when finished.

B is the bottom, which is a simple flat board or disk of a contour corresponding to the shape into which the strip A is bent, and about equal in size to the contour of the interior of box. This bottom B is retained in its place wholly by two cords or strings, 1 2, which cords also serve to bind the sides of the box—(that is, the bent strip A—) in its proper shape, as will be presently explained.

3 is another cord or string, which binds the sides of box near its top edge. The two ends of strip A are notched out, so as to interlock when the said ends are brought together, as

clearly seen at *c c c*, and the strip A is nicked or slotted at *s s s*, where the corners are formed, and just below the top edge of box, for the reception of the binder-string 3, to prevent the latter from slipping out of its proper place.

The strip A is also nicked (at each bend or corner) near the bottom of the box, as seen at *m m m*, more extensively than at *s*. These nicks or slots *m* across the corners are to accommodate the two strings 1 and 2, which pass around the box (through these slots *m*) in parallel planes sufficiently far apart to admit the bottom B between, so that the strings 1 2 not only bind the lower part of box-sides, (or bent strip A,) but also retain the bottom of the box or basket.

It will be seen that by simply notching the ends of strip A to match together, as shown, the said ends are securely locked together, so that every side of the box is secured against any tendency to becoming deranged or bent out of shape.

It will be understood that, even when the box may have its bottom constructed and secured in place differently from the manner herein described, (as part of my invention,) the top or upper portion of box may be bound together in the manner described, and great advantage be derived from the use of this part only of my invention.

I have shown a hexagonal box; but the strip A may be bent into any other polygonal form, or it may be bent into a circular or elliptical form, without losing the main features and advantages of my invention. When the box is made of the last-named forms I propose to make about three slots for the accommodation of the bottom cords.

It is obvious that, although I deem it expedient to make the bottom cords, 1 2, perform the double functions of binding box together and holding in bottom piece, separate cords may be used to accomplish these several ends.

It may be found best in practice to employ only one cord to support the bottom B, and dispense with the cord 2, in which event the bottom B can be removed from the box when empty. This mode of construction may, indeed, be found most advantageous.

The greatest advantages of the peculiar method described of securing the bottom in and holding the box together are the facility with which the several parts, properly gotten out,

may be packed and transported in separate pieces and the readiness with which the parts can be put together by any inexperienced hand and without the necessity of using tools of any kind.

Having fully described the construction and operation of my improved fruit basket or box, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination of the bent strip, having its ends interlocked, and bottom board with the surrounding and retaining bands, the whole ar-

ranged to constitute a box or basket substantially such as hereinbefore described.

2. Sustaining the bottom of the basket by means of a band, 1, passed around the body of the basket and through slots, substantially in the manner set forth.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal.

JOHN H. DOOLITTLE. [L. S.]

In presence of—

ANDREW I. TODD,
JOHN COCHRANE.