

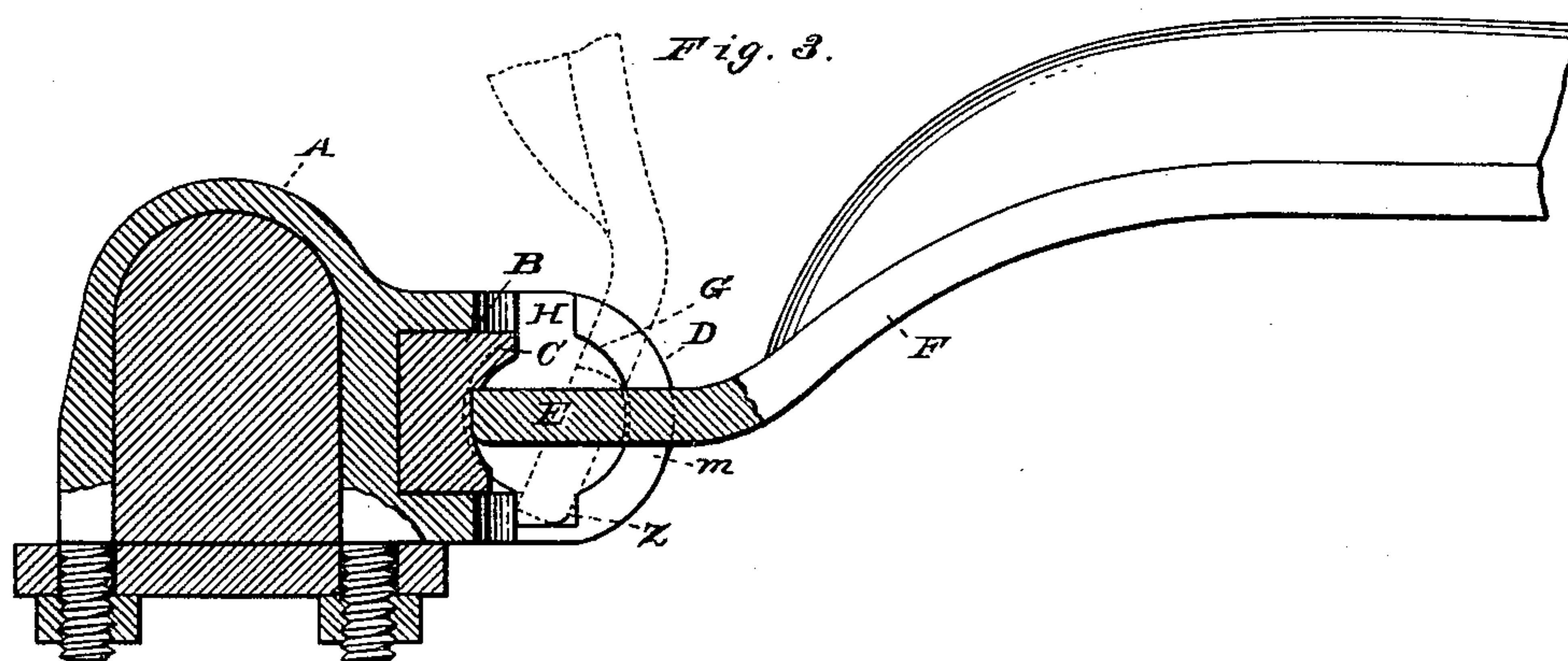
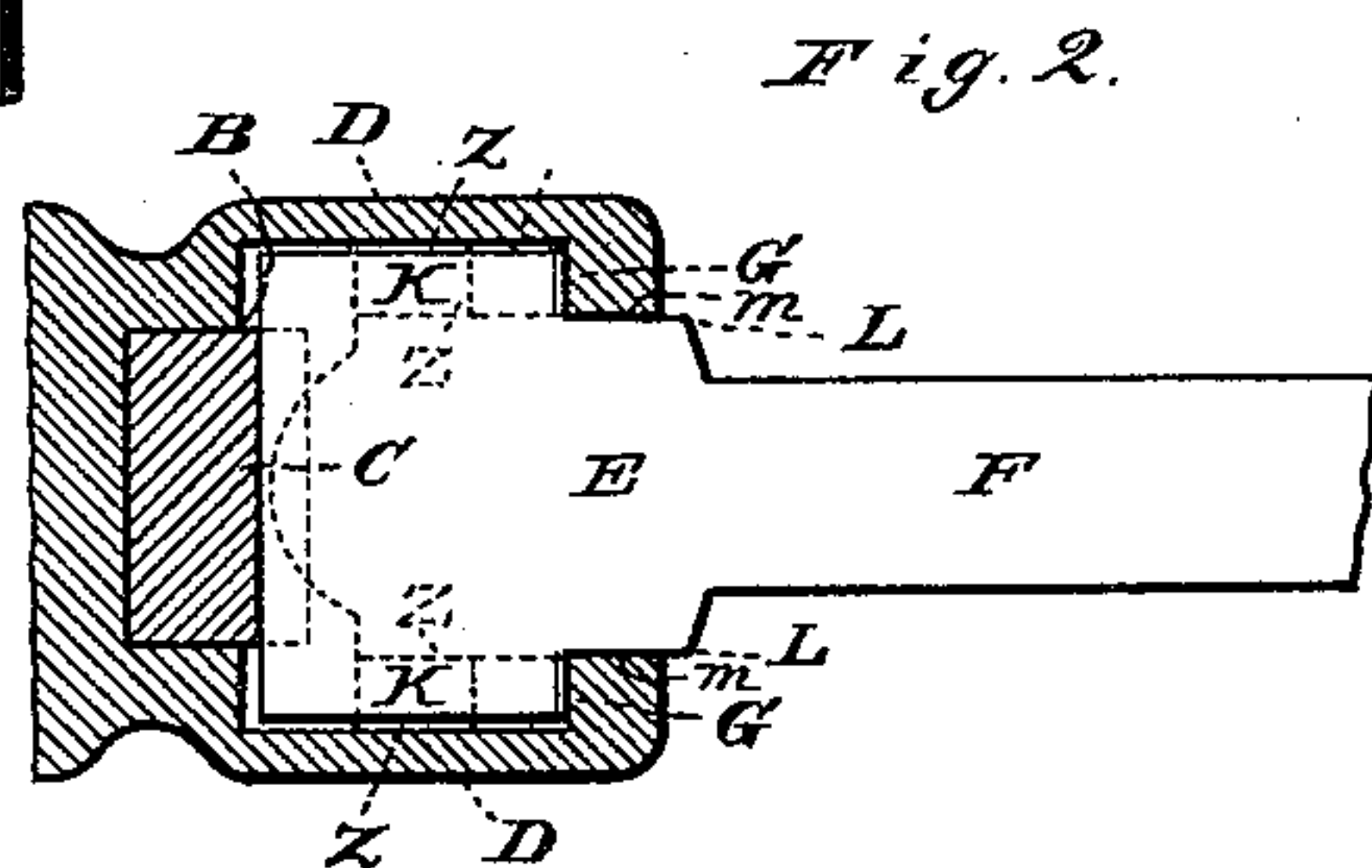
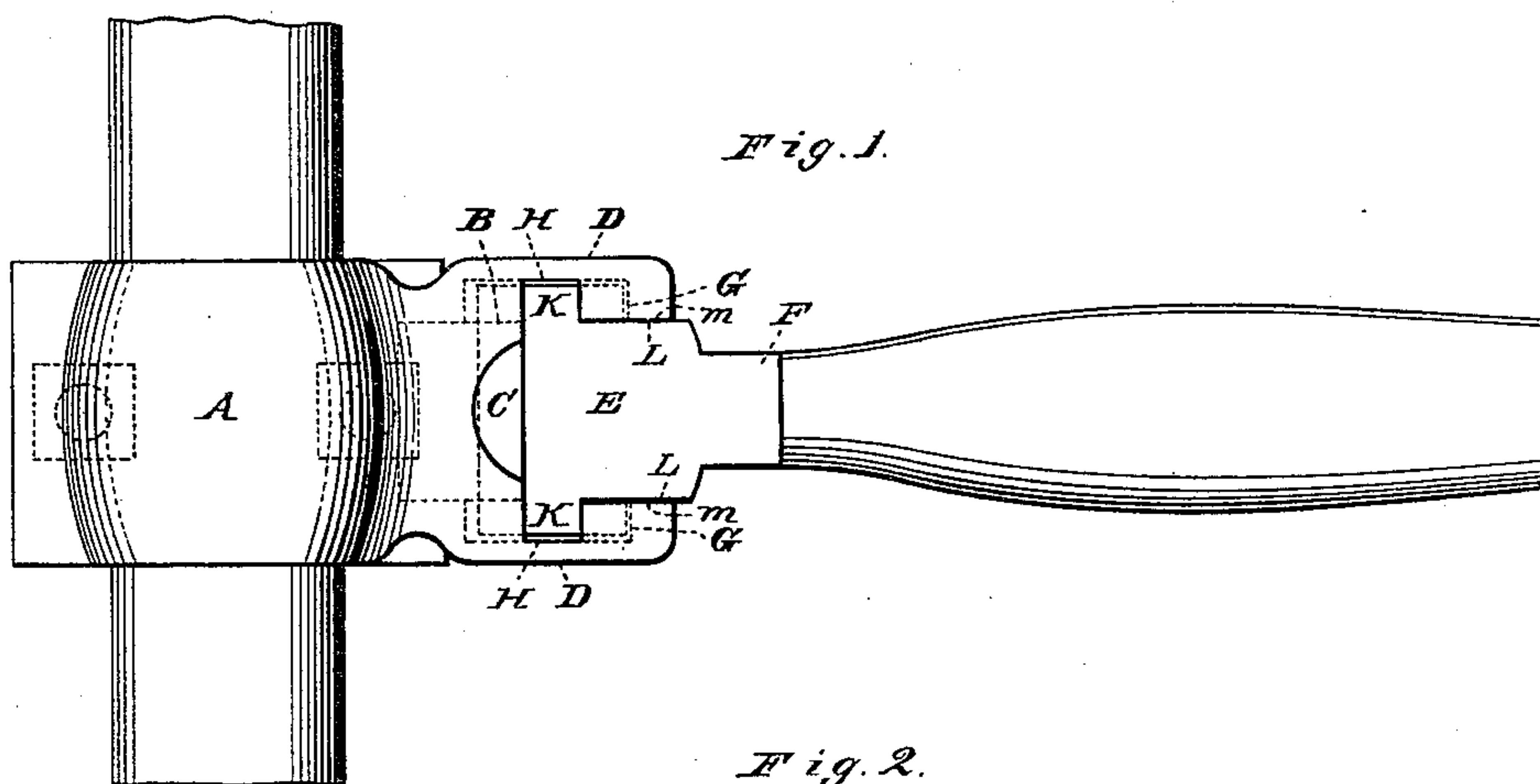
(No Model.)

C. H. BRACE.

THILL COUPLING.

No. 368,451.

Patented Aug. 16, 1887.



WITNESSES

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## THILL-COUPLING.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 368,451, dated August 16, 1887.

Application filed March 30, 1887. Serial No. 233,037. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CHARLES H. BRACE, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Cumberland, in the county of Alleghany and State of Maryland, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Thill-Couplings; 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 letters or figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a representation of this invention, and is a top view. Fig. 2 is a horizontal section through a portion of the thill-coupling. Fig. 3 is a vertical section.

This invention has relation to thill and pole couplings; and it consists in the construction and novel combination of parts, as hereinafter set forth.

The object of this invention is to provide a coupling that may be quickly attached or detached, so that pole or shafts may be fitted or changed in a few seconds, and that will hold up the pole or shafts out of the way when not in use.

In the accompanying drawings, the letter A designates the clip, having a front socket or recess, B, for the reception of the rubber cushion or spring C. Arms D D of the clip extend forward on each side, and are adapted to hold the journal portion E of the pole or shaft iron F in the following manner: The arms D D are circularly recessed in their inner sides, as indicated at G, said recesses having notches H above to let the journal-lugs K of the iron F down into position for coupling.

In the operation of attaching or detaching the poles or shafts are held upright, or nearly so, the journal-iron descending or ascending in the clip-bearing. When, however, the shafts are turned forward and downward, the coupling is secured, and there is no danger of casual disconnection.

The journal portion E of the pole or shaft

iron is of flattened form, having the lateral flattened journal-lugs K, above referred to, which, when the shaft-iron is in attached position, engage the circular bearing-recesses of the arms D. Shoulders are formed at L upon the iron to move upon the forward guiding-edges, m, of the arms D, so that the iron is held true and steady in its movements.

Downwardly-extending notches or recesses Z are formed vertically under the entering-notches H in the arms D at the lower portions of their recess-bearings G, and communicating with said recess-bearings, in order that when the pole or shafts are not in use they may be held in upright or nearly upright position out of the way. To accomplish this by means of the devices set forth, the shafts are turned back to upright position, so that the journal portion of the iron F, descending into engagement with the holding notches or recesses Z, the lugs K being made sufficiently broad, will, as the shafts are allowed to fall slightly forward, engage the front walls of the recess-bearings G. In this manner the lugs K will be held in position, their upper ends being in contact with the front walls of the bearings G and their lower ends in the holding-notches Z, and consequently the shafts will be held up. To put the shafts in position for use, they are slightly turned backward and raised until the lugs K escape from the holding-notches Z, when the shafts may be turned down to horizontal position.

This coupling is very simple and durable, and is of quick application. No bolt is required, and the time of attaching or detaching or changing from thills to pole is designed to be materially reduced thereby. The device for holding up the shafts is simple and efficient, and is of importance in saving wear and tear of the dash and springs consequent upon propping up the shafts, as well as in obviating injury to the shafts themselves.

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

The combination, with the clip A, having



the socket B and rubber, and the lateral  
arms D D, circularly recessed in their inner  
sides to form journal-bearings, provided with  
communicating entering-notches H above and  
5 holding-notches Z below, of the flattened  
journal-iron E, having broad side lugs, K,  
adapted when the shafts are turned up to  
engage said holding-notches and the front

walls of said journal-bearings, substantially  
as specified. 10

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

CHARLES H. BRACE.

Witnesses:

I. W. SHUCK,

WALTER BEALL.