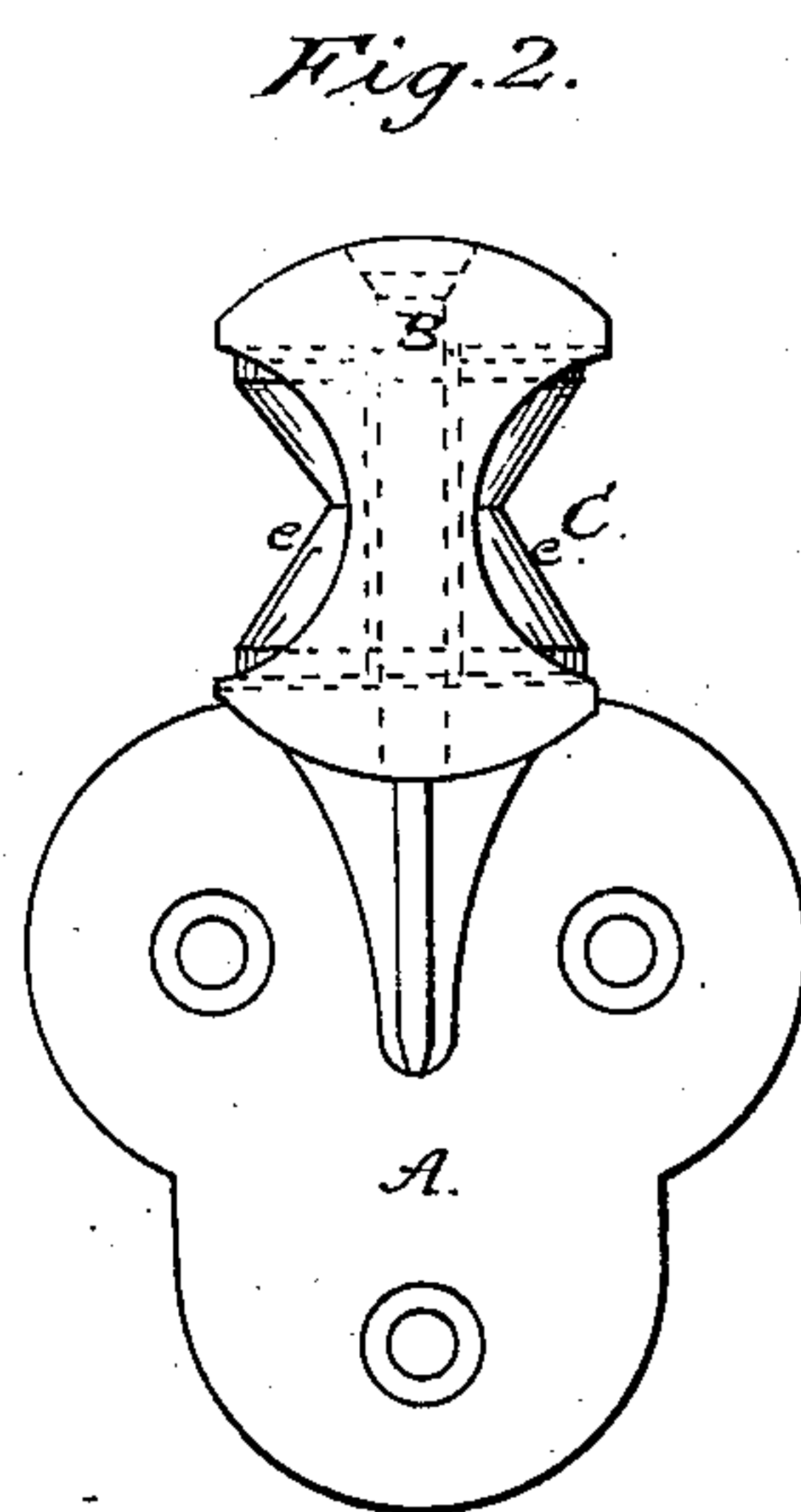
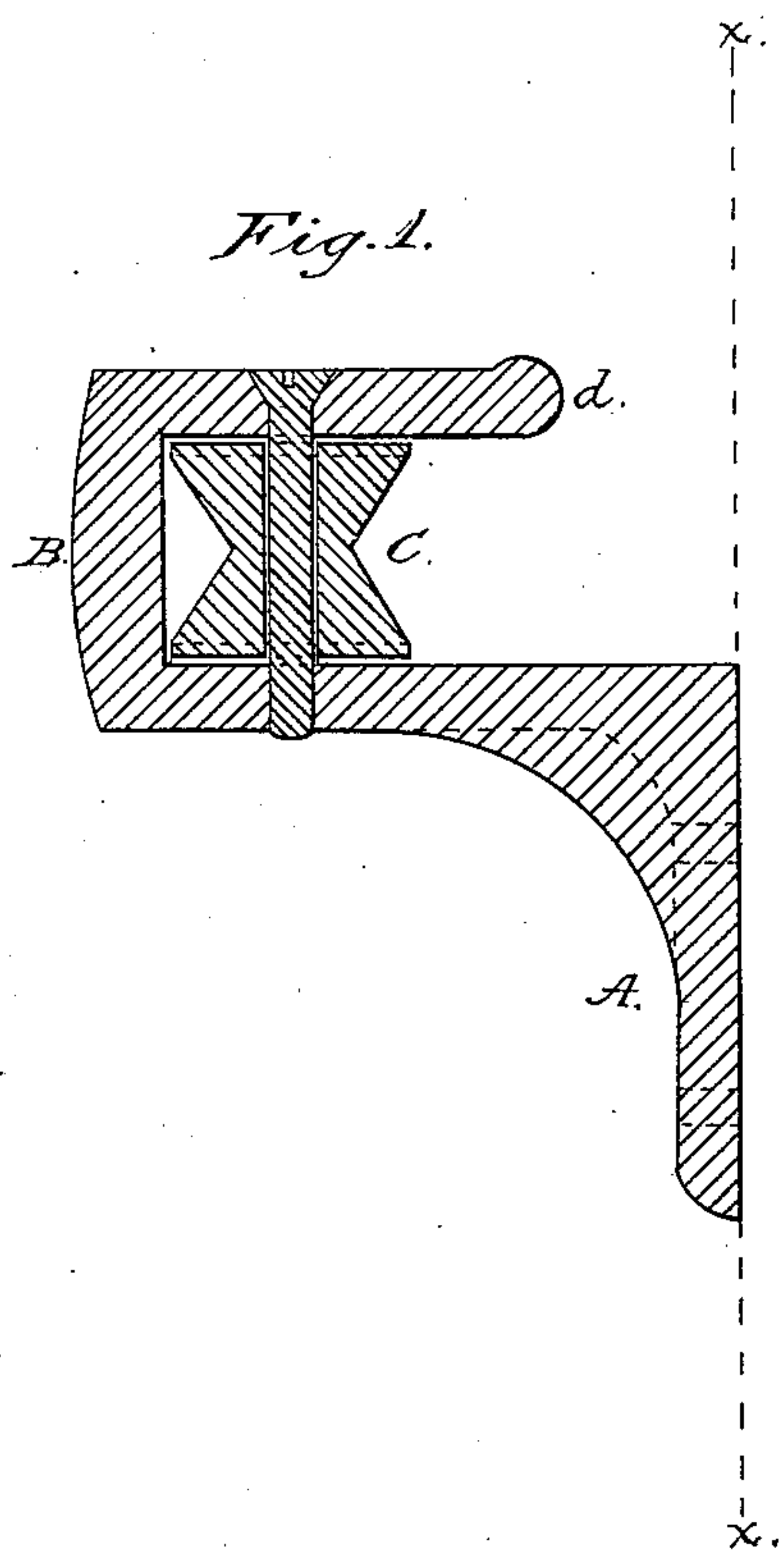


J. L. Howard,
Clothes-Line Fastener,
No 67,196, *Patented July 30, 1867.*



Witnesses;
Frederic W. Ford
William H. Montgomery

Inventor;
James L. Howard

United States Patent Office.

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

Letters Patent No. 67,196, dated July 30, 1867.

IMPROVED CLOTHES-LINE HOOK.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, JAMES L. HOWARD, of the city and State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful device for a "Clothes-Line Hook," of which the following specification, together with the accompanying drawing, embraces a full and clear description.

Figure 1 is a vertical mid section, and

Figure 2 an end view or elevation.

My device, as seen, is composed of a rectangular bracket, A, to be screwed or otherwise rigidly fixed to a post or wall, and having, as part of itself, the "hook" B, the opening between whose jaws is next the surface of support represented by red line *x x*, and between the jaws is a concave roller, C, turning on a vertical axis, substantially as shown.

Now, the operation is as follows: One end of a clothes-line having been secured at some given point, and any desired number of my "hooks" having been rigidly affixed to proper supports, and at proper heights on either side of a yard or enclosure, or to the walls of two opposite buildings, for example; the "bight" of the line is readily dropped into one of the "hooks," then into another opposite, whether diagonally or direct, as will be understood, for a sufficient length of line, when, owing to the facility afforded by the anti-frictional action of the roller C, the line may be thoroughly tautened and secured, then and at any time thereafter, by a single person, at a single operation, from either extremity of the line, without moving from "hook" to "hook," which could not be done in the use of any common hook or staple, not to mention that in the use of the latter the line has to be passed through each by its end, and "reeved" taut span by span, from hook to hook, or staple to staple, and the same trouble is involved in taking the line down, not to mention the strain tending to bend the ordinary hooks in either operation by the friction, and the corresponding fraying of the line by the consequent abrasion. Further, in the use of ordinary hooks the lines are frequently damaged by corrosion, which I obviate by making the roller C of some non-corrosive material, such as hard wood, (but with a metal bushing,) and against which only the line bears; and to secure this latter point the periphery of the roller is made concave, as shown. To prevent the line, with or without clothes upon it, from being thrown off by vibration, during a high wind, for instance, its terminal jaw *d* is of such length as to project considerably beyond the roller, as shown. By the use of the rollers, supposing the extremities of the line to be properly attached to each other, but otherwise free, the line can be hauled around through its "hooks," and if clothes were suspended along a single span or reach of it only, such clothes could be conveniently removed from a single standpoint. It will be seen, fig. 2, that the outer end or "bow" of the "hook" is concaved at each side opposite *e e* to a greater extent than the concavity of the roller, so that the line may be clear of the metal of the "hook" at this point as elsewhere. Of course these bracketed "hooks," being intended to be screwed to their point of support, can be readily removed from place to place.

Having now fully described my device, what I claim is—

A clothes-line "hook," constituted of a rigid bracket extending into the form of a hook, between the jaws of which there is embraced and supported a roller of non-corrosive material, turning on a vertical, or nearly vertical, axis, the whole being combined and applied substantially as described for the purposes explained.

JAMES L. HOWARD.

Witnesses:

FREDERIC W. FORD,

WILLIAM H. MONTGOMERY.