

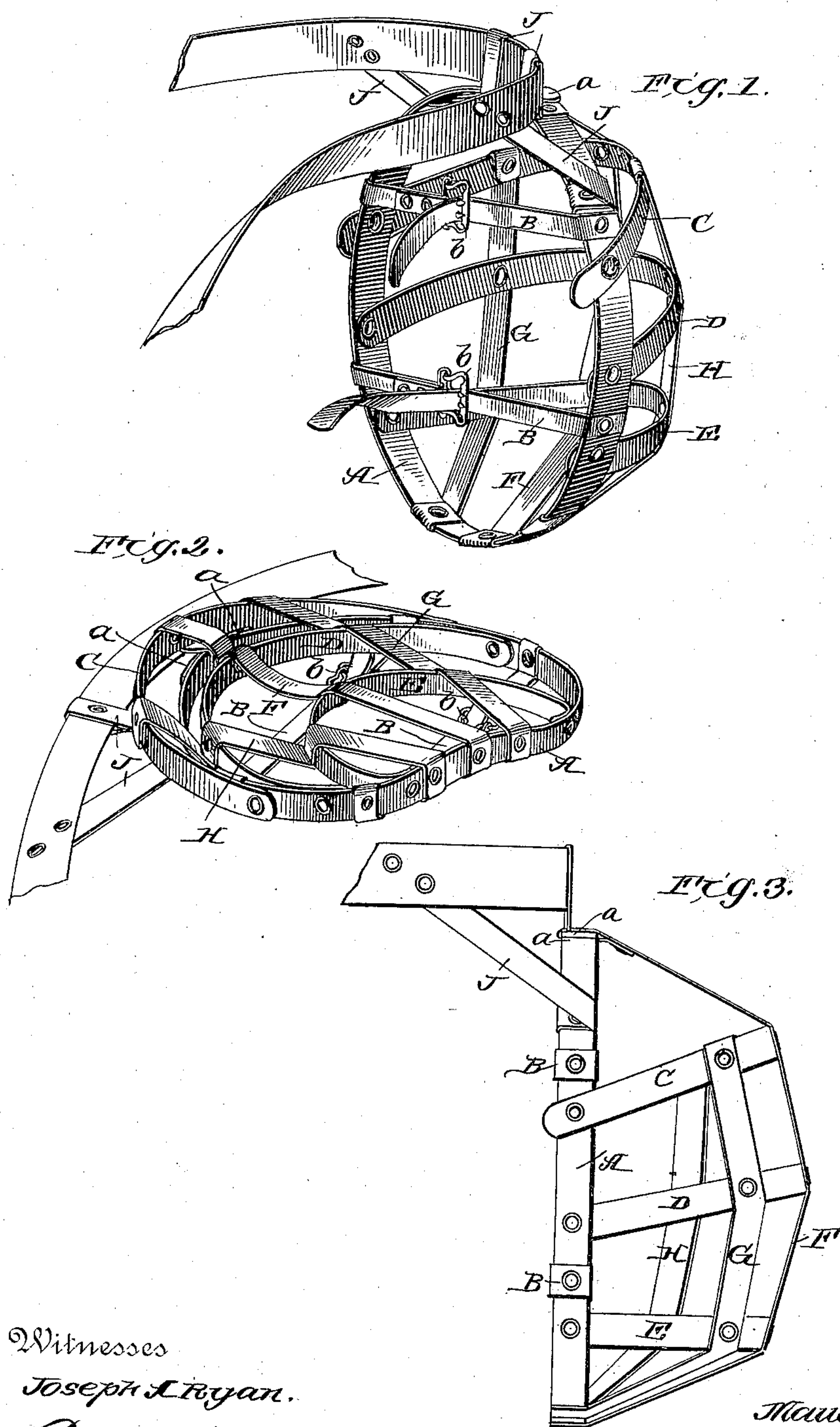
(No Model.)

M. W. TOOKER.

BUSTLE.

No. 371,905.

Patented Oct. 18, 1887.



Witnesses

Joseph A. Ryan.

R. W. Bishop.

Inventor

Maud W. Tooker.

By her Attorneys

C. A. Howells



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MAUDE W. TOOKER, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## BUSTLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 371,905, dated October 18, 1887.

Application filed July 1, 1887. Serial No. 243,123. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, MAUDE W. TOOKER, a citizen of the United States, residing at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Bustles, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in bustles, and has for its object to provide a bustle which can be readily folded into a small compass when not in use, which will retain its shape when on the wearer, and which can be adjusted in its shape as suits the wearer.

A further object is to provide a bustle of simple construction which will be light, strong, and durable.

These objects I attain by the construction illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a bustle constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a similar view showing it folded, and Fig. 3 is an edge view of the same.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, in which the same letters of reference indicate the same parts throughout the several views, A designates a flat spring-band, having its ends *a a* brought together and secured, as shown, to form the base of the bustle. B B designate two straps, of any suitable material, provided with buckles *b b* and secured across the base of the bustle, as shown. These straps, when properly tightened, serve to give the base A of the bustle an elliptical shape, whereby it acquires the necessary tension to maintain the shape of the bustle when it is in use. C, D, and E designate cross bars or bands, which have their ends pivotally secured to the base-band on diametrically-opposite sides of the same. These bands are of unequal length, the uppermost one, C, being the longest, and the lowest one, E, being the shortest. The top band, C, also is secured to the outer sides of the base-band, while the middle band, D, and the lowest band, E, are secured to the inner sides of the same. This construction enables me to fold the bustle into a small compass when it is not in use, as clearly shown in Fig. 2, the cross-bands D E folding within the base-band, and the band C assuming a position outside of the same and nearly

concentric therewith. These cross bars or bands support the clothing of the wearer; and in order to increase their efficiency in this respect I provide the strap F, of tape or other suitable material, having its opposite ends secured, respectively, to the top and bottom of the base-band, and being secured at intermediate points to the cross-bands C D E at the center of the same, as shown. This strap F serves to prevent the weight of the clothing pressing the cross bars or bands down to such an extent as to destroy the shape of the bustle. It also serves as a means for drawing the cross bands or bars into their normal position after being folded, as shown in Fig. 2, as the elliptical shape of the spring-band composing the base of the bustle causes the top and bottom of the same to draw upon the ends of the said strap F, so that the cross-bands will be thereby made to assume their normal position.

It will be readily seen from the drawings that inasmuch as the cross-bands fold toward the top of the bustle the bottom of the base-band will exert a greater pull on the strap F than the top will; and in order to ease the strain on said strap I provide the supplemental straps G H, which have their lowest ends secured to the bottom of the base-band and their upper ends secured to the top cross-band, C, and at intermediate points to the lower cross-bands, D E. I designates the waist-band, which is secured to the top portion of the base of the bustle by means of the straps J, as shown.

In use the bustle is secured in position in the usual manner, and the straps B are adjusted properly to give the bustle the shape desired by the wearer.

It will be seen that I have provided a bustle of very simple construction, and which is light and cool.

When not in use, the bustle can be folded into a small compass, and will consequently occupy very little room. This feature will be found to be of peculiar advantage in packing a large number of the bustles for transportation. Another feature of my invention is its adjustability in size and shape to suit the tastes of the wearer. The straps or tapes can be drawn in or let out by means of the buckles for this purpose.



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

1. A bustle comprising the waistband, the  
5 continuous flat spring base-band suspended loosely therefrom, and a series of bowed cross-bands arranged between and pivoted to the sides of the base-band at different points thereof upon independent pivots, substantially  
10 as set forth.

2. A bustle comprising the waistband, a flat elliptical spring base-band suspended loosely therefrom and having its ends secured together, and the transverse adjusting-straps  
15 secured across the base-band near the top and bottom of the same, substantially as set forth.

3. A bustle comprising the waistband, a flat spring base-band loosely suspended therefrom, a series of cross-bands pivotally secured  
20 to the base-band at different points of attachment, and a series of longitudinal straps connected to the base-band and the cross-bands, the central one of said straps being extended above the cross-bands and secured to the top  
25 of the base-band, substantially as set forth.

4. A bustle comprising the waistband, the elliptical base-band provided with transverse adjusting-straps, the straps J, loosely suspending the base-band from the waistband, and the bowed cross-bands of different radii piv- 30  
oted to the base-band independently of each other, substantially as specified.

5. A bustle comprising a waistband, the continuous spring base-band suspended loosely therefrom, the bowed or curved cross-bands 35  
arranged between and pivotally secured to the sides of the base-band, the longitudinal straps connecting the base and cross bands, and the adjusting-straps B, connecting the sides of the base-band, as set forth. 40

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

MAUDE W. TOOKER.

Witnesses:

Mrs. C. J. HALEY,  
WM. V. A. POE.