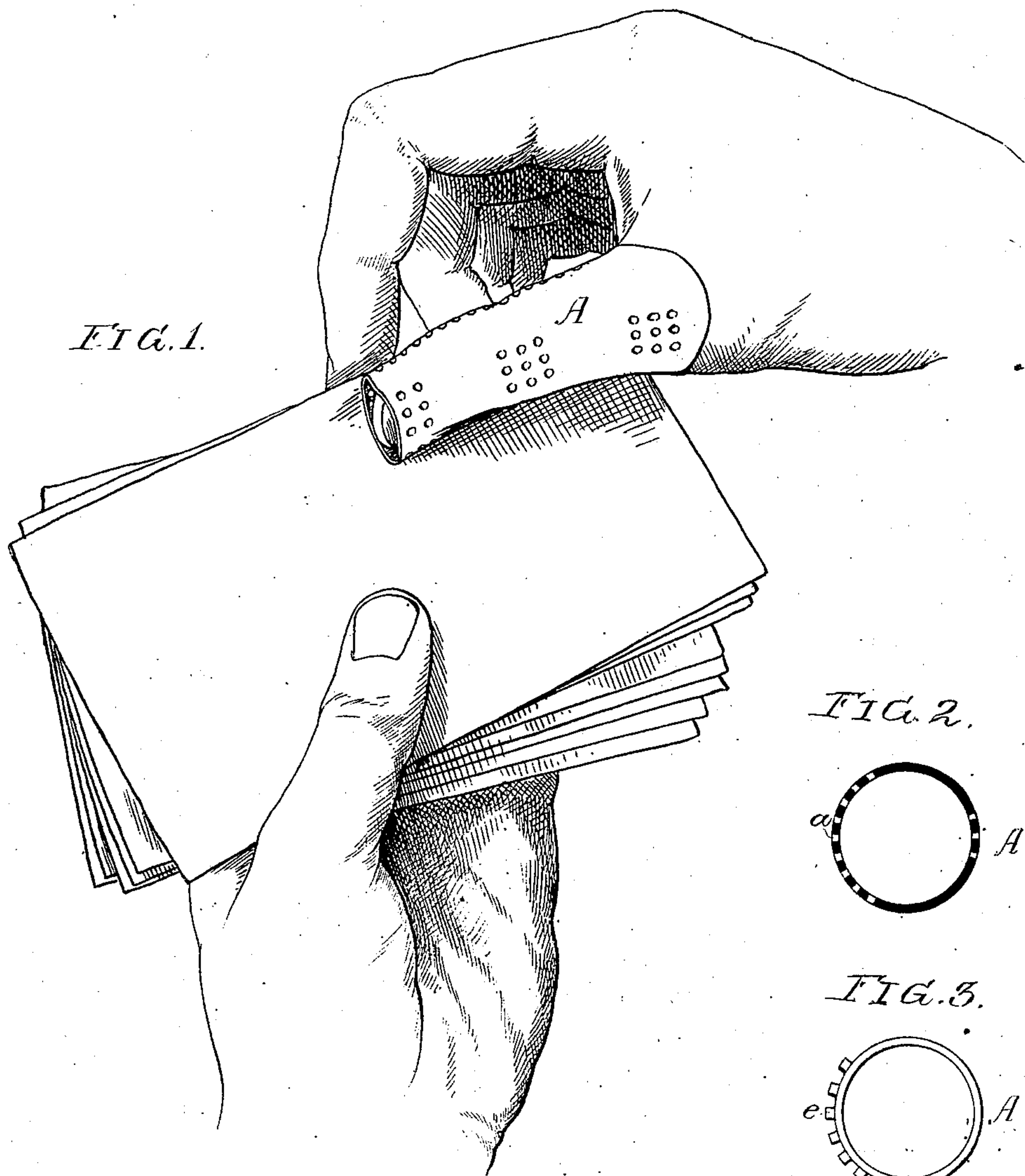


J. S. BOYER.
Thumb-Stall for Facilitating the Sorting of Letters.
No. 207,708. Patented Sept. 3, 1878.



Witnesses,

Thomas M. Shaw
Harry A. Crawford

Inventor
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by his attorneys
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN S. BOYER, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN THUMB-STALLS FOR FACILITATING THE SORTING OF LETTERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **207,708**, dated September 3, 1878; application filed January 31, 1878.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN S. BOYER, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Devices for Facilitating the Sorting of Letters, of which the following is a specification:

The object of my invention is to enable post-office clerks and others to sort letters and other documents without wetting their thumb and fingers; and this object I attain by a rubber thumb-stall perforated, ribbed, or roughened in the manner described hereinafter.

In the accompanying drawing, Figure 1 shows the thumb-stall and the manner of applying and using the same; Fig. 2, a section of the stall, and Fig. 3 a modified form of stall.

The thumb-stall A consists of a tube of rubber of such a size that it must be stretched to fit over the thumb and to embrace the latter tightly. The tube may be open at the end, as shown, or closed, and is perforated at the portion *a*, which is brought into immediate contact with the letters or other papers. It may also be perforated at other points for ventilating purposes. The rubber, owing to these per-

forations, has such a frictional affinity for the surface of the paper that a letter-sorter can distribute a mass of letters, separating letter after letter from the mass, without resorting to the usual plan of periodically wetting his fingers and thumb.

The surface of the rubber would be apt to wear smooth in the absence of the perforations, which always insure the desired frictional contact.

Ribs or projections *c* on the stall will have the same effect as the perforations, or the thumb-stall may be roughened on the surface in any other manner.

I claim as my invention—

The within-described thumb-stall, composed of rubber perforated, ribbed, or roughened, as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOHN S. BOYER.

Witnesses:

HARRY A. CRAWFORD,
HENRY HOWSON, Jr.