

(No Model.)

LAM TACK CHU.
CHINESE LANTERN.

No. 361,134.

Patented Apr. 12, 1887.

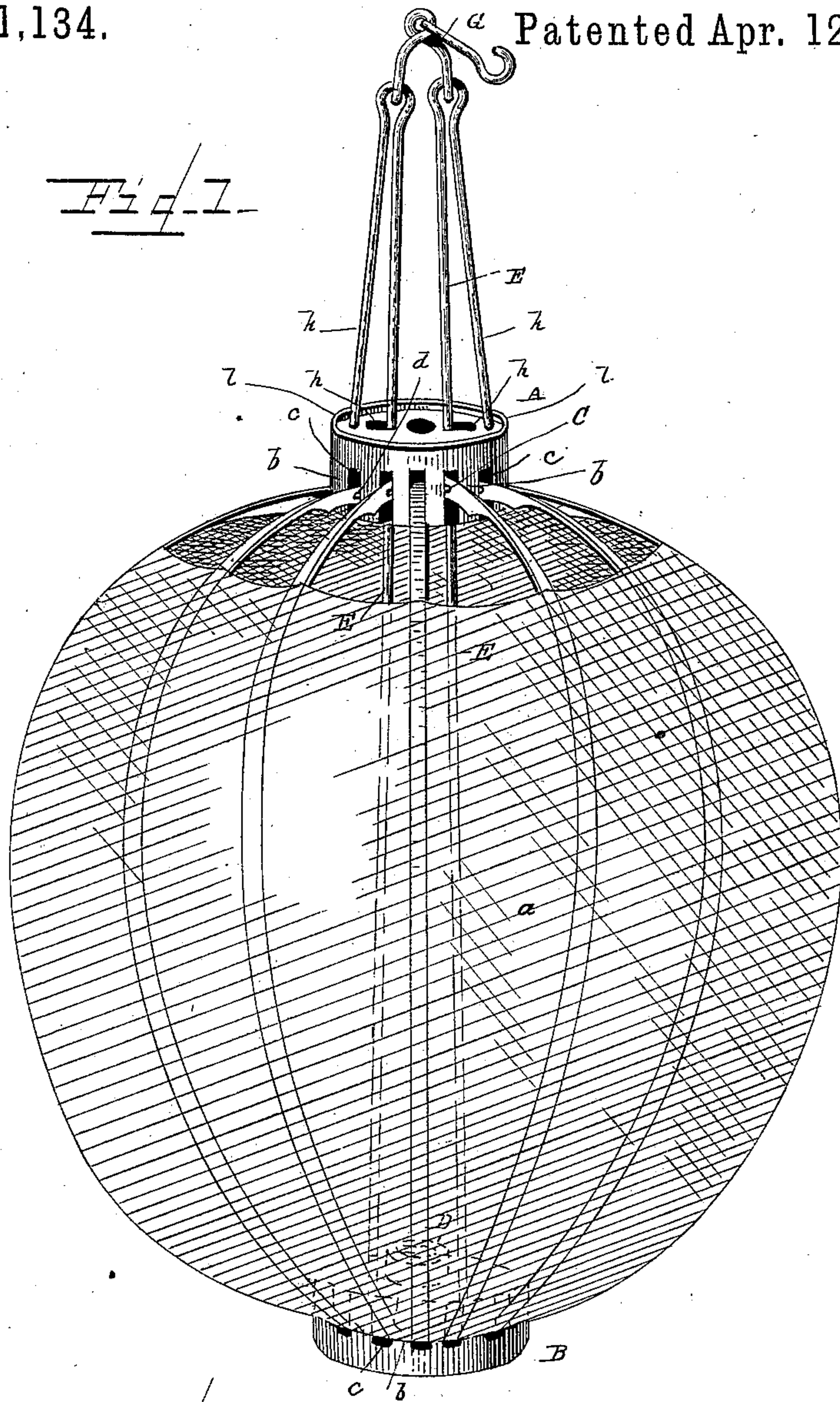
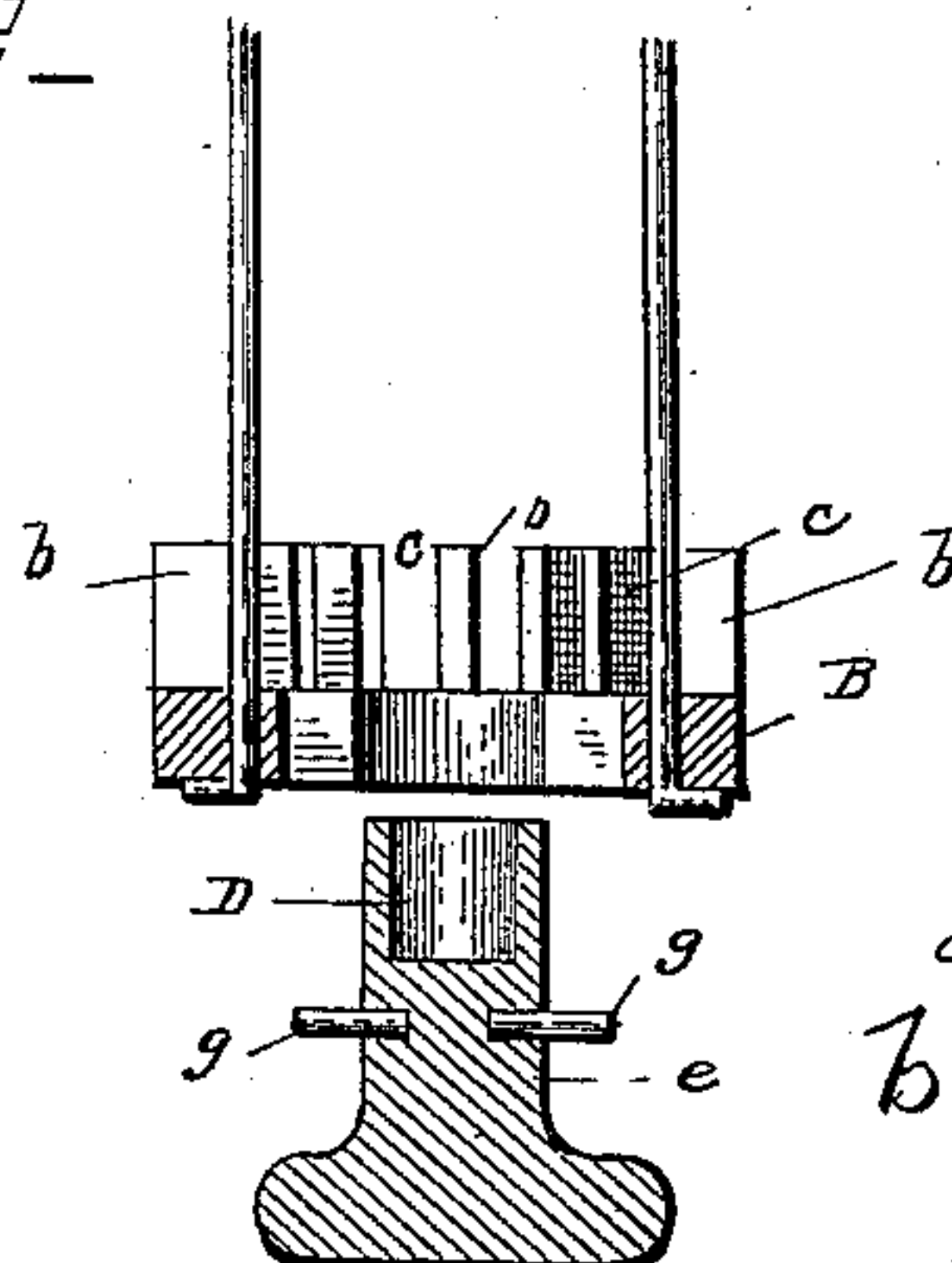


Fig. 2



WITNESSES

Edwin L. Jewell.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LAM TACK CHU, OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

CHINESE LANTERN.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 361,134, dated April 12, 1887.

Application filed August 10, 1885. Renewed December 14, 1886. Serial No. 221,535. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LAM TACK CHU, a subject of the Emperor of China, residing at San Francisco, in the county of San Francisco and State of California, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Chinese Lanterns; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention has relation to improvements in Chinese lanterns, or lanterns used for decorative purposes—such, for instance, as outdoor decorations; and it consists in the construction and novel arrangement of devices, as will be hereinafter more fully set forth, and particularly pointed out in the claims appended.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a perspective view of the lantern in an operative position, and Fig. 2 is a sectional detail view of the lower portion of the lantern and the candle-holder removed.

Referring to the accompanying drawings by letter, A indicates the head-block, and B the foot-block, which compose, respectively, the top and bottom of the lantern *a*. These blocks are circular in outline, and are provided on their inner horizontal sides with alternate vertical recesses and projections *b* and *c*. The projections *b* of each block are provided with aligned horizontal apertures for the reception of a wire rod, C, which also passes through a similar aperture in the ends of the longitudinal ribs. These projections are preferably arranged at the periphery of the blocks A and B, and at a sufficient distance apart for the introduction of the said ribs. The ribs may be made of any suitable flexible or elastic material; but I prefer the use of bamboo, owing to its great elasticity and durability, the bamboo being split, which renders it light and cheap. The ribs connect the head and foot blocks A and B together, and are slightly bent longitudinally from within outwardly, so that when the said blocks are moved in the direction of one another the ribs will bulge out-

wardly in globular or balloon form. It will be perceived that the bamboo strips thus split and pivoted at opposite ends to the head and foot blocks, respectively, form a skeleton frame for the body of the lantern. The ribs or strips may then be covered with paper or other suitable material usually employed in lanterns of this character.

D indicates a candle-holder, which may consist of a circular body portion, *e*, having upon its upper side a central vertical hollow stem or other suitable device for holding the candle or the like, and this stem portion may have two diametrically-arranged lateral pins, *g g*, to secure the said holder in the foot-block B. The said foot-block is provided with a central vertical aperture for the reception of the stem and two diametrically-arranged offset slots for the reception of the lateral pins. Therefore, it will be seen that when a candle has been placed in the holder it may be secured in the foot-block B by simply guiding the pins in the offset slots until clearing the upper horizontal edge of the said slots and giving it a slight turn, so as to have the pins engage the said upper side, when the holder, with the candle, will be secured in position in the lantern.

E indicates the operating-rods, which are preferably formed of wire, and pass longitudinally through the body of the lantern. These wires are secured at their lower ends to the foot or lower block, B, and pass through slots *h* in the upper block, A. The wire rods E terminate at their upper ends in short downwardly-directed branches *k*. These branches are given a spring by forming a slight loop or bulge at their bends, so that when the wires are pulled up or out to open or spread the body of the lantern the lower ends of the short branches will spring out and engage the upper surface of the block A, and hold the said body portion in globular or bulged form, the bamboo ribs acting to drive apart or separate the head from the foot block. The upper ends or bends of the operating-rods are provided with a hook or loop—such as G—for suspending the device.

It may be found desirable in operation to provide the upper side of the block A with a vertical marginal flange—such as *l*—to prevent the spring branches *k* from springing beyond

the periphery of the said block when the operating wires or rods are drawn.

Having thus described this invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A lantern consisting of a head-block and a foot-block, elastic ribs connected at opposite ends to the said blocks, and a wire secured to the foot-block and provided with branches to engage the head-block, whereby the lantern is held in an operative position, as set forth.

2. The combination, in a lantern, of a bottom block, a movable top block, wires secured to the bottom block and passing through the top block, and having downwardly extending

branches to engage the moving block, and elastic ribs pivoted to said blocks, substantially as specified.

3. The combination, in a lantern, of blocks B and A, the elastic ribs secured to said blocks by pivotal connections, substantially as shown, the wires E, attached to block B and passing through slots *h* in block A, and having downward extensions *h*; substantially as specified.

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

LAM TACK CHU.

Witnesses:

FONG YON,

J. H. WILLS.