

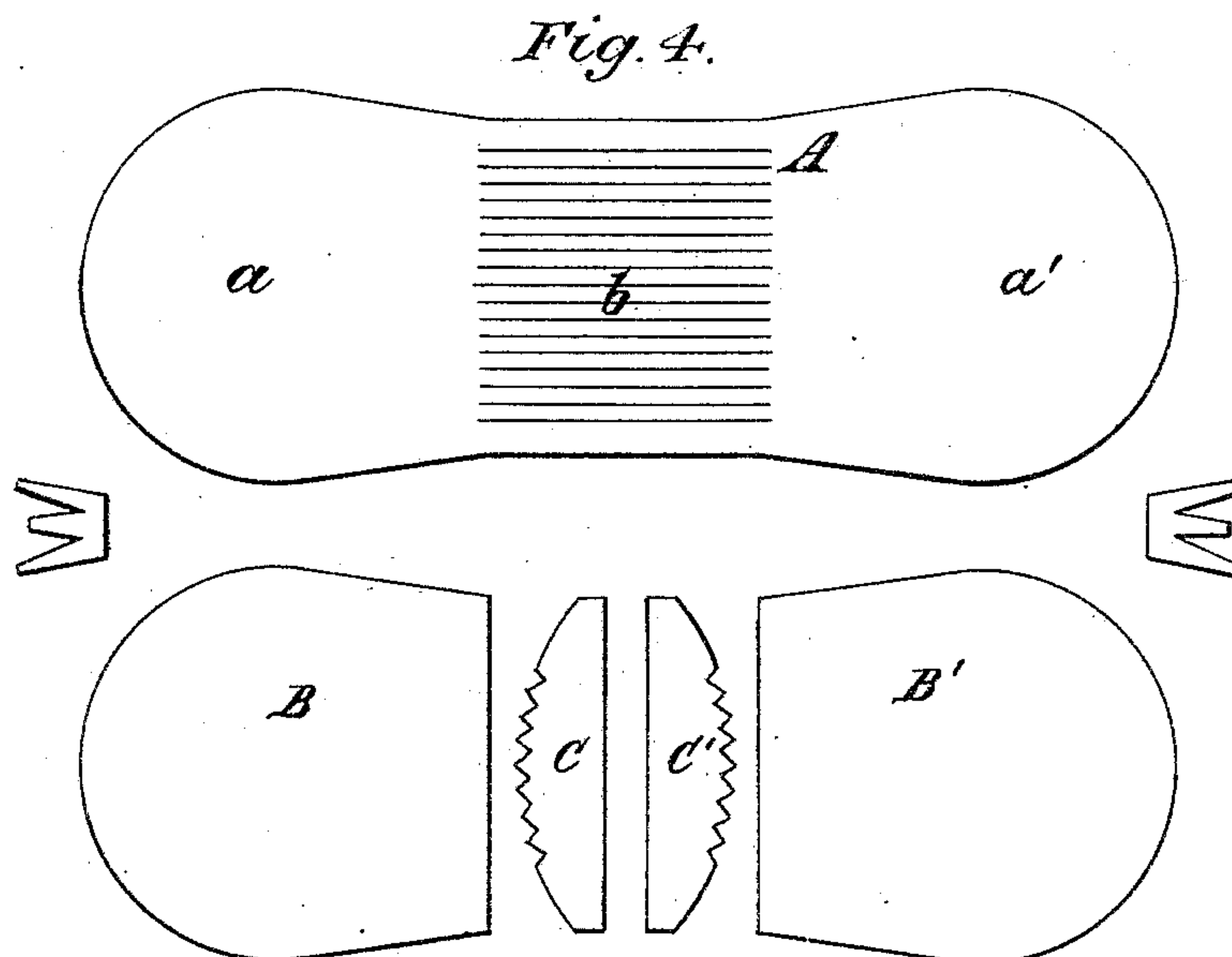
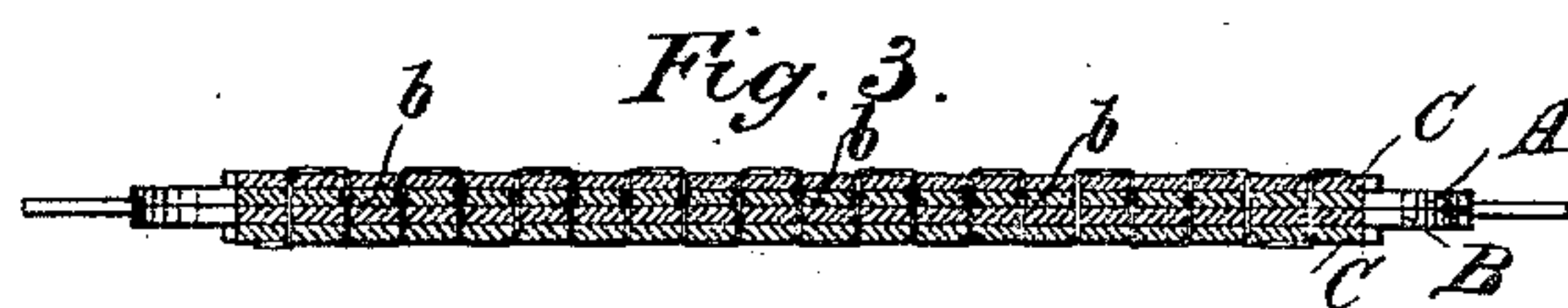
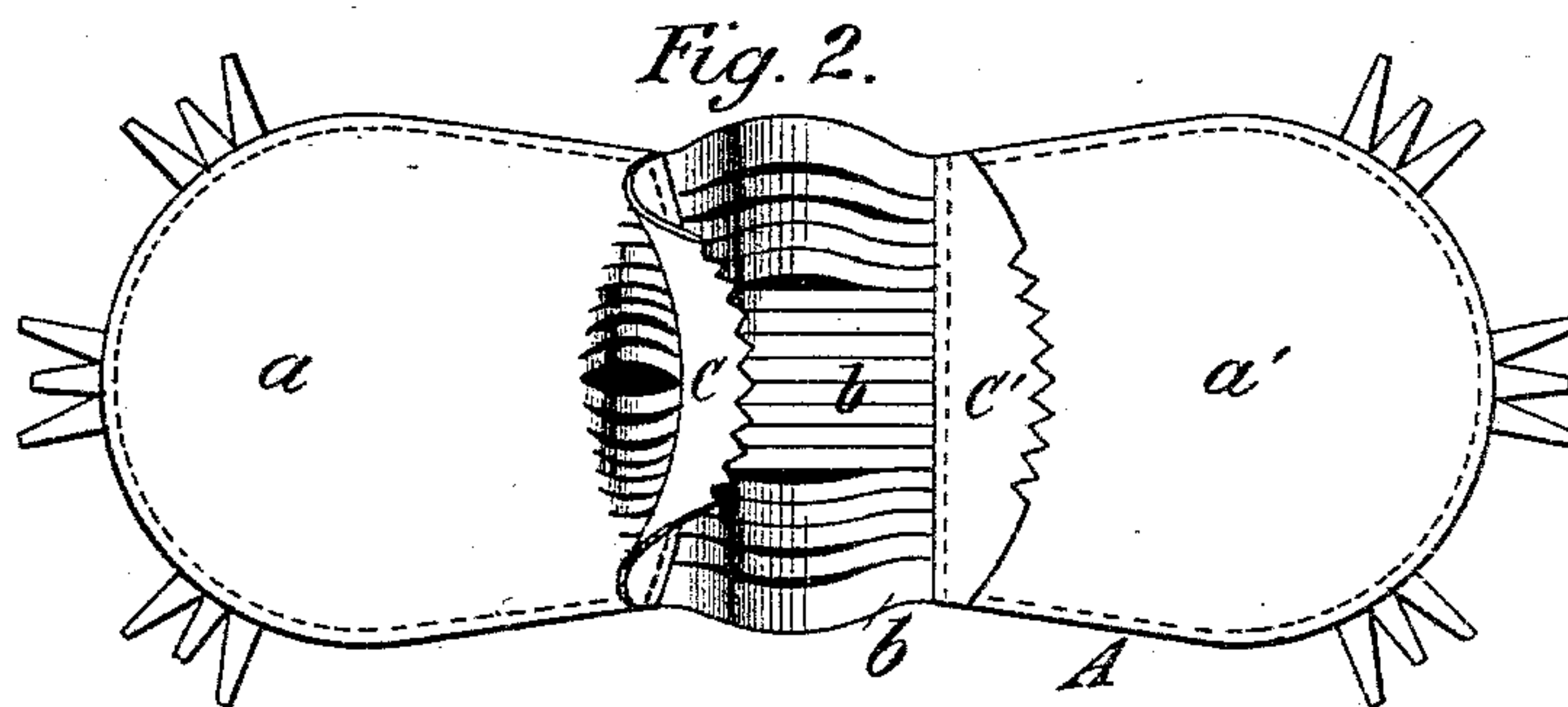
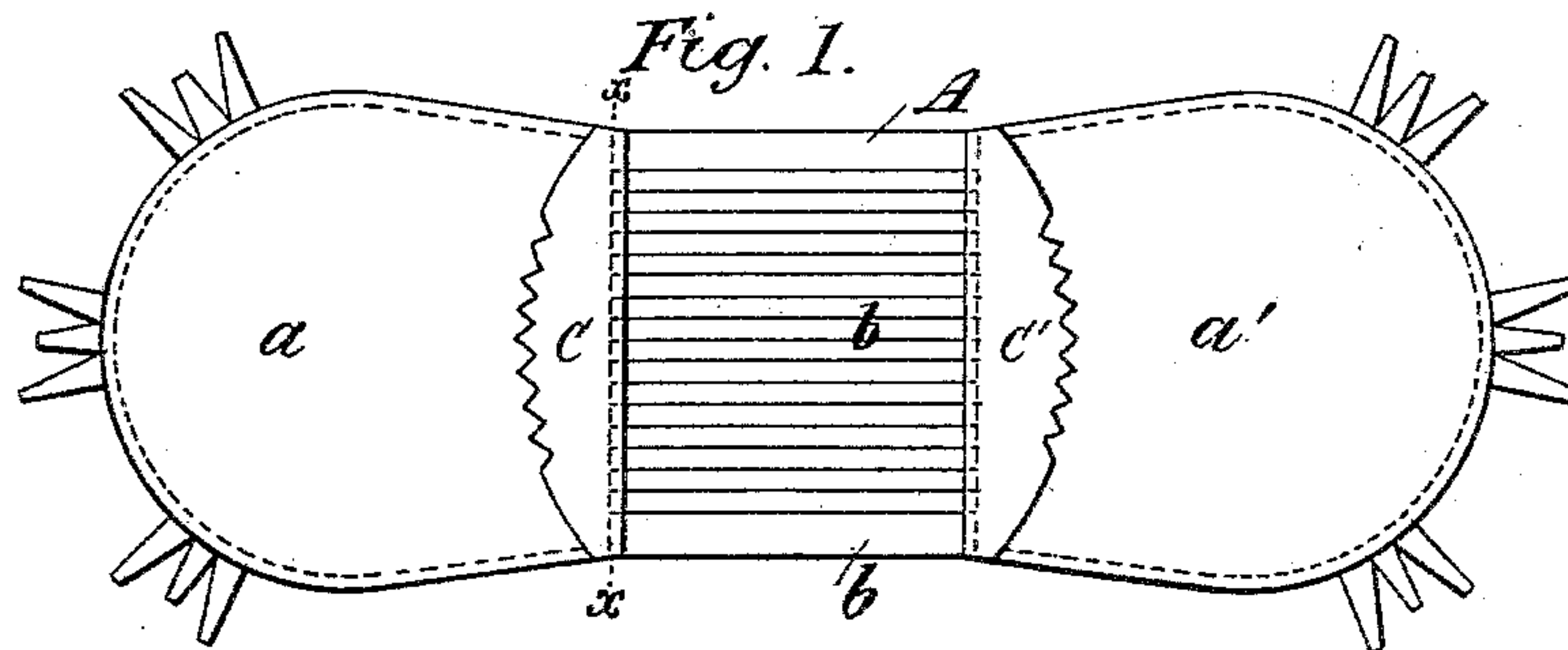
(No Model.)

C. F. FITZ GERALD.

PURSE.

No. 303,829.

Patented Aug. 19, 1884.



Witnesses  
James R. Bowen.  
William H. Lipsey

Inventor  
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Edwin H. Brown



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES F. FITZ GERALD, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO  
WILLIAM O. ALLISON, OF ENGLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY.

## PURSE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 303,829, dated August 19, 1884.

Application filed October 26, 1883. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CHARLES F. FITZ GERALD, now residing in New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Porte-Monnaies or Purses, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a purse in which the opening is difficult to find, and from which money will not easily escape.

I will describe in detail a puzzle-purse embodying my improvement, and then point out the novel features in claim.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a face view of a puzzle-purse embodying my improvement, showing the opening closed. Fig. 2 is a similar view of the purse, showing it open. Fig. 3 is an enlarged transverse section of the purse, taken on the plane of the dotted line *xx*, Fig. 1; and Fig. 4 is a view of its component parts detached from each other.

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

The several parts of this purse will preferably be made of chamois, leather, buckskin, undressed kid, or other soft and strong material; but they may be made of any other suitable material.

A (see particularly Fig. 4) designates a piece of material composed of two tab-like end portions, *a a'*, and intermediate strap-like portions, *b*, formed by making a number of parallel slits between the end portions.

B B' designate pieces of material of a shape corresponding to the shape of the end portions, *a a'*, of the piece A.

C C' designate narrow pieces of material of a length equal to the width of the adjacent ends of the tab-like portions *a a'* of the piece A, and the width of the corresponding ends of the pieces B B'. The pieces B B' are laid upon the tab-like portions *a a'* of the piece A. One of the pieces C is then laid on the outer side of the tab-like portion *a* of the piece A, and another of these pieces C is laid on the outer side of the piece B. One of the pieces C' is also laid upon the outside of the tab-like portion *a'* of the piece A, and the other of these pieces C' is laid upon the outer side of the piece B'.

While the several pieces are in the positions

described a row of stitching is run around the entire edges of the tab-like portions *a a'* of the piece A, and thus the several pieces are secured together. The stitches that secure the tab-like portion *a* of the piece A, the piece B, and the pieces C together do not pass through the strap-like portions *b* of the piece A, but between these strap-like portions. In order that the length of these stitches shall not attract attention, it is desirable that all the stitches whereby the parts of the purse are secured together shall be of the same length. The stitches that secure the pieces C, the piece B', and the tab-like portion of the piece A together will preferably pass through the strap-like portions *b* of the piece A. This difference is made because it is not intended that the pocket or pouch formed by the tab-like portion *a'* of the piece A and the piece B' shall be capable of being opened, whereas it is intended that the pocket or pouch formed by the tab-like portion *a* of the piece A and the piece B shall be capable of being opened. By making one pocket or pouch incapable of being opened the possibility of opening the other is lessened, because a failure of success in opening the one will tend to discourage efforts of the same kind toward opening the other. The puzzle in this purse is to find the opening, which, owing to the arrangement of the piece C and its concealment thereby, is puzzling and difficult. The pieces C C' are merely used to form flaps for the pockets or pouches.

To open the pocket or pouch *a B*, it is only necessary to take hold of the pieces *a B* at the middle and pull them apart. The strap-like portions *b* will then be drawn between the stitches whereby the piece A and the piece B are secured together. Money may then be inserted through the slits that separate the strap-like portions. To close this pocket or pouch it is grasped at the end which is the farthest from the strap portions *b*, and the other pocket or pouch is also grasped and pulled. The strap-like portions are thus pulled outwardly between the stitches that extend around them so far that they will not be visible when either of the flaps C is raised. By taking hold of the pieces *a' B'* at the middle, they can be pulled apart, like the pieces *a B*, but not so as to open the pocket or pouch formed by them.



A failure to open the pocket or pouch formed by the pieces *a'* B' by thus pulling them apart will tend to deter a person from making any attempt to open the other pocket or pouch by pulling apart the pieces *a* B.

I am aware that prior to my improvement a purse had been devised comprising two pieces of material made approximately round, one having a number of strap-like portions extending from it, and the other being united to it between these strap-like portions; but owing to the circular shape of the pieces of material referred to it was practically impossible to open this purse by pulling apart the said pieces of material at the middle, and consequently an upwardly-extending flap had to be provided on one of the pieces and a downwardly-extending flap or tab on the other for pulling on for the purpose of opening the purse. The presence of these flaps indicates how this purse is to be opened. The object of my improvement is to produce a purse which will not by its construction indicate how it is to be opened—in other words, a puzzle-purse. With this object in view I form a pocket or pouch of two pieces of material which have approximately parallel sides, and although from one of these pieces there extend a number of strap-like portions, yet outside this piece I arrange a flap which extends downwardly over the said piece, instead of upwardly over the strap-like portions, as in the prior purse. The pocket which I thus form can be opened by pulling the pieces of which it is formed apart. At the upper end of the strap-like portions I arrange another pocket or pouch, but construct it so that it cannot be

opened, and hence make it a dummy pocket. A person trying to get access to my purse will be just as likely to commence with efforts to open the dummy pocket, and if such is the case his difficulty will be increased. Should he try to open the real pocket, he will find nothing about its structure to indicate how it can be opened. My purse is, for the reasons given, a radically different purse from the prior purse to which I have alluded.

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

As a new article of manufacture, a puzzle-purse consisting of a piece, A, composed of portions *a a'*, having approximately parallel sides and intermediate strap-like portions, *b*, pieces B B', corresponding in shape to the portions *a a'* of the piece A, and pieces C C', the pieces B B' being secured around their sides and outer ends to the portions *a a'* of the piece A, the pieces B C being secured together between the strap-like portions *b* of the piece A, the pieces B' C' being secured together and to the portion *a'* of the piece A adjacent to the strap-like portions *b* of the piece A, all being so combined that the piece C will extend outwardly over the portion *a* of the piece A and the piece B, thereby concealing the mouth of the purse, and the piece C' extending outwardly over the piece *a'* of the piece A and the piece B', substantially as and for the purpose specified.

CHARLES F. FITZ GERALD.

Witnesses:

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