

R. Collins.
Breast-Pad.

N^o 72802

Patented Dec. 31, 1867.

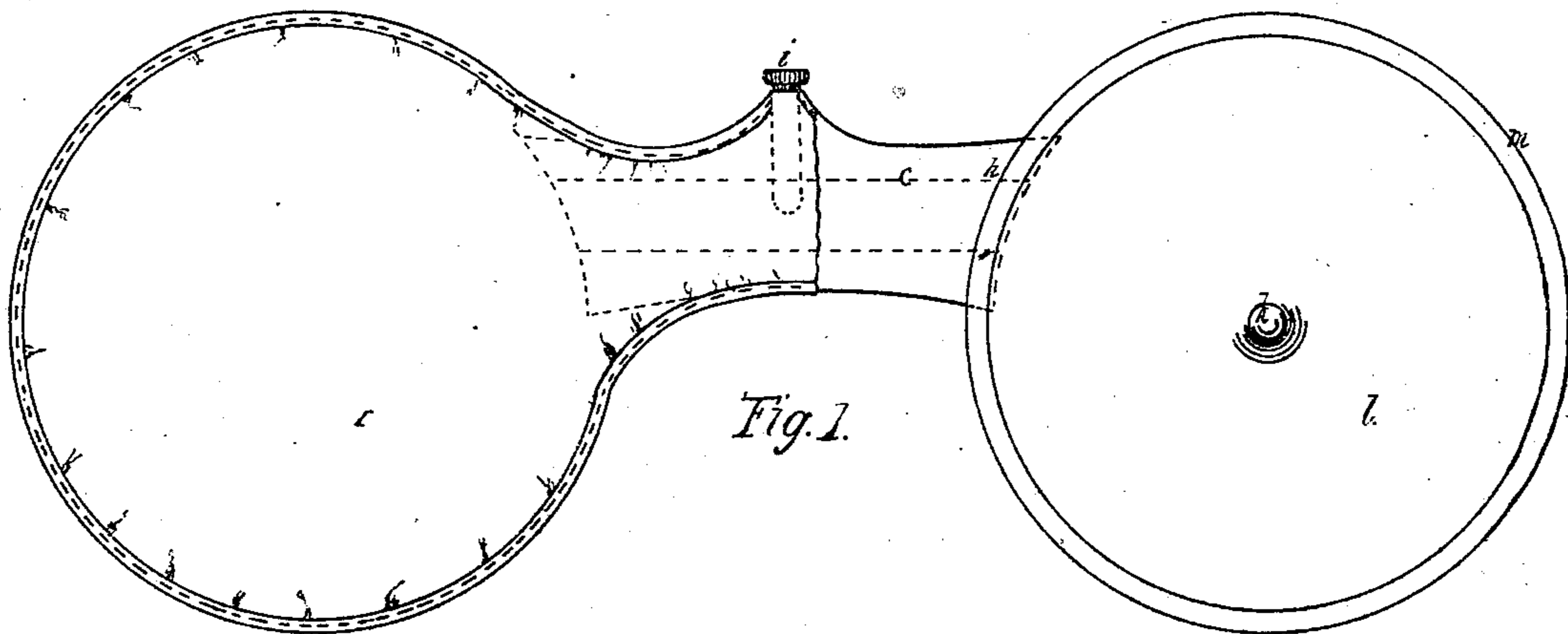


Fig. 1.

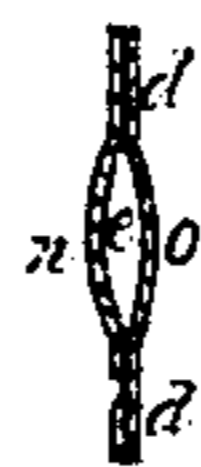


Fig. 3.

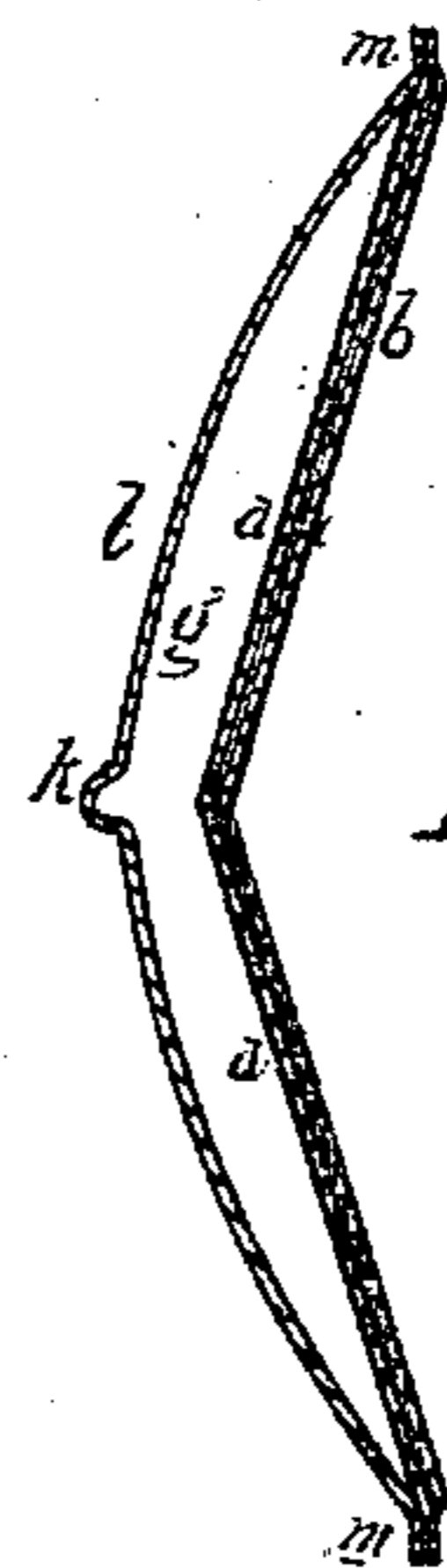


Fig. 2.

Witnesses:

A. Coolidge
J. A. Curtis

Inventor:

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United States Patent Office.

RICHARD COLLINS, OF CHICOPEE, ASSIGNOR TO AARON G. LORD, OF
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS.

Letters Patent No. 72,802, dated December 31, 1867.

IMPROVEMENT IN BREAST-PADS.

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, RICHARD COLLINS, of Chicopee, county of Hampden, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improved Dress-Fitter or Pad; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan view of my invention,

Figure 2 is a section through line A B of fig. 1, and

Figure 3 is a section through line C D of fig. 1.

The nature of my invention consists in the construction and arrangement of a dress-fitter or air-pad, whereby said dress-fitter or pad shall be adjustable to any desired degree of fullness or size, and shall always retain its original elasticity and pliability.

Such articles of wearing-apparel have heretofore been made by being stuffed with some elastic material, so that they have not been capable of being adjusted to any desired size, and they also soon become packed and hardened by constant wear and use.

In my invention, I entirely overcome these objections without greatly enhancing the cost of manufacture.

I also obviate the objections to rubber pads or bags, which would distend, when inflated, in every direction and would not, therefore, preserve the form intended to be given them, and they would serve only slightly the purpose of a dress-fitter in producing any artificial appearance desired, or disguising natural defects in the human form. In my invention, the appearance of natural shape is preserved after inflation of the pad, the latter being provided with a rigid base, which strengthens and supports it, and is the basis on which the pad is constructed.

That others skilled in the art may be able to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe its construction and application to use.

In the drawings, *a* represents the base of the fitter, which should consist of some material sufficiently stiff and rigid to prevent its being drawn or forced out of its original and proper shape by the action of the air in front of it, and to also assist in keeping and holding the breast of the wearer in its proper and natural position. Said base *a* may be cut out in such form, and folded or bent and secured in such manner, as that it shall be in the form of a flattened cone, its base to be next the wearer in use; or a flat piece of said stiff material may be subjected to the action of a former or die, or struck up so that it shall be concave upon its back side, and convex upon its front side, and circular in form, if desirable. A piece of air-tight or rubber cloth, *b*, is next made a little larger in diameter, so that its outer edge shall project a little distance beyond the edge of the base *a* all around, said rubber cloth *b* being securely cemented to the back side of the base *a*. If it should be desirable to make said pads in pairs, or double, they are connected by means of the neck *c*, which consists of two pieces of air-tight or rubber cloth, *n o*, their surfaces placed together, and firmly cemented at or near their edges *d d*, the inflating-tube *i* being at the same time placed between said pieces *n o*, and secured therein in a firm and air-tight manner, leaving a narrow space, *e*, in the middle, and running longitudinally along the neck *c* between said pieces *n o*, which is not closed. This space *e* serves as a passage for the air from the inflating-tube *i* into the space *g* of the fitter. The end, *h*, of said neck *c* is then cemented securely to the front of the edge of the base *a* and back *b*, in such manner that when the front piece *l* is secured to the back *b*, said neck *c* shall be enclosed between the front *l* and the back *b*, its air-passage *e* communicating with the space *g*. The front *l* is then formed of a similar shape to that of the base *a* and back *b*, but somewhat larger in diameter, to allow of its being sufficiently distended beyond the base *a*, and the edge *m* of the front *l* is firmly cemented to the front-side of the back *b*, where it is exposed around the edge of the base *a*, and also to the side of the neck *c*. The front *l*, being larger than the base *a*, will stand out from the base *a* when inflated, and the extent to which they may become distended when inflated may be varied, as the front *l* is made larger or smaller, proportionately to the base *a*. The fitter, as thus constructed, may then be covered with silk, or other desirable material, and trimmed according to the taste, one side of fig. 1 representing the fitter as having the silk cover *r* and braid, tape, or ribbon *s* sewed around its edge.

If it is desirable to further imitate nature, particularly for ladies' use, a small space around the centre of the front piece *l* may be made sufficiently stiff with any suitable and endurable substance, either secured to or incorporated into the cloth, and a false nipple, *k*, may be struck up by means of a suitable former or die.

This fitter may be of any desired form or size, and may be as well adapted to gentlemen's as ladies' use; and if, from any cause, it should be desirable to use the pads singly instead of in pairs, each pad would of course be provided with a separate neck and inflating-tube.

My invention, as thus far described and illustrated, is to be applied to the breast or breasts of the wearer, but may readily be adapted for application to any part of the human form, singly or in pairs, where it is desired to produce an elevation of the contour, as the rigid base can be made or moulded of any form necessary for the purpose, and the inflating-tube would be connected directly with the neck of such pad.

Its operation is as follows: The inner portion of the inflating-tube *i* is turned out slightly, and air is forced into and through the said tube *i* and passage *e* of the neck *c*, until the fitter or space *g* is filled with air to the desired degree, and the tube is then turned in tightly, and the air thus secured within the fitter.

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

1. An inflatable pad, having a rigid base and a flexible front, substantially as herein described.
2. An inflatable dress-fitter or pad, having a rigid base and flexible front, neck *c*, and the inflating-tube *i*, all constructed and operating substantially as and for the purposes herein set forth.

RICHARD COLLINS.

Witnesses:

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T. A. CURTIS.