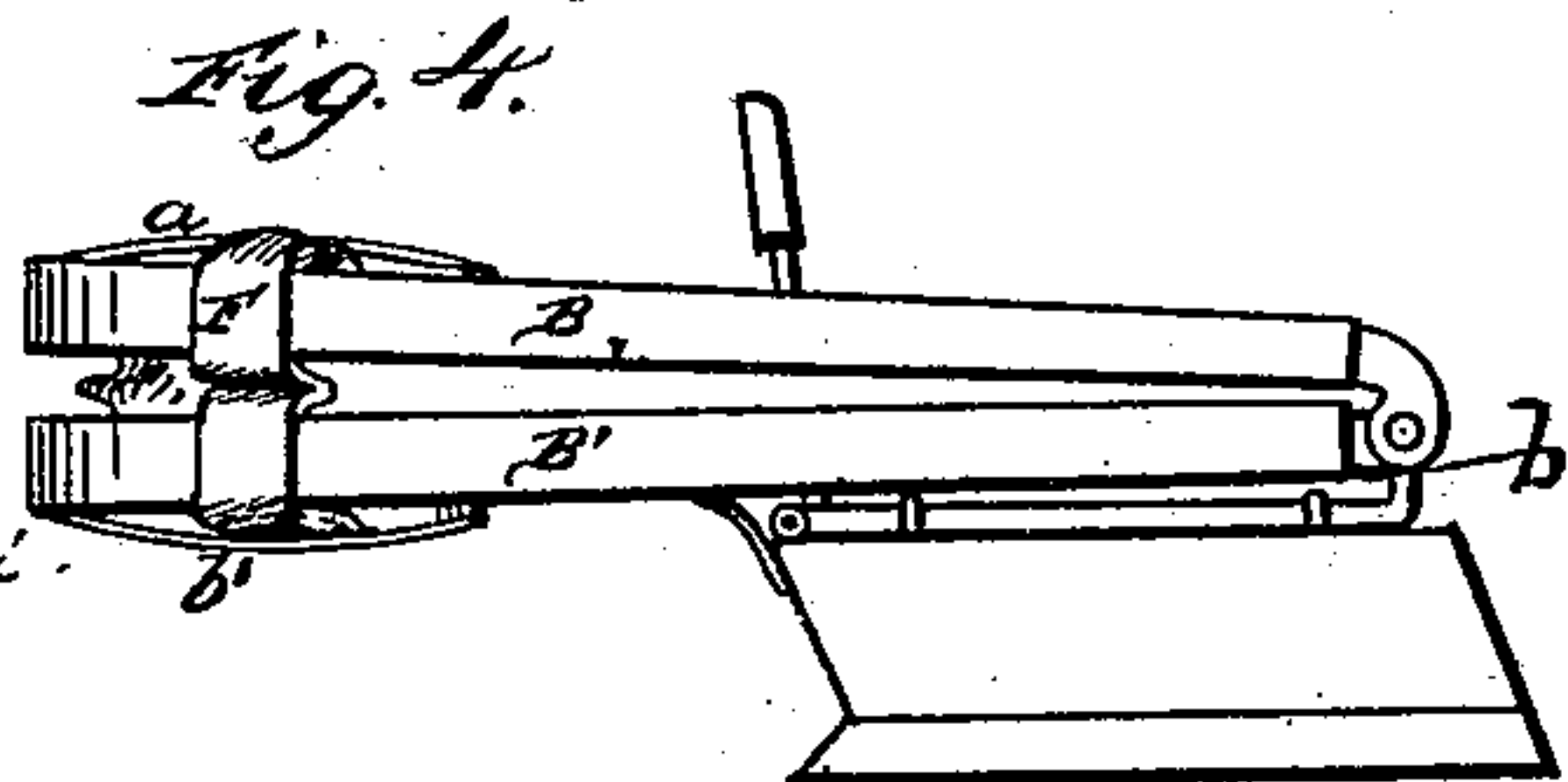
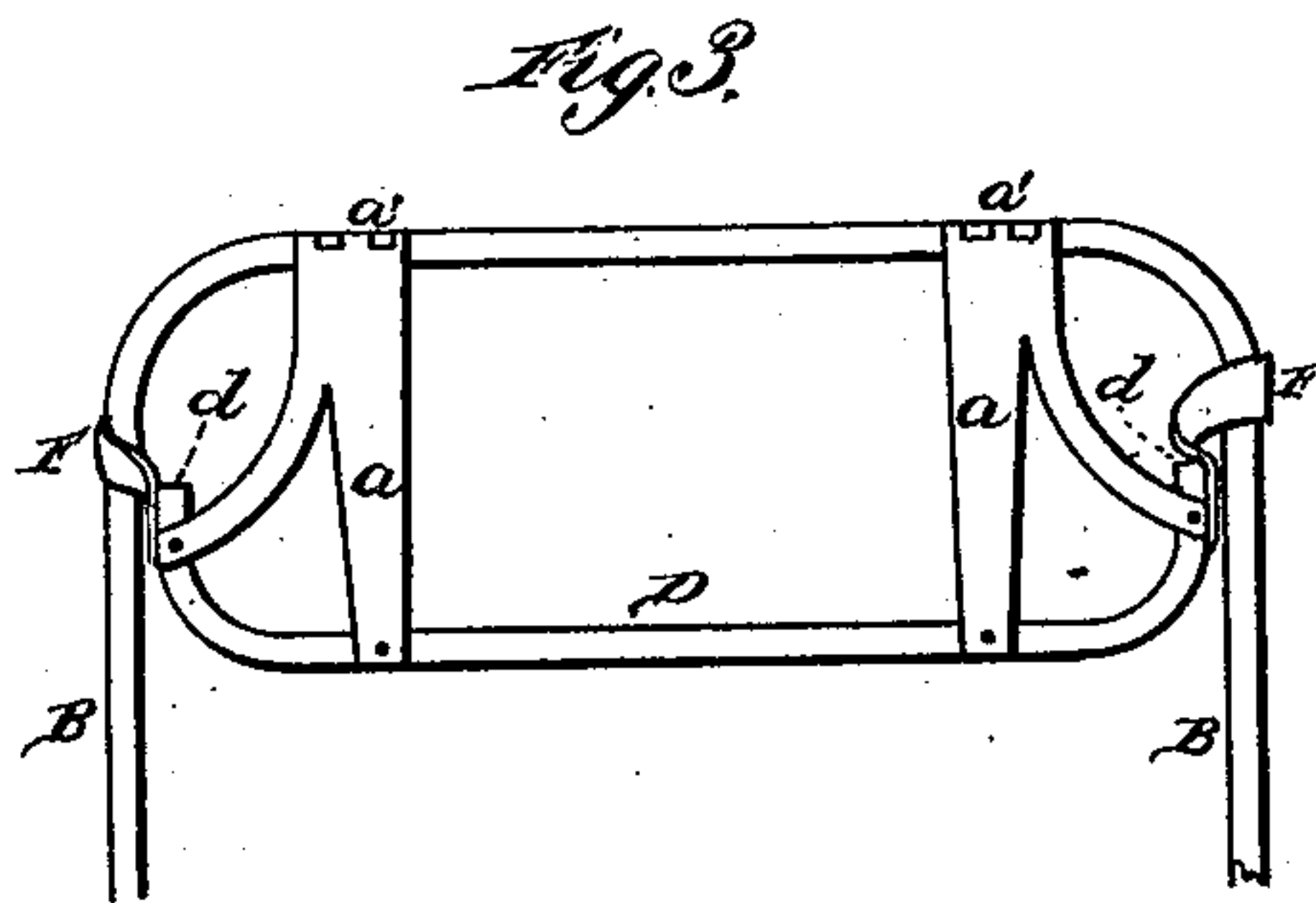
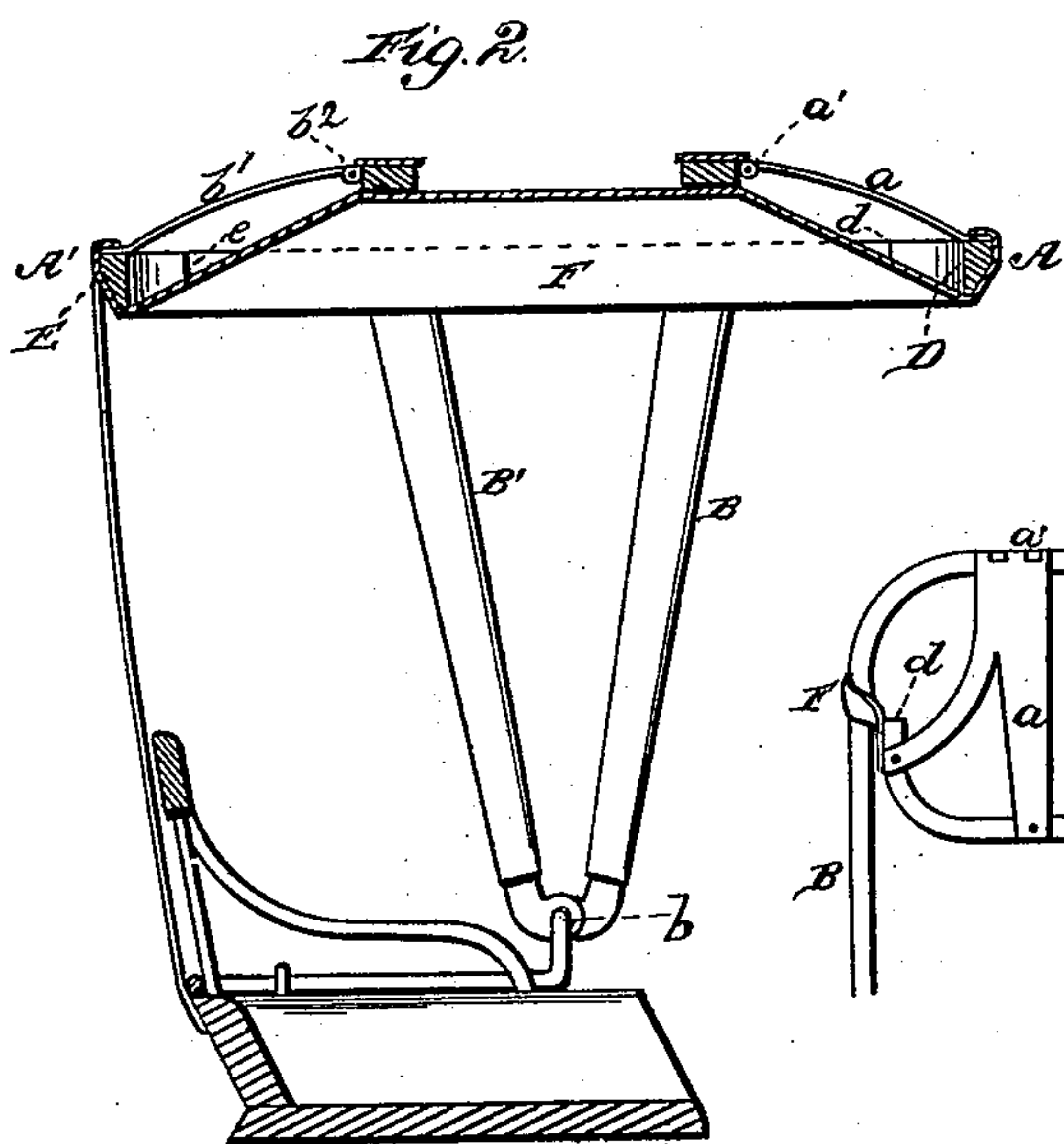
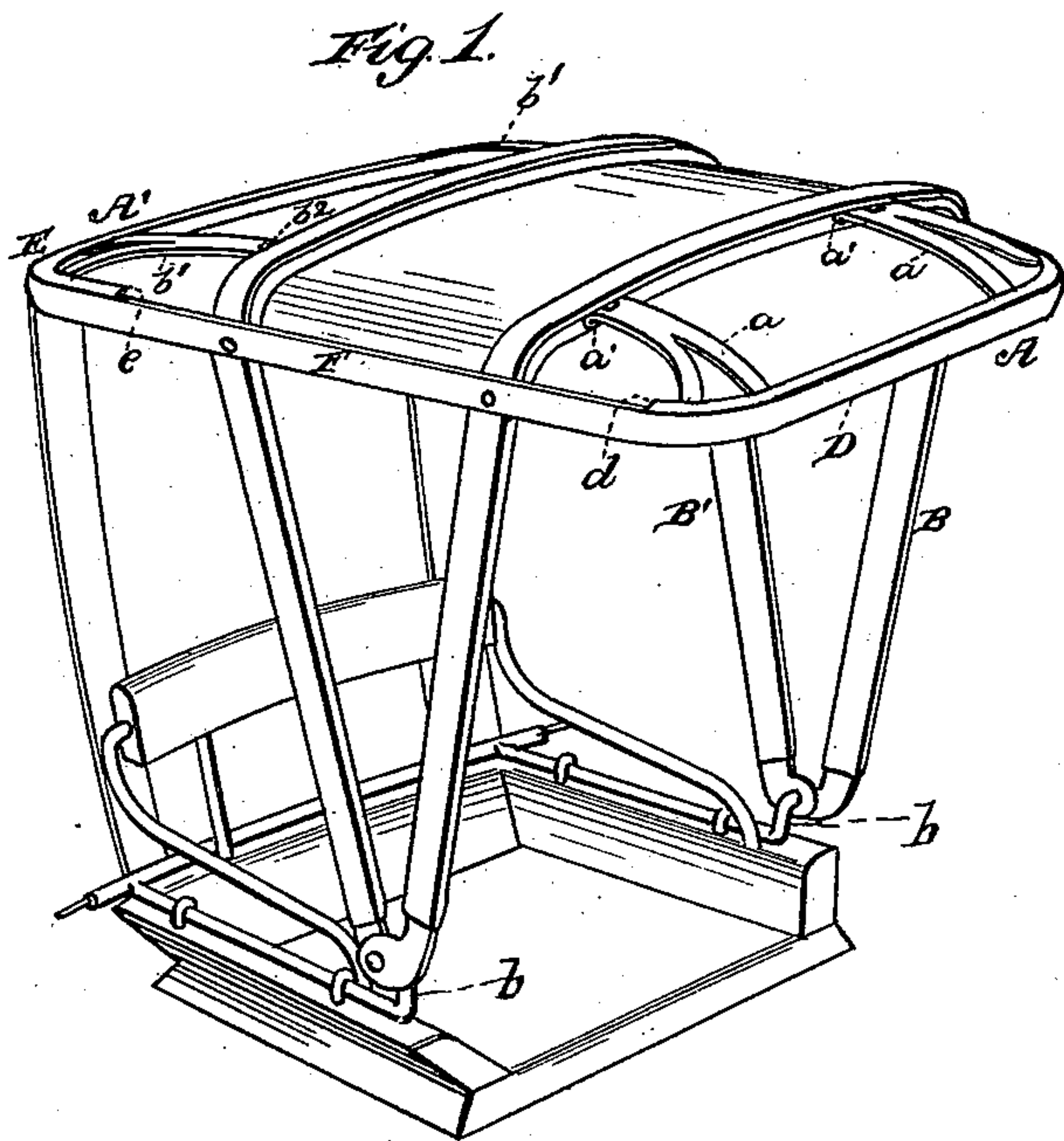


(No Model.)

E. P. STEDMAN.
Vehicle Top.

No. 233,889.

Patented Nov. 2, 1880.



WITNESSES
Robert L. Smith
Philip L. Hays

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his ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ELIHU P. STEDMAN, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

VEHICLE-TOP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 233,889, dated November 2, 1880.

Application filed September 25, 1880. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ELIHU P. STEDMAN, of Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a
5 new and valuable Improvement in Vehicle-Tops; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a representation of a perspective view of the invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal section. Fig. 3 is
15 a detail plan view, and Fig. 4 is a side view of the top in folded position.

This invention relates to that class of devices termed "folding carriage-tops."

The invention consists in the construction
20 hereinafter specified.

In the annexed drawings, A represents the front, and A' the back, sections of a folding carriage-top. Each section consists of the half-top, which is constructed of a rigid bow
25 and hinged braces. B B' represent the two bows for supporting the top, said bows being hinged to the shifting-rail at b. To the front bow, B, the braces a a of the front section, A, are hinged at a' a', and the braces b' b' of the
30 back section, A', are hinged at b² b² to the back bow, B'. To the ends d e of the front and back bows, D E, of the sections A A', upon each side of the top, are fastened the side pieces, F, made of yielding material. These
35 said pieces are fastened to the bows B and B', and act in the place of hinges between these and the bows D and E, and in their middle portions serve to connect the two bows B B'.

In constructing the braces a and b', and attaching them to the tops of bows B B', they
40 are given such shape and curvature that said

bows and braces shall form a surface of the proper shape and finish for the outside covering of the top, and therefore the stuffing used in the ordinary construction can be dispensed
45 with.

To the back section, A', are fastened the ordinary quarter-curains, and the top is held up by the ordinary outside and inside jointed
50 braces.

By this construction I form a top which is capable of being folded down in a very small space, and lies flat when dropped, and at the same time the cover is kept rigid, and without creases, except at the middle.
55

By attaching the rigid bows of the front and back sections to the supporting-bows, as shown, endwise movement of said rigid bows is permitted by the yielding nature of the material, and hence there is no straining of the top cover,
60 as would be the case were the connection made by a hinge.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—
65

1. The section A, consisting of rigid bow D and curved braces a a, hinged to the top of bow B at a' a' and flexibly connected thereto at the ends of bow D.

2. A supporting-surface for the cover, consisting of the tops of the bows B and B' and the curved hinged braces a a and b b, the whole forming a rigid frame for the cover, whereby stuffing is dispensed with.
70

In testimony that I claim the above I have
75 hereunto subscribed my name in the presence of two witnesses.

ELIHU P. STEDMAN.

Witnesses:

PHILIP A. MASI,
M. P. CALLAN.