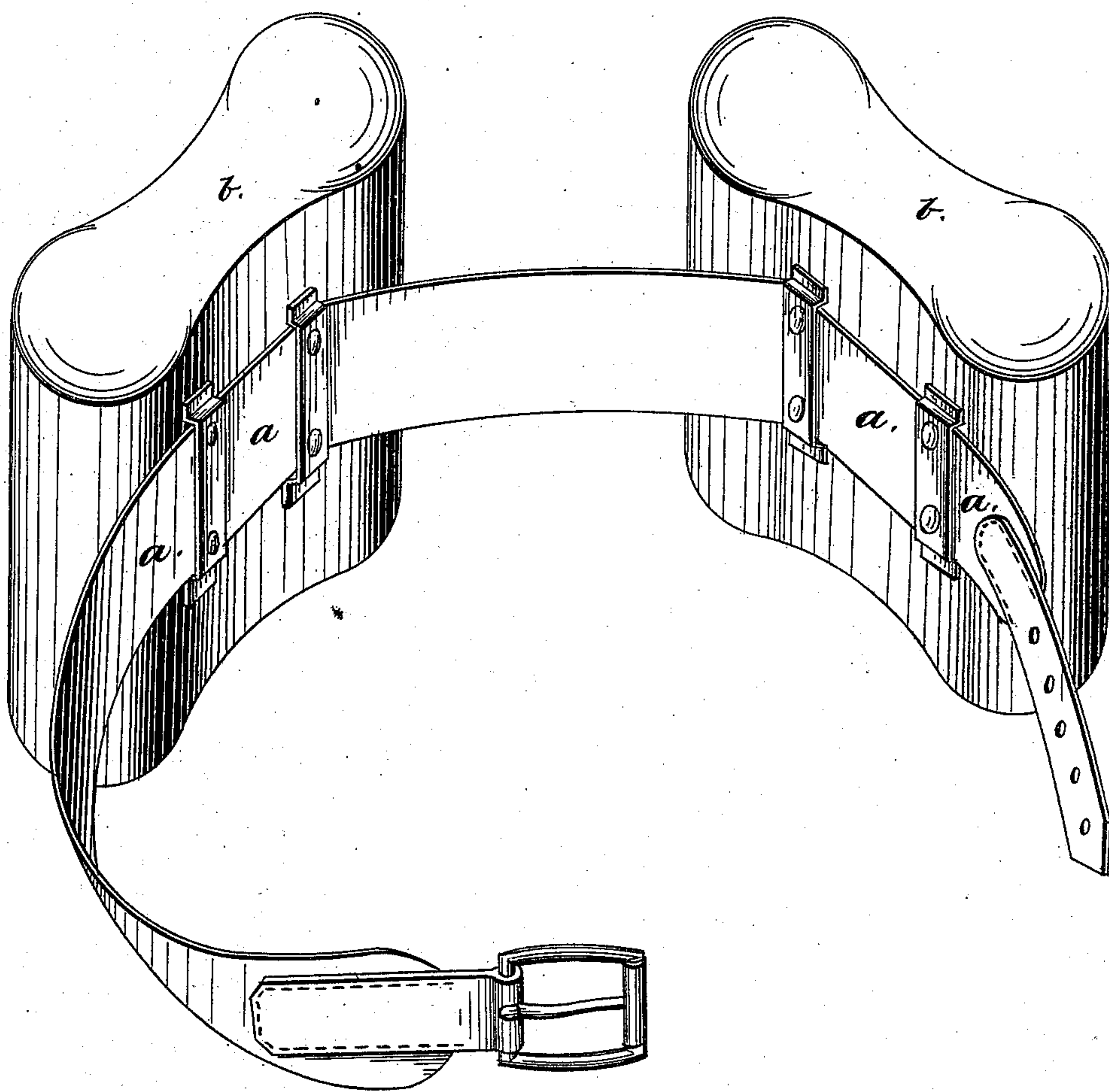


F. M. ENGLISH.  
LIFE-PRESERVER.

No. 174,217.

Patented Feb. 29, 1876.



Witnesses:

J. M. Stone  
J. F. L. Skett

Inventor.

Francis M. English

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANCIS M. ENGLISH, OF HENDERSON, KENTUCKY.

## IMPROVEMENT IN LIFE-PRESERVERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 174,217, dated February 29, 1876; application filed November 24, 1875.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, FRANCIS MARION ENGLISH, of the city of Henderson, county of Henderson and State of Kentucky, have invented a new and useful Life-Preserver, the nature of which is set forth in the following specifications, and illustrated in the accompanying drawing.

The object of my invention is to secure the maximum of buoyant power and the minimum of bulk and weight, and a convenient form for application to the person, in a life-preserver which requires no inflation and is always ready for use. It consists in combining hermetically sealed vessels, of the form hereinafter described, and an elastic flexible-belt corset or jacket, as hereinafter fully set forth.

My drawing fully illustrates the construction, application, and operation of my invention.

*a a* represent an elastic flexible-belt corset or jacket, secured around the person, under the arms and above the hips, by means of a buckle at one end and a perforated strap at the other. It can be quickly attached to the body of the person. Any suitable means may be used, in adjusting it to the person, instead of the buckle and strap. *b b* represent hermetically-sealed metal vessels, attached on the outside of the belt *a a* by means of loops, or in any suitable way. They have preferably

the form of hollow cylinders, connected longitudinally by a curvilinear-shaped chamber of less diameter than the cylinders, so that the configuration fits the form of the person using it. The vessel has a partition on the inside, that, should one section of it become disabled by accident, the other will be sufficient to uphold the person in water without danger of sinking. The ends of the vessels are rounded, to secure greater strength, ease in application to the person, and to prevent injury to the body from a plunge into water with great force or from unusual height. They vary in number and size, to construct life-preservers of different lifting capacities and adaptation to suit persons of different sizes and weight.

I am aware that hermetically-sealed metal vessels have been used as life-preservers; but I claim that my manner of constructing and combining hermetically-sealed metal vessels for a life-preserver is new and greatly advantageous.

I claim—

A life-preserver consisting of the vessels *b b*, of the form described, attached to a belt or jacket, substantially as set forth.

FRANCIS M. ENGLISH.

Witnesses:

J. M. STONE,  
J. F. LOCKETT.