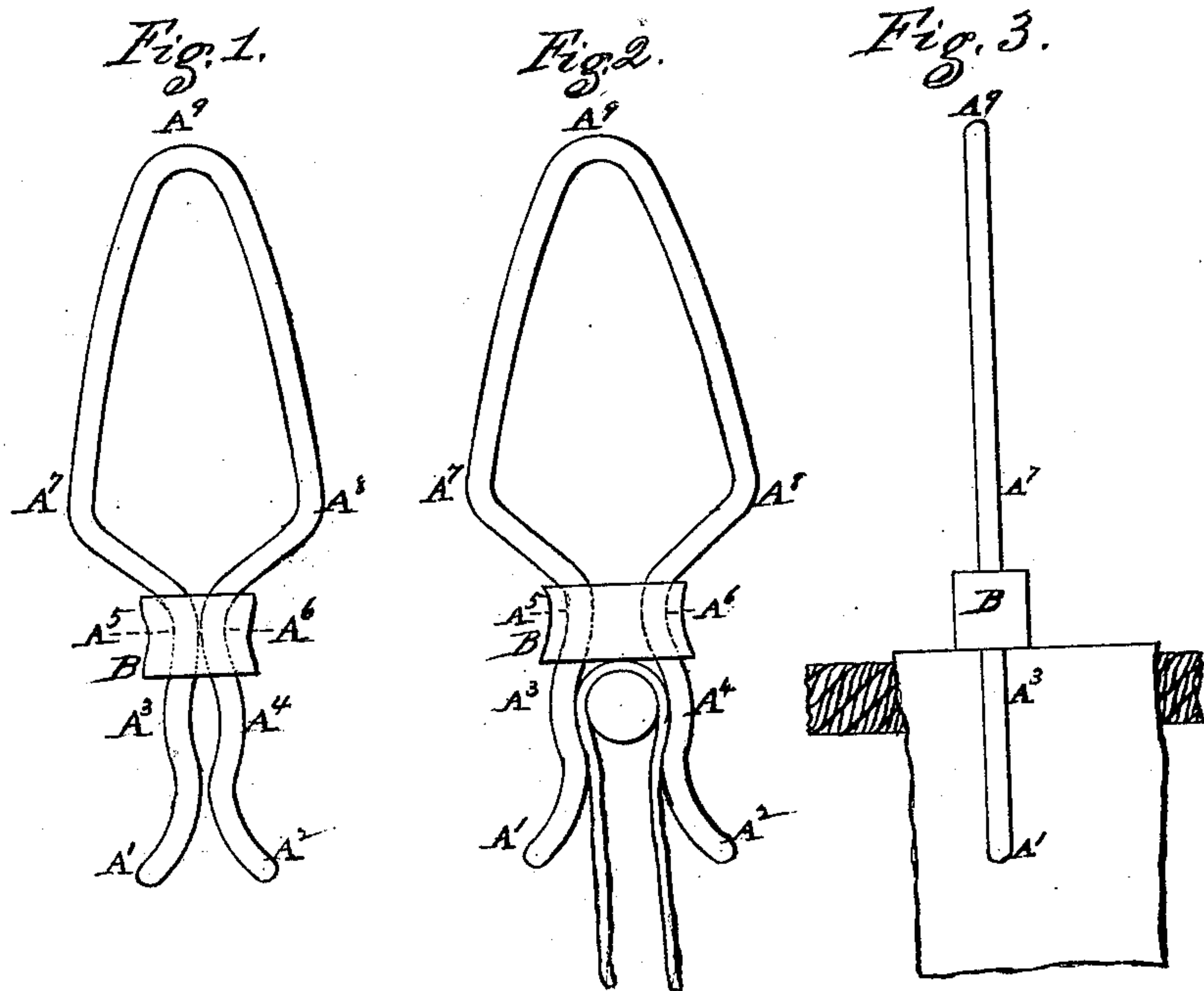


*J. O. Couch,*  
*Clothes Pin,*  
*No 78,651,                      Patented June 9, 1868.*



*Witnesses.*  
*J. C. Livings*  
*McClay*

*Signature.*  
*J. O. Couch*  
*by his attorney, J. S. Eaton*

# United States Patent Office.

JOHN O. COUCH, OF MIDDLEFIELD, CONNECTICUT.

*Letters Patent No. 78,651, dated June 9, 1868.*

## IMPROVED CLOTHES-PIN.

*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, JOHN O. COUCH, of Middlefield, in the county of Middlesex, in the State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Clothes-Pins; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof.

I will first proceed to describe what I consider the best means of carrying out my invention; and will afterwards designate the point which I believe to be new.

The accompanying drawings form a part of this specification.

Figure 1 is a side view of the clothes-pin complete, when not in use.

Figure 2 represents the same pin when in use, and on the line. The clothes-line, and a portion of the clothing adjacent thereto, are shown in cross-section.

Figure 3 is an edge view of my improved pin.

Similar letters of reference indicate like parts in all the figures.

I can form the main part of my pin of a single piece of stiff iron wire, galvanized or tinned. I bend the wire in a suitable form, either by machinery or by hand, and adapt it to receive a rubber ring, which aids in its elastic compression upon the clothes. I will designate the several parts of my wire A<sup>1</sup>, A<sup>2</sup>, &c.

A<sup>1</sup> A<sup>2</sup> are the turned-out ends of the wire.

A<sup>3</sup> A<sup>4</sup> are swells or slight bends, which adapt it to embrace more perfectly the clothes-line, and the clothes suspended thereon.

A<sup>5</sup> A<sup>6</sup> are hollows or bends, which are adapted to receive and keep in place the ring of rubber, B, which may be simply a short length cut from a vulcanized-rubber tube.

A<sup>7</sup> A<sup>8</sup> are large swells, which form, in fact, the sides of a capacious loop or ring, which I prefer to elongate in the direction of the length of the pin, forming a moderately-short band or a curve of short radius at the top, as indicated by A<sup>9</sup>.

The wire having been bent in the proper form, may have a tendency of itself alone to spring together with considerable force, but this elasticity, if such it possesses, is greatly increased by the pressure of band B, which performs the triple function of aiding the wire in springing together, keeping the parts from passing each other, and keeping them approximately in line, and by preventing the pin from being thrust down too far upon the clothes-line and clothes. On thrusting down the pin with great force upon the clothes-line and clothes, it is arrested by the band B when it arrives at the right position.

My pin may be sprung open with the hands on applying it to very delicate fabrics, and the same may be done on removing it, when in any case there is anticipated danger of injury to the goods, as, for example, when it is used to confine delicate laces; but in all ordinary cases the pin may be thrust down in applying it, and pulled off in removing it, without any such precaution.

I prefer to prepare the wire by tinning, or galvanizing, or otherwise plating it, after it has been cut off in the proper lengths, and this operation insures that the ends, as well as all the other surfaces, shall be properly coated. It may be well, in most cases, to bend or partially bend the wire into the proper form before it is subjected to the coating process.

I do not confine myself to hard iron wire, coated, as the material for the part A<sup>1</sup>, A<sup>2</sup>, &c. Springs of hard brass may be used, without coating; so may various other materials. Steel or semi-steel, variously prepared, may be used, and in some cases it may be expedient to coat the material with silver, or in other expensive and attractive ways. Also, it is not absolutely essential that the band B should be made of vulcanized India rubber. Ordinary rubber, unvulcanized, may serve well in some instances. So might rubber cloth, gutta percha, and various compounds, it being simply important that it perform the duties above described without liability to smut or otherwise injure the clothes, or to be itself destroyed by ordinary atmospheric influences.

The large ring, A<sup>9</sup> A<sup>8</sup> A<sup>7</sup>, is adapted to serve both as a spring, to give elasticity to the parts below, and also as a convenient means of allowing the carrying a considerable number of my clothes-pins on a finger or thumb, in the act of hanging out or taking in clothes.

Having now fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is as follows:

I claim the employment of a rubber or elastic compound in combination with a metallic clothes-pin, made as herein described, and adapted to operate therewith, as and for the purposes herein set forth.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my name in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOHN O. COUCH.

Witnesses:

W. C. DEY,

C. C. LIVINGS.