

D. Bickford.

Afghan.

N^o 80122

Patented Jul. 21, 1868.

Fig. 1

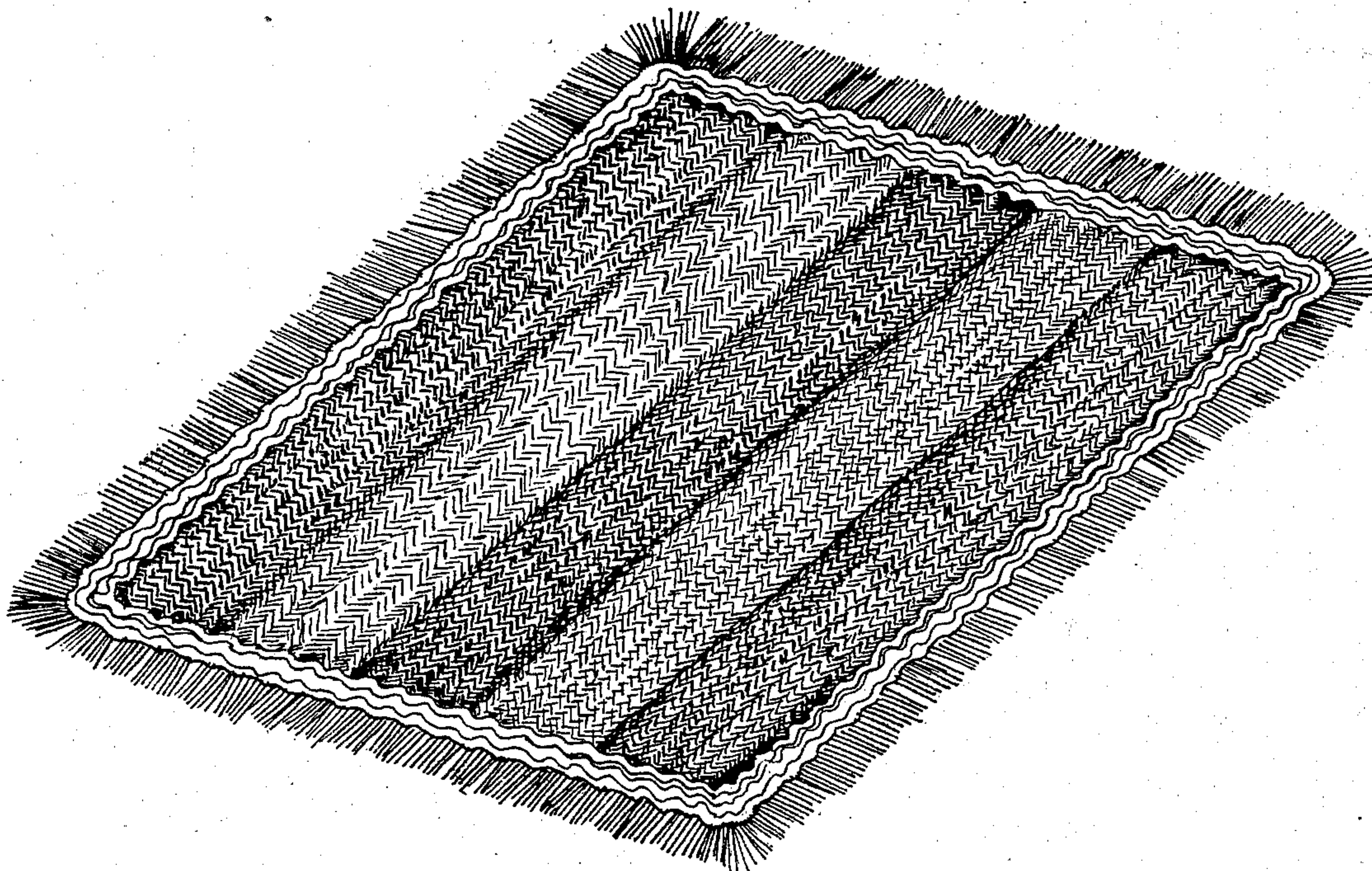
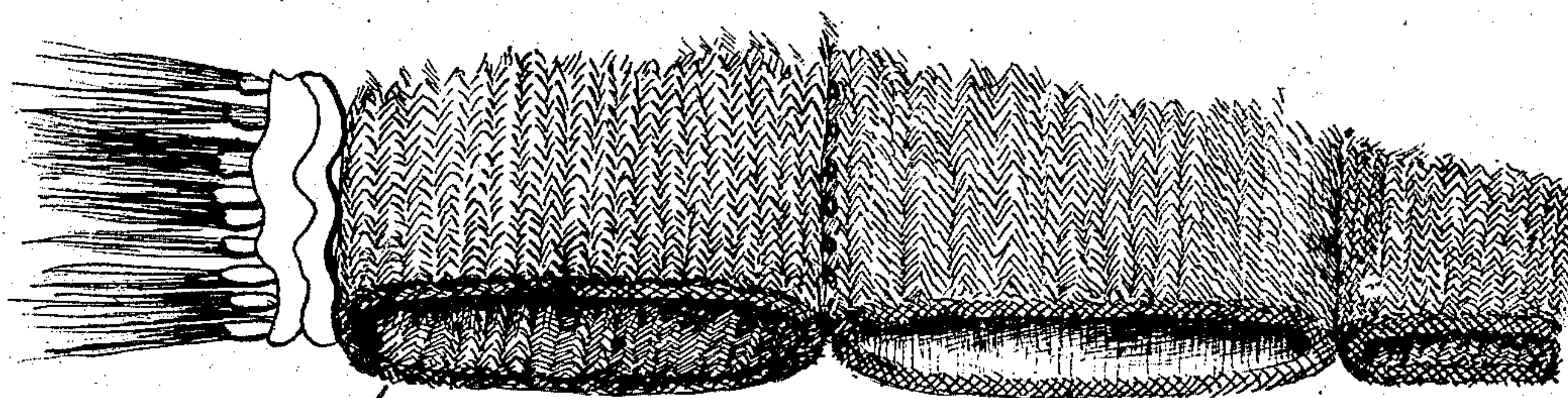


Fig. 2



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DANA BICKFORD, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

IMPROVEMENT IN AFGHAN.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 80,122, dated July 21, 1868.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DANA BICKFORD, of the city of Boston, county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new Article of Manufacture made from machine-knitted fabrics; and I do hereby declare that the following, taken in connection with the drawings which accompany and form part of this specification, is a description of my invention sufficient to enable those skilled in the art to practice it.

In the manufacture of carriage-robés, of zephyr or woolen yarn, they have heretofore been made by the very tedious and expensive process of crocheting by hand, and with a single crochet-needle. They are usually made in stripes of strong contrasting colors, and, from the great amount of time and labor demanded, their cost is so high as to be beyond the reach of most persons. These articles are called "afghans," and are made of a single thickness, and ornamented and fringed as taste may dictate.

It is a great desideratum that such articles, now standing so high in public favor, both because of their beauty and utility, should be made more rapidly and cheaply, and that machinery should be called in to fabricate them. This being done, this character of article comes within the reach of larger numbers of persons, and can then, without extravagance, be applied to a number of other important uses where at present it is not used at all, as, for instance, for blankets, bed-coverings, table and piano-covers, carpets, &c.

My new method of making such an article is as follows: I first knit upon a circular-knitting machine or any other class of machine which will make tubular goods. I knit such strip in the form of a tube, and I make the strips in plain, or ribbed, or fancy knitting, as may be preferred, and then make as many other strips as may be required, and of such other colors or patterns as fashion or taste may suggest; the requisite number of strips being made for the particular article desired, whether afghan, table-cover, or otherwise,

and their lengths being either determined in the knitting-machine and finished at the ends, or the lengths being cut from continuous webs, made as above, but of indefinite lengths. These strips are next to be united together to form a broad, flat spread, by sewing either by hand or by machine-sewing, or by hand-crocheting, or by knitting. These strips are flattened, and the edge of one such flattened strip is sewed or united as above to the flattened edge of another strip until the proper width is attained.

By way of giving a rich finish to the seam, a raised and heavy crochet-stitch may be used either to unite the strips or to ornament the line of junction after they are united, or a knitted or other cord may be stitched to the fabric to cover such line of junction. The whole article may then be bordered by a knitted or other fringe, by way of finish and greater ornamentation.

I would here remark that a knitted cord or fringe I do not wish to be considered as conceding to be old, and that I am about making application for patents for the same as of my invention.

In the drawings, Figure 1 represents an afghan made in accordance with my invention; and Fig. 2 represents, enlarged, a cross-section of a portion of the same when made of tubular-knitted goods.

Instead of a fringe, a knitted border may in some cases be found more suitable to surround the the article so made, as, for instance, when the same is designed to be used as a table-cover, or carpet, &c.

I claim—

An afghan, blanket, or similar article, composed of tubular-knitted strips, united together edge to edge, and with the seam concealed by a knitted or other cord or welt, and the whole finished with a border or fringe, substantially as shown and described.

DANA BICKFORD.

Witnesses:

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