

A. M. DAY.
Garment Stiffener.

No. 218,430.

Patented Aug. 12, 1879.

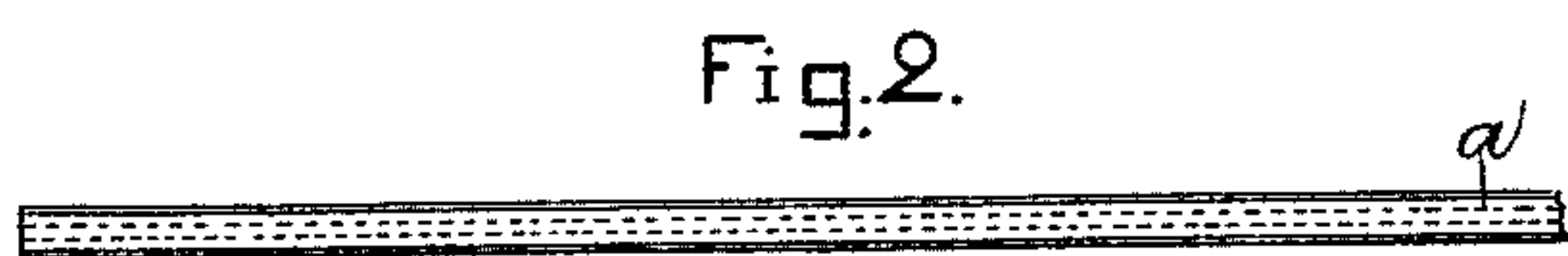
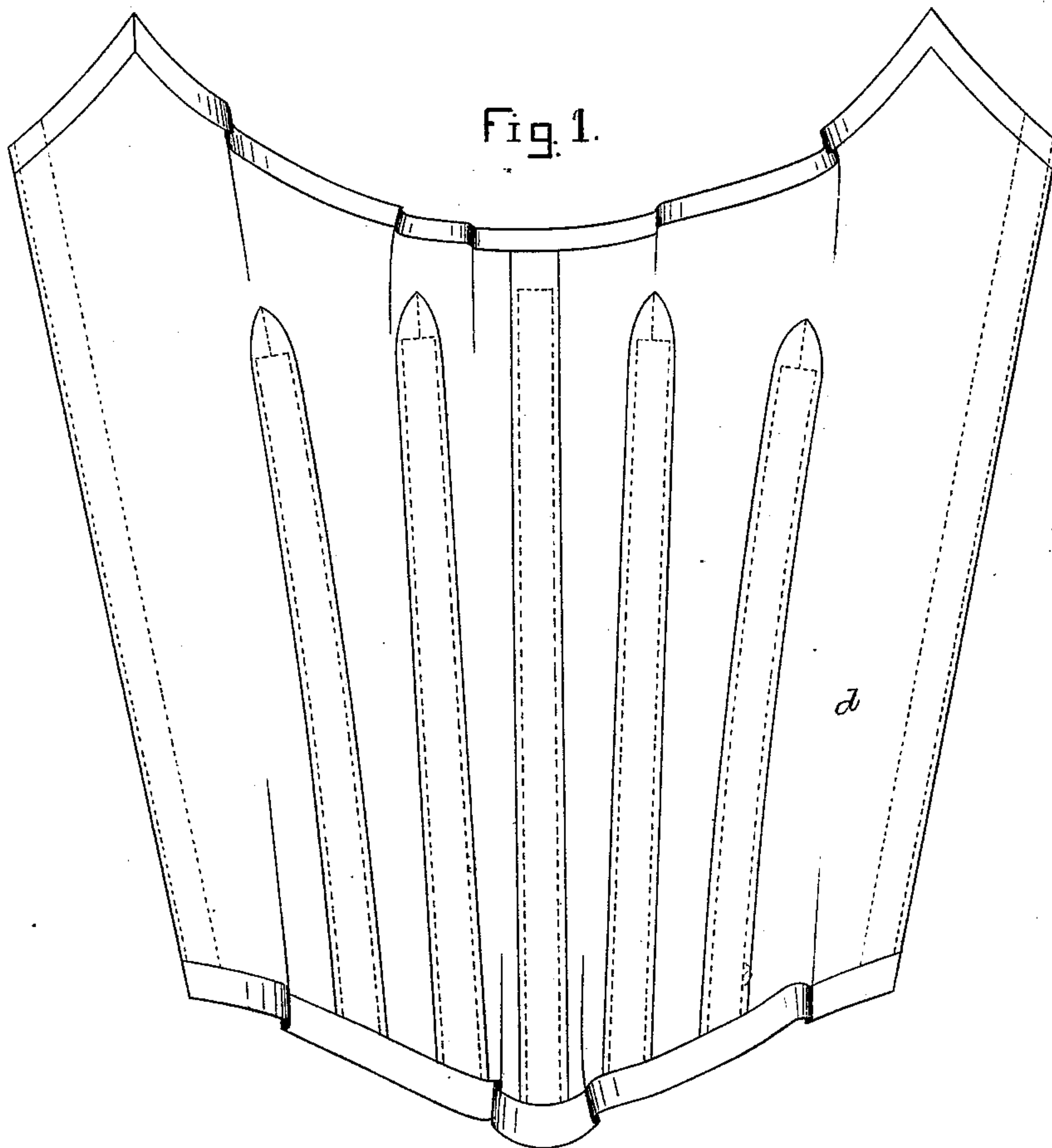


Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.



Witnesses.

Jos. P. Livermore
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Inventor

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

AUGUSTA M. DAY, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

IMPROVEMENT IN GARMENT-STIFFENERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **218,430**, dated August 12, 1879; application filed April 25, 1879.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, AUGUSTA M. DAY, of Boston, county of Suffolk, State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Garment-Stiffening, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification.

This invention relates to a stiffener for garments and corsets; and the invention is shown as embodied in a stiffener composed of a compound material of india-rubber and cloth vulcanized to the requisite stiffness, cut from a sheet into proper shape, and edge and surface finished as hereinafter set forth.

Figure 1 represents, in perspective, a portion of a dress-waist provided with my improved stiffener; Fig. 2, an edge view of a stiffener; Fig. 3, a section of Fig. 2; Fig. 4, a modified form of my invention; and Fig 5, a cross-section thereof.

In the manufacture of dresses, corsets, and other garments, it is very essential and desirable to have a stiffener less expensive than whalebone, and better and more durable than cane or woody substitutes for bone.

I have found, by experiment, that india-rubber, if not too hard, when it is liable to break, or too soft, when it will fail to serve as a support, may be employed to a great advantage in the manufacture of stiffeners for dresses, corsets, and waists, as it is cheaper than whalebone, and stronger and better than cane.

In the manufacture of the material from which my improved stiffener is made, india-rubber and cloth in layers are rolled out in sheet form, and the sheet is vulcanized to the proper hardness and stiffness, after which the material is cut up into pieces *a* of the requisite width, and of any desired length.

The pieces or strips *a* are ground or abraded at their edges *b* on an emery-wheel to round the edges or sharp corners of the strips, after which the strips are singed to burn away or remove the rough and projecting portions of

the cloth and rubber. The fine dotted lines represent layers of cloth rolled in with the india-rubber compound.

After the singeing or rounding, the strips are coated or covered with a varnish, which smooths the edges and surfaces of the strips, and, what is extremely desirable, prevents the india-rubber from emitting its peculiar odor or smell, and the varnish also adds to the stiffness of the strip.

The strips, with their edges rounded or not, may be finished simply by inclosing them in an outer fibrous envelope, *c*, as shown in Figs. 4 and 5, which is then varnished.

The portion *d* of a waist (shown in Fig. 1) is shown as stiffened by means of five stiffener-strips inserted in pockets made in the usual way. Any usual varnish may be employed for the final coating.

I am well aware that a material composed of rubber and cloth vulcanized is old and well known; but I do not know of such material cut into strips, having rounded and smoothed edges and varnished, having heretofore been used as stiffeners in corsets and other garments.

I claim—

1. The described garment-stiffener, consisting of a narrow strip of vulcanized-rubber cloth with rounded edges, and varnished substantially as and for the purpose specified.

2. The described stiffener for garments, composed of a strip of material made of combined rubber and cloth vulcanized, and having rounded and smooth edges, and coated with varnish so as to stiffen the strip and prevent the emission of the odor of rubber, substantially as specified.

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

AUGUSTA M. DAY.

Witnesses:

G. W. GREGORY,
N. E. WHITNEY.