(Model.)

C. C. CARPENTER.

BUSTLE.

No. 366,378. Patented July 12, 1887.

Fig. 2.

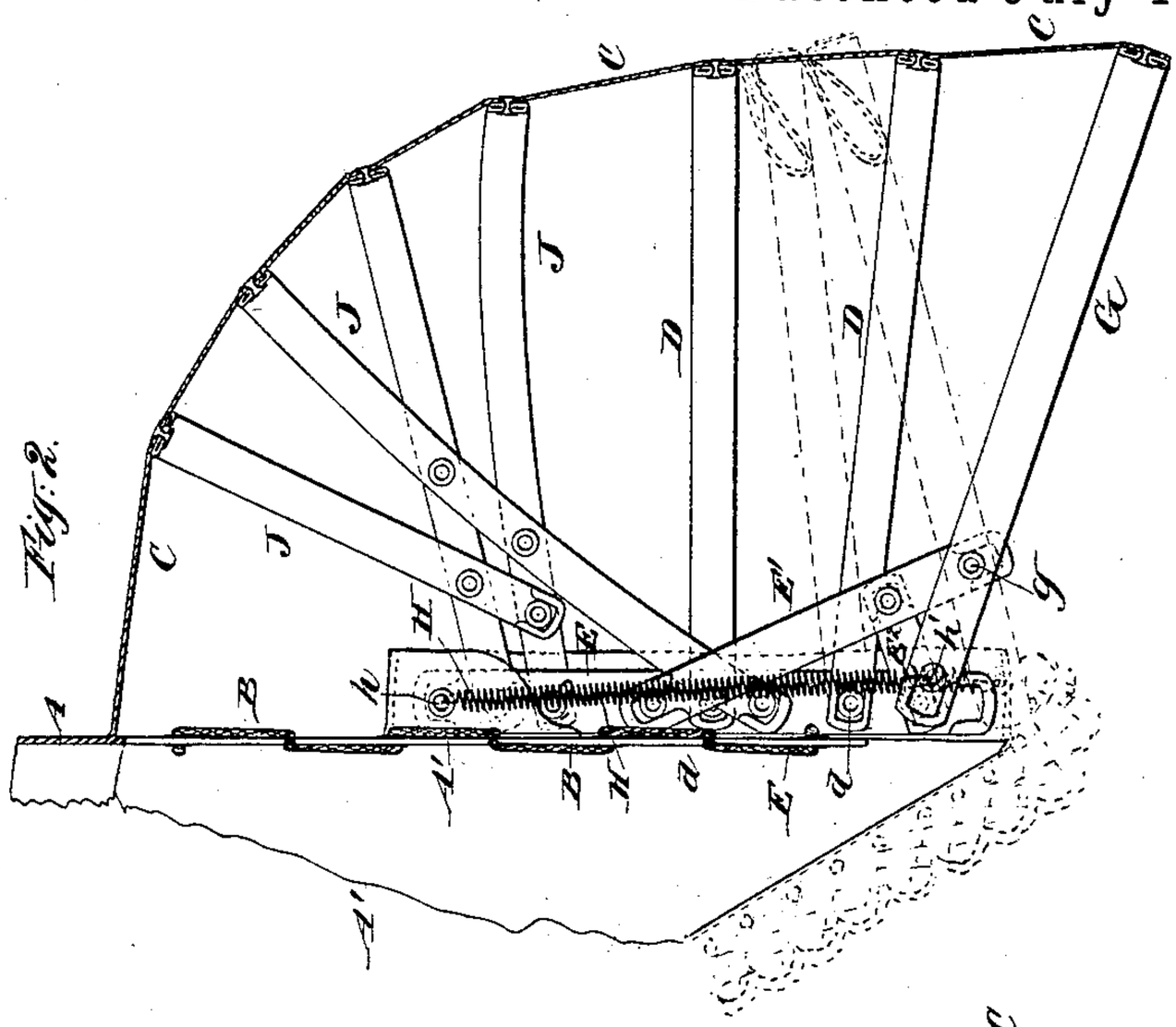
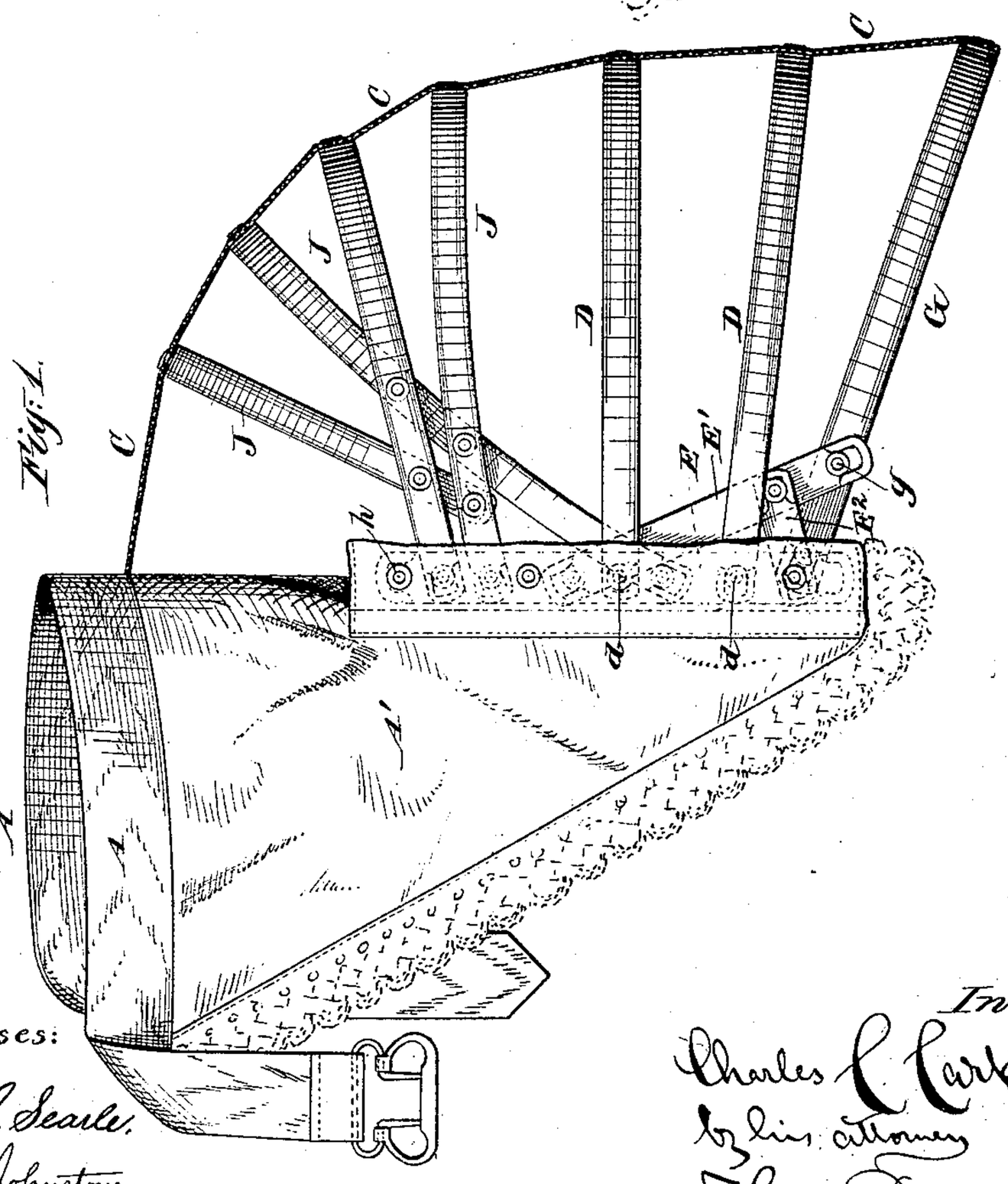


Fig. 1.



Witnesses:
Charles R. Searle.
H. A. Johnstone

Inventor:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES C. CARPENTER, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

BUSTLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 366,378, dated July 12, 1887.

Application filed April 27, 1887. Serial No. 236,281. (Model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES C. CARPENTER, of the city and county of New York, in the State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Bustles, of which the following is a specification.

The improvement relates to that class of bustles in which the dress is distended by springs, approximately horizontal, extending across the back, with provisions for widening and narrowing the back to vary the extent of projection of the bustle, and which springs fold up out of the way when the bustle is pressed against the back of a chair or other object. I employ springs extending across, each independent of the others, except as they are tied together by a flexible connection, and provide a tension-spring on each side, which acts leverwise on the lower spring to move it downward by pulling upward on the ends, which are extended forward past the fulcrum. My springs act freely and independently. They fold upward out of the way with freedom when required, and resume their places promptly and perfectly when the compressing force is removed.

The accompanying drawings form a part of this specification, and represent what I consider the best means of carrying out the invention.

Figure 1 is a side elevation. Fig. 2 is a central vertical section through the main portion. The strong lines in this figure show the bustle extended. The dotted lines show it partially collapsed.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in both the figures where they occur.

A is the waistband, and A′ flaps of muslin or other suitable material.

B is a lacing connecting the two flaps and inserted through eyelets set in A′, and adapted to serve all in the ordinary manner.

C is a tape or flexible tie extending rearward and downward from the center of the back.

D D are springs extending across the back in approximately horizontal positions, connected at the rear by the tape C. These springs are independently pivoted at each end *d* to an upright piece, E, mounted on each side. They are independent, except as they are connected by the flexible tie C.

G is a spring nearly corresponding in position and function to the springs D. It serves as the lowermost in the series. It is pivoted at each side, not to the upright E, but at a point, *g*, farther backward and downward. Each pivot-point *g* is supported by a brace, E′, which extends obliquely downward from the corresponding uprights E. A transverse piece, E², connects the lower portion of E and E′. The bottom spring, G, is stouter than the others, and extends forward of the pivot *g* at each side. H H are contractile or tension springs. I have in my experiments used helical springs of small diameter, made of hard brass. The upper end is attached to the upright E at *h*. The lower end is attached to the forward end of the spring G at *h*′. The force of these springs H, pulling upward on the forward ends of G, holds the entire set of springs G D downward to the extent permitted by the flexible tie C; but whenever the bustle is pressed against the back of a chair or other object the several springs can yield upward independently. When the lowermost spring, G, alone is pressed upward, it may yield, the others all remaining in their original places. When the spring G and one of the springs D are pressed upward, the two may yield without the other.

J J are springs extending obliquely across the upper portion of the bustle and fastened together and to the uprights E, as shown. The tape C connects and steadies these, as well as the more movable springs D and G.

My invention gives an independence of action to the springs D and G, which is highly useful.

I have in my experiments used for the springs D and G what are sometimes known as "duplex" springs — two flat springs of steel placed edge to edge a little distance apart and connected by a covering of braid. I have made the pivots by setting eyelets through the braid which forms the central portion of the breadth of such springs. I have covered

and protected the upright pieces E and the pivots *d* by a piece of muslin folded thereon; but these points may be varied.

I claim as my invention—

1. As an improvement in bustles, the lowermost spring, G, pivoted at *g* and extending forward beyond such pivot, in combination with tension-springs H, pulling upward on the forward ends, *h'*, thereof, and with the springs D, connected by the flexible tie C, all arranged for joint operation, substantially as herein specified.

2. In a bustle, the waistband A, flaps A', lacing B, side pieces, EE', and upper springs, J, in combination with each other and with the lowermost spring, G, pivoted at *g* and extending forward beyond such pivot, the extension being connected at the forward ends, *h'*, to tension-springs H, and the flexibly-connected springs D, pivoted at *d*, all arranged for joint operation, substantially as herein specified.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand, at New York city, this 26th day of April, 1887, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CHAS. C. CARPENTER.

Witnesses:

M. F. BOYLE,

H. A. JOHNSTONE.