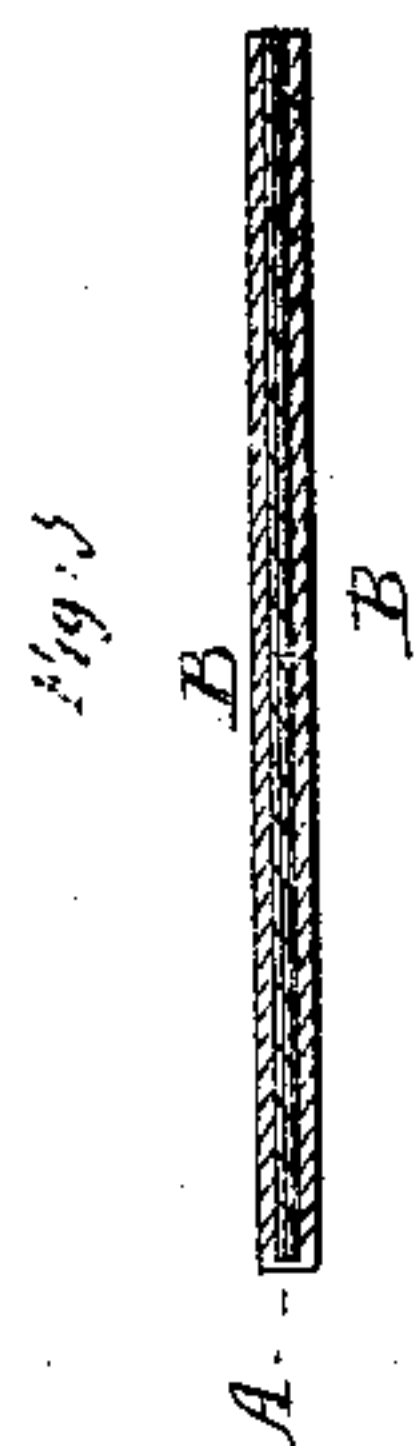
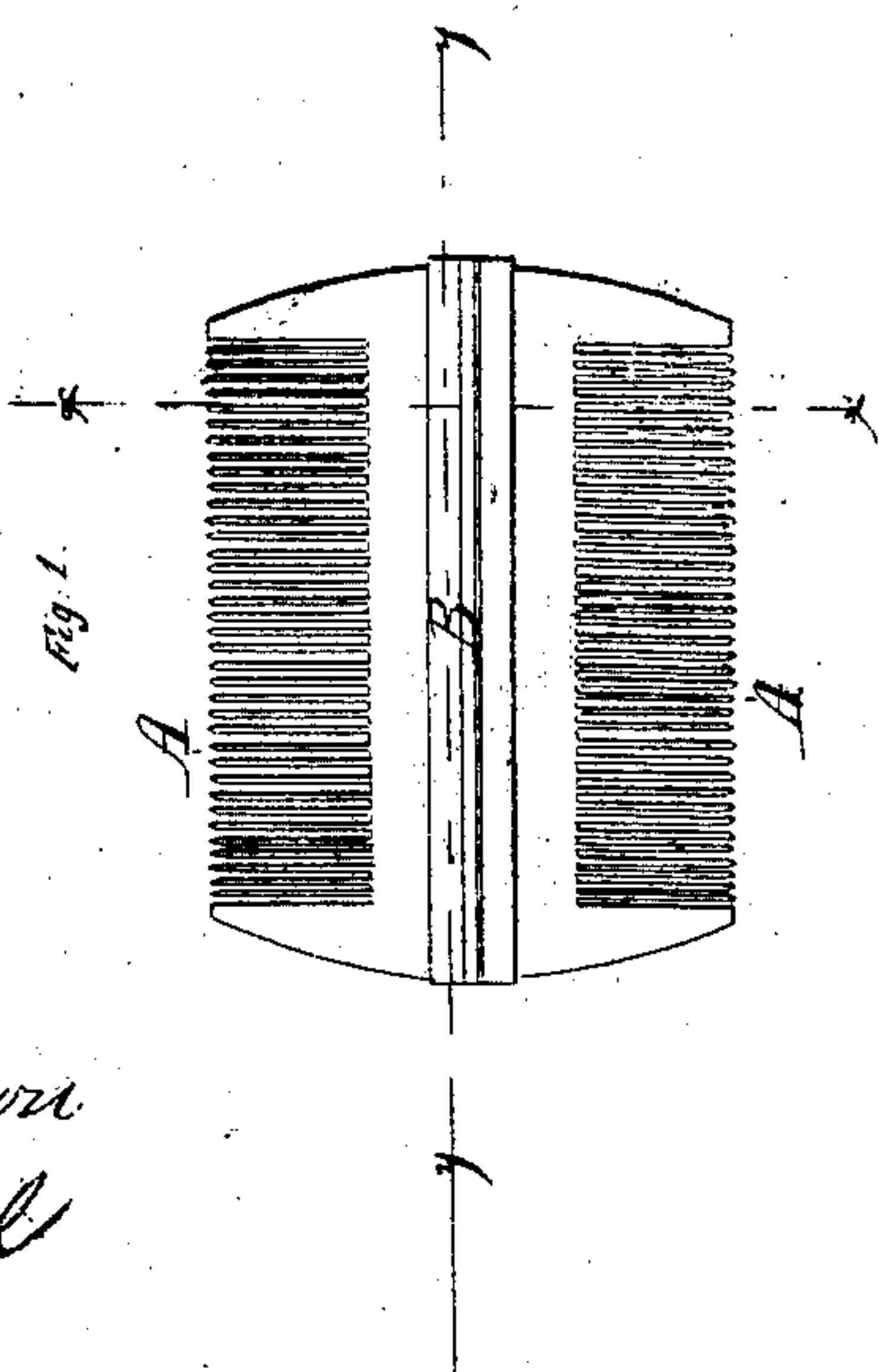


*J. H. Briggs.*  
*Comb.*

*No 69,755.*

*Patented Oct 15 1867.*



*Witnesses.*  
*A. Jackson*  
*Thos. Truel*

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*James H. Briggs*  
*Per M. M. C.*  
*Attorney*

# United States Patent Office

JAMES H. BRIGGS, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

*Letters Patent No. 69,755, dated October 15, 1867.*

## IMPROVEMENT IN COMBS.

*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 H. BRIGGS, of the city of Brooklyn, in the county of Kings, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Fine-Tooth Combs; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification.

The object of this invention is to so arrange a metal strip or band on fine-tooth combs, that the said combs may thereby be strengthened, or that two half combs may thereby be united to make one.

It is well known that fine-tooth combs, especially those made of ivory, are very tender, and consequently very apt to break. It is also known that whenever one of the teeth should break out the comb will be useless for the market. I not only strengthen fine and weak combs, but I am also able to use the injured comb, as I can use the uninjured half of the comb by connecting it with another similar one. By my invention, moreover, a very large quantity of material is saved, as I can use halves on which scarcely more than one-eighth of an inch of material is left besides the teeth. I can also use combs of which one or more teeth are broken out. In that case I cut out the injured part and fit the other parts together, a joint not being noticeable when the parts are firmly clamped between the metal rings.

The combs herein referred to can be made of ivory, horn, rubber, or any other suitable material, and may be provided with teeth of any desired fineness or coarseness. If ivory is used, my process is still more valuable. It is known that the ivory tusks are much injured by cracks, which run from the outside towards the centre, and which are of various lengths. To avoid these cracks, it is now a very tedious job to so arrange and divide the space that none of the ivory might be lost. A process has been invented whereby the ivory is cut spirally in shavings of the necessary thickness. This process could not be employed for the common combs, as they would be too apt to retain or regain their curved shape. By my metal straps I can hold the combs and prevent them from shrinking, and thus I can make use of the spiral shavings of the tusk. In the annexed drawing my invention is illustrated—

Figure 1 being a plan or top view of my improved comb.

Figure 2 is a cross-section of the same taken on the line  $x x$ , fig. 1.

Figure 3 is a longitudinal section of the same taken on the line of  $y y$ , fig. 1.

Figure 4 is a cross-section of a whole comb strengthened by metal bands.

The two half combs  $A A$  are connected and joined by one metal band  $B$ , which is provided with flanges  $a$ , which fit into grooves cut into the combs. The outside of this metal band may be ornamented in any suitable manner. Instead of the metal band, two metal strips may be used, which are pressed together in such a manner that they cannot be taken apart, and that they will safely and securely hold the two or more pieces of the comb. In fig. 4 is shown a whole comb,  $C$ , which is strengthened by such metal band or strips  $D$ , and is thereby prevented from shrinking and from breaking easily.

I am aware that two halves of combs have already been joined by ivory or horn straps, but they could not be secured without the use of rivets, and the latter are altogether impracticable for the brittle material of which the combs are generally made; moreover it is a very tedious and costly process to secure these rivets in place, and to adapt the combs to the same.

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

The connector  $B$ , constructed as described, when provided with right-angular flanges  $a$ , filling into longitudinal grooves cut into the comb  $A$ , as herein set forth for the purpose specified.

The above specification of my invention signed by me this 26th day of November, 1866.

JAMES H. BRIGGS.

Witnesses:

WM. F. McNAMARA,

ALEX. F. ROBERTS.