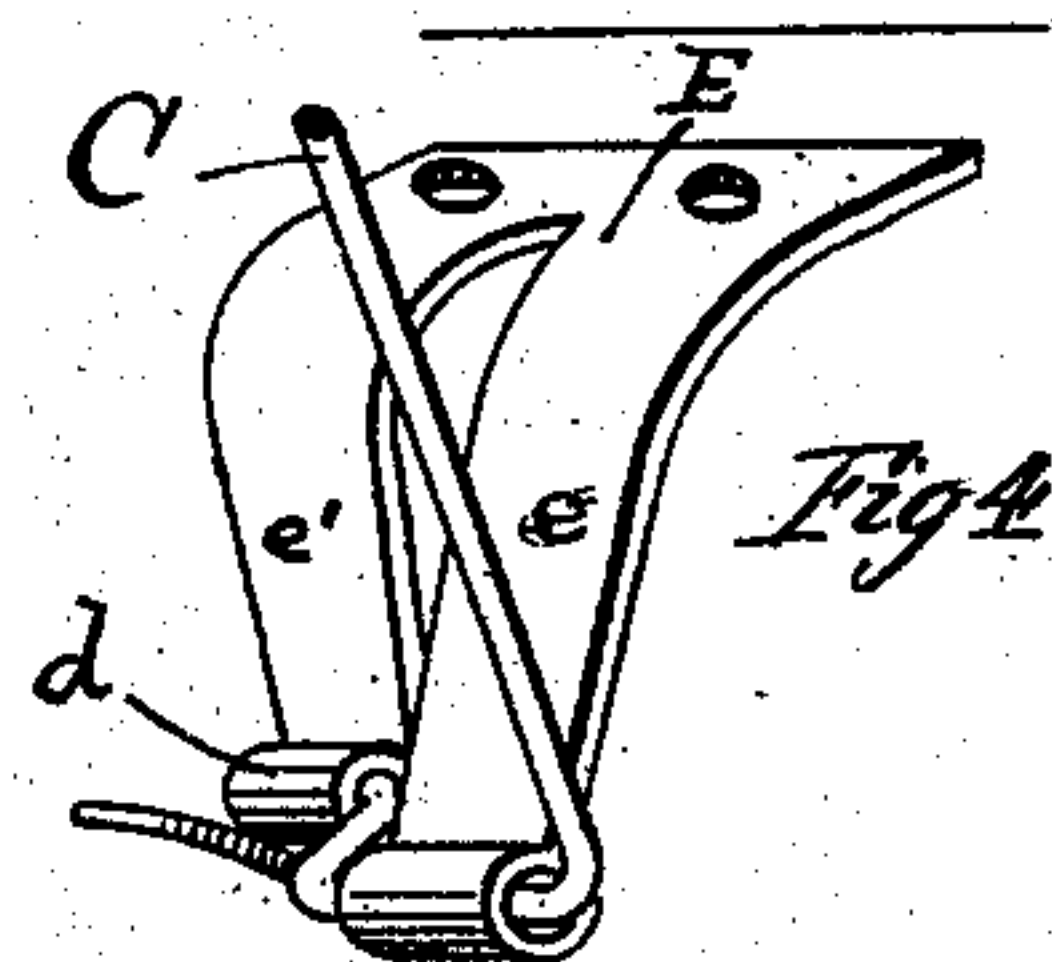
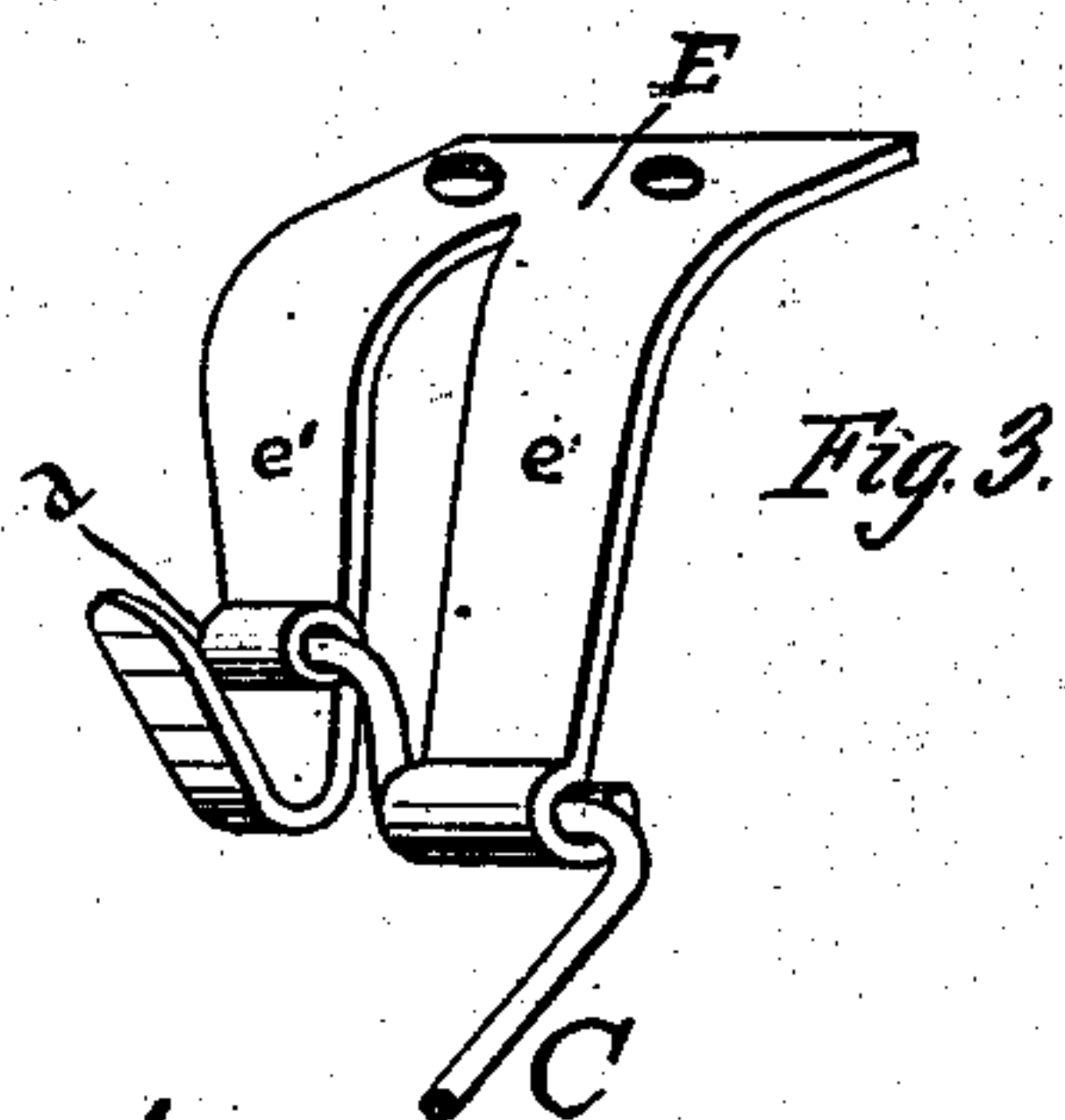
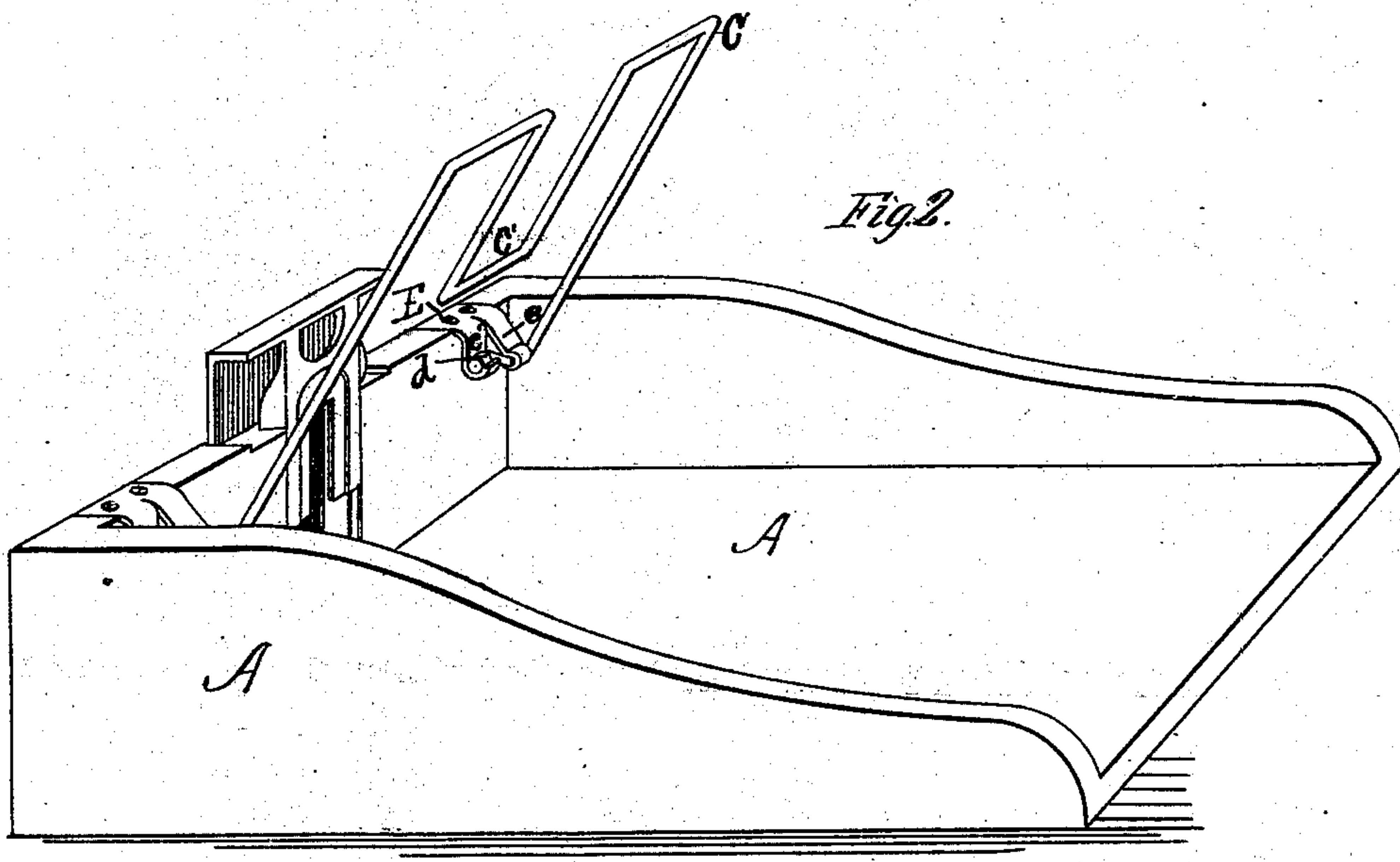
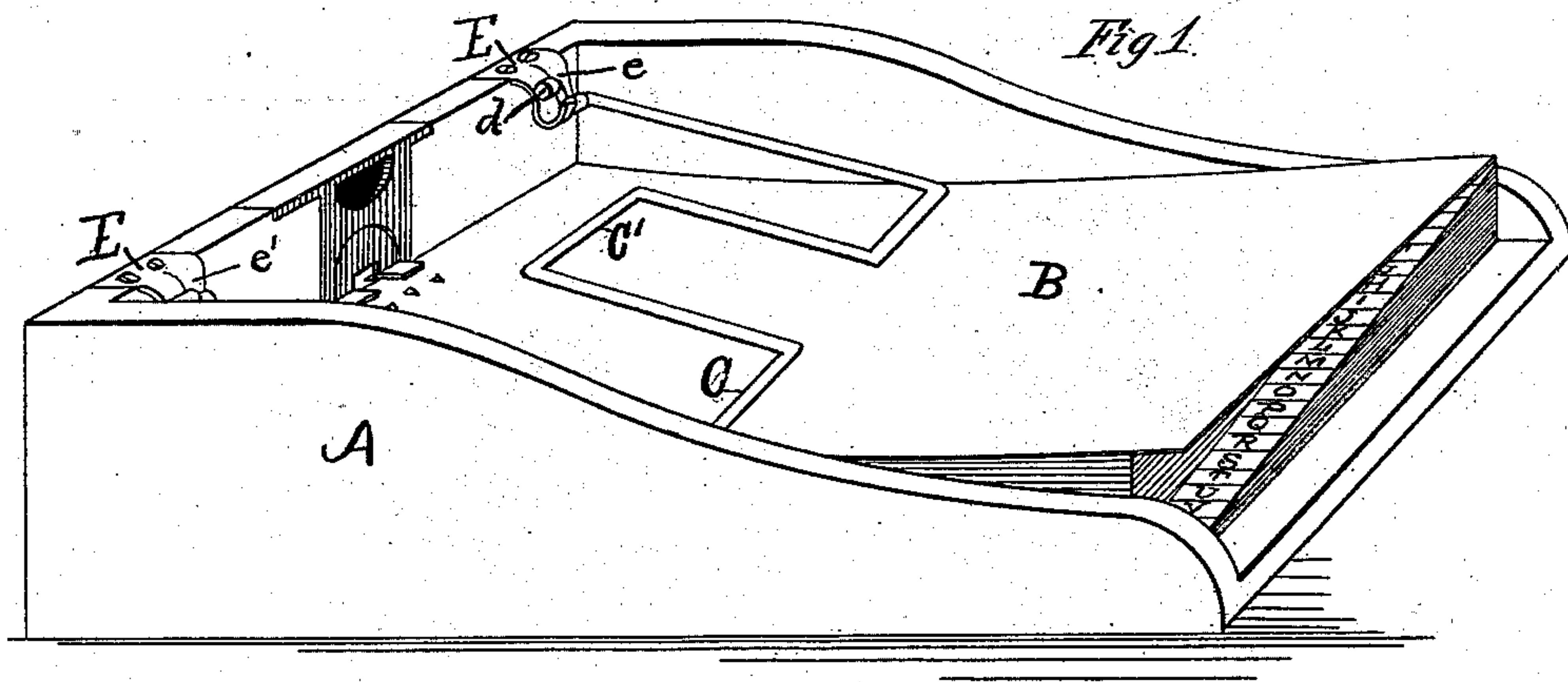


A. D. HOFFMAN.
Temporary Binder.

No. 225,012.

Patented Mar. 2, 1880.



Witnesses:
J. B. Townsend
A. M. Munday

Inventor:
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per
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

AUSTIN D. HOFFMAN, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR TO WILLIAM A. AMBERG, OF SAME PLACE.

TEMPORARY BINDER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 225,012, dated March 2, 1880.

Application filed November 1, 1879.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, AUSTIN D. HOFFMAN, of the city of Chicago, county of Cook, and State of Illinois, have invented certain Improvements in Letter-Files, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to that kind of letter-files in which an index composed of loose leaves marked at one edge with the letters of the alphabet or other suitable designating-characters is contained in an open-top box or case and held down by spring-pressure from above; and the invention consists in the peculiar device for producing the spring-pressure, so constructed that it may be raised and automatically held in a raised position.

In the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification, Figures 1 and 2 are perspective views of the apparatus showing the spring in different positions. Figs. 3 and 4 are detail views of the hinge for the spring.

In the said drawings, A represents the open-top box or case, consisting of a bottom piece, a back piece, and two side pieces. B is the index, composed of sheets having marginal designating-letters. These sheets are loosely secured in the box by means of a T-shaped projection at the back of each sheet fitting into a slot in the back part, in the manner shown in Amberg's patent, heretofore granted; or the said sheets may be secured within the case in any known method, so that they will rise and accommodate the letters or other papers to be filed between the sheets.

C is the spring-holder, consisting, preferably, of a wire arm, (shown in Figs. 1 and 2,) and having about its middle a depression, C', the purpose of which is to allow the arm of the person using the file to be passed through, in order that his left hand may reach the front edge of the index when the spring-arm is raised, so that by his left hand he can raise the index-leaves while inserting papers or letters with the right hand.

The two ends of the wire arm are bent to form a crank, as shown more clearly at Figs. 3 and 4. The outer end of each crank is furnished with a small friction-roller, d.

Spring-metal hinge-pieces E are provided,

one for each end of the wire arm. The construction of this hinge-piece is quite clearly shown in Figs. 3 and 4, which represent one of them in two positions.

Each of these hinge-pieces consists of two leaves, e and e'. Of these, one, e, has its lower extremity bent to inclose the first rectangular part or bend of the wire arm, making thereof a pivot. The other leaf, e', is bent outwardly and upwardly into a hook form. Against this last-mentioned leaf e' rides the small roller above mentioned.

Now, when the spring-wire arm is down upon the index, as shown at Fig. 1, the action of the two spring-leaves, in the position shown at Fig. 3, is such as to keep it down with considerable force, one leaf acting against the other through the crank upon the arm. However, when the wire arm is raised in the position shown at Fig. 2, then the roller d rides down into the hook upon the leaf e', and the action of the spring is such as to keep the arm held up in the position shown at Fig. 2.

By this simple construction I am enabled to dispense entirely with the complicated arrangements sometimes used for producing a pressure upon the index, and obtain the further advantage of an automatically-held spring.

Having thus fully described the construction and operation of my invention, that which I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination, with the case and index-leaves, of a spring-arm, bent at its middle portion to form an opening through which the operator's arm may be passed in handling the index, substantially as specified.

2. The combination, with the arm C, or a like arm, having cranked ends, of a two-leaved spring-hinge, the leaves whereof act against each other upon the crank in the manner specified, substantially as shown and described.

3. The combination of the arm C, having cranked ends, with the rollers d and the two-leaved spring hinge-pieces E, substantially as specified.

AUSTIN D. HOFFMAN.

Witnesses:

GEORGE F. BATTEW,
H. M. MUNDAY.