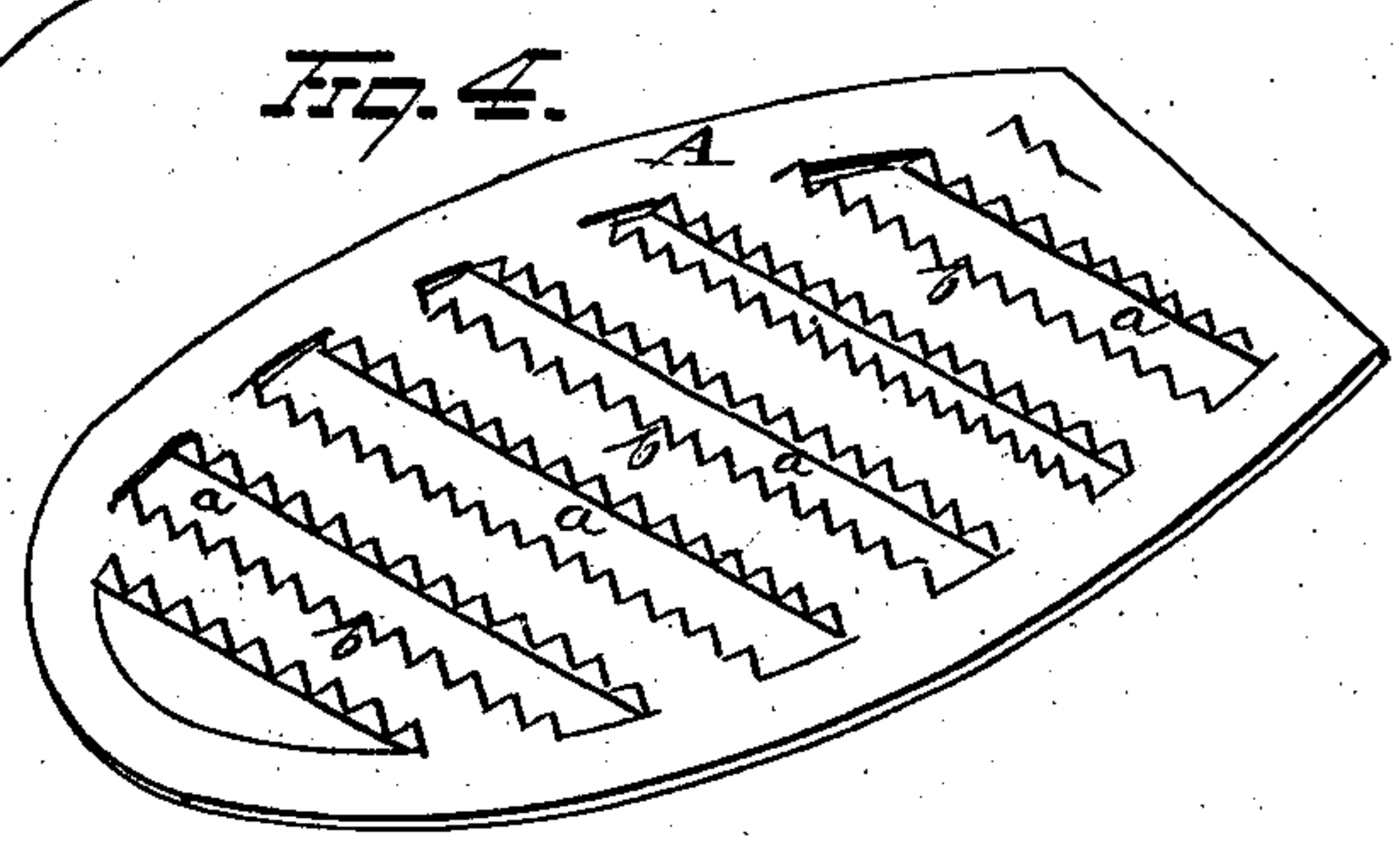
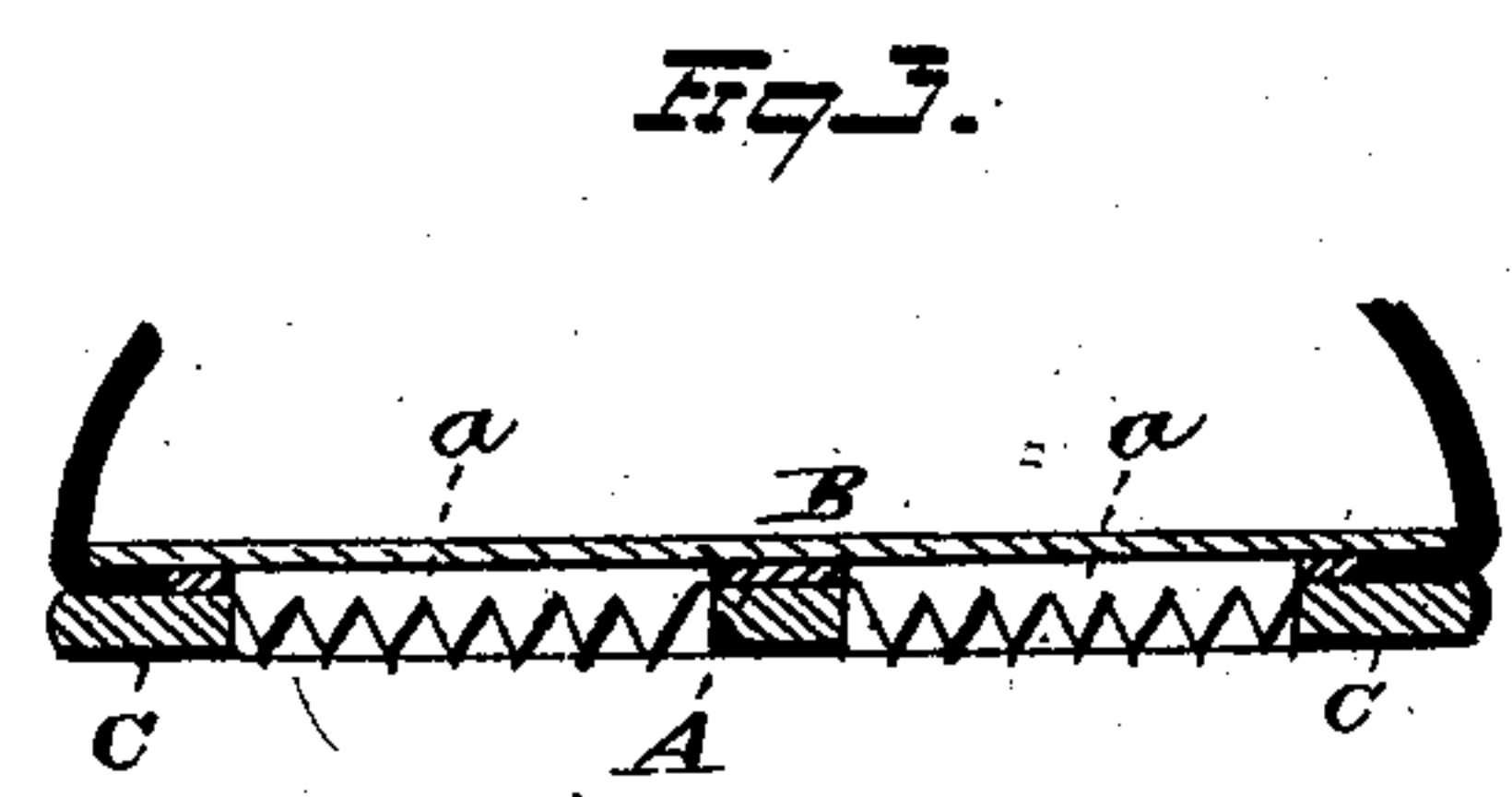
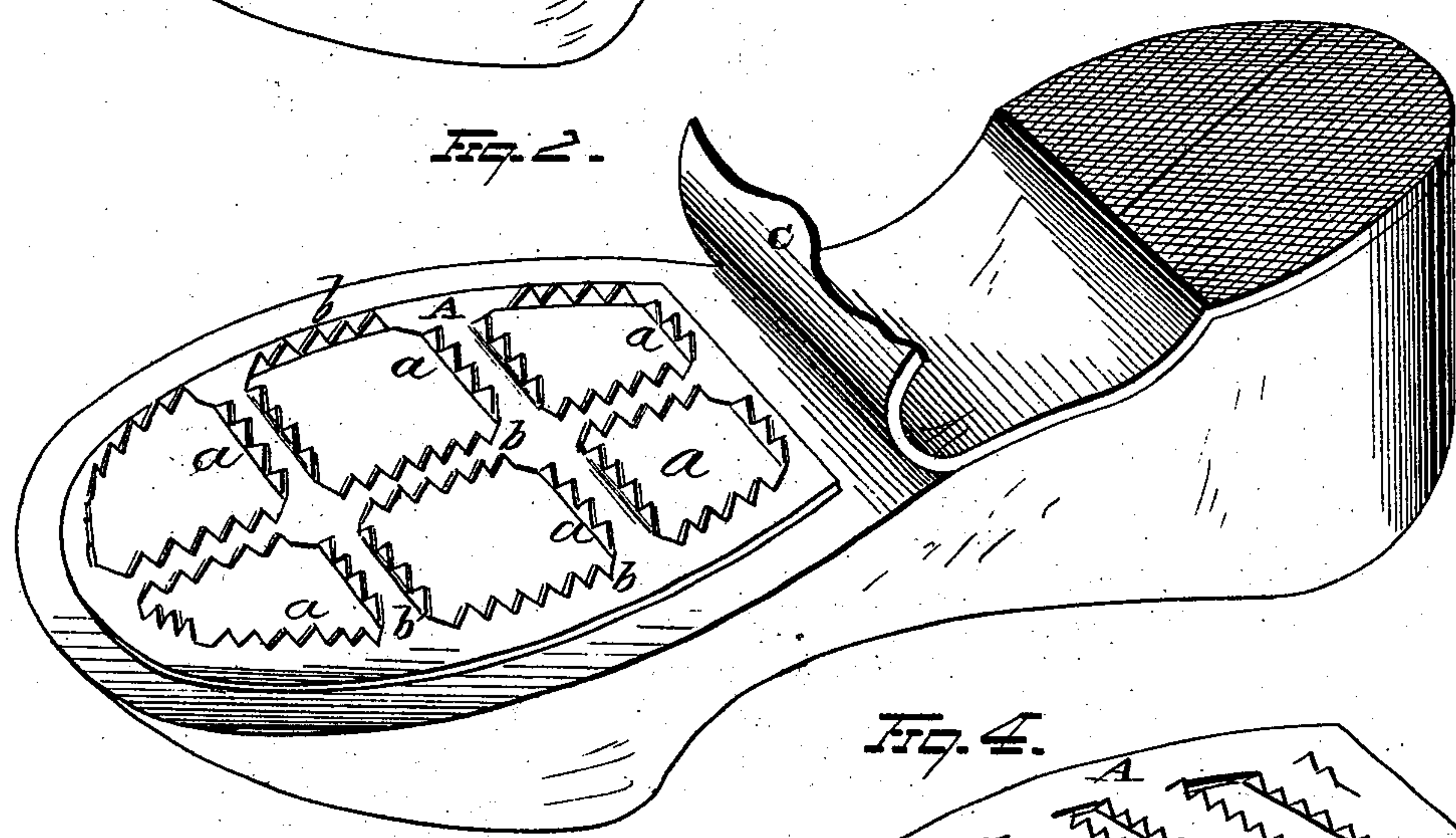
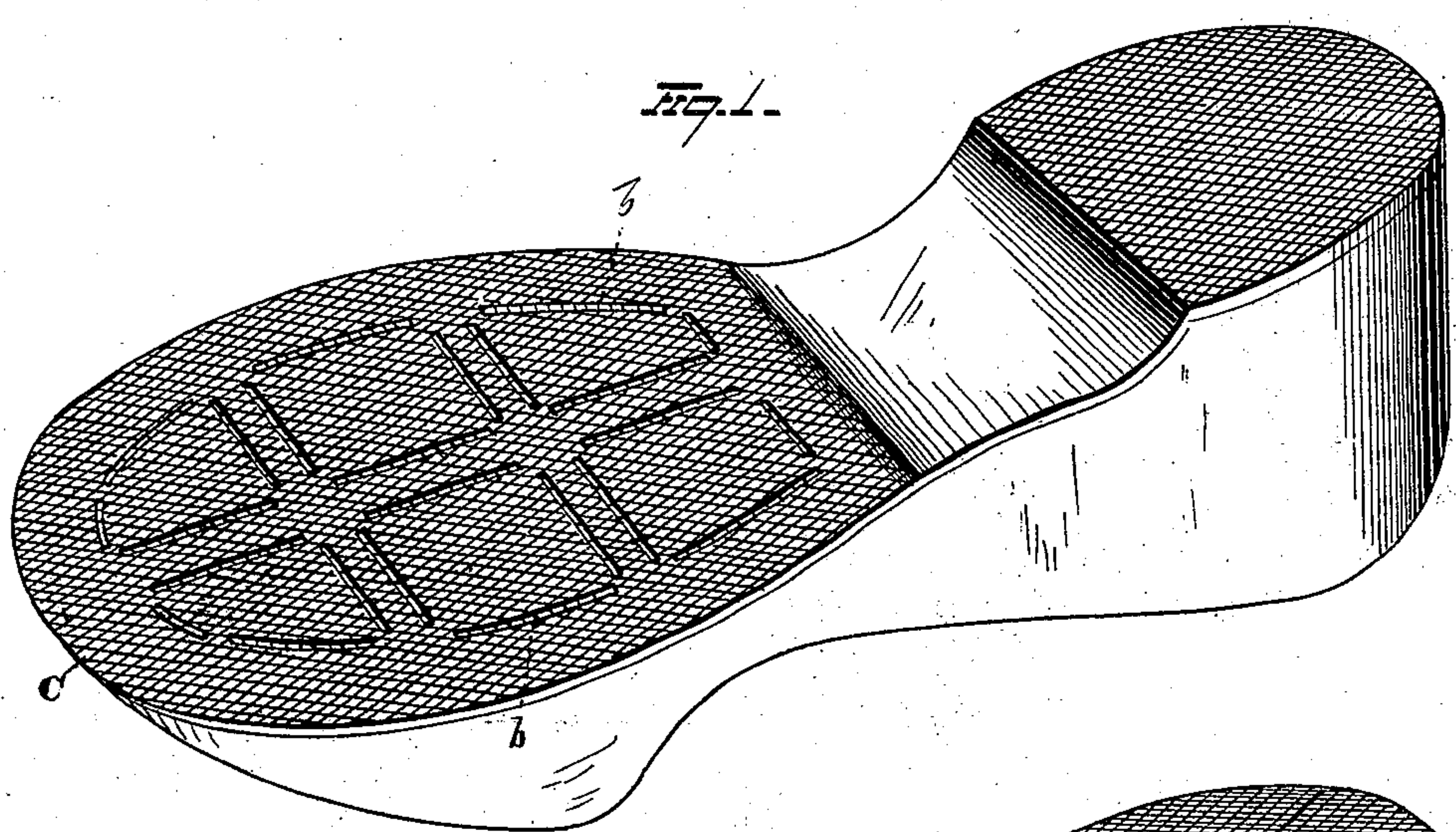


C. E. TOWN.  
Overshoes, Sandals or Boots.

No. 209,841.

Patented Nov. 12, 1878.



WITNESSES  
E. J. Nottingham  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CALVIN E. TOWN, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

## IMPROVEMENT IN OVERSHOES, SANDALS, OR BOOTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **209,841**, dated November 12, 1878; application filed May 7, 1878.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CALVIN E. TOWN, of Washington, District of Columbia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Overshoes, Sandals, or Boots; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and use it, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form part of this specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in overshoes, sandals, rubber boots, &c., the object being to provide such articles with means incorporated in the same during the process of manufacture, whereby such articles of foot-wear are prevented from slipping on wet and icy surfaces.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the bottom of a rubber shoe made according to the invention. Fig. 2 is a view of the same with the outer thread-layer removed. Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional view of the shoe. Fig. 4 is a modification.

The plate A is preferably made of tempered steel, though any other suitable material may be used. It is interposed between the inner and outer layers, B and C, of the sole, and is made in open-work form, with the edges of the several openings serrated or notched and bent at right angles to the plate. These openings *a* may be one or more in number, and of any desired form, so that the spurs or serrated projections *b* may run diagonally or in other lines of direction across the tread of the shoe.

Instead of being in open-work form, the plate might be solid or of continuous surface; and in such case the outer edges of the plate would be formed with the angular serrated projections.

Instead of the sole, the heel, or both sole and heel, might be provided with a plate according to the invention. The plate might be placed between layers of the sole other than the extreme outer one and its contiguous neighbor, the only object being to have the plate incorporated into the manufacture of the shoe, and having its serrated projections protrude downward, so as to be flush with the wearing-surface of the tread, where pressure is not exerted on the sole of the shoe.

An overshoe or like article constructed in

the manner as above set forth possesses all the advantages secured by removable ice-creepers now in use, without the attendant disadvantages of the latter, in that the shoes are ready for use at all times, and the anti-slipping qualities are inherent in their manufacture.

My improved shoes may be worn on the carpet without liability of injury thereto, for the reason that, although the prongs slightly project into the carpeting when the weight of the body is borne by the shoe, yet, when the shoe is raised, the rubber sole through which the prongs project operates to detach the carpet from the prongs, thus effectually preventing any injury to the carpet.

Again, the metallic prongs, slightly projecting through the outer sole when in use, serve not only to prevent the slipping of the shoe, but also serve to protect the sole from undue or uneven wear. The pronged plate may be of light resilient sheet metal, and thus allow of the free springing movement of the foot, and also not add materially to the weight of the shoe or boot.

This improvement is comparatively inexpensive, and is of such simple character that the retail price of such articles as may be furnished therewith will not be materially, if at all, affected.

I do not confine myself to the precise method of securing the parts as hereinbefore set forth, as it is evident that changes in form and manufacture may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of my invention.

Having fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

In a shoe or other form of outer foot-wear, a yielding metallic plate interposed between the inner and outer layers of the sole, said plate having teeth or prongs formed thereon, and bent at right angles to the plate, the points of the prongs or teeth being flush with the wearing-surface of the sole, substantially as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 24th day of April, 1878.

CALVIN E. TOWN.

Witnesses:

F. O. McCLEARY,  
D. JOHNSON.