

(No Model.)

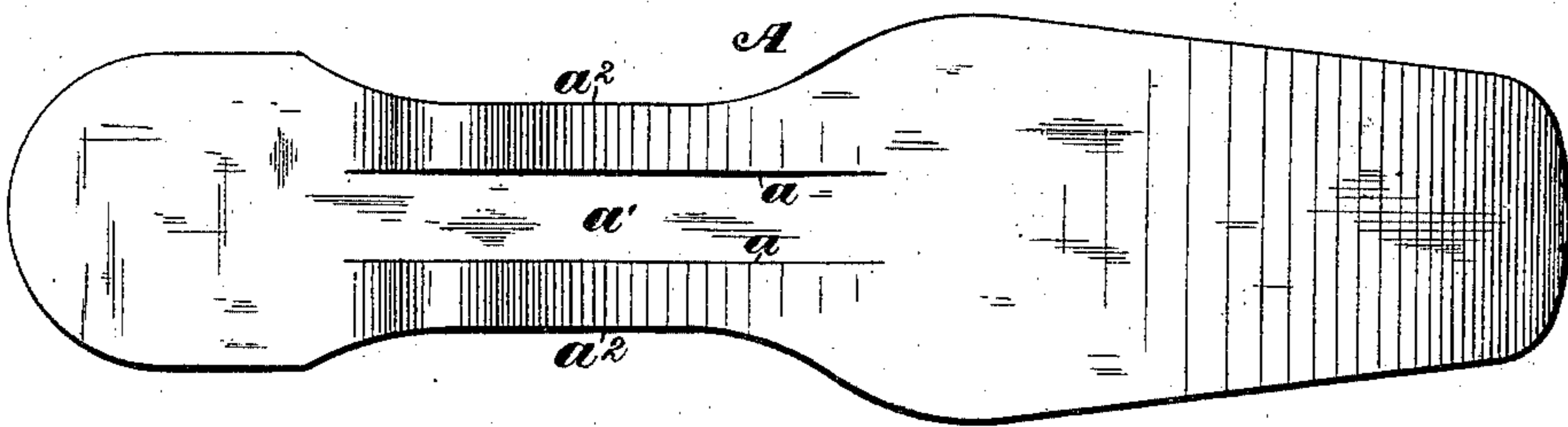
J. V. ROWLETT.

FOOT PLATE FOR ROLLER SKATES.

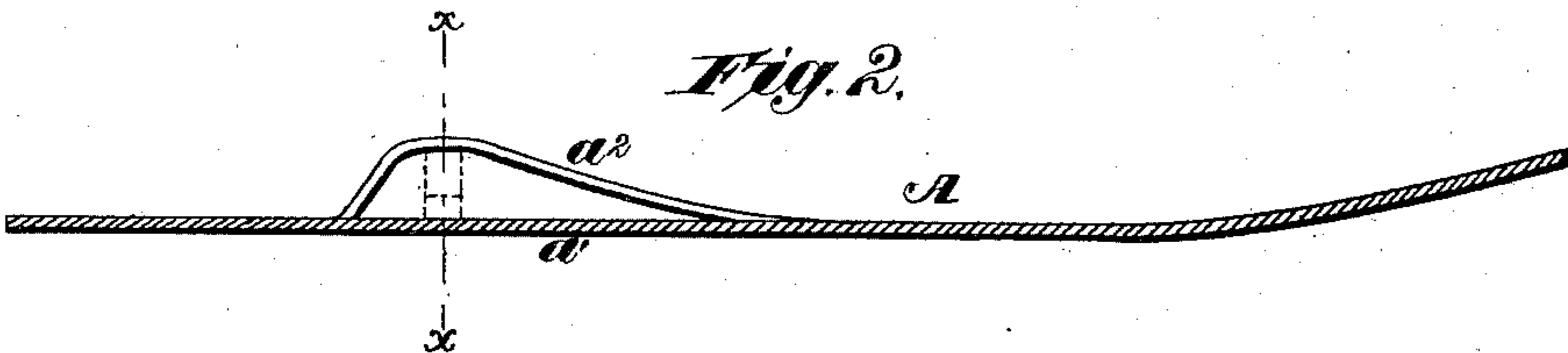
No. 313,625.

Patented Mar. 10, 1885.

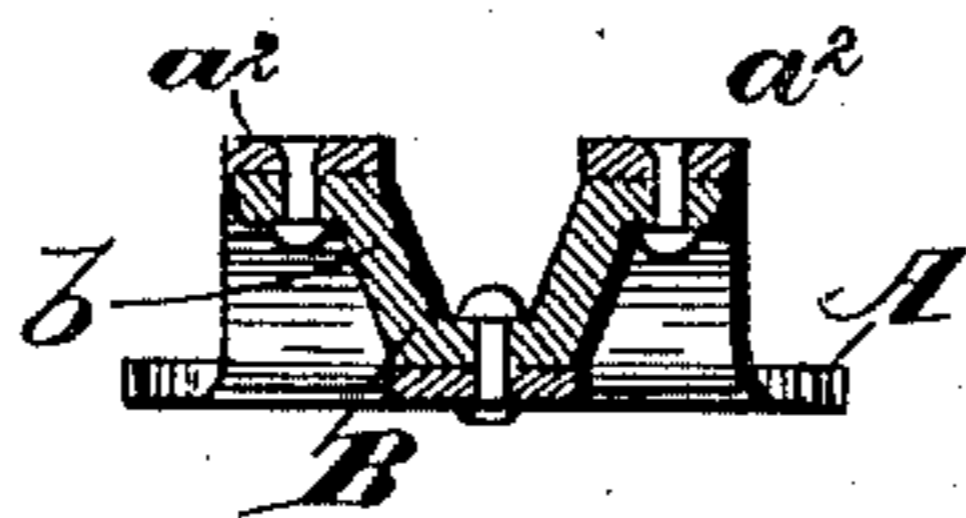
*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 3.*



*Fig. 4.*



Witnesses.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JACOB V. ROWLETT, OF RICHMOND, INDIANA.

## FOOT-PLATE FOR ROLLER-SKATES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 313,625, dated March 10, 1885.

Application filed February 5, 1885. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JACOB V. ROWLETT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Richmond, in the county of Wayne and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Foot-Plates for Roller-Skates, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

My invention relates to roller-skates, and the purpose thereof is to provide a light, strong, and comparatively inexpensive foot-plate for this class of skates, having an arched instep which is strengthened and stiffened by a tie or truss brace forming an integral part of the plate.

My invention consists in the several novel features of construction and combinations of parts, hereinafter fully described, and definitely pointed out in the claims annexed to this specification, the same forming certain novel improvements upon the invention shown and described in an application for Letters Patent filed by me upon the 29th day of August, 1884, and numbered in serial 141,725.

Referring to the drawings forming part of this application, Figure 1 is a plan view of a foot-plate embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a central longitudinal section of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a transverse section of Fig. 2 in the plane  $x x$ . Fig. 4 is a side elevation showing a modified construction.

In the said drawings, the reference-letter A indicates the foot-plate of a skate, which is preferably formed of sheet metal. The plate being cut to the proper shape and size, I form in the instep portion thereof two parallel longitudinal cuts,  $a a$ , extending from the front of the heel portion over the instep, and to or, if desired, into the broadening part of the plate lying between the instep and the toe. These cuts divide said part of the foot-plate into three parallel strips, whereof the central strip,  $a'$ , may be somewhat narrower than the outer strips,  $a^2$ . The cuts  $a$ , by which these parts are formed, may conveniently be formed by the same die by which the plate itself is cut, or they may be made by any other suitable means. The foot-plate thus prepared is then bent to form the arch of the instep, the outer strips,  $a^2$ , of the instep portion being for this

purpose curved into the shape shown in section in Fig. 2, the central strip,  $a'$ , being retained in the same plane with the body of the plate to form an underlying tie or truss brace for the arched instep.

A convenient method of shaping the plate is to draw it into form by means of proper dies, as any shortening or buckling of the central strip,  $a'$ , is thereby avoided. It may, however, be shaped by any other suitable means.

I have shown in the drawings a strut or post which may, if desired, be interposed between the tie or brace and the arched portions  $a^2$ . This strut may consist of a central bar or plate, B, adapted to rest upon plate or strip  $a'$ , and having at each end an upwardly and outwardly inclined support,  $b$ , upon which the arched portions  $a^2$  rest. The ends and central portions of the strut may be fastened by rivets. It is evident, however, that other forms of support may be used; but my invention does not of necessity involve the employment of any post, as I may use the tie-plate without any vertical support.

By my invention I provide a light, strong, and comparatively inexpensive foot-plate possessing just enough elasticity to render it easy for the foot, and capable at the same time of resisting any strain brought upon it in use.

The central strip,  $a'$ , which forms the brace or truss, may be bent downward, as shown in Fig. 4, to compensate for the shortening of the plate caused by arching the lateral strips  $a^2$ .

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

1. In a foot-plate for roller-skates, a stay or brace underlying the upwardly-curved or arched instep portion and integral with said plate at its ends only, substantially as specified.

2. A foot-plate for a roller-skate having the instep portion divided into three longitudinal parts or sections, whereof the two outer form the arched instep, and the central part forms a tie or brace which stiffens and strengthens said instep, substantially as specified.

3. In a foot-plate for a roller-skate, the combination, with the arched instep portion having a tie or brace underlying the same and integral with the plate, of a post or strut rest-

ing upon said tie and supporting the arched portions, substantially as specified.

4. As a new article of manufacture, a foot-plate blank having the instep portion divided  
5 by parallel longitudinal cuts into separate parts or sections, whereof the arched instep portion and a tie or brace underlying and strengthening the same may be formed, substantially as specified.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JACOB V. ROWLETT.

Witnesses:

BENJAMIN F. HARRIS,  
J. W. NEWMAN.