

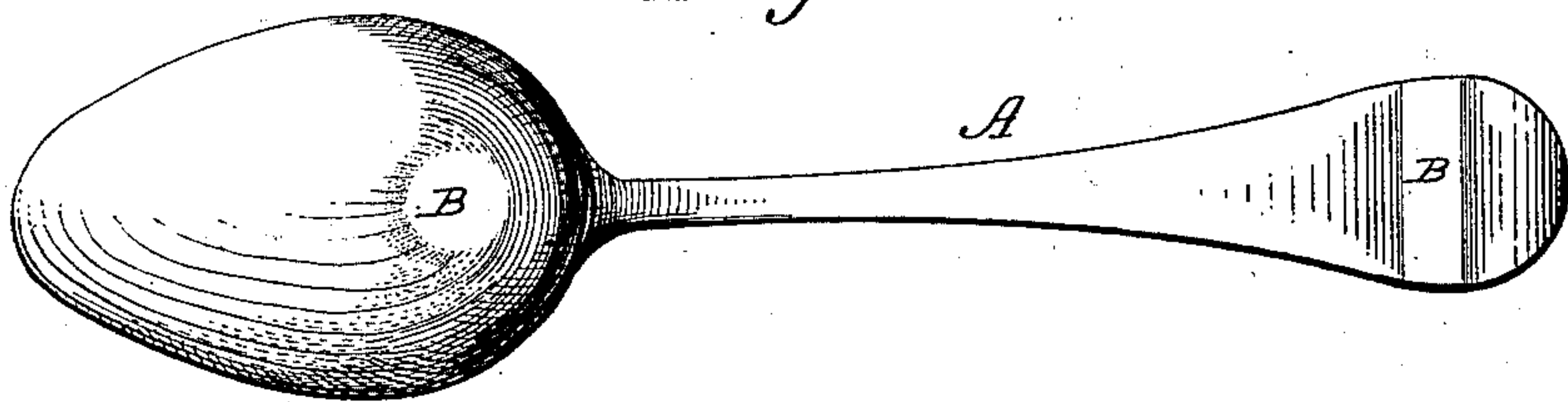
(No Model.)

E. TOLMAN.  
SPOON AND FORK.

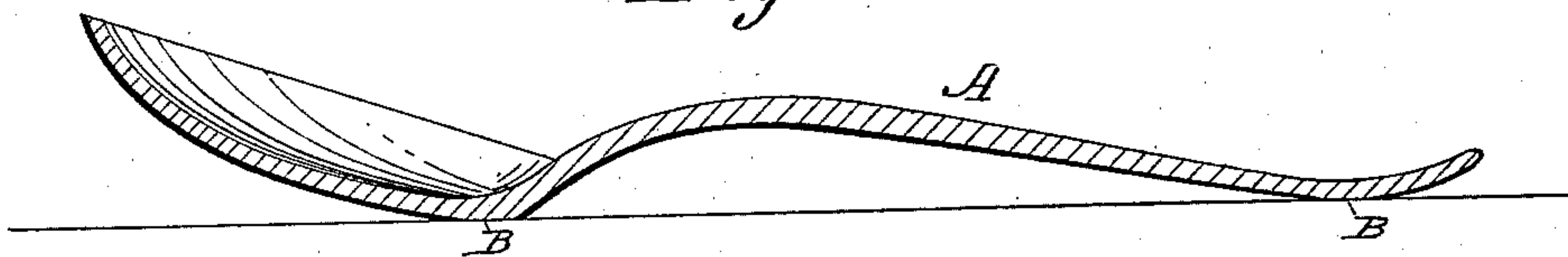
No. 285,769.

Patented Sept. 25, 1883.

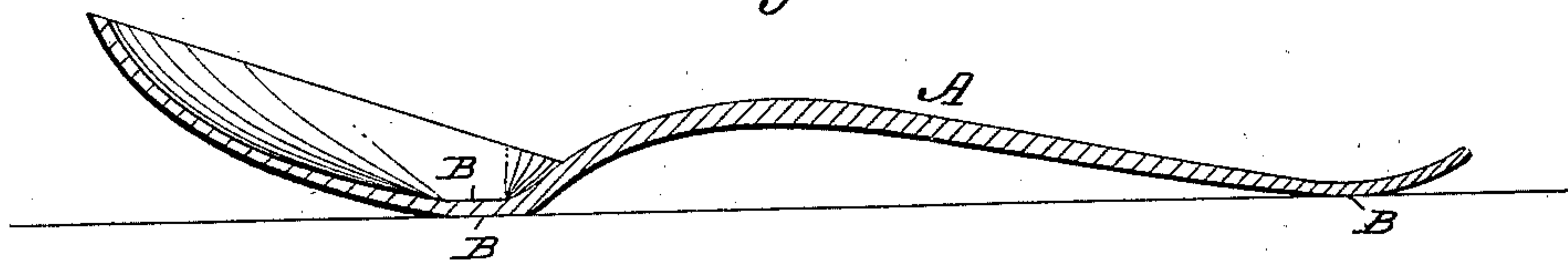
*Fig. 1.*



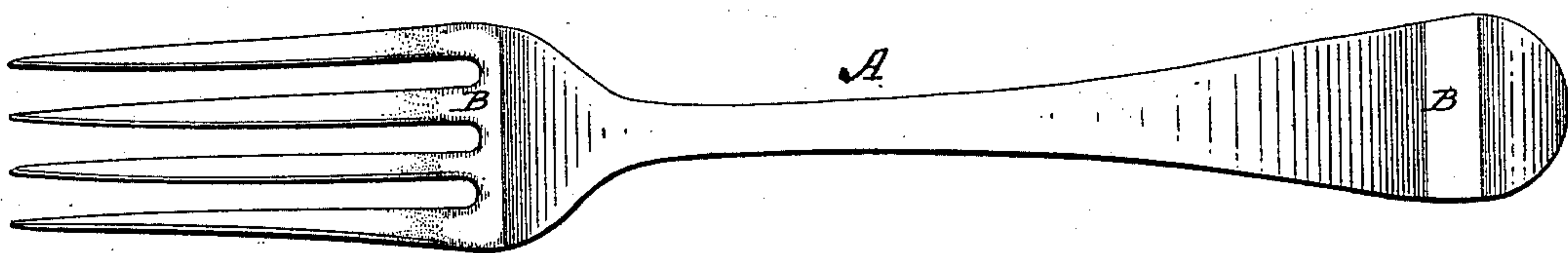
*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 3.*



*Fig. 4.*



WITNESSES:  
*Thos Houghton.*  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ELIJAH TOLMAN, OF TAUNTON, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR TO REED & BARTON, OF SAME PLACE.

## SPOON AND FORK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 285,769, dated September 25, 1883.

Application filed March 21, 1883. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ELIJAH TOLMAN, of Taunton, in the county of Bristol and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Spoons and Forks, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the annexed drawings, forming part of this specification.

The object of this invention is to retard the wear of plated spoons and forks at the most exposed points, to prevent the unsightly appearance due to a wearing away of the plating metal on exposed parts.

As is well known, the convex portions at the back of the handle and bowl of spoons and forks are exposed to more rapid wear than any other part of such articles. To prevent the rapid wear at these points, an additional coating of the plating metal has been applied at such points; or projections have been formed on the body of the handle and bowl to form a base for supporting the body of the article out of contact with a table. These means of retarding wear, however, not only involve unnecessary expense, time, and labor in the manufacture of spoons and forks, but the latter means gives an unsightly appearance to such articles by the lumps or projections formed thereon. I have therefore invented an improved means of retarding wear in plated articles, whereby the article shall not be disfigured in appearance, nor its outline noticeably changed, as compared with the usual forms of such articles.

In carrying out my invention I provide a spoon or fork, or like article, with small plane or flattened surfaces on the back or convex portion of the bowl and handle, which shall form a base adapted to rest flat upon a table at the points of contact.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a bottom view of a spoon, showing my invention. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a sectional view of a spoon that has been stamped to form the flattened surfaces; and Fig. 4 is a bottom view of a fork, showing my invention.

A indicates a fork or spoon having small plane or flattened surfaces B formed in the same plane with each other in the convex rear portions of the bowl and handle. These sur-

faces may be of very small area, so as to be scarcely noticeable; or they may be made comparatively large, if desired. They may be formed by means of corresponding surfaces in the die or mold, by which the base-metal core of the fork or spoon is shaped; or they may be stamped after the core is formed. In the latter case plane surfaces will be formed both on the concave and the convex surfaces of the bowl and handle, and this stamping may be done in such manner as to ornament the front or upper side of the fork or spoon. The core, after being provided with the plane surfaces, is ready to be coated with plating metal.

Instead of first providing the core with the plane surfaces, and then plating the same, the article may be stamped after it has been plated, the essential feature of my invention being the plane or flattened surfaces at the back or convex portions of the bowl and handle. The core may also be provided with the plane or flattened surfaces by grinding or polishing.

With the above construction the spoon or fork will have small flat or flattened bases on which to rest when it lies on a table, and as two flat surfaces moved in contact with each other will not, owing to the distribution of the friction, be subject to as much frictional wear as a plane and a convex surface so moved, it will be readily perceived that the plating metal will last longer with a flat base than where the plated article rests upon a curved or convex surface.

In still further defining the limits of my invention I would state that I am aware that a medicine-spoon having two bowls and a single handle between them has had the larger bowl made with a broad flat bottom, to prevent the spoon from being accidentally overturned while filled with medicine and resting on a table. I disclaim any such construction, as well as any other merely flat-bottomed vessel. My invention is distinguished from the above in that it is applicable solely to articles which do not require flat bottoms to support them, and that to accomplish the purpose of retarding wear it is necessary that both the bowl and handle shall be flattened, and, further, that they shall be flattened in the same

plane, while the flattened surfaces may practically be made so small as not to mar the usual beauty of spoons and forks, and without materially lessening the intended effect of the  
5 construction.

What I claim is—

A spoon or fork the body of which is flat over small areas of the convex surface of both

handle and bowl or head, whether the body be cast or struck up in dies, and whether the article be plated or otherwise, as specified. 10

ELIJAH TOLMAN.

Witnesses:

ELISHA T. JACKSON,

F. E. FISKE.