(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

J. R. RHEUBOTTOM & F. M. MACK.

BUSTLE.

No. 275,710. Patented Apr. 10, 1883.

Fig. 1.

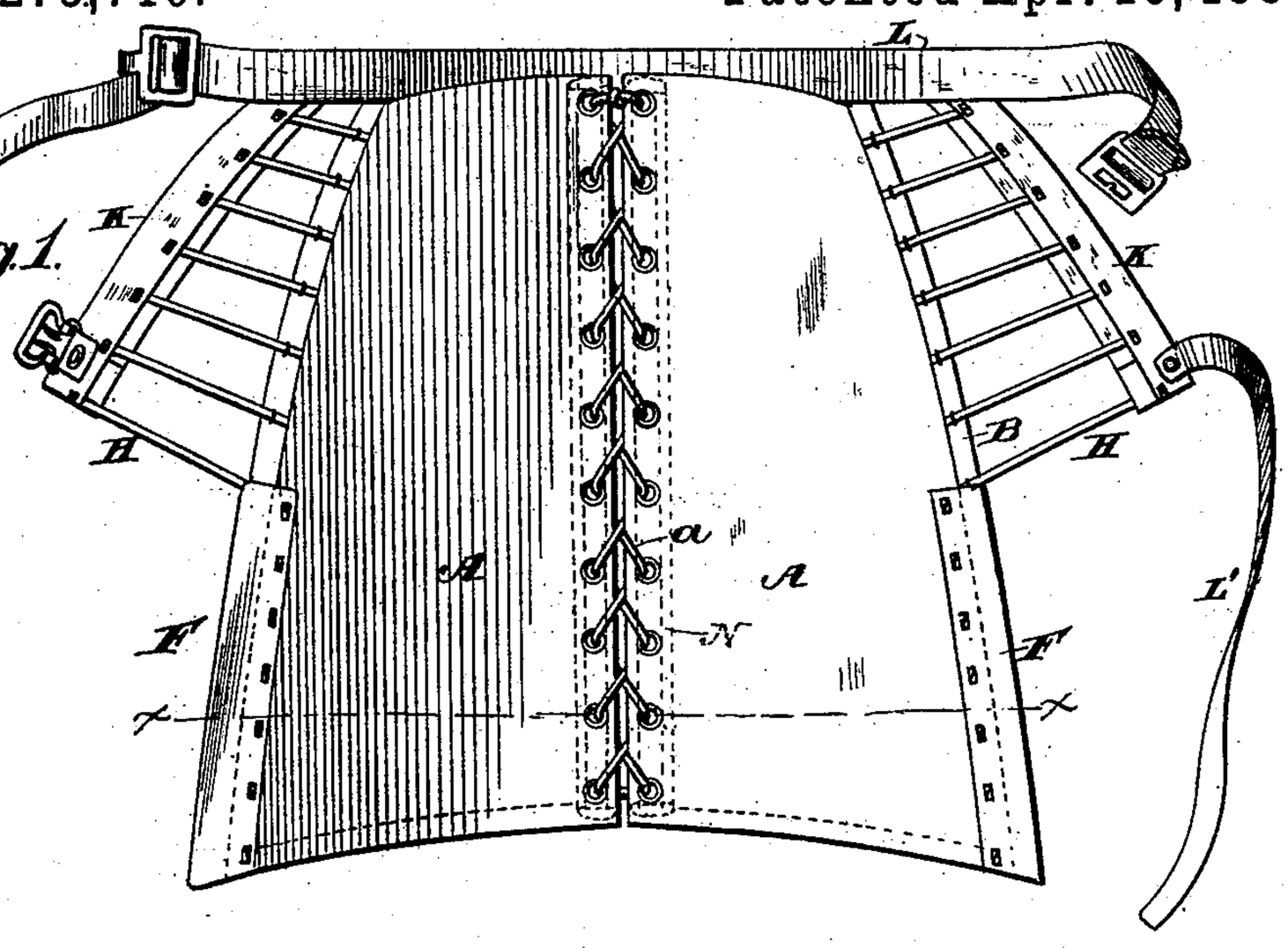
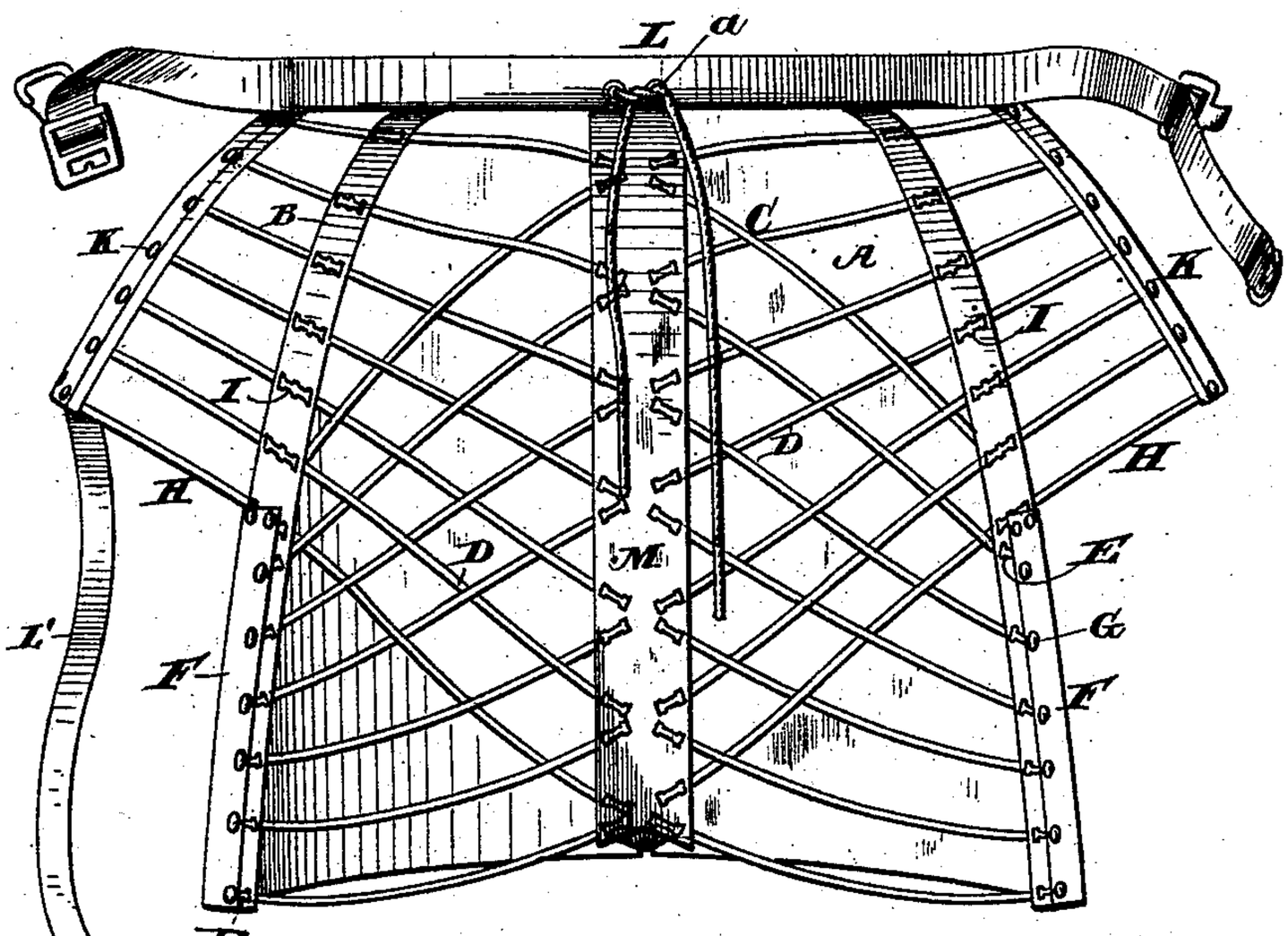


Fig. 2.



Witnesses.

Robt Everett.

J. A. Rutherford

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James R. Rheubottom

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(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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Fig. 3.

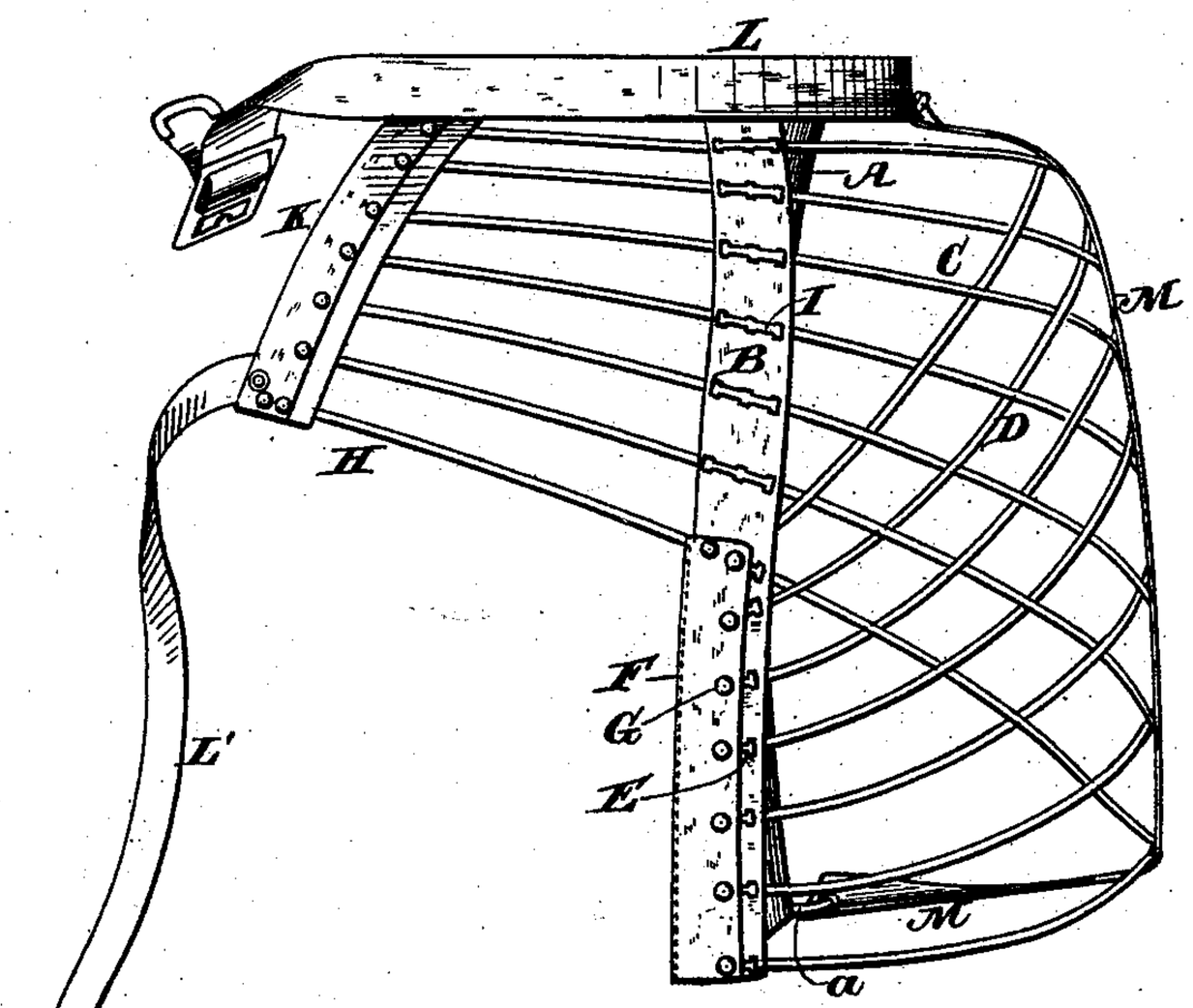


Fig. 4.

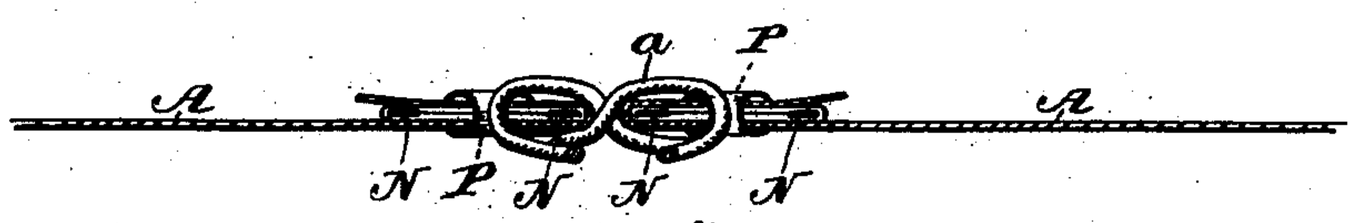
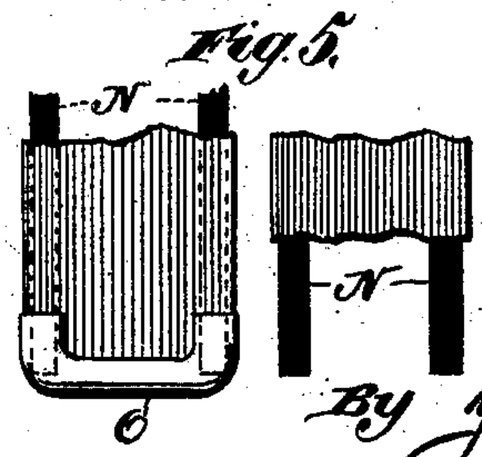


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES R. RHEUBOTTOM AND FRANK M. MACK, OF WEEDSPORT, N. Y.

BUSTLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 275,710, dated April 10, 1883.

Application filed December 11, 1882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, JAMES R. RHEUBOTTOM and FRANK M. MACK, citizens of the United States, residing at Weedsport, in the county of Cayuga and State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Bustles, of which the following is a specification.

The object of this invention is to provide a bustle which shall be capable of retaining the form of its arch under the various strains, thrusts, and pressure to which it is subjected while being worn, and to avoid the common radical defects of "hitching up" or "sagging down" under pressure of the skirts in sitting. A further object is to stiffen and strengthen certain portions of the bustle in a simple and efficient manner, so as to render the structure both strong and light, to preserve the shape of the bustle under all circumstances, and to render it capable of adjustment to the form of the wearer. These objects we accomplish in the manner and by the means hereinafter described and claimed, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a front view of a bustle constructed in accordance with my improvement. Fig. 2 is a rear elevation thereof. Fig. 3 is a side elevation. Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken transversely on the line *x x*, Fig. 1, through the meeting edges of the flies. Fig. 5 is an elevation showing a portion of the edges of the flies with the twin wires inserted in each, a portion of the fabric being removed to show said wires.

A A indicate the two flies, which are laced together at their meeting edges by a suitable lacing, *a*, and attached along their outer side edges to the side strips, B, which constitute the hip-bands.

The arch C is formed by means of two sets of wires, D, arranged diagonally with relation to each other and thoroughly interlaced or interwoven, so as to form a strong and durable arch which shall be capable of retaining its shape under the circumstances hereinbefore mentioned. The lower ends of each set of wires are connected with that portion of the bustle which is at the lower portions of the outer side edges of the flies, and which constitutes the hip portions of the bustle. As herein shown, these ends of the wires are secured to the strips by metal fastenings E, and the re-enforcing strips F bound over the edges of said strips over the wires, and secured by stitching or by any appropriate fasteners, G, whereby the lower ends of the diagonal arch-wires shall be covered and firmly secured. These wires, which pass diagonally across the rear side of the flies and extend out therefrom so as to form the arch, are carried around and forward, so as to form flaps or wings H at the front. The wires, in thus passing around to form the said wings, cross the upper side edges of the flies, and are secured to the upper portions of strips B by any suitable metal fastenings, I, whereby the flies and the wires are connected at such points. The front ends of the arch-wires are connected by suitable fastenings to the end strips or bands, K, which can be formed and re-enforced in any appropriate manner. These bands K, at the front ends of the wings, and also the bands B, are secured at their upper ends to the waistband L, which will be provided with any suitable buckle or other fastening. A second lower web or fastening band or bands or tapes, L′, is or are attached to the lower corners of the wings, whereby additional means are provided for securing and adjusting the bustle upon the wearer.

In order to prevent the arch-wires from rising, we provide a central tape or band, M, which extends down the middle portion of the arch from top to bottom, the ends of said tape band being drawn inwardly and secured at the top to the waistband L and at the bottom to the flies, and connected therewith preferably by the lacing *a*, which can be passed through eyelets secured in the ends of the tape. In this way the tape forms an efficient stay and serves to hold the wires down.

The flies A are prevented from spreading apart by the lacing; and in order to prevent them from folding transversely and to keep them spread out in a proper plane or curve, we provide the meeting edges of the flies with twin wires N, which are inclosed by folds at the edges of the flies. These twin wires can be connected by metal fastenings O at the ends, and throughout their length by paper or other composition molded around them, the eyelets P for the lacing being secured between the wires.

It will be found that by connecting the side edges of each fly with both sets of wires, one set

connecting with the upper and the other with the lower portion of said edge, a strong, light, and elastic bustle will be produced, and that by forming the wings as described the bustle can be adjusted to the form of the wearer.

In conclusion, we will observe that our improved bustle is designed to be either permanently or detachably connected with a hoop-skirt. Fastening appliances for such purpose will readily suggest themselves to the manufacturer.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim is—

1. In a bustle composed of wires extending from each hip-band diagonally upward and around the rear portion, as described, a central vertical stay strip or tape extending down the middle of the arch, the wires composing said arch passing through said stay-strip and being fastened thereto, and the upper and lower ends of said strip being connected respectively with the waistband and with the lower ends of flies, which extend from one hip-band to the other and have their meeting edges laced, in the manner described.

2. The combination, in a bustle, with the arch, constructed substantially as described, of flies attached at each hip portion to the hip-bands, and having their inner vertical edges united by a lacing, and the center strip extending down the middle of the arch, and connected at its upper and lower extremities with the waistband and with the bottom of the said flies, substantially as described.

3. As a new article of manufacture, a bustle composed of wires springing from the hip-bands, passing diagonally upward and around the arch, and extending thence beyond the opposite hip-band to form wings or flaps, flies connected to the hip-bands and having their edges united by a lacing, and a stay-strip or stiffening-band extending to the middle of the arch, and having its upper and lower ends connected with the waistband and with the bottom of said flies, respectively, substantially in the manner and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JAMES R. RHEUBOTTOM.
FRANK M. MACK.

Witnesses:
C. M. HENDERSON,
H. E. RHEUBOTTOM.