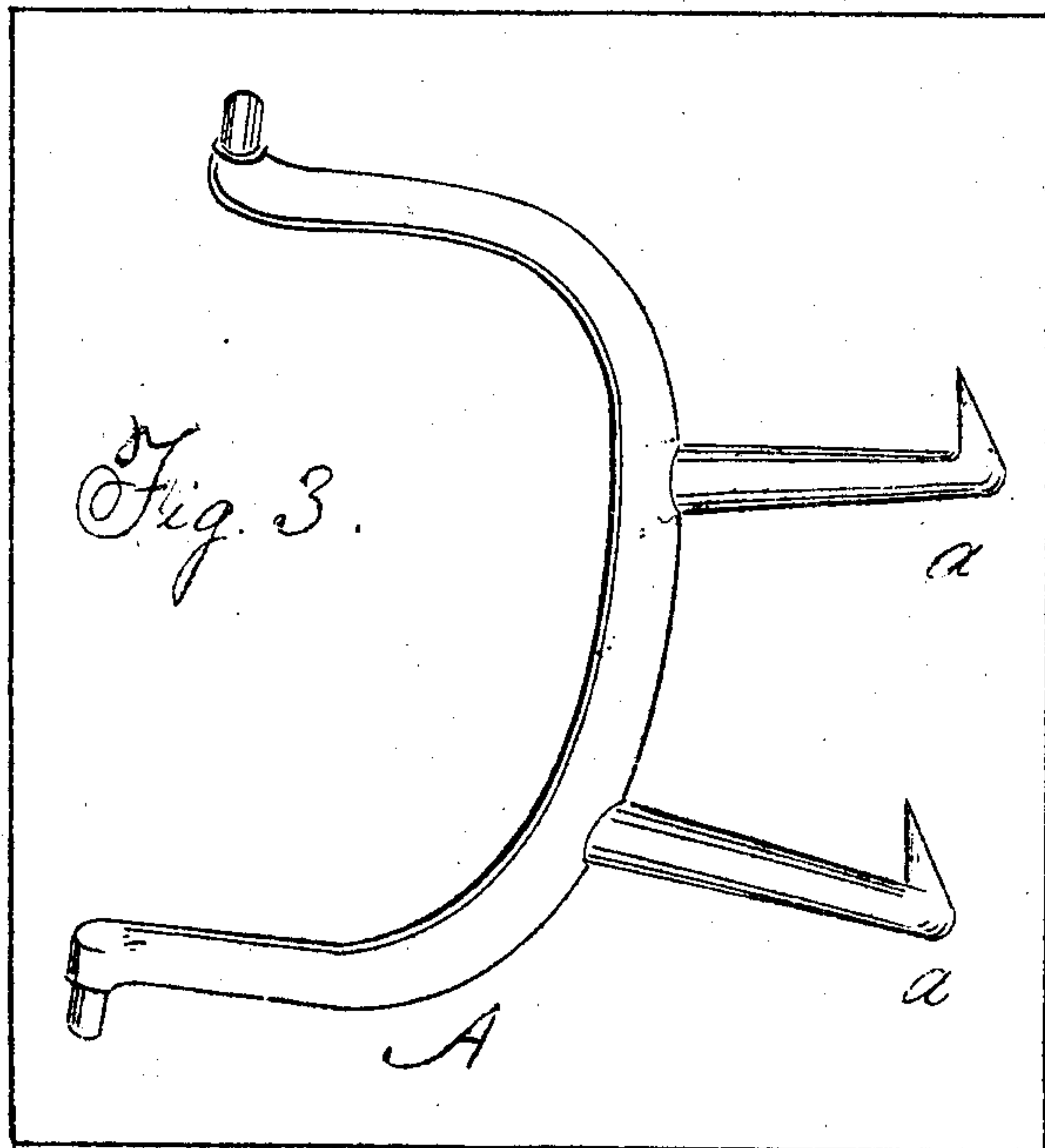
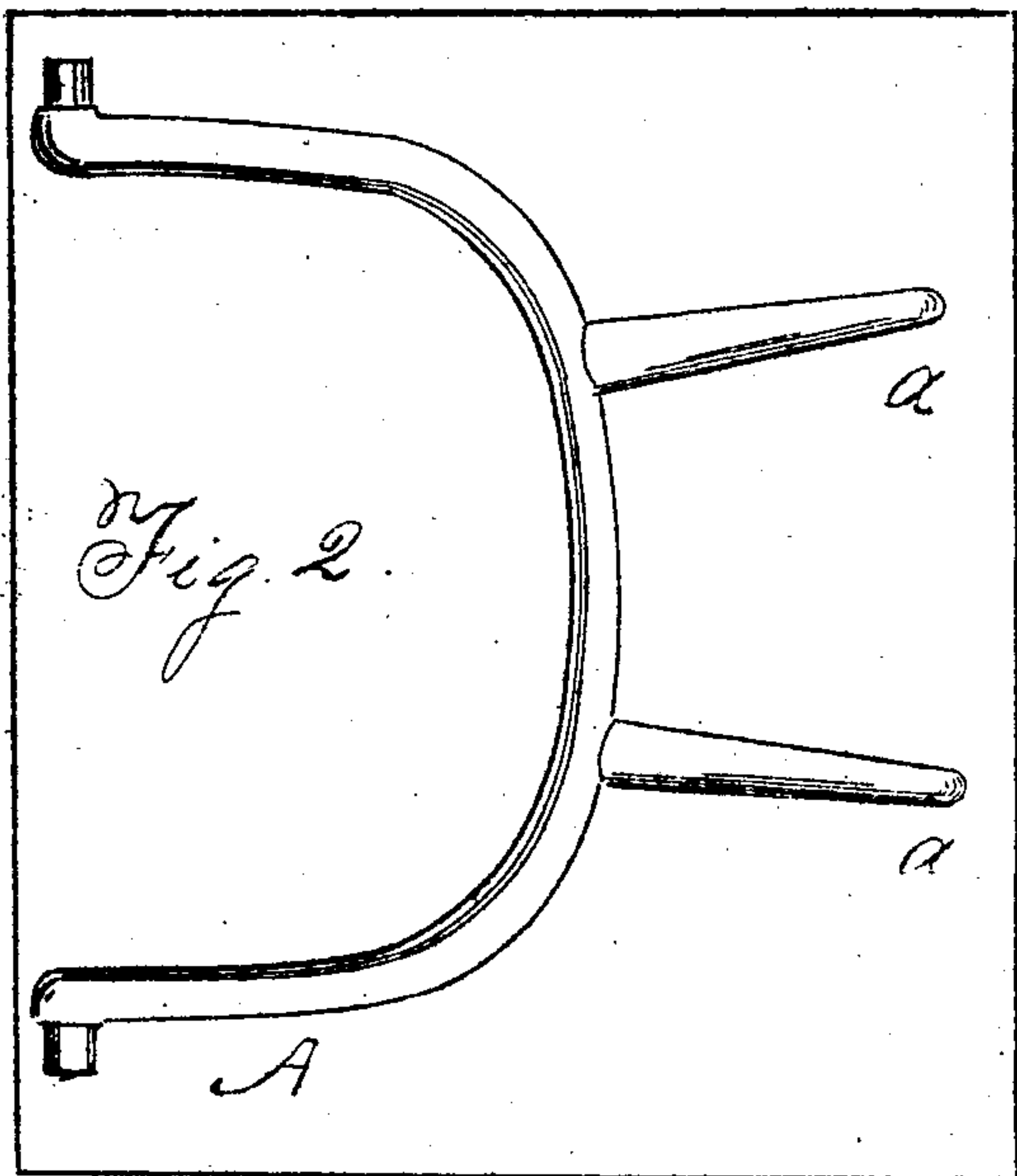
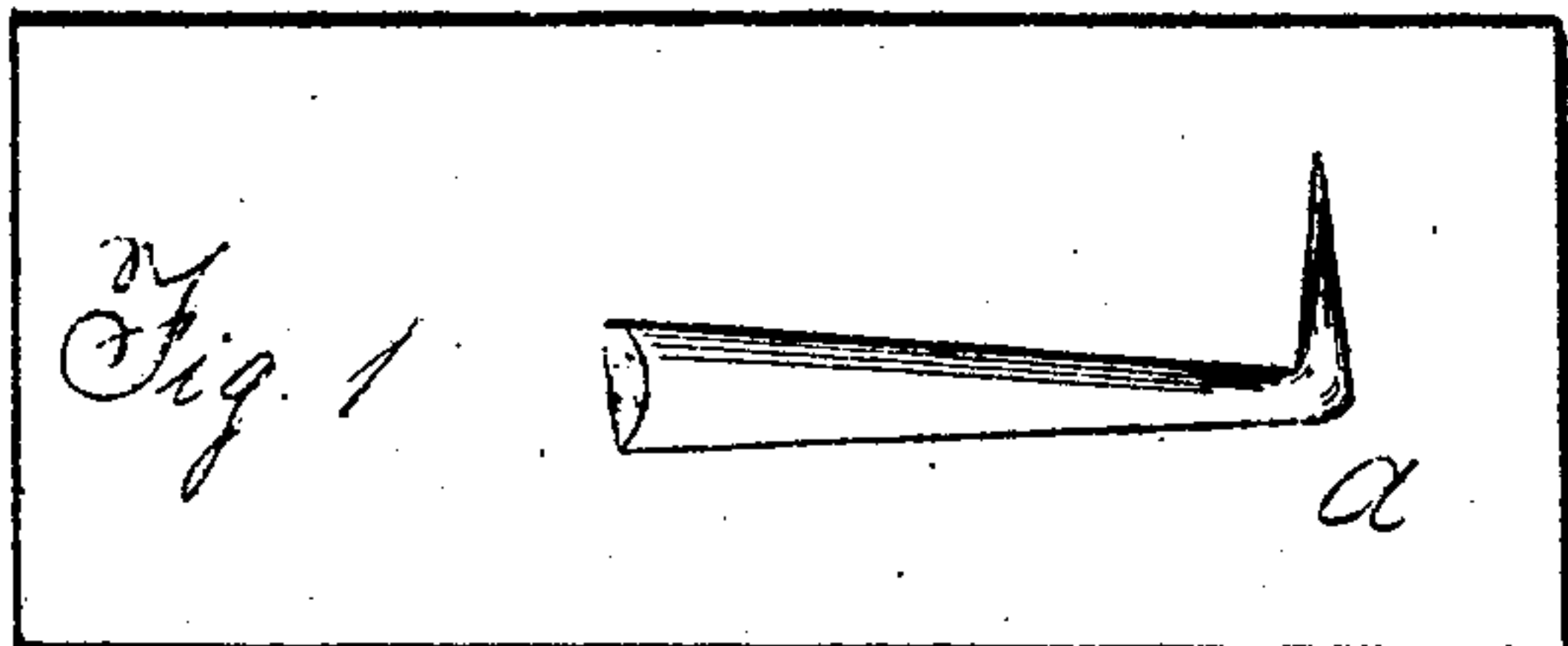


Wm. Richter's Improvement
in application to the
JAWS of STEEL-TRAPs.

71644 PATENTED
DEC 3 1867



Witnesses
E. P. Kewbro
A. R. Loomis

Inventor

Wm Richter

United States Patent Office.

WILLIAM RICHTER, OF LANSING, MICHIGAN, ASSIGNOR TO S. D. NEWBRO,
OF THE SAME PLACE.

Letters Patent No. 71,644, dated December 3, 1867.

IMPROVED JAWS FOR STEEL TRAPS.

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, WILLIAM RICHTER, of the city of Lansing, in the county of Ingham, and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in the Jaws of Steel Traps; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

The nature of my invention consists in making and welding or otherwise securely fastening to the external edges of the jaws of steel traps, or as near to their external edges as practicable, certain particular elbow-shaped prongs or clutches, in the manner hereinafter described and for the purpose set forth.

In the drawings, A represents one of the jaws of a steel strap, and *a a* the elbow-shaped prongs or clutches. To make these elbow-shaped prongs or clutches, and attach them to the jaws of steel traps, I take pyramidal, conical, or spindle-shaped bars of any suitable metal, in length from one-fourth to one-half the length of the jaws of the trap, and heat and bend them at right angles as near as practicable.

Figure 1 represents one of these angularly-bent bars or elbow-shaped prongs, usually designated "clutches," and in this specification, wherever the word "clutches" is used, these angularly-bent bars or elbow-shaped prongs are specifically intended and referred to. To attach the clutches to the jaws of the trap, I detach the jaws from their bearings in the trap, and take one of the jaws and any suitable number of clutches to be attached thereto, and lay the jaw down with the edge that shuts against the other jaw upward, and the other or external edge downward, and resting on the large ends of the clutches, with the bodies of the clutches extending radially from the arch of the jaw, and the prong ends of the clutches directed perpendicularly, and in this position the jaw and clutches are to be welded or otherwise securely fastened together. Should the jaw be of cast iron, and sufficiently large for the purpose, holes may be drilled near the external edge, and the large ends of the clutches fitted therein and riveted or brazed fast.

Figure 2 is a vertical view of a jaw resting on two clutches, and fastened thereto as just described. The prong ends of the clutches do not appear represented in this figure.

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the same jaw and two clutches attached, wherein the prong ends of the clutches and all other material parts are shown.

I then fasten clutches to the other jaw of the trap, so as to make a counterpart to the first jaw and its clutches. Injurious collision of the points or prong ends of the clutches of one jaw with those of the other jaw is prevented by the play of the jaws in their bearings, and by keeping the prong ends of the clutches needle-pointed. In addition, the bodies of the clutches may be set or bent a little from a perfect radial position, so as to direct the points to pass each other without touching. When a pair of jaws with clutches attached are completed as aforesaid, they may be used as patterns by which others may be cast.

The skillful workman, after he shall clearly have conceived the nature of my invention, will, with a little practice, readily cut out, forge, and form a jaw with a suitable number of clutches, from a single piece of iron, without any welding. The jaws of the trap, with clutches attached, are to be placed in their bearings in the trap the same as though there were no clutches. The trap is then ready for use, and is to be baited, set, and managed for catching animals as all common steel traps are managed.

The principal advantage of the invention is that when the trap is sprung by an animal the clutches of one jaw are rapidly forced toward those of the other jaw, and their needle-pointed prong ends being straight to the angles of the clutches, and reaching further out than the jaws, readily pierce the animal right and left in the head, neck, shoulders, or other parts of the body, higher up than the jaws catch, effectually engrappling the animal so that it cannot escape, even if it gnaw off its foot or leg at the place caught by the jaws of the trap, and from which cause twenty-five to fifty per cent. of the animals, highly pestiferous in character or valuable for their furs, escape from all common steel traps.

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

The employment of the clutches, of the particular form and shape specified, constructed and attached to or near the external edges of the jaws of steel traps, substantially as above described and for the purpose set forth.

WM. RICHTER.

Witnesses:

E. P. NEWBRO,
A. R. LOOMIS.