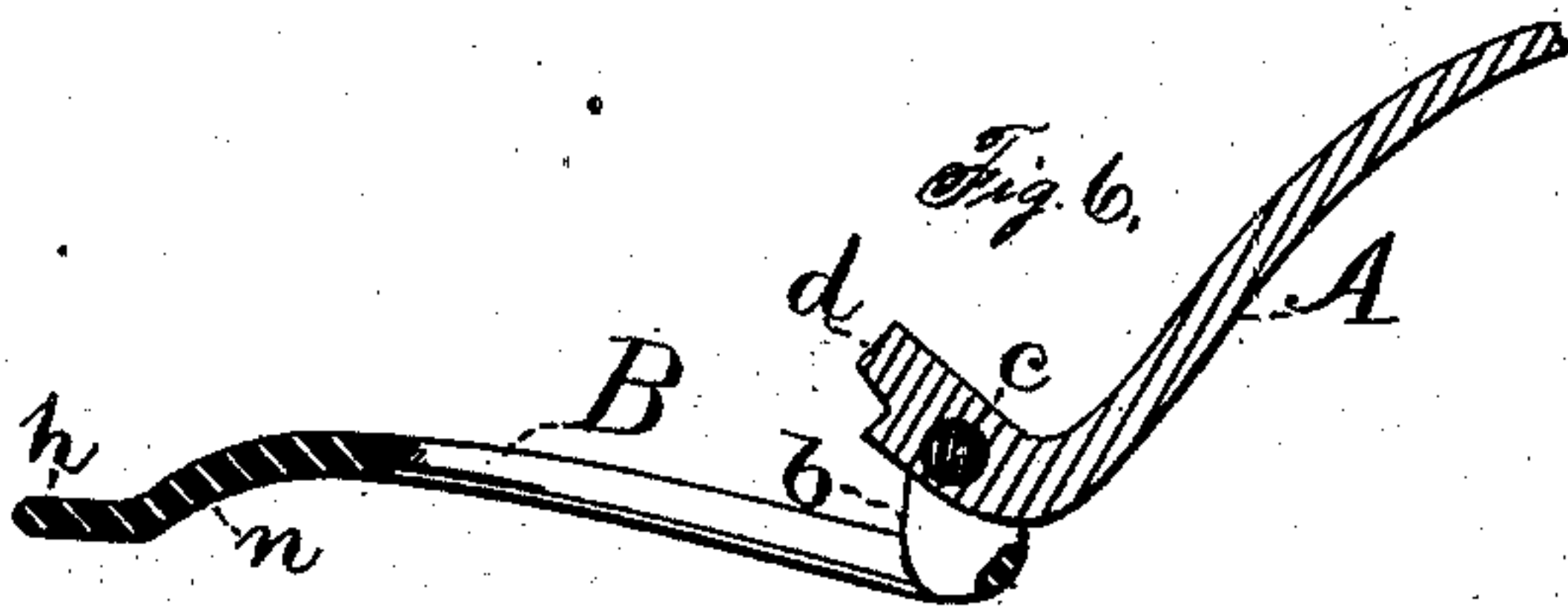
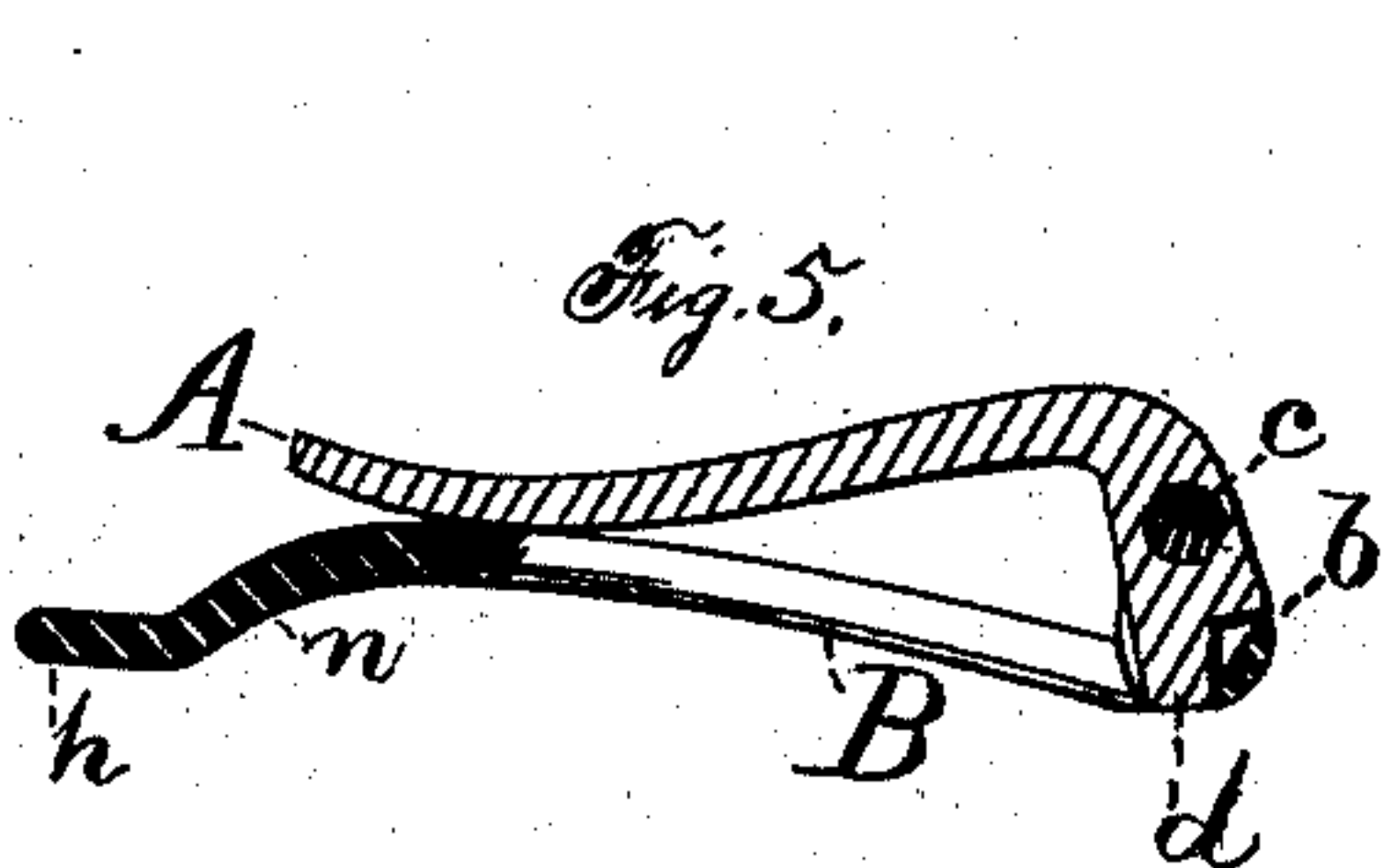
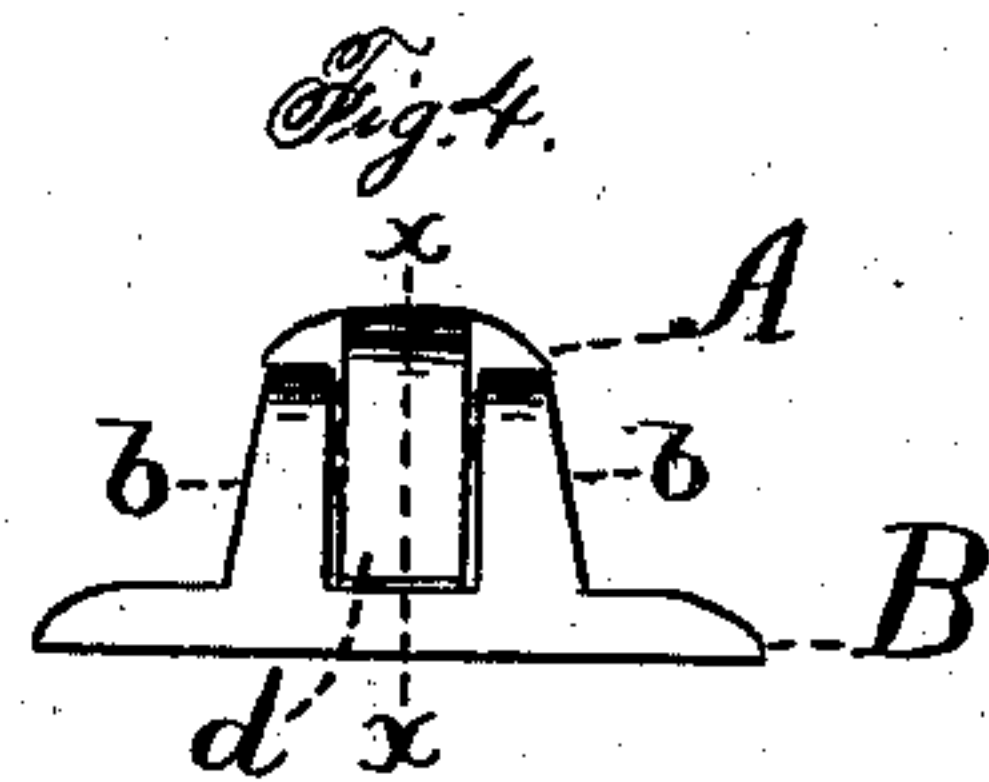
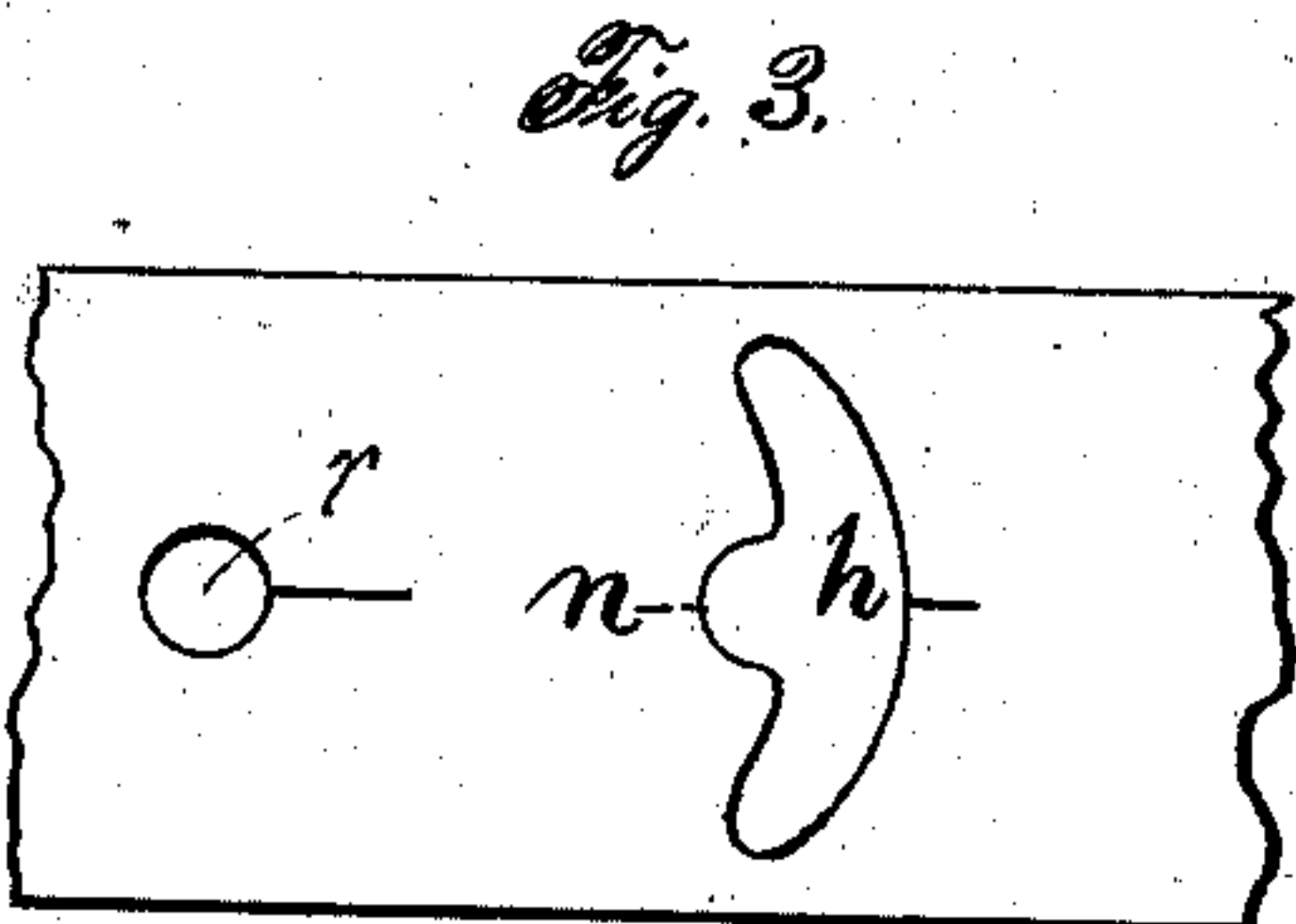
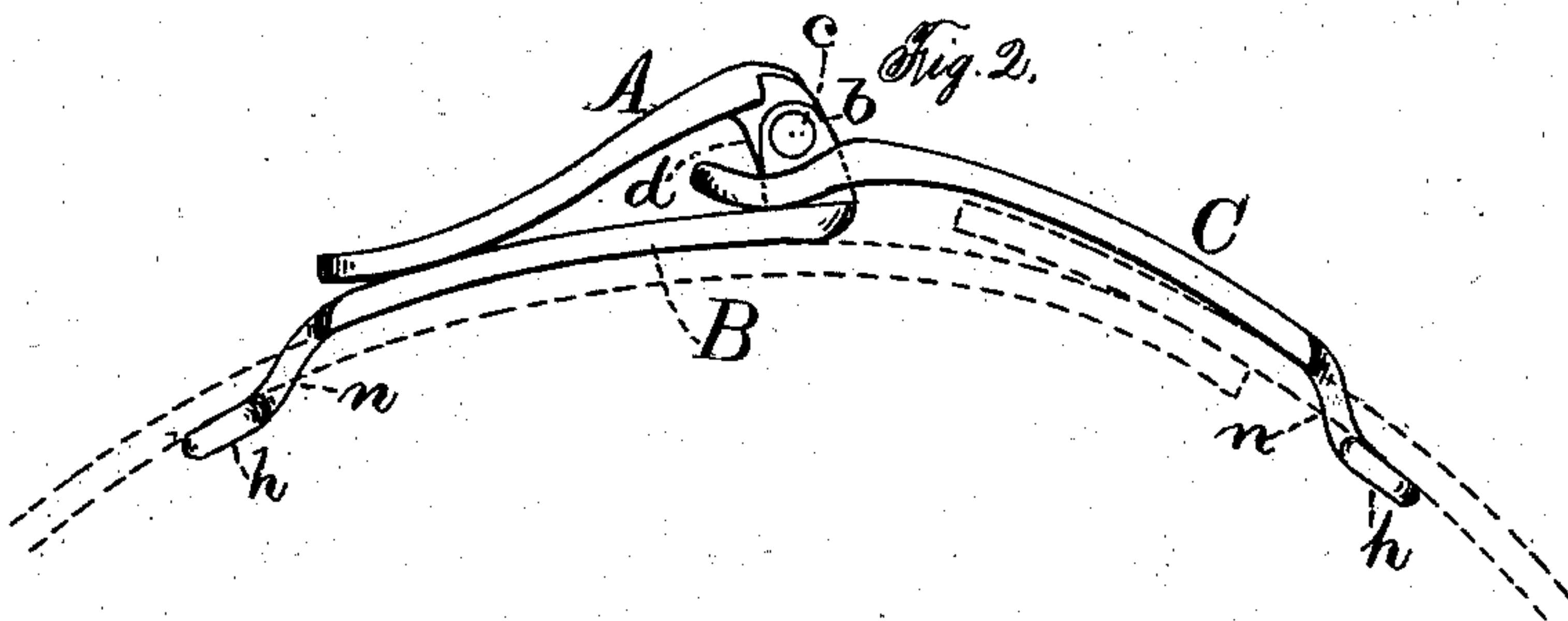
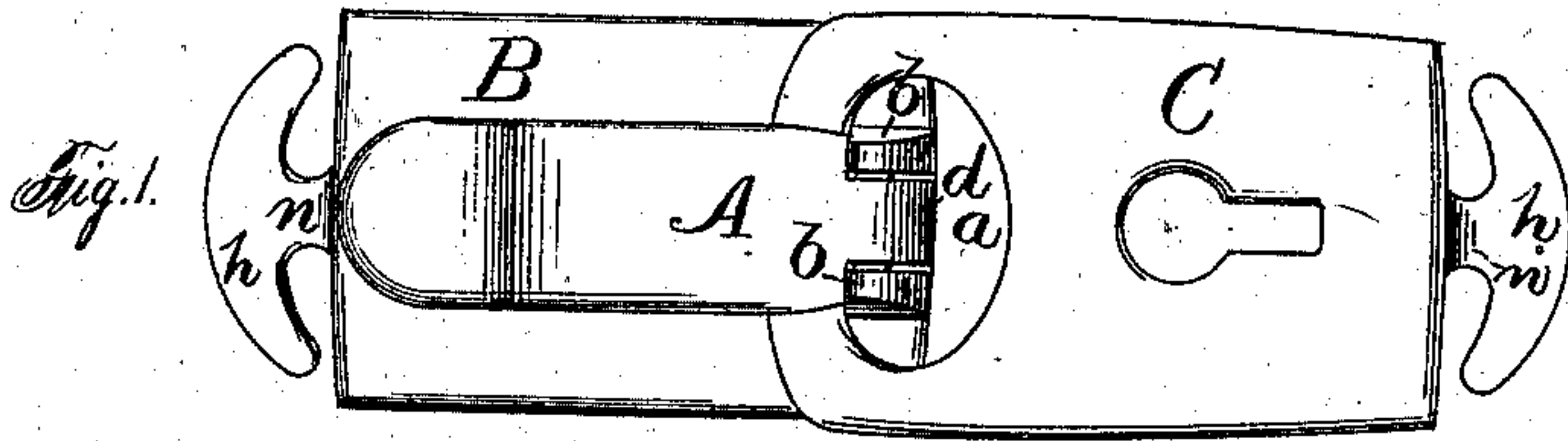


(No Model.)

F. J. HERRICK.
CLASP FOR GLOVES OR SHOES.

No. 255,857.

Patented Apr. 4, 1882.



Witnesses.
John Edwards Jr.
Lymon S. Lurr

Inventor.
Frank J. Herrick.
By James Shepard
att'y.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK J. HERRICK, OF NEW BRITAIN, CONNECTICUT, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO H. C. NOBLE, OF SAME PLACE.

CLASP FOR GLOVES OR SHOES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 255,857, dated April 4, 1882.

Application filed June 24, 1881. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK J. HERRICK, of New Britain, in the county of Hartford and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Clasps for Shoes or Gloves, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in clasps for shoes, gloves, and other articles, in which clasp the lever is of peculiar form and is hung in a peculiar manner.

The object of my invention is to so form and hang the lever that the parts to be fastened may be drawn tightly together by said lever and secured in place without any substantial let up or backdraw. I attain this object by the mechanism illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan view; Fig. 2, a side elevation; Fig. 3, a view of the inside of a strap, showing the manner of securing the clasp-plate thereto. Fig. 4 is an end view of the lever and clasp-plates. Fig. 5 is a section of the same on line *xx* of Fig. 4 with the clasp closed, and Fig. 6 is a like view with the clasp open.

A designates the clasp-lever; B, the clasp-plate to which it is secured; and C, the companion plate, having an eye, *a*, to receive the clasp-lever A. The clasp-plate B is provided with lugs *b b*, between which the lever is pivoted on pin *c*. This clasp-lever A is an angle-lever with the inner faces of the two arms standing at about right angles to each other, as shown. The short arm *d* has a straight inner face, and the lever is pivoted near the middle of this short arm, so that the straight face extends both ways in the direction of its length beyond the sides of the pivot-pin *c*, and when the lever is closed, as in the position represented in Figs. 1, 2, 4, and 5, the face of this arm inclines slightly in such a direction as to throw the plate C down upon the plate B and to a point on the short arm which is below the pivot, whereby any strain upon the clasp will hold the clasp-lever firmly in place. By taking hold of the long arm of the clasp-lever and throwing it backward the short arm lifts the eye *a* of plate C over the lugs *b b* and releases it. To fasten the parts or close the clasp, the eye *a* of the plate C is slipped over the end of the clasp-lever A when said lever

is in the position shown in Fig. 6. The lever is then closed, in doing which the eye first slides down into the corner or angle of the long and short arm of the clasp-lever, in which position it is carried forward around the pin *c*, to firmly draw the parts B and C together, until the inner face of the short arm passes the perpendicular, when the strain and the position of said face cause the eye *a* to slide downward against the plate B and firmly hold the clasp in place, as before explained.

In order to make the parts operate as described, it is not only necessary that the inner face of the short arm be straight and stand slightly on the incline when closed, as shown, but the pivot-pin *c* or axis of the lever must be located in the short arm, so as to bring the straight face inside of the pivot-pin when the clasp is closed, otherwise there will be considerable backdraw; but when constructed as shown and described there will be no substantial backdraw.

A notch (see Figs. 5 and 6) is formed in the outer corner of the short arm *d*, into which notch the bridge that connects the lugs *b b* fits when the clasp is closed, as shown in Fig. 5, whereby the short arm is made of the greatest possible length. By pivoting the lever through the middle of the short arm it is carried backward farther than it would be possible to do if pivoted through the long arm, whereby the eye-plate is moved a considerable distance after it has been slipped down into the junction of the two arms, in which position a good leverage is obtained to draw the parts firmly together. This cannot be the case when the lever is pivoted through the long arm, or at the junction of long and short arms.

I am aware that a pivoted hooked lever for drawing two parts together by throwing one part over the center on which the lever swings is old in many fastening devices, the earliest example of which that I know of is found in the patent to Timothy Taylor, No. 7,030, January 15, 1850, and a more recent example is found in patent to R. Clingen, No. 103,142, May 17, 1870; but all of such prior fasteners, so far as I know, receive the eye in a sort of hook or recess on the short arm, which seats it in substantially the same position on the lever, after it has passed the center pin, that it occupies in

going over it, and the lever was so pivoted that the axis was in the long arm thereof, near its junction with the short arm, and thereby the lever first strains the parts tight and then
5 allows them to let up or draw back to quite an extent—sometimes to such an extent as to let back nearly all that the lever has drawn up. All such prior fasteners are hereby dis-
10 claimed. In my clasp the parts are firmly locked in place by the strain on the plates B C, while at the same time there is substantially no let up of the draw in passing the dead-center. This result is accomplished by the
15 straight inner face of the short arm, and so hanging it with the straight face inside of the axis that the eye moves or slips over said straight face in fastening and unfastening. The novelty of my clasp resides in constructing the parts so as to accomplish the last
20 above named result.

Upon the ends of plates B and C, I form a cross-plate, *h*, connected to the main plates by an offset shank, *n*, the two forming a T-shaped end. The shank *n* is somewhat rounded to
25 adapt it to rest in a round hole, and is so offset that the cross plates and main plates are substantially parallel, but about the thickness of the leather apart, as indicated most clearly in Fig. 2, in which the broken lines indicate
30 the leather to which the plates B and C are secured. Fig. 3 shows the inside of a piece of

strap with a plate secured thereto, and also the form of hole adapted to receive the same. This consists of a round hole, *r*, with a simple
35 slit upon the side opposite that on which the strain comes. The cross-plate is inserted in this hole endwise, the slit allowing the leather to give sufficiently to get both ends through, as shown. Substantially the same T-shaped
40 ends have been heretofore applied to buckles. The clasp herein shown has its plates curved to adapt it for use on shoes; but they may be made of other forms, if desired.

In order to avoid crowding the lines, the drawing is represented on an enlarged scale.
45 The clasp may, however, be made smaller or larger, as occasion requires.

I claim as my invention—

The combination of the eye-plate C, the clasp-plate B, and the peculiar lever A, pivoted by
50 a pin which passes through the short arm near the middle of its length, and having the straight inner face, which extends beyond two opposite sides of said pivot-pin, and which face slants
55 backward with reference to the plane of the clasp-plate when the lever is closed, substantially as described, and for the purpose specified.

FRANK J. HERRICK.

Witnesses:

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