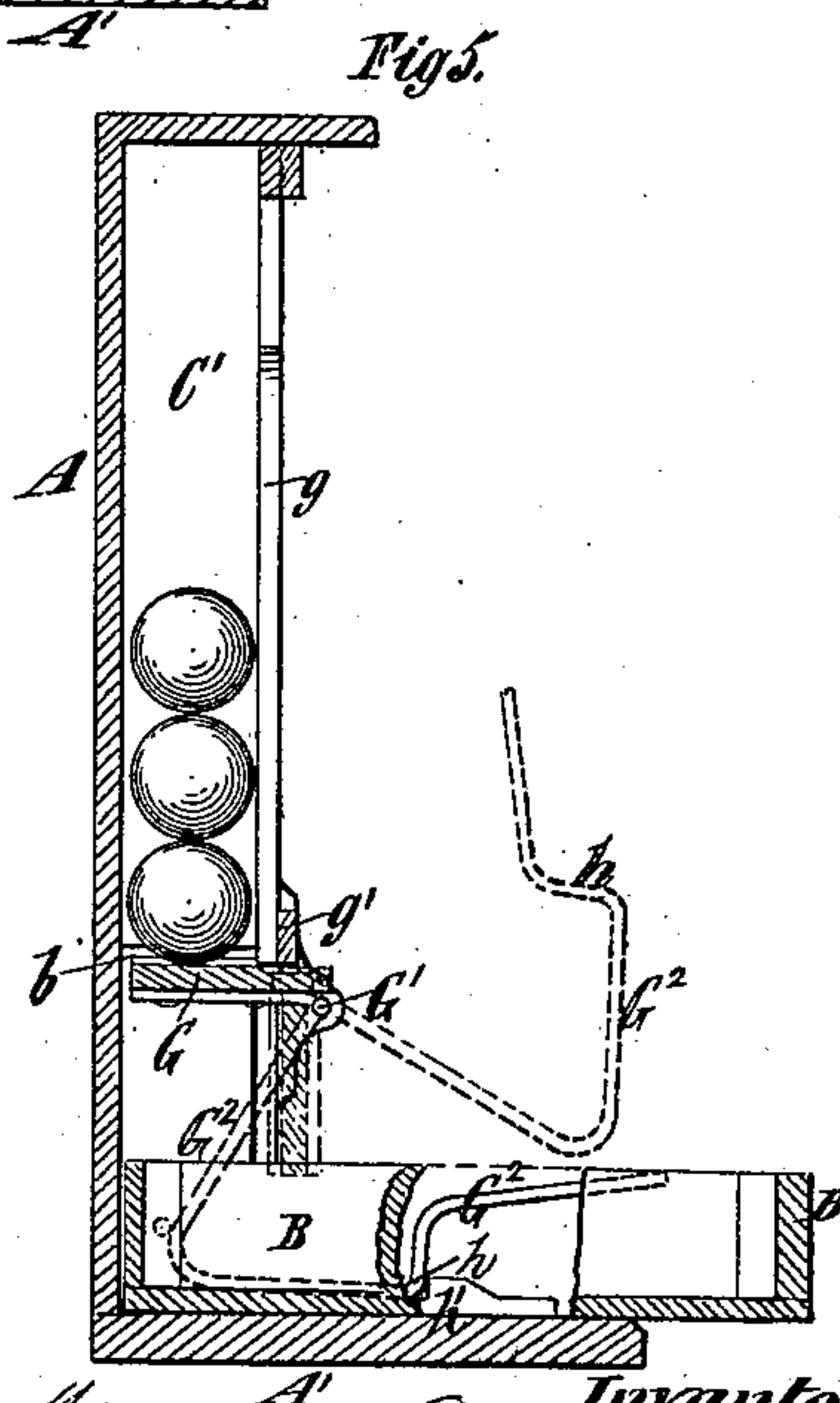
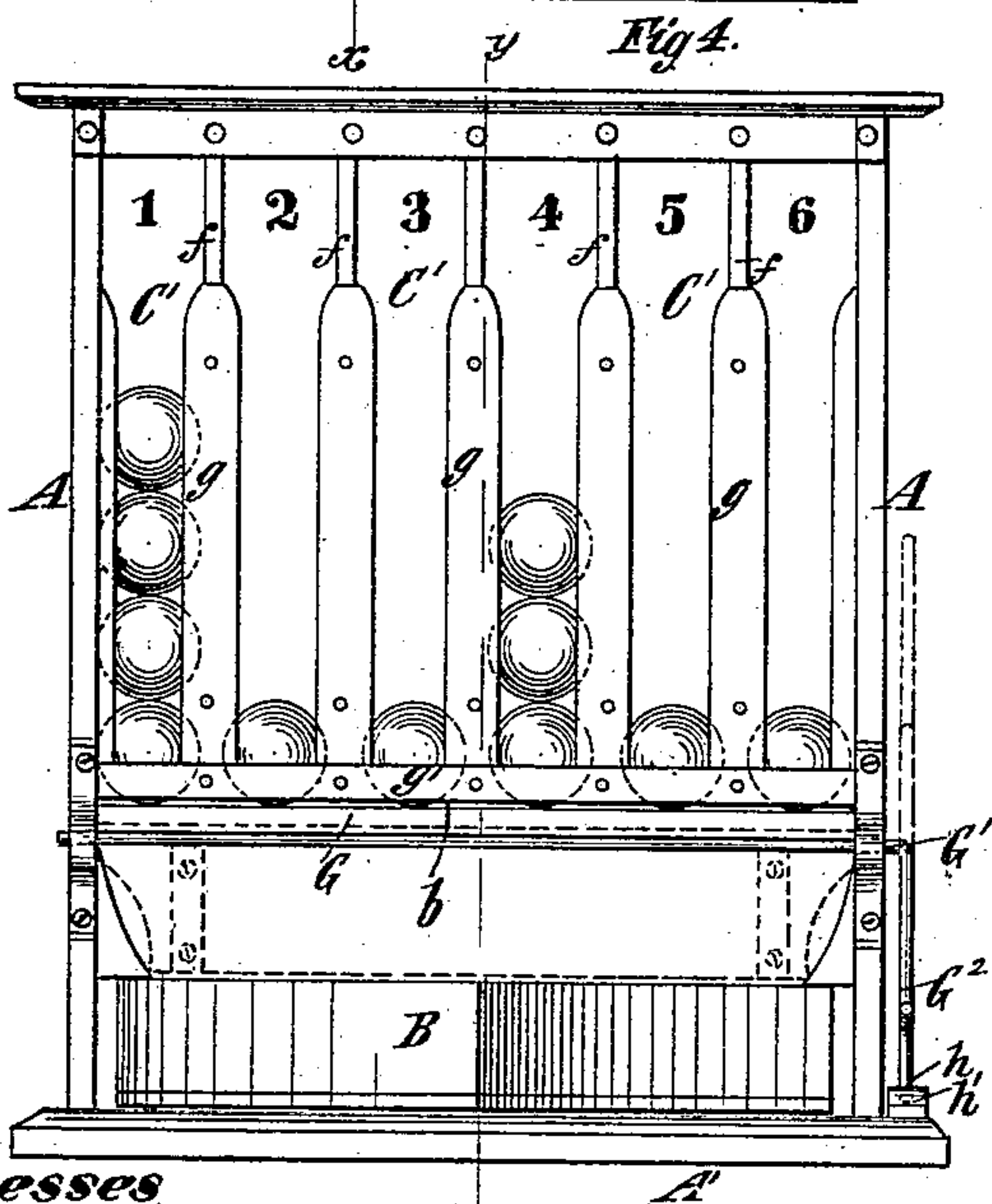
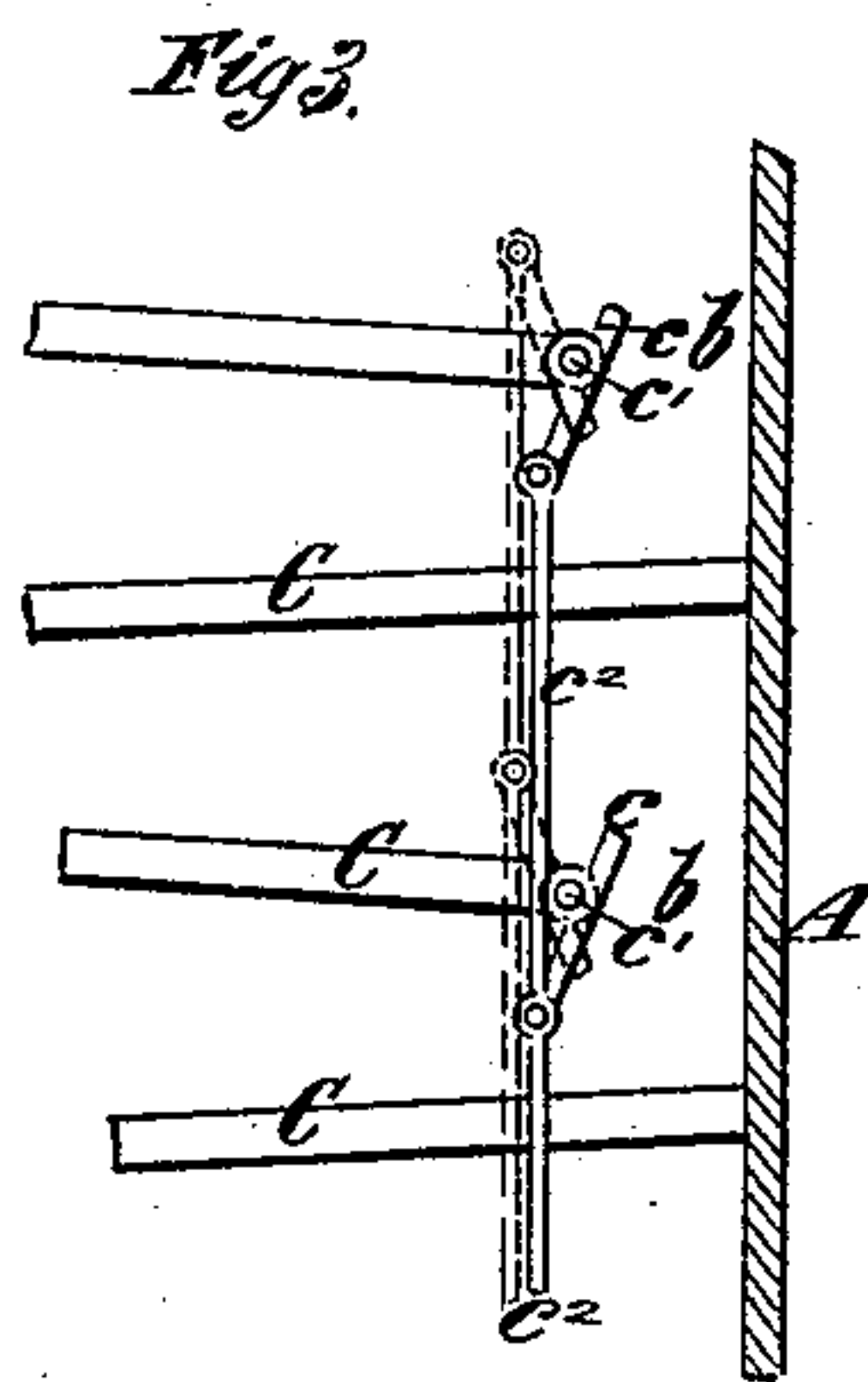
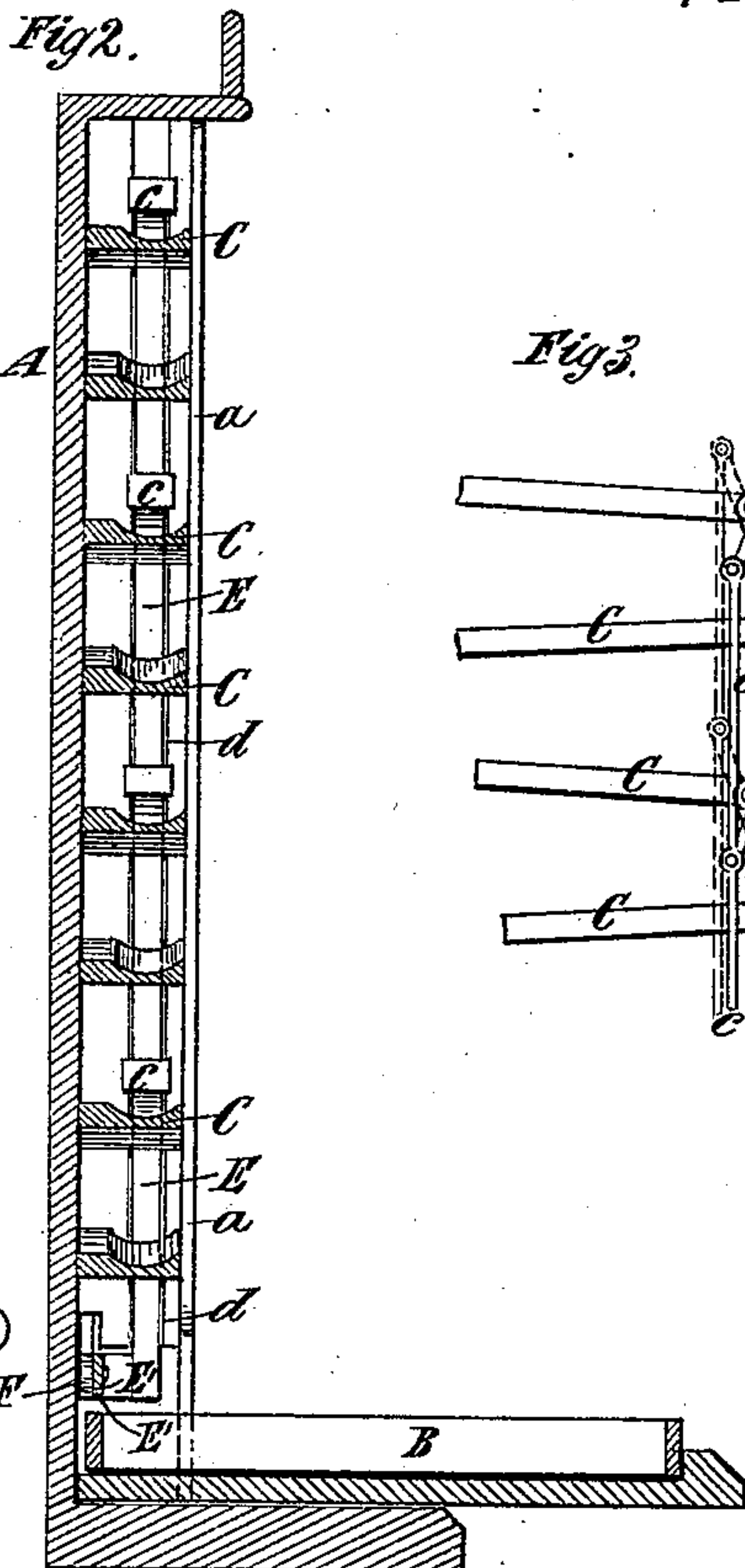
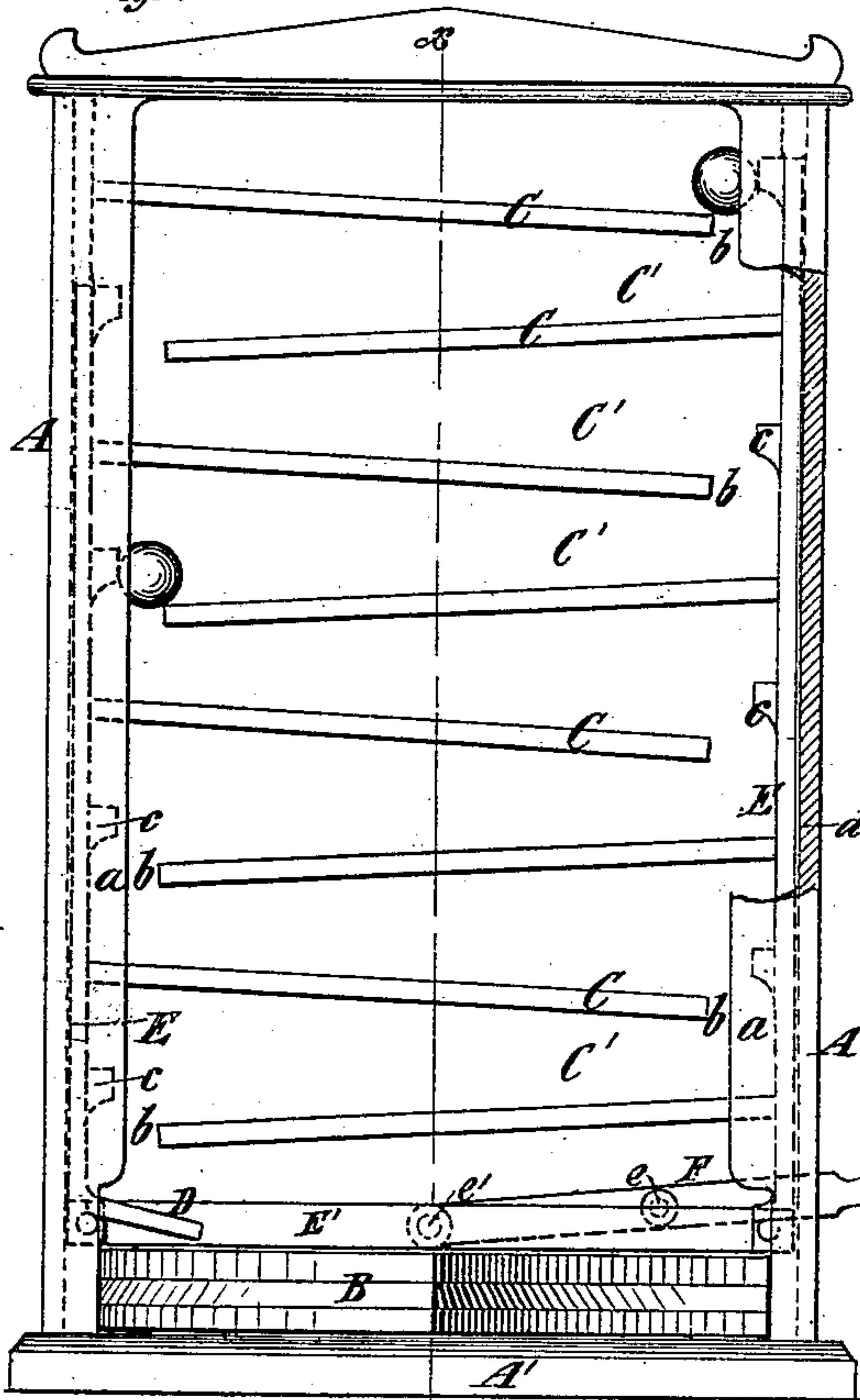


(No Model.)

W. F. WHITNEY.  
RACK FOR POOL BALLS.

No. 272,609.

Patented Feb. 20, 1883.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM F. WHITNEY, OF POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK.

## RACK FOR POOL-BALLS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 272,609, dated February 20, 1883.

Application filed March 27, 1882. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM F. WHITNEY, of Poughkeepsie, in the county of Dutchess and State of New York, have invented certain  
5 new and useful Improvements in Racks for Pool-Balls, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my invention is to provide a very simple and desirable rack for pool-balls,  
10 in which the balls are so retained that they may all be simultaneously released and delivered into a tray provided with a bottom, in which they are carried to the pool-table.

The invention consists in the combination,  
15 with a rack or case comprising channels or compartments which are adapted to receive the balls of the several players, and which have openings at their ends, through which the balls may be delivered, of a stop or stops  
20 arranged adjacent to said openings, for preventing the escape of the balls except at the desired time, and adapted to be moved to afford the balls free egress when it is desired to deliver them.

The invention also consists in the combination,  
25 with a rack or case comprising channels or compartments formed by a series of shelves which are arranged one above another, and which are inclined and have openings at their  
30 lower ends, through which the balls may be delivered, of stops arranged adjacent to said openings, for preventing the escape of the balls except at the desired time, and which are adapted to be moved to permit the balls to pass  
35 through said openings when desired. The stops may be moved vertically or horizontally to allow the balls to escape from the inclined shelves, or they may be pivoted so that they can be  
40 turned aside for the same purpose, and the stops at opposite sides of the rack or case may be connected so that they may be moved aside by operating a single lever or device, as hereinafter fully described.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents a partly sectional front elevation of a  
45 rack embodying my invention. Fig. 2 represents a vertical section thereof on the dotted line *x x*, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 represents a detail view, showing stops of modified form. Fig. 4  
50 represents a front elevation of a rack of modified form, also embodying my invention; and

Fig. 5 represents a vertical section on the dotted line *y y*, Fig. 4.

Similar letters of reference designate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Referring first to Figs. 1 and 2, A designates  
55 an upright rack or case, open at the front, and adapted to be secured in an upright position to a wall or other support. The bottom A' of the rack or case is made sufficiently broad to  
60 support a tray, B, in which the balls may be carried to the pool-table. At the front of the case are lips or flanges *a*, which project inward from opposite upright sides thereof, and  
65 between these flanges and the back of the case are shelves C, which are arranged one above another, and are inclined alternately toward opposite sides of the case, as clearly seen in  
70 Fig. 1. These shelves C may be channeled or recessed longitudinally on their upper surfaces, as seen clearly in Fig. 2, so as to retain the  
balls when placed upon them, and they may be provided with lips or ledges at their front  
75 edges, and they are set at such an inclination that the balls will roll toward their lower ends. Instead of being inclined alternately in opposite  
directions, the shelves might all be inclined in one direction. The several shelves  
C form between them channels or compartments C' for the balls, and at the lower end of  
80 each shelf is an opening, *b*, large enough to permit the balls to pass through it. Therefore it will be seen that when permitted the balls will roll along the shelves and downward  
85 from one shelf to another, until they are delivered by a spout or chute, D, into the tray B, in which they are taken to the pool-table.

Adjacent to each opening *b* is a stop, *c*, which, when adjusted into proper position  
90 relatively to the opening, will prevent the egress of the balls. As here represented, the stops *c* consist of projections upon upright bars E, which are adapted to slide vertically  
95 in grooves *d* in opposite sides of the case, as shown in Fig. 1, and which may be connected by a cross-bar, E', so that they may be raised  
and lowered together. The two bars E may be raised and lowered by applying the hand to the  
100 cross-bar E' or by means of a lever, F, fulcrumed at *e* to the case, and connected at *e'* to the said cross-bar. When the stops *c* are in their lowest position, as shown in Fig. 1, they will all



be obtruded in the way of the balls and prevent the latter from passing through the openings *b*, but when raised the stops will permit the balls to pass under them and through the openings *b*, which will enable the balls to all pass downward into the tray B. The grooves *d* constitute guides for the bars E, and it is obvious that by modifying these guides, or providing guides of different form, the said bars might be moved outward horizontally away from each other to withdraw their stops out of the way of the balls, or toward the back or front of the case sufficiently to withdraw the stops and allow the balls to escape. If the stops were adapted to be withdrawn toward the back or front of the case, a very slight movement would be sufficient.

Instead of the sliding stops, I may employ stops *c* arranged and operated as shown in Fig. 3. Each of said stops is pivoted at *c'*, so that it may be swung or turned into the position shown in full outline to prevent the escape of the balls, or into the position shown in dotted outline to permit the balls to escape.

The several pivoted stops *c* on each side of the case may all be connected by a rod or bar, *c*<sup>2</sup>, as clearly shown, to provide for operating them together, and the two rods or bars *c*<sup>2</sup> on opposite sides of the case may be connected by a cross rod or bar similar to the manner in which the bars E are connected by the cross-bar E'.

Turning now to Figs. 4 and 5, A designates a rack or case, which is divided by upright partitions *f* into a number of channels or compartments, C', in which the balls are placed. The balls are prevented from escaping from the channels or compartments at the front by flanges *g g'*, attached to the partitions *f*, and the upright flanges *g* are discontinued or omitted near the top, as clearly shown in Fig. 4, so as to afford provision for placing the balls in the channels or compartments C'. In this example of my invention the openings *b* are at the lower ends of the channels or compartments C', and all the openings are closed by a single stop, G, which consists of a flap or leaf, hinged by a rock-shaft, G', at its front edge, so that it may be swung downward and forward into the position shown in dotted outline in Fig. 5 to permit all the balls to escape from the channels or compartments C' into the tray B, placed on the bottom A' of the case in position to receive them. The pivot or rock-shaft G', on which the stop G turns, is provided with an arm or lever, G<sup>2</sup>, whereby it may be turned; and this arm or lever is here represented as elastic and provided with a shoulder, *h*, which may engage with a stationary catch or fixed shoulder, *h'*, on the case to hold the stop G in position to close all the openings *b*. When the stop G is to be withdrawn

the lever G<sup>2</sup> is first raised or sprung upward to release the shoulder *h* from the catch *h'*, and is then raised still farther to swing the stop downward and forward. When the lever G<sup>2</sup> is pushed down to return the stop G, the shoulder *h* engages automatically with its catch *h'*.

By my invention I provide for retaining the balls of different players separate and for delivering them quickly and without the necessity of handling them into the tray, in which they may be carried to the table.

I do not wish to here make a specific claim for a rack which is adapted to be slid longitudinally in an inclosing case, and in which stops are provided for retaining the balls in front of openings in the case; nor do I claim, specifically, a rack composed of two sets of shelves in which the balls are placed and which are inclined in opposite directions and provided with swinging stops at their lower and adjacent ends, which stops are connected with a pull-piece, so as to provide for releasing the balls from both sets of shelves at the same time. I do, however, regard the above-described racks as generically of my invention, and therefore intend to claim the same, generically.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination, with a rack or case comprising channels or compartments which are adapted to receive the balls of the several players, and which have openings at their ends, through which the balls may be delivered, of a movable stop or stops adjacent to said openings, for preventing the escape of the balls before the desired time, substantially as specified.

2. The combination, with a rack or case comprising inclined shelves arranged one above another and having at their lower ends openings for the delivery of the balls, of movable stops adjacent to said openings, for preventing the escape of the balls before the desired time, substantially as specified.

3. The combination, with a rack or case comprising shelves arranged one above another and inclined alternately in opposite directions, and which are provided with openings at their lower ends, of stops adjacent to said openings and adapted to be slid to withdraw them from said openings, substantially as specified.

4. The combination, with the rack or case A, comprising the inclined shelves C, which are provided with openings *b* at their lower ends, of the bars E, carrying stops *c*, and connected so that they may be moved simultaneously, substantially as specified.

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Witnesses:

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