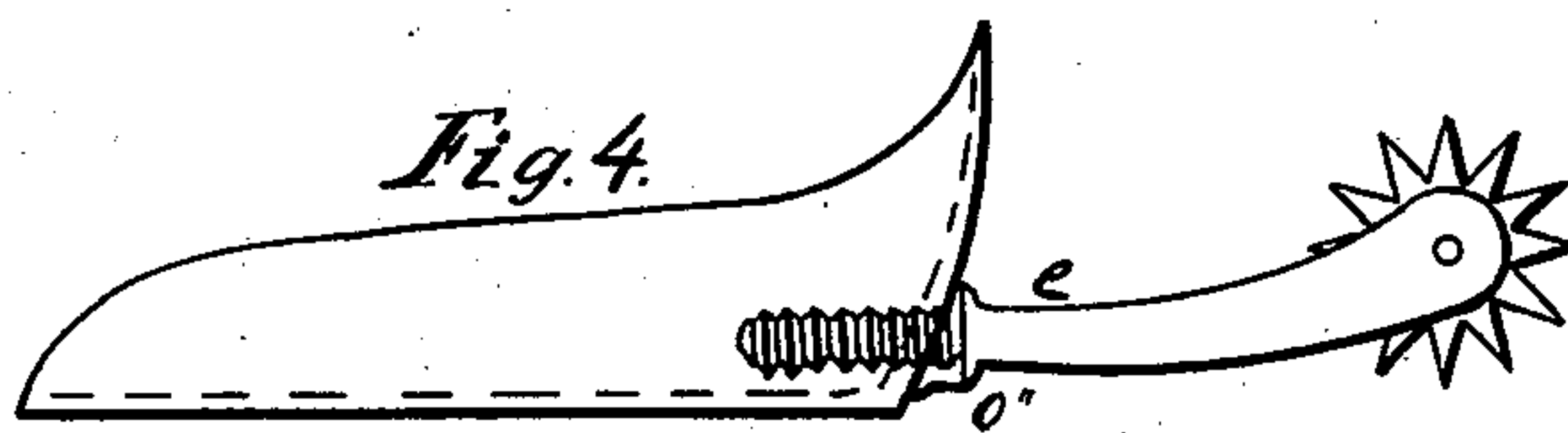
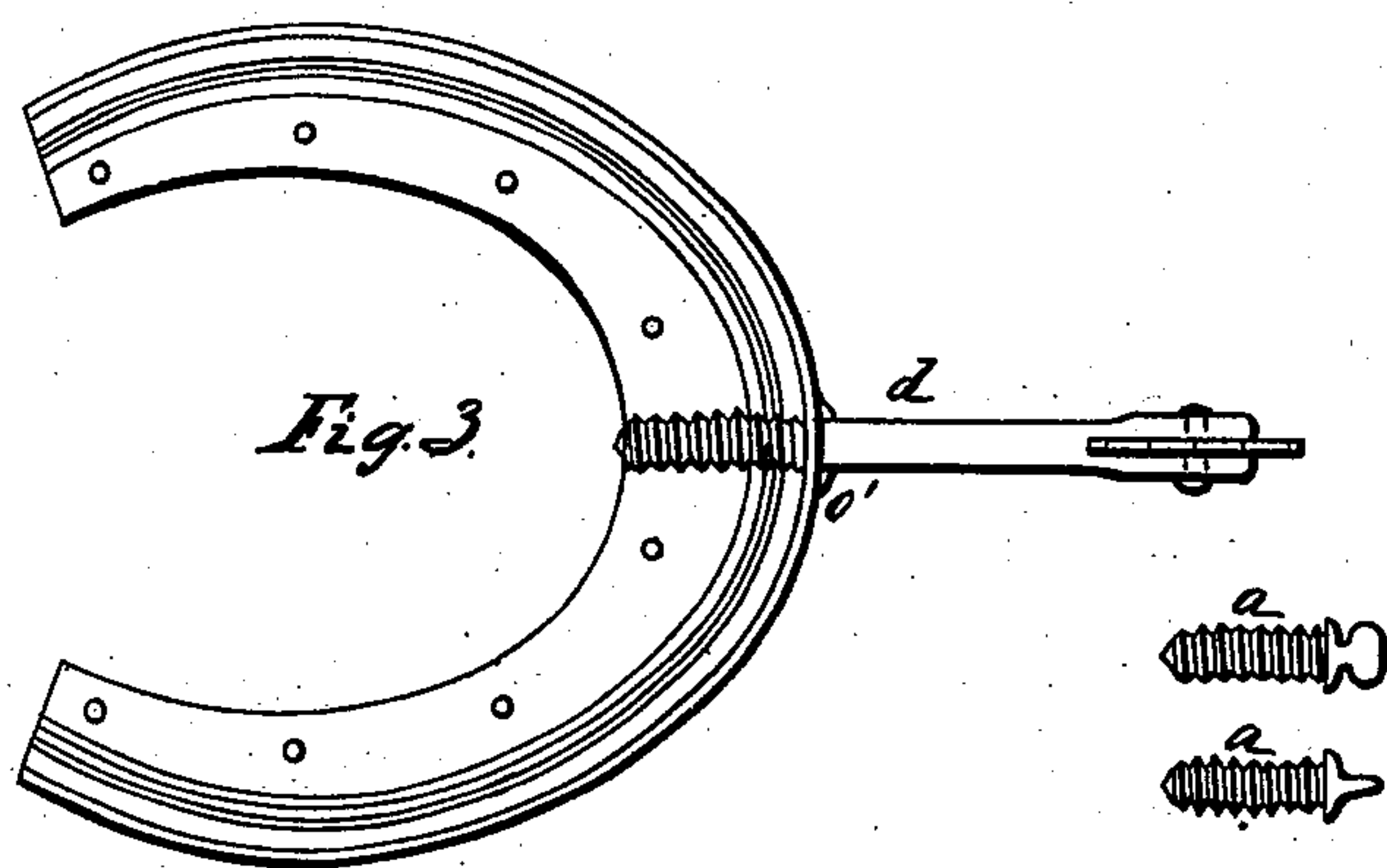
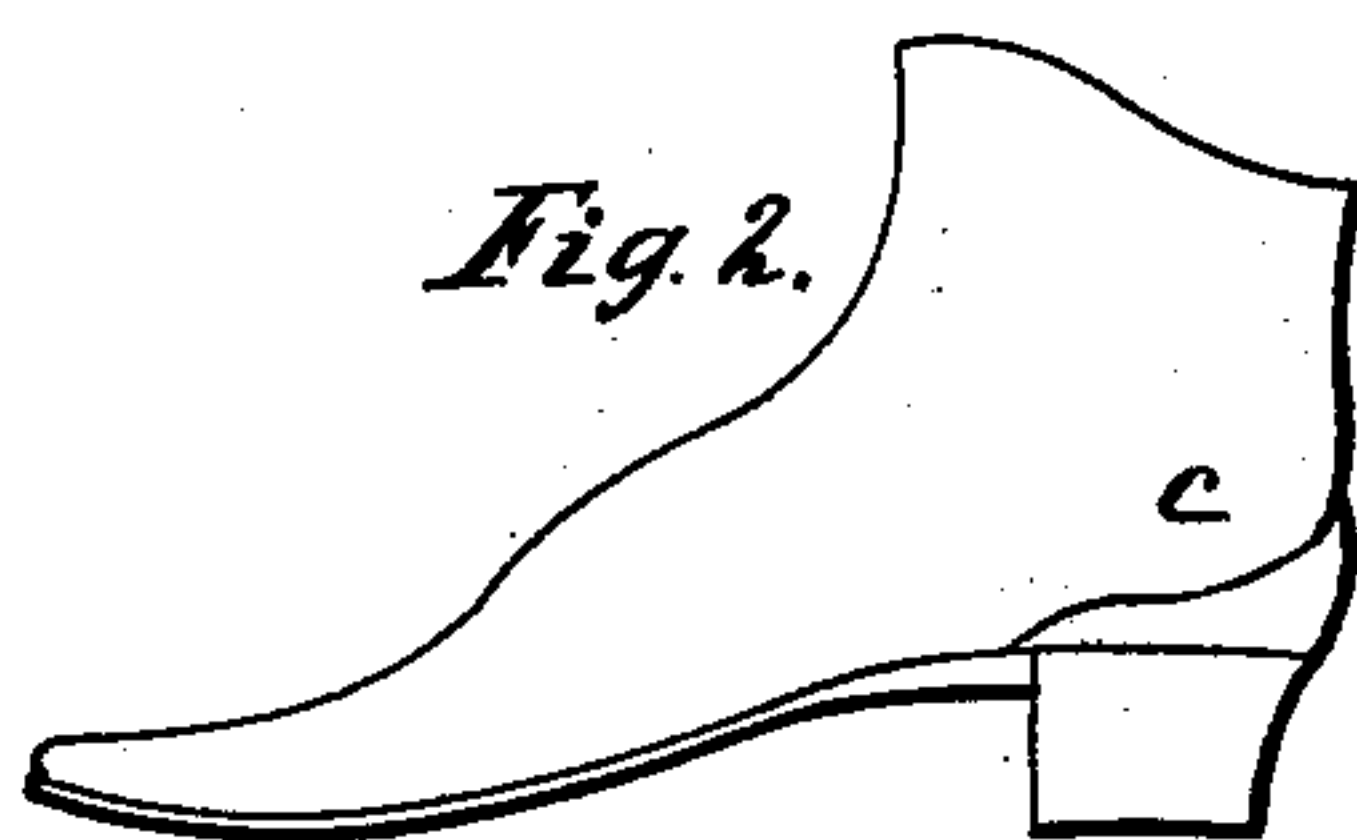
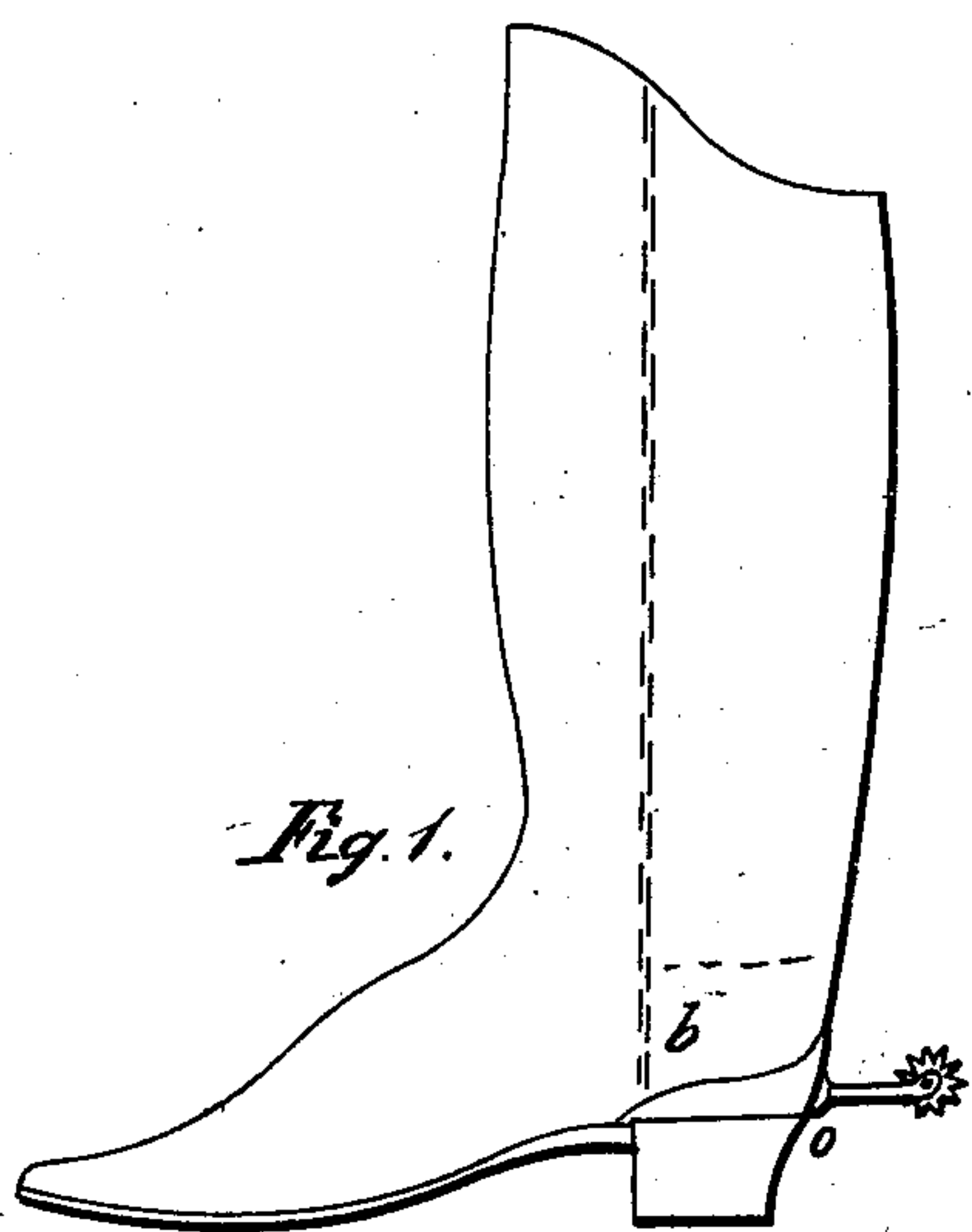


*J. L. Cooper,
Riding Spur.*

N^o 82,921.

Patented Oct. 13, 1868.



*Witnesses:
Hiram B. Crosby,
C. J. Fillmore.*

*Inventor:
John L. Cooper*



JOHN L. COOPER, OF PRESTON, CONNECTICUT, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF AND JOSHUA E. FELLOWS.

Letters Patent No. 82,921, dated October 13, 1868.

IMPROVED METALLIC COUNTER-BRACE.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

Be it known that I, JOHN L. COOPER, of the town of Preston, in the county of New London, and State of Connecticut, have invented a new and useful article of manufacture, namely, a Metallic or Gutta-Percha Counter-Brace and spur-socket for boots and shoes; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making part of this specification, in which—

Figures 1 and 2 represent respectively a boot and shoe as they would appear if manufactured with my metallic or gutta-percha counter-brace and spur-socket attached.

Figure 3 is a perpendicular elevation, and

Figure 4 is a side elevation, both showing the counter-brace detached.

The nature of my invention consists in combining a spur-socket with a metallic or gutta-percha brace applied to the outside of the counter of a boot or shoe.

I thus secure for the counter the additional stiffening given by the metallic or gutta-percha brace, and I have also a far more sure and firm support for the spur than can be had by any of the ordinary means of attaching spurs now in use.

The advantage of the brace to the counter is, that it prevents the running down at the heel, which is so common in boots and shoes, and which so disfigures them, and injures their wear.

This brace being firmly attached to the boot or shoe, the spur-fastening in it is not liable to slip off, as it is where the spur is attached with a strap. And, although there is a large number of devices for attaching spur-sockets permanently to the heels of boots and shoes by means of sockets sunk into the heels or screwed on to them. I am not aware of any by which, as in my invention, the spur is attached at a point near the cen-

tre of the heel of the wearer. In those I refer to, the spur is either considerably below the wearer's heel or just at the base of it, and is therefore not so conveniently situated as in mine.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe it, and the manner of its application.

I make my counter-braces of any required size, and of any kind of metal, or of gutta-percha. The counter-brace is attached to the counter of the boot or shoe by small copper nails passing through holes made for that purpose in the flange of the counter-brace, as shown in fig. 3, and riveted to the counter. That part of the boot called the counter is shown in fig. 1, *b*, or fig. 2, *c*, though in shoes it is sometimes called the "stiffener." The heel is fastened on in the usual manner when my counter-brace is applied. The spur, as in the figs. 3 and 4, *d* and *e*, passes through a hole in the rear of the counter-brace, the thread of the hole corresponding to the thread in the screw of the spur. The shank of the spur, where it touches the brace, is made with a shoulder, represented at *o o' o'*, so as to keep the spur firmly in position, and to resist any blow or strain to which the spur may be subjected.

When the spurs are not wanted for use, they may be taken off by unscrewing, and easily carried in the pocket, and the spur-holes are then filled by the small screw-stops *a a*, to keep them clear of dirt or mud.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The new article of manufacture of a spur-socket, in combination with a counter-brace, when made and applied substantially as herein described.

JOHN L. COOPER.

Witnesses:

HIRAM B. CROSBY,
C. J. FILLMORE.