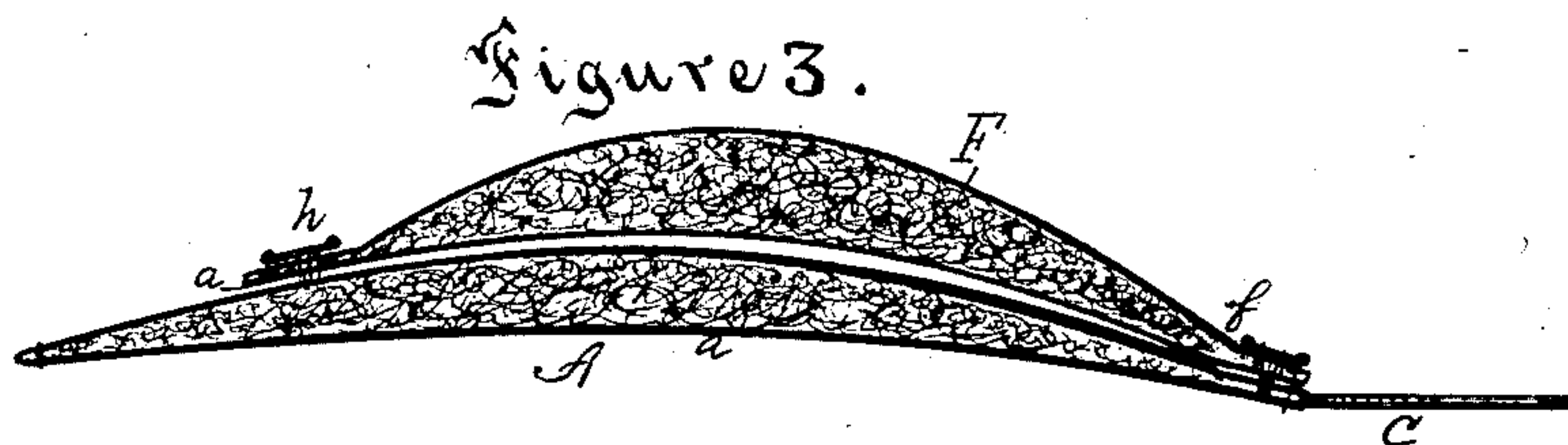
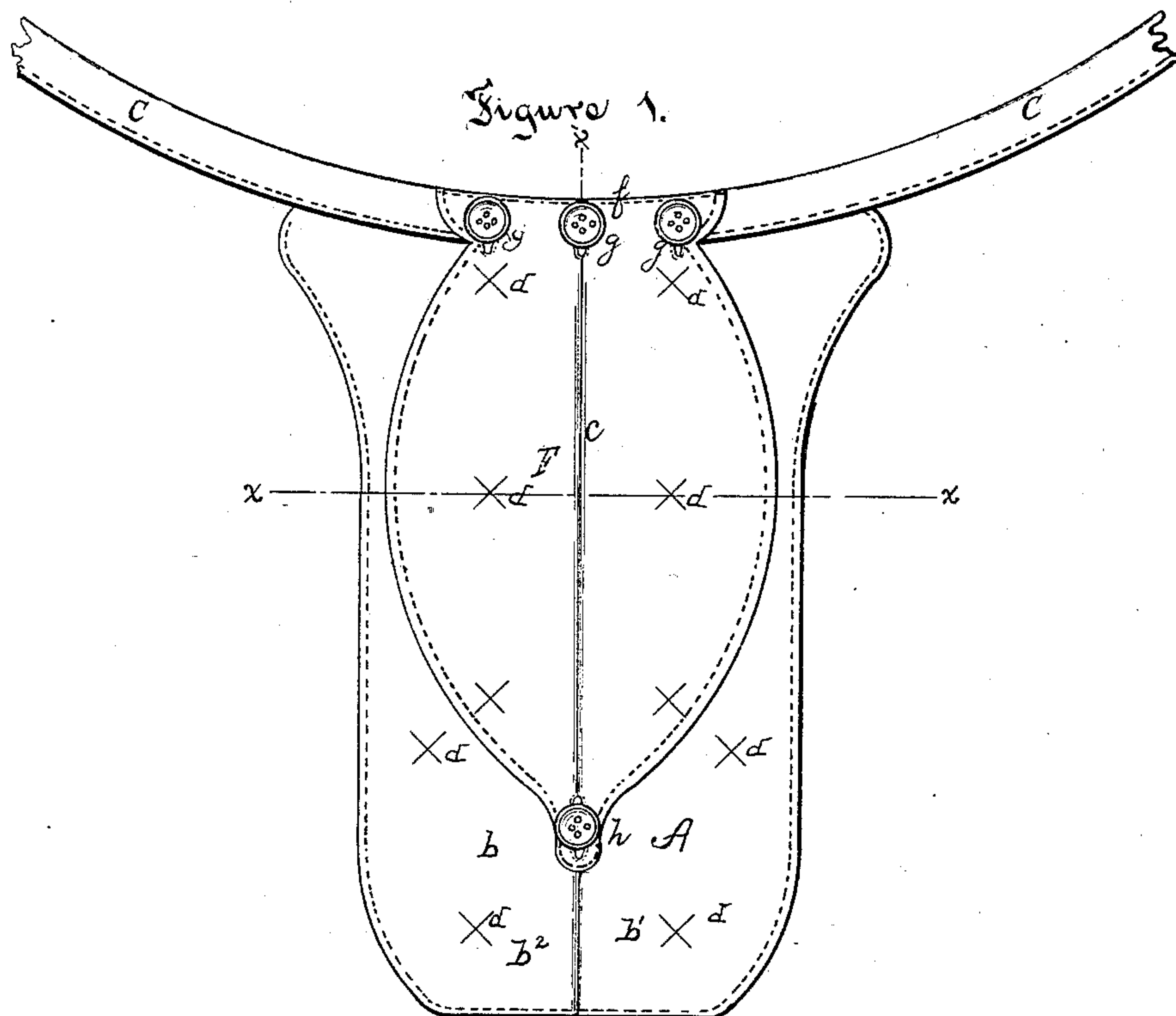


(No Model.)

B. BLENKER.  
BUSTLE.

No. 318,536.

Patented May 26, 1885.



Witnesses:  
Joseph L. Levy.  
Hatter N. Fittenden

Inventor  
Miss Bianca Blenke  
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Attorney

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BIANCA BLENKER, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## BUSTLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 318,536, dated May 26, 1885.

Application filed December 26, 1884. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, BIANCA BLENKER, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of New York city, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Improved Bustle, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 represents a top plan view of the invention. Fig. 2 represents a vertical cross-section of the invention on the line  $x x$  of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 represents a vertical longitudinal section of the invention on the line  $x' x'$  of Fig. 1.

My improved bustle possesses the following advantages: first, they do not lose their shape consequent upon pressure, as the metal-framed reed and ruffled bustles do; second, they do not wear the dress of the user; third, they are more durable; and, fourth, by the employment of the small removable bustle I can in a moment adapt the same bustle to be used with garments differing in style and material, thus enabling the wearer to give the desired shape to the dress-skirt irrespective of its material and of the manner in which it has been made or trimmed.

In the drawings, A represents a flat bag-like structure made of linen or other suitable fabric. It is cut from the material of which it is made preferably in three pieces. The bottom piece,  $a$ , is of substantially the outline and size desired for the bustle. The upper part  $b$  is preferably composed of two pieces,  $b'$  and  $b''$ , united at about the center of the bustle on the line  $c$ , and their aggregate width and length is somewhat greater than the width and length of the under piece,  $a$ . This is done so that when the bag is filled with hair or equivalent material, as hereinafter set forth, the under piece  $a$ , being smaller in all dimensions than the upper pieces,  $b' b''$ , combined, the bustle will maintain its rounded oval shape or concavo-convex form, and however much it may be crushed it will speedily regain its proper form.

At the upper end of the bustle a waistband, C, with ends  $c c$ , is provided, which ends join in front, or otherwise serve to hold the bustle in place.

The bustle-bag thus formed is filled with any suitable light and elastic material, preferably very tough and elastic hair, and I prefer to tack the bag here and there, as shown at  $d d$ , the better to keep the hair or other filling in place.

The bustle described may be made in any desired outline, and of any desired degree of fullness; but I prefer to cut the pieces  $b'$  and  $b''$  of this part of the bustle of such size and shape and unite them to each other and to the bottom piece,  $a$ , so that the resulting bustle will be what may be termed a "low bustle" as distinguished from a high one, so that this part of my bustle may be used as a complete bustle with satisfactory results, with a dress which, having considerable drapery or fullness in the back, just below the waist, requires but little projection or bustle effect at the waist, but does require such effect further down on the skirt; and in order that the same bustle may be used advantageously and satisfactorily with a dress which, having but little drapery at the waist, does require fullness at that part to give it the necessary projection, I provide a smaller removable bustle, F, which is in effect a complete, although small, bustle in itself, superimposed upon the lower or main bustle. This small bustle is made in the same manner as the main bustle, with the exception that it has no waist strings or belt; but in place thereof a button-hole band,  $f$ , at its upper part, in which are formed button-holes, which engage with the buttons  $g g$ , &c., or their equivalent, fastened at or near the band of the main bustle. I also prefer to form one or more button-holes in any suitable manner at or near the lower end of the additional small bustle, as seen at  $h$ , by which its lower end may be retained in place upon the main bustle, the button  $h$  being, of course, sewed to the main bustle. Thus it will be seen that this additional small bustle may be attached or detached in a moment from the main bustle at the will of the wearer.

If desired, more than one additional bustle may be used, superimposed one upon the other.

I do not limit myself to the precise materials used, nor to the details of construction, since they may be somewhat departed from and still my invention be employed. For in-



stance, the upper piece *b* may be made all in one piece, instead of the two pieces *b'* and *b*<sup>2</sup> united together; also, hooks or any other equivalent devices may be used instead of the buttons *g g* and *h*, and the tacking *d d* may be omitted; also, the small upper bustle may be permanently sewed to the band, and thus constitute a permanent part of the bustle; but this method fails to possess the peculiar quality of adapting the bustle to dresses of different styles, &c.

Having described my invention, I claim—

The described adjustable bustle, composed of a main bustle formed of an under and up-

per piece of cloth, the under piece being smaller in all dimensions than the upper piece, said pieces being united at their edges, and a suitable waistband attached to the upper edges thereof, and a smaller superimposed bustle detachably attached to the main bustle, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

Signed at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, this 18th day of December, A. D. 1884.

BIANCA BLENKER.

Witnesses:

WALTER H. CRITTENDEN,  
JOHN J. CAULDWELL.