

(No Model.)

J. J. THORNTON & P. HUBBARD.

BOSOM BOARD.

No. 352,790.

Patented Nov. 16, 1886.

Fig 1.

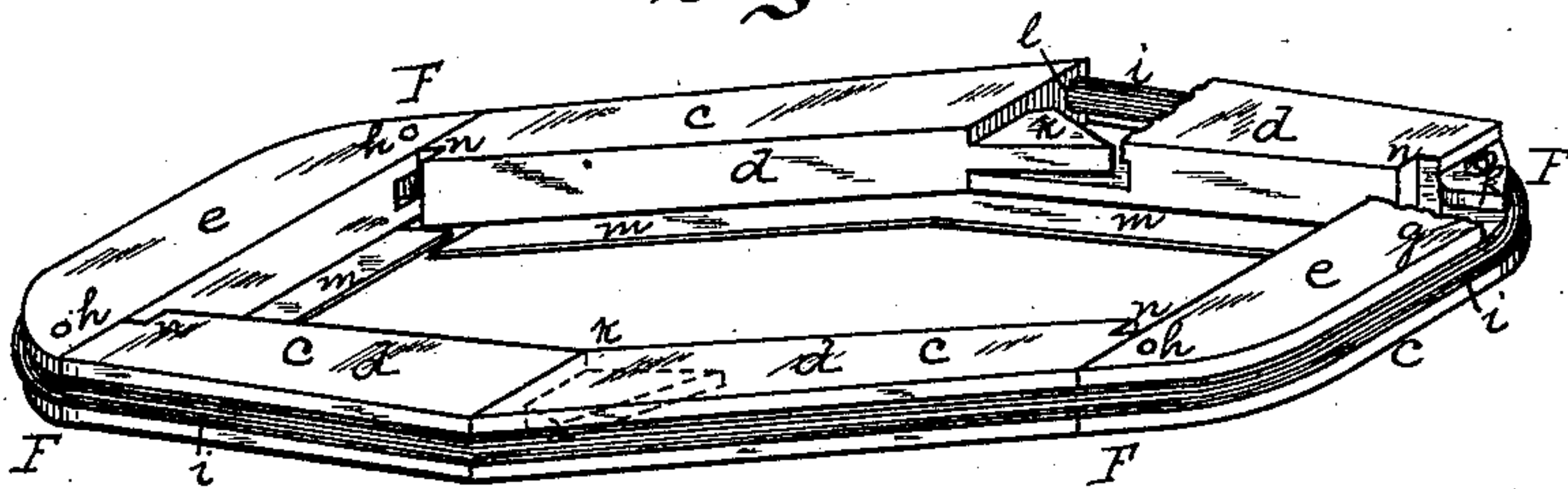


Fig 2.

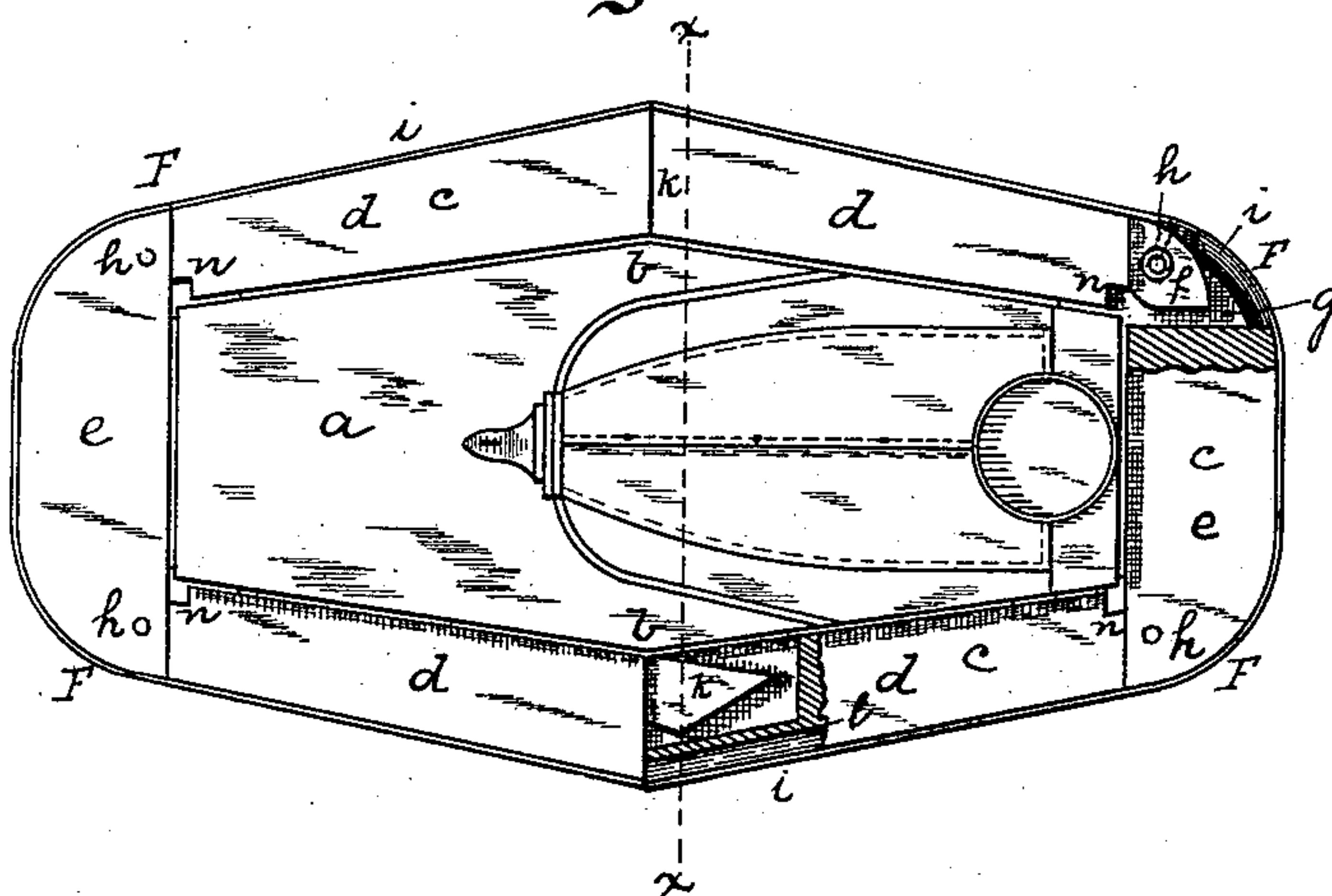
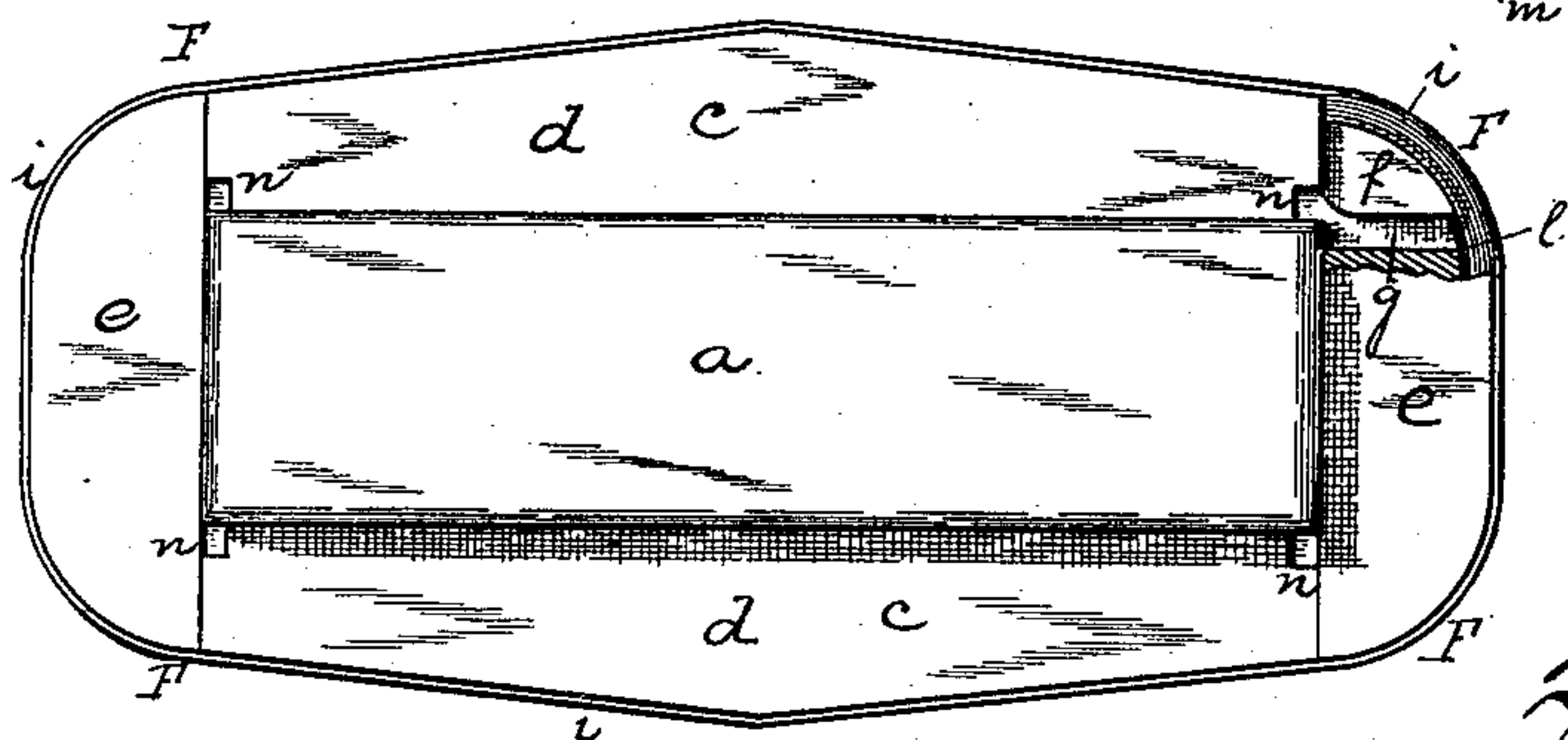


Fig 3.



Fig 4.



Witnesses:

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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ASSIGNORS OF ONE-THIRD TO EDWARD W. LYON, OF SAME PLACE.

## BOSOM-BOARD.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 352,790, dated November 16, 1886.

Application filed May 15, 1885. Serial No. 165,563. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, JOHN J. THORNTON and PETER HUBBARD, of Greensborough, in the county of Guilford and State of North Carolina, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Bosom-Boards; and we do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof.

Our invention relates to bosom-boards employed for stretching and holding the bosoms of shirts during ironing, its object being to provide a simple and cheap construction of bosom-board for this purpose.

It consists, essentially, in combining with the bosom-board a surrounding frame formed of side and end bars, connected at the corners by sliding joints capable of sidewise or endwise movement and conforming to the shape of the bosom-board, this frame being provided with suitable spring apparatus to press it against the bosom-board, and so being adapted to yield to any extent necessary either in its length or width, so that it will accommodate itself to and stretch the bosom of the shirt placed on the bosom-board as the frame is pressed down over the board.

It also consists in forming the spring apparatus of an elastic band fitting within a groove in the edge of the frame, thereby giving a very simple and effective means for compressing the frame upon the bosom-board.

It also consists in forming the bosom-board with bulged side portions, and forming like sliding joints in the side bars of the frame, to allow of the movement of the frame corresponding thereto.

It also consists in certain details of construction, as hereinafter set forth.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use our invention, we will describe the same more fully, referring to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view, partly broken away, of the frame of our improved bosom-board. Fig. 2 is a top view, partly broken away, illustrating the stretching of the shirt-bosom on the board. Fig. 3 is a cross-section on the line *x x*, Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a top view, partly broken away, showing a modification of our invention.

The bosom-board *a* is made of wood, and

when in use may be covered by any suitable material, the board having either straight sides, as shown in Fig. 4, or bulged sides, as shown at *b*, Fig. 2, the advantage of the bulged frame being that it enables the frame when placed over the bosom-board to stretch the body of the shirt in a slightly-diagonal direction, and so cause the more even stretching of the shirt-bosom on the board.

The frame *c* is formed of the side pieces or bars, *d*, and the end pieces or bars, *e*, these bars being connected, as shown, by sliding joints *F*, capable of movement, thus forming what I term "loose" or "flexible" joints, which allow the movement of the frame, so that it can be stretched either in the direction of its length or its width to any extent necessary in placing it over the bosom-board, the movement of each bar being independent of any of the other bars, and depending only on the thickness of material between it and the bosom-board. At the corners in the frame shown in Figs. 1 and 2 the loose joint is formed by the tongue *f* fitting into the groove *g*, and held therein by means of the pin or pintle *h*, which passes through an enlarged hole in the tongue *f*, the purpose of this pintle being simply to hold the frame together when the elastic band *i* extending around the frame, is removed, but allow of the free sliding movement of the parts of the joint in any direction; and the bars of the frame move independently thereof, as where the frame is surrounded by the elastic band *i*, forming the compressing-spring of the frame, such pintle is not necessary. Extending around the outer end of the frame is the groove *l*, in which the elastic band *i* fits, this elastic band thus holding the frame together, and when the frame is placed over the bosom-board *a* compressing the frame in all directions against the edge faces of said board. When the board *a* has the bulged portions *b* thereon, we generally provide the frame with loose joints in the side bars, *d*, these loose joints *k* being of substantially the form as described as to the joints *F*, except that the pintle is not employed, and when these loose joints *k* in the side bars are employed the frame will spread to any extent necessary in the direction of its length and in the direction of its width, on account of the loose joints at the corners,



while at the same time it will spread or give between the ends of the side bars to accommodate itself to the bosom-board and the shirt stretched thereon.

5 Where the sides of the bosom-board are straight, as shown in Fig. 4, the construction of the frame is much more simple, simple tongue-and-groove joints *F* being employed at the corners of the frame without any pintle, 10 and the board having the groove *l* to receive the elastic band or spring *i*, the necessity for the formation of a loose joint within the side bars, *d*, being overcome.

15 In order to give the inner edge of the frame a hold upon the fabric of the shirt, we secure to the under surface of the frame a rubber or like strap forming a cushion, *m*, this cushioning-strip extending inwardly from the inner edges of the frame in such position that when 20 the frame is pressed down over the bosom-board this cushioning-strip will be bent up between the inner edge of the frame and the body of the shirt placed over the bosom-board, and the cushion will hold to the fabric of the 25 shirt and have a tendency to draw it down with it, thus causing a more perfect stretching of the shirt-body over the upper face of the frame. This cushion may be formed in sections and secured to different parts or bars of 30 the frame. At the inner corners of the frame the body thereof is cut away or recessed, as shown at *n*, the purpose of this recess being to prevent the frame from grasping the fabric of the shirt and drawing it into the loose joints 35 of the frame, in case a portion of the body of the shirt should be collected at the corners of the board, these recesses *n* forming free space for the entrance of any such gathered portion of the shirt-body.

40 When our improved bosom-board is in use, the bosom-board is placed within the shirt and the shirt-bosom brought in proper position on the upper face of the bosom-board, and the frame is then pressed down over the shirt on 45 the bosom-board, and as it is pressed down it draws the fabric of the shirt with it. As the bars of the frame can yield both in the direction of its width and length, each bar yielding independently of the others, according to the 50 thickness of the shirt-body between it and the bosom-board, it is evident that the frame will accommodate itself to the bosom-board and the shirt-body and stretch the shirt perfectly over the board.

55 In case the bosom-board is bulged, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the spring and the strain upon

the shirt will be in a slightly-diagonal direction from the center of the board, and the loose joints *k* in the side bar will allow the side bars to accommodate themselves to the bulged form 60 of the board. The cushioning-strips *m* will be bent up between the inner edges of the frame and the shirt-body stretched over the board and will hold to the fabric of the shirt, thus insuring the more perfect stretching thereof. 65

The frame is much thinner than the bosom-board, as is fully shown in Fig. 3, and when the frame is pressed down onto the table on which the bosom-board rests the upper face of the bosom-board and the shirt stretched thereon 70 extend above the frame, so that it interferes in no way with the ironing of the shirt.

The bosom-board is exceedingly simple in construction and cheap, as the parts can be rapidly made by machinery, and the neat fitting of the parts is not required. The frame 75 is also strong and durable, as it is made heavy and in case the elastic band or other parts thereof should break they can be replaced with but little trouble. 80

What we claim as our invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination, with the bosom-board, of the frame conforming in shape thereto and formed of side and end bars connected at the 85 corners by tongue-and-groove joints having a sliding movement in any direction, and suitable spring apparatus to press the frame against the board, substantially as and for the purposes set forth. 90

2. The combination, with the bosom-board, of the frame conforming in shape thereto and formed of side and end bars connected at the corners by tongue-and-groove joints having a 95 sliding movement in any direction, and having a groove extending around their outer faces, and the elastic band fitting within said groove, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

3. In combination with the bosom-board having the bulged portions *b*, the frame formed of 100 side and end bars connected at the corners by sliding tongue-and-groove joints, and having like sliding joints in its side bars and the spring, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony whereof we, the said JOHN J. 105 THORNTON and PETER HUBBARD, have hereunto set our hands.

JOHN J. THORNTON.  
PETER HUBBARD.

Witnesses:

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