

I. R. Amsden,

Egg Box.

No. 86,267.

Patented Jan. 26, 1869.

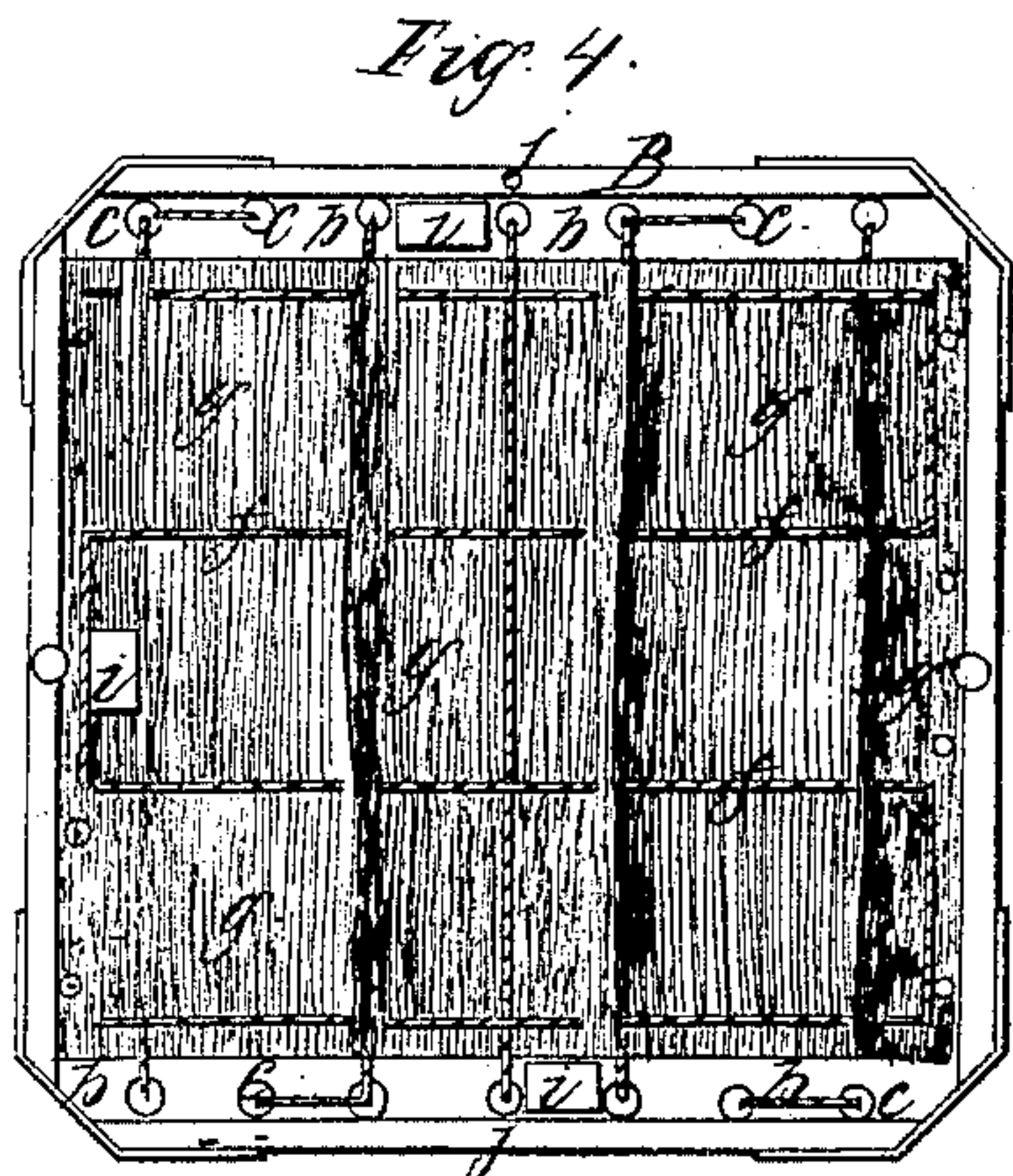
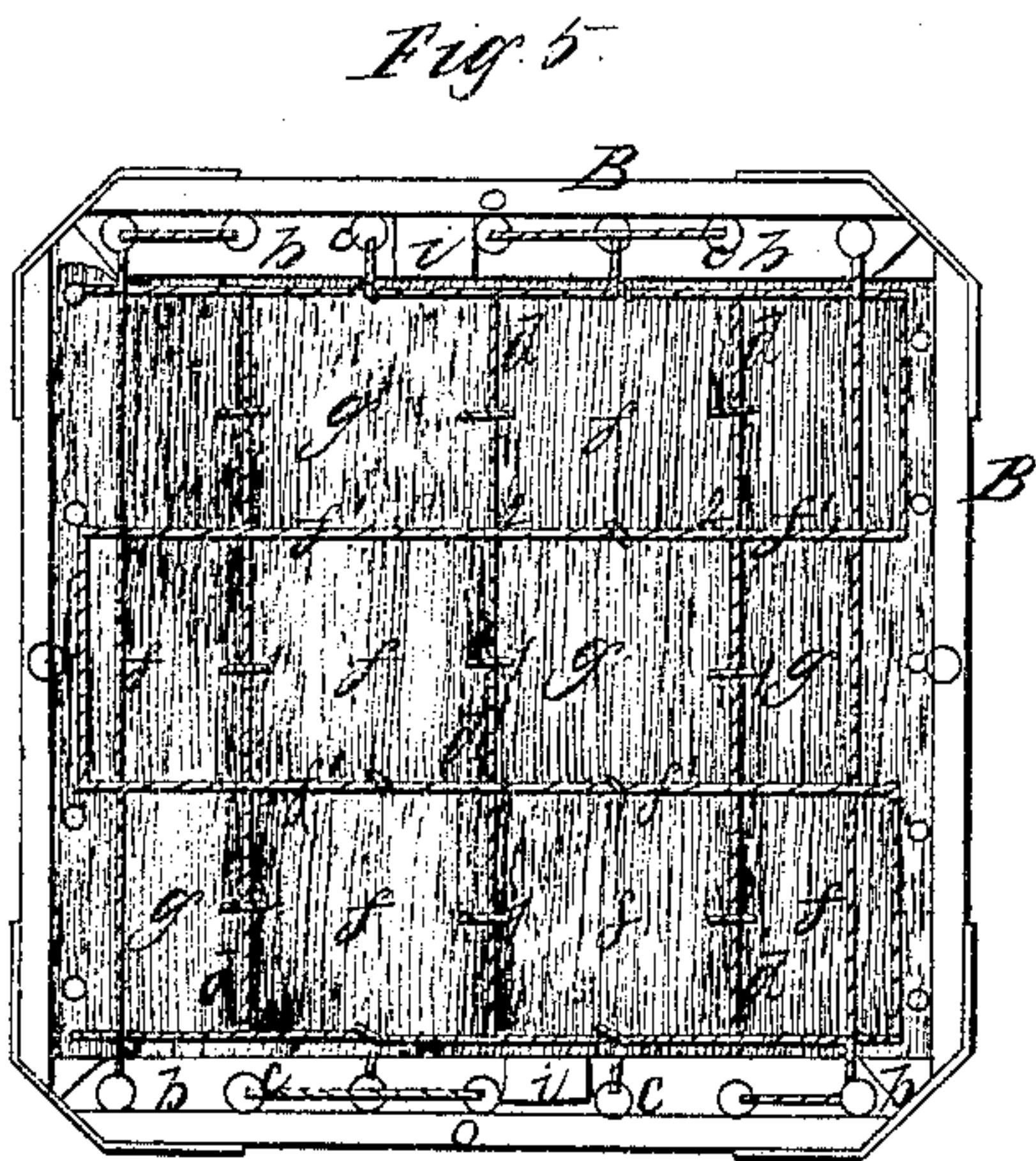
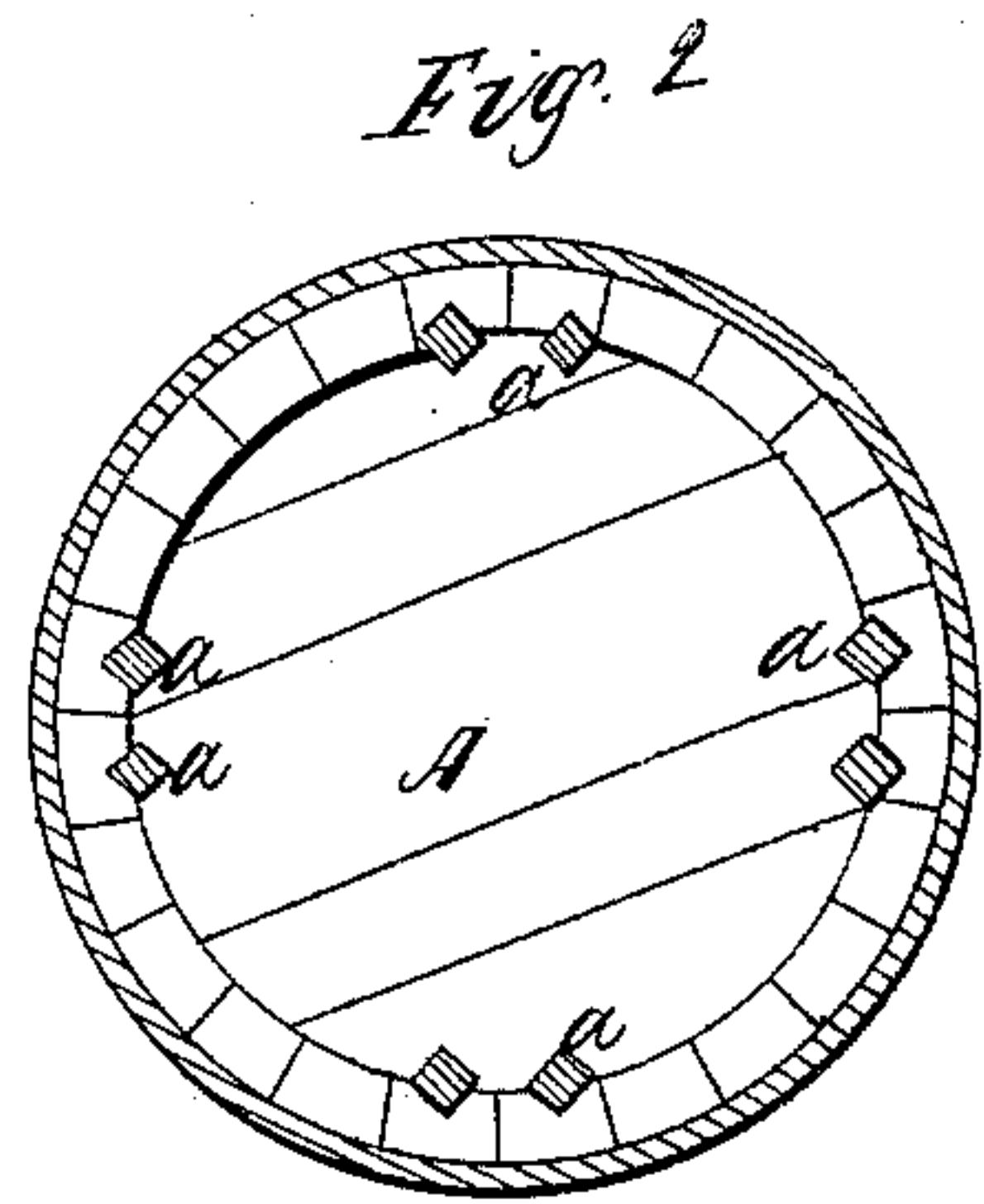
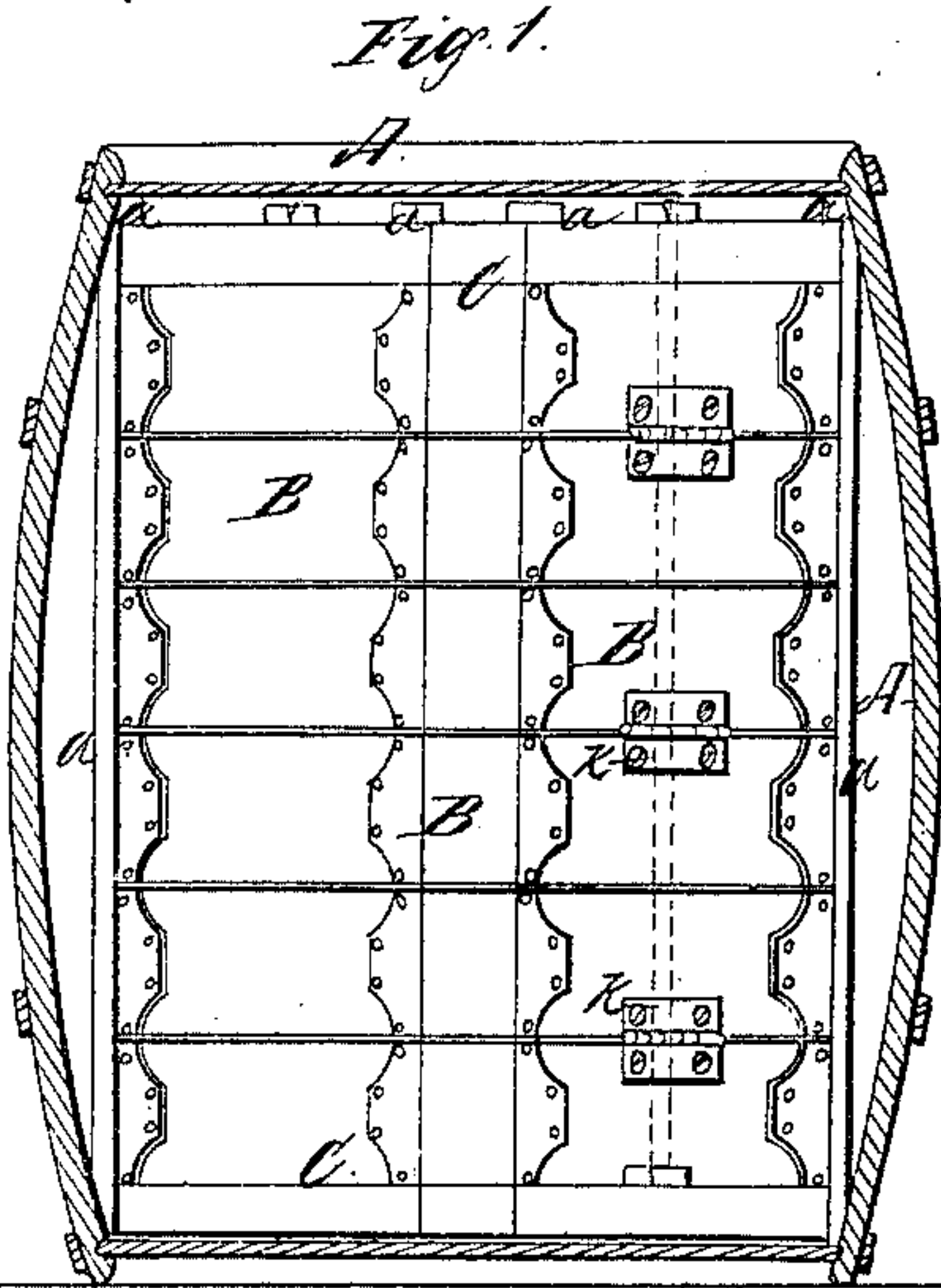
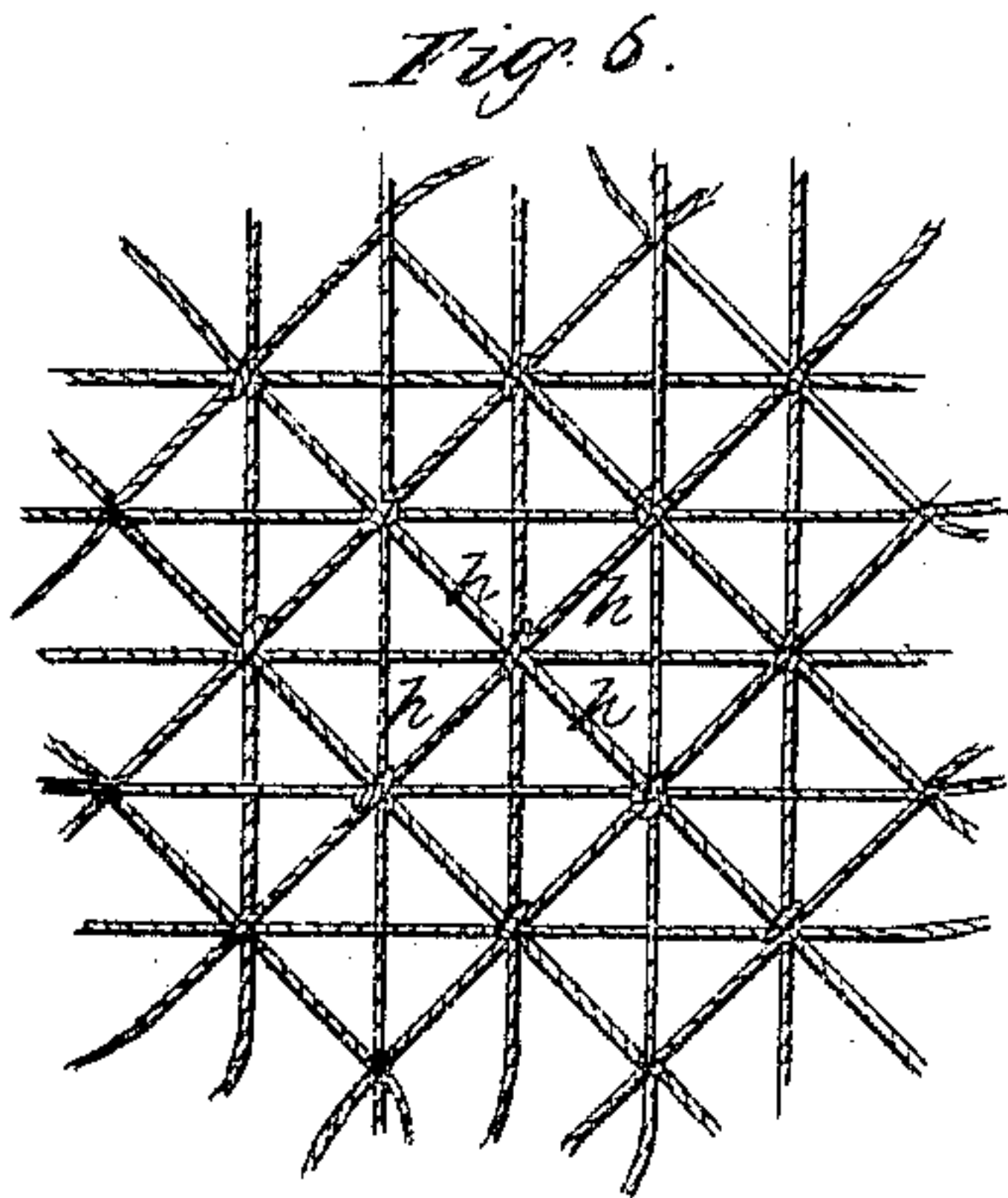
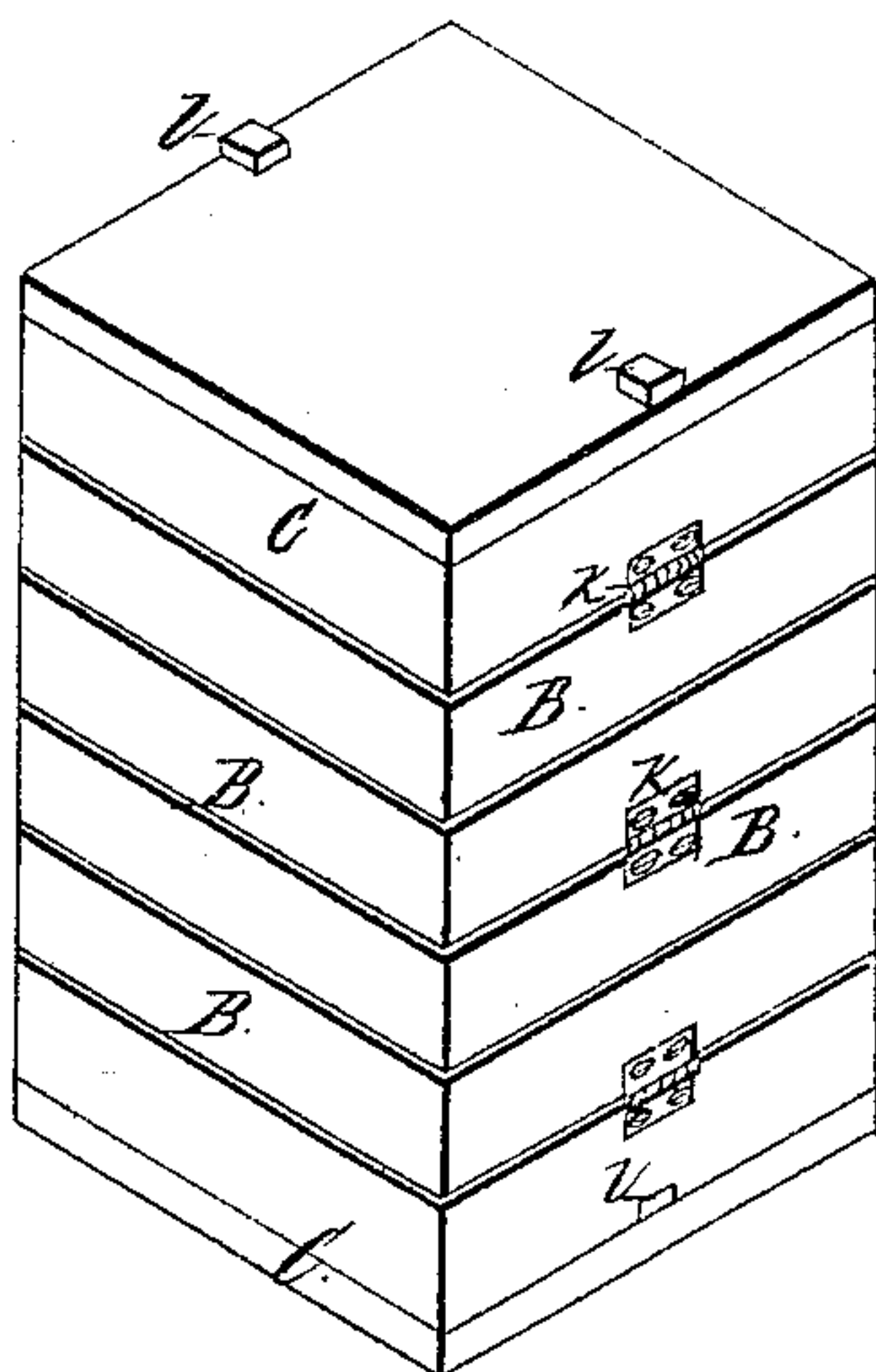


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:
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IRA R. AMSDEN, OF BUFFALO, NEW YORK.

Letters Patent No. 86,267, dated January 26, 1869.

IMPROVEMENT IN EGG AND FRUIT-CARRIER.

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, IRA R. AMSDEN, of the city of Buffalo, county of Erie, and State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Egg and Fruit-Carriers; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is an elevation of the carrier when inserted in a barrel, showing the barrel in section.

Figure 2 is a cross-section of the barrel, showing the position of the vertical strips or bars.

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the carrier.

Figures 4 and 5 show the different modes of arranging and constructing the pouches when cloth is employed.

Figure 6 represents a method of forming the pouches without the use of cloth.

Like letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

My invention consists in the adaptation of a barrel, cask, or similar receptacle, to receiving egg-carriers or fruit-trays, and also in the special construction of the frames and pouches, and arrangement of the carriers themselves, as hereinafter set forth.

In the drawings—

A represents an ordinary barrel or cask, having several vertical strips or bars, *a a a*, or their equivalent, therein, on line with the mouth, extending from top to bottom, so as to shut off the bulge, and form a way to allow the carriers or trays B B to slide straight up and down therein, and be retained closely in place, as shown.

A special advantage is secured by this arrangement, for I can thereby adapt any ordinary barrel or cask to the purpose of receiving the carriers or trays, allowing them to be inserted and removed at pleasure, and still be retained closely and compactly in place, in which condition the barrel or cask may be rolled around at pleasure, saving much lifting and handling in transportation.

Heretofore, square or rectangular boxes only have been employed to receive trays or carriers, as barrels, owing to the bulge, would not allow the carriers to be inserted straight up and down, and still hold firmly in place.

I obviate all difficulties of the kind by the combination of the strips or bars *a a* with the barrel.

This alteration of the barrel is cheaply and conveniently made, and does not injure it for other uses, if required.

By thus adapting ordinary barrels or casks to the purpose, I save great expense in packing and cost of transportation.

The frames B B may be round, square, or rectangular, and are of peculiar construction.

Each frame has formed on the inside a ledge, *b*, with vertical holes *c c*, through which pass the suspension-cords *d d'*, *f f'*.

These cords are so woven through as to form a double right-angled mesh or net-work, 1, 2, at such a distance apart as to suspend and hold the eggs when placed therein.

I first weave the cord *d*, fig. 5, through the holes from side to side, the lengths being all parallel, or in one direction, to form one-half of the lower mesh.

I then similarly weave the cord *f* of the upper mesh in the same direction, but with the lengths alternating or breaking joints with the lower ones.

I then tack or otherwise fasten, on one side of the ledge, in the same direction, the cloth *g*, and pass it alternately over and under the cords *d f*, to the opposite side, where it is securely tacked in the same manner.

When this is done, I weave the cords *d' f'* in the same manner, but opposite direction, passing them through the cloth, where it loops over the cords already in place.

The cloth may be attached in the angular form, as in fig. 5, or in the square form, as in fig. 6. The effect is the same in either case, the only difference being in the number of lengths of cord in the meshes and number of pouches produced.

A similar effect may be produced by weaving cords *h h* up and down, in connection with the two meshes, to form the sides of the pouches or cells, as shown in fig. 6.

The pouches may be produced by passing the cloth over and under the cords *d d* or *f f*, so as to make a firm bottom or top, as may be required, then placing between that and the opposite cords, hay, hair, cotton, or similar soft material, in which the egg can rest, supported in position by the open mesh of cords around it.

These methods of constructing the pouches or cells for the reception of the eggs are especially adapted to the close and safe packing of the same; also, to the use of the carriers in a barrel, as before described; for the said pouches are thus formed with firm sides and bottoms, which sustain the egg in place, and prevent rough contact with their fellows.

In all other egg-carriers with which I am acquainted, the pouches are either suspended loosely, or else, if the sides are firm, the bottoms, at least, are loose, which allows a shaking and irregular action that will not admit of close packing, and is liable to break the eggs, notwithstanding the greatest care.

In my carrier, the bottoms as well as the sides are firm and elastic, one end of the egg resting upon the cord of the lower mesh, while the upper end fits in the same manner in one of the pouches of the frame above, which is fitted crosswise.

The firm cords thus bind the pouches on all sides, and give them a positive form, which is not the case with any other arrangement with which I am acquainted.

In this construction, a larger number of pouches to a given space can be safely used, and when the frames are packed closely together, the eggs are immovable,

and the package may be rolled or handled without danger.

By the employment of the ledges *b*, of less width than the frames, the cords which are connected therewith are not exposed, either by passing through the sides of the frames, or by projecting up and down.

Being thus enclosed, the cords are not liable to accidental injury or malicious cutting. Each layer of the cords being, also, independent from the others, if one layer breaks, the others are in nowise affected, but will still sustain the load.

Between the frames are interposed rubber or equivalent cushions *i i*, so as to produce elasticity in the contact of the frames, and obviate jar or concussion in transportation. Were they brought in close contact, there would be more liability of the breakage of the eggs.

The frames have steadying-pins *j j*, and are all hinged together, as shown at *k k*. I prefer to hinge on alternate sides, as indicated, as it is more convenient in use.

I also use bolts *l l*, passing through all the frames, to clamp and hold them together, as shown.

In this condition the carriers are easily inserted or removed from the barrel, and also easily transported from place to place, as necessity may require, independent of the receptacle, as shown in fig. 3.

The covers *c c*, which fit the ends of the carriers, may be stuffed on the inside with hay, straw, hair, or other soft material, to prevent breakage.

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

1. A package for eggs or fruit, consisting of a carrier, made up of a series of trays, B B, or equivalent, suitably connected to form a solid body, and con-

fining in a barrel or cask, A, by means of the vertical strips *a a*, the whole construction being such that, first, the eggs or fruit are closely and immovably confined in the carrier; and second, the carrier itself is closely and immovably confined in the barrel or cask, by which means the package may be rolled around and easily handled, without danger to the contents, as herein set forth.

2. The arrangement of the two meshes of cords *d d'*, *f f'*, situated one above the other, at suitable distance apart, and a single piece of cloth, *g*, woven alternately over and under the cords running in one direction, and retained by the transverse cords piercing it in the other direction, the whole construction being such as to form the cells with stiff sides and bottoms, as herein set forth.

3. The construction of a carrier, composed of separate frames B B, hinged together, and further secured by bolts *b b*, and having steadying-pins *j j*, for retaining the parts in position, the whole arranged as described, and operating in the manner and for the purpose specified.

4. In an egg-carrier, of the kind specified, hinging the frames B together on opposite sides alternately, whereby the frames, when unfolded, form a long line of trays, which are readily filled and repacked, substantially as described.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto signed my name, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

IRA R. AMSDEN.

Witnesses:

J. R. DRAKE.

W. J. CHAMBERLAIN.