

(No Model.)

H. I. GOULD.

HOOP SKIRT.

No. 290,676.

Patented Dec. 25, 1883.

Fig. 1.

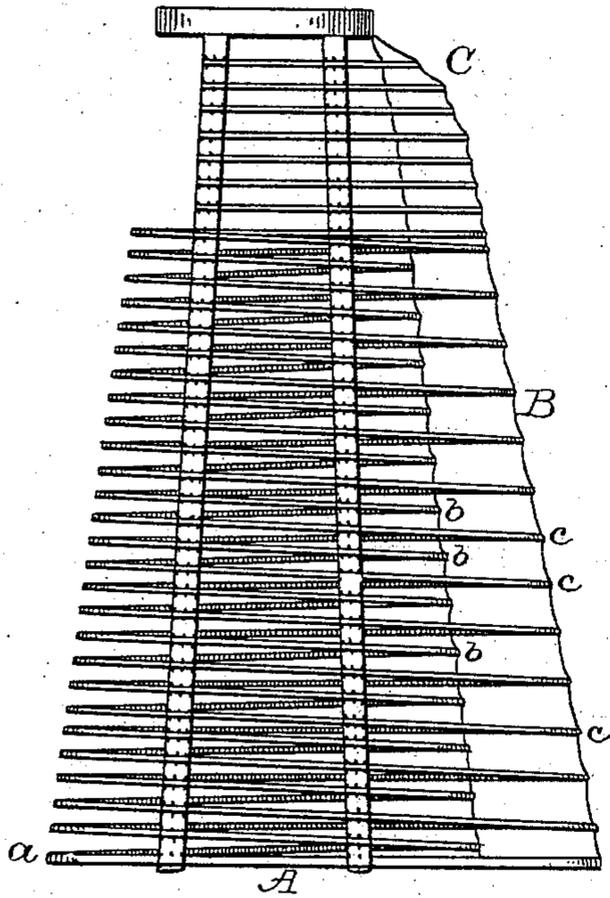


Fig. 2.

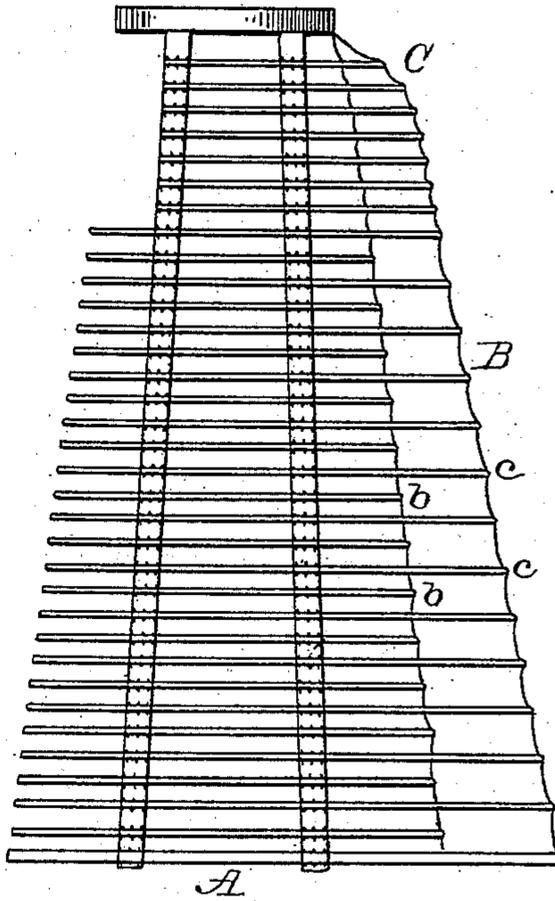
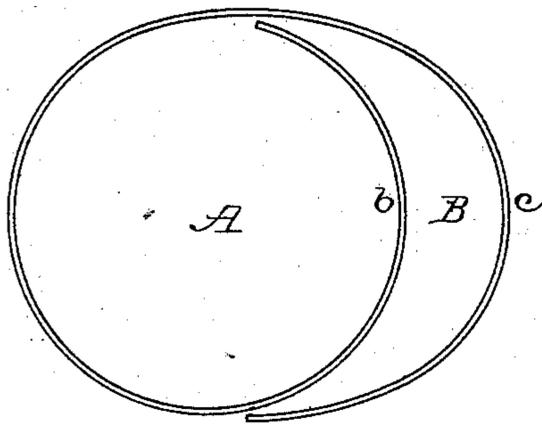


Fig. 3.



Attest:  
*Nowell Bartle*  
*Edmund Broahag*

Inventor:  
*Herbert I. Gould*  
*By Mrs. Wood*  
Attorney

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HERBERT I. GOULD, OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND.

## HOOP-SKIRT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 290,676, dated December 25, 1883.

Application filed July 27, 1883. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HERBERT I. GOULD, of the city and county of Providence, in the State of Rhode Island, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Hoop-Skirts; and I do hereby declare that the following specification, taken in connection with the drawings furnished and forming a part of the same, is a clear, true, and complete description of my invention.

My said improvements relate to that class of hoop-skirts which have rearward extensions for supporting the panniers and trails of dresses. Heretofore, so far as my knowledge extends, the ribs of said rearward extensions have been formed of short lengths of hoop material, fastened at each end to the opposite sides of a hoop; and the objects of my invention are to economize in construction by obviating the labor of making said connections, and also to obviate the wear of adjacent clothing, which is incident to contact with the fastening-clasps used in making the connections and contact with the butts or ends of said ribs adjacent to said clasps, and, still further, to obtain equally good and generally better results by employing less hoop material, not only economizing therein, but producing a lighter skirt, and one having a practical uniform resiliency or springiness throughout its main portion. To these ends I have for the first time, as I believe, devised a skirt having a rearward extension in which hoops of different sizes alternate with each other, so that one set of hoops serve solely as parts of the main skirt, and the other set serve not only as parts of the main skirt but also form the rearward extension, and therefore one kind of skirt made in accordance with one feature of my invention need have but one binding or fastening clasp for each hoop, and in proportion as other features of my invention be employed can the binding clasps or fasteners be lessened, and when my complete invention is employed an entire skirt can be formed with no more than three binding-clasps for fastening the ends of the hoops. In other words, I make a hoop-skirt with all or most of its hoops for forming the main portion of the skirt and also its rearward extensions of a continuous length of hoop material laid spirally in different diameters to form rear extensions, with al-

ternating coils or hoops, and therefore but two binding-clasps for the hoop ends are required—one near the bottom of the skirt for one end of said material, and the other near the top for the opposite end.

To more particularly set forth my invention, I will describe the skirts illustrated in the drawings, and thereafter in the several claims annexed specify the features deemed novel by me.

Figure 1 illustrates inside view a skirt embodying the several features of my invention in their best form. Fig. 2 is a similar view of a skirt embodying the alternating hoops of different sizes in accordance with one feature of my invention. Fig. 3 is a top view of a main hoop and an extension-hoop composed of a single length of material in accordance with one feature of my invention.

Referring to Fig. 1, it will be seen that my improved skirt comprises the main body A and a rearward extension, B; and it is to be understood that although all of the hoops above the bottom hoop, *a*, (and this might be included), are composed of a continuous length of hoop material, each spiral coil constitutes, in substance, a hoop, and it will be seen that every other coil constitutes a main hoop, *b*, and that the alternate coils constitute, in part, a main hoop and in part a rear-extension hoop, *c*, which is larger than the adjacent hoops *b*. This alternating of hoops of different sizes to form the rearward extension, B, of the main portion A of a skirt constitutes one feature of my invention, whether all the hoops be formed of one continuous length of hoop material; or, as in Fig. 2, said hoops *b* and *c* are separately formed and of separate lengths of material. The use of the continuous length of hoop material, as in Fig. 1, however, enables the production of a better skirt, and involves much less material and labor than any other known to me otherwise corresponding in the number of hoops and the character of material.

It is obvious that many of the prime advantages of my invention will accrue if two lengths of hoop material be employed, each arranged spirally, and one serving to form the hoops wholly for the main skirt and the other to form the hoops partially for the main skirt and also for the rearward extension.

It will be seen that I am enabled to form one or more rearward-extension hoops and corresponding main hoops from a single length of hoop material, and this, as I believe, is broadly new, and is of obvious practical value in the saving of labor and end clamps, whether a single compound hoop for both purposes be thus constructed, as in Fig. 3, or they be alternated one with the other, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

Instead of having one length of material form a compound hoop for the main skirt and also for the rear extension thereof, or having one or two lengths serve for both classes of hoop throughout the skirt, as described, it is obvious that two or three, as well as more, of said hoops can be formed of a continuous length of material in accordance with my invention, and that substantial economy will accrue when compared with the making of a main hoop of one length and the rear extension of a shorter length applied thereto by two end clamps, and requiring also a third clamp for connecting the two ends of the main hoop, as heretofore.

In the skirt shown in Fig. 1 the extra pannier-support C may be constructed in the usual manner, as it forms no part of my present invention, the usual open top at the front of the skirt above the main hoops precluding the use of complete hoops at that point. When the extra pannier-support is not employed, the rearward extension B serves both as a pannier and trail support; and it is obvious that the vertical outline of said rearward extension may be indefinitely varied without departure from my invention.

It is not to be understood that I broadly claim as my invention the employment of hoop material in a continuous length in the construction of ordinary hoop-skirts which have no rearward extensions, as my improvements are limited to that particular class of skirts containing hoops which constitute the main body of the skirt, and other hoops or parts of hoops which constitute rearward extensions thereof, as is clearly indicated in my drawings.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. In a hoop-skirt having a main body and a rearward extension, the combination of one or more main hoops and one or more rearward-extension hoops, composed of a single length of hoop material, substantially as described.

2. In a hoop-skirt provided with a rearward extension, the combination of hoops of different sizes, alternating with each other, substantially as described, whereby all the hoops serve for the main portion or body of the skirt, and the alternate larger hoops serve to form the rearward extension, as set forth.

3. A hoop-skirt having a main body and a rearward extension, embodying a series of hoops of different sizes composed of a continuous length of hoop material, substantially as described.

HERBERT I. GOULD.

Witnesses:

H. A. RANDALL,

HOWARD E. THOMPSON.