

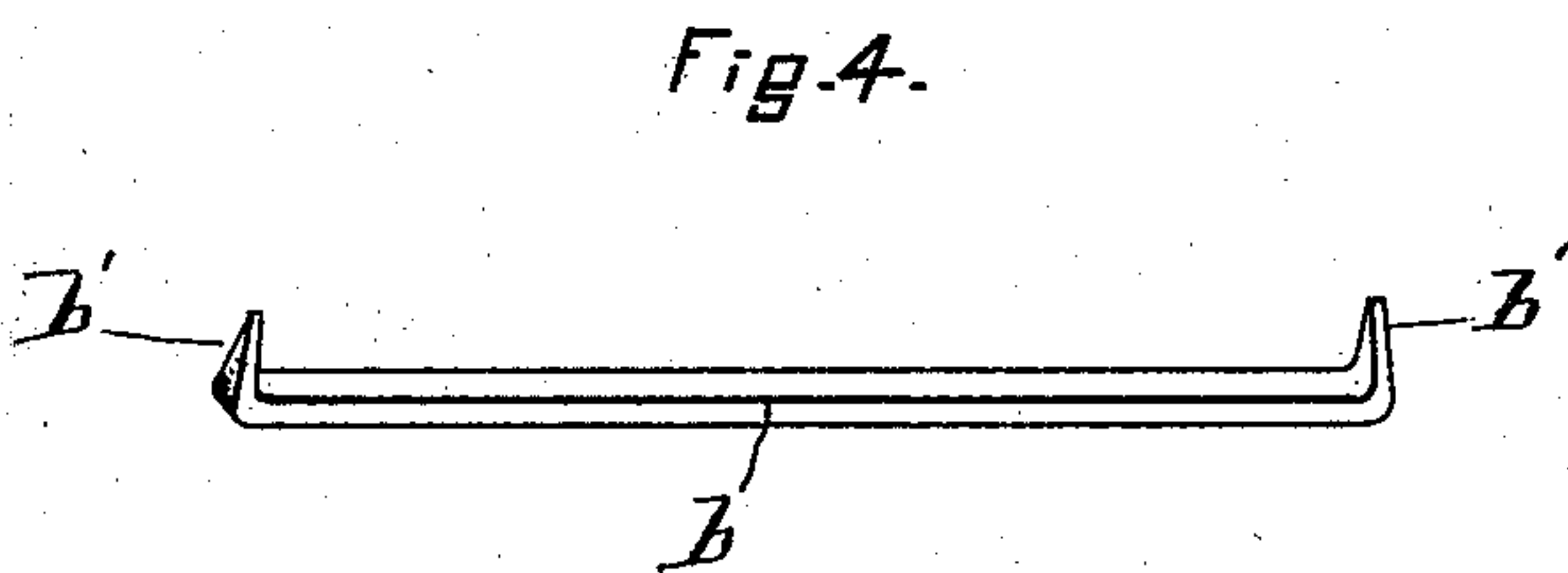
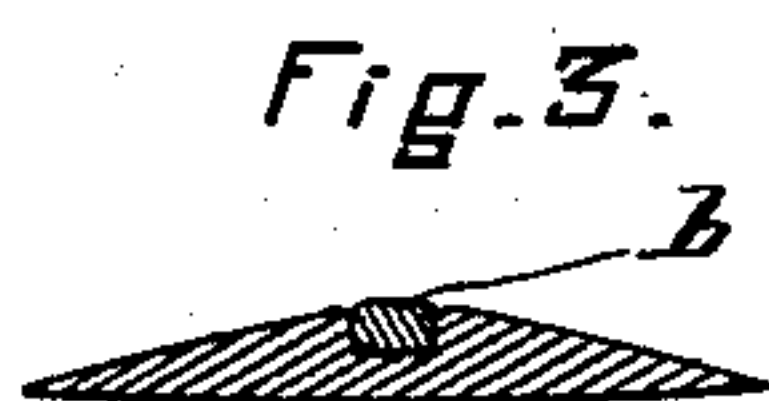
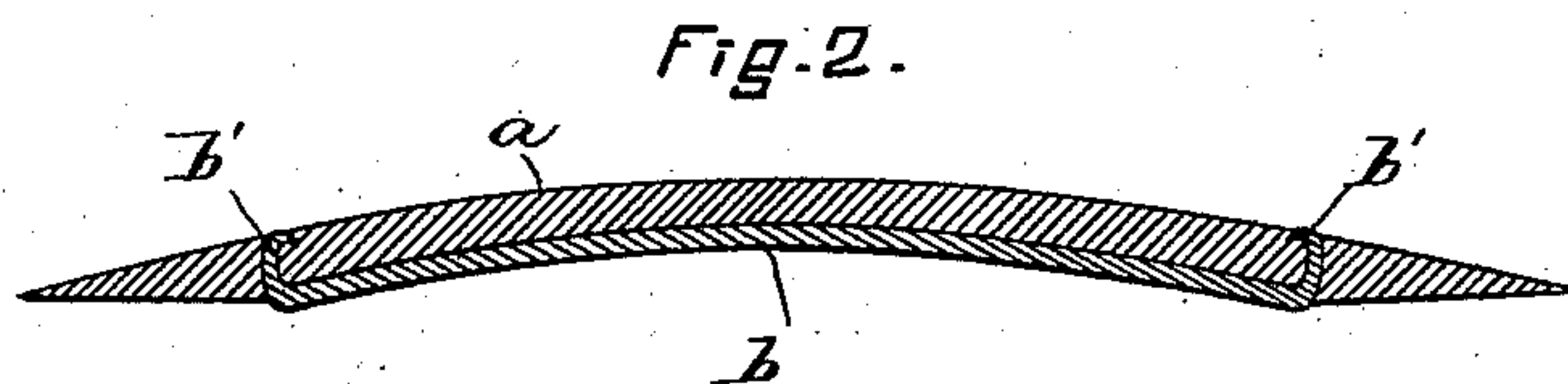
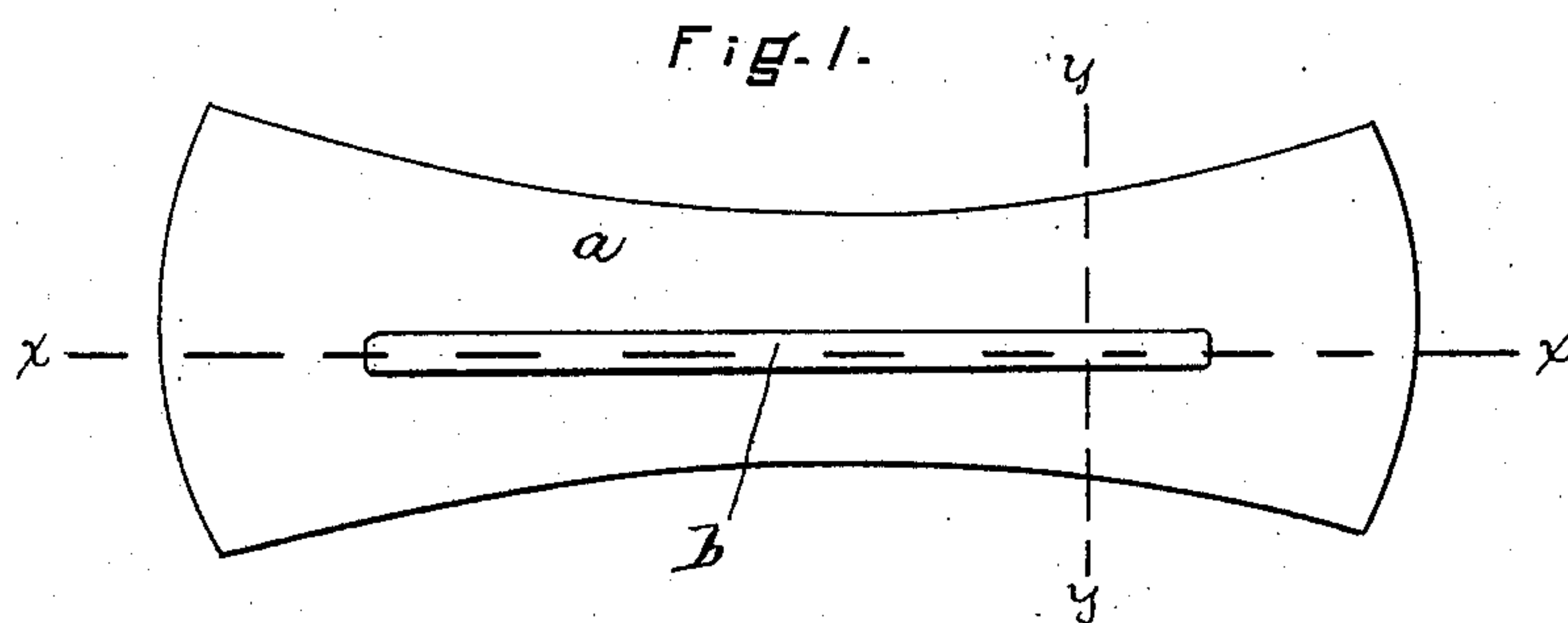
(No Model.)

W. GORDON.

SHANK STIFFENER FOR BOOTS OR SHOES.

No. 372,140.

Patented Oct. 25, 1887.



WITNESSES:  
H. Brown,  
A. D. Harrison.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM GORDON, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

## SHANK-STIFFENER FOR BOOTS OR SHOES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 372,140, dated October 25, 1887.

Application filed March 25, 1887. Serial No. 232,397. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM GORDON, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Shank - Pieces for Boots or Shoes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention has for its object to provide a shank - piece for boot or shoe soles, which shall be at once cheap and strong and capable of retaining any curvature that may be imparted to it.

The invention consists in a shank - piece composed of a strip of leather-board and a stiffening-rod of malleable or untempered metal capable of retaining any form into which it may be bent, said rod being bent and pointed at its ends to form spurs whereby the rod is attached to the leather-board strip, said rod being molded or bent with the leather-board strip into any desired curvature and keeping said strip permanently curved.

Of the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, Figure 1 represents a side view of my improved shank - piece. Fig. 2 represents a section on line *xx*, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 represents a section on line *yy*, Fig. 1. Fig. 4 represents a perspective view of the stiffening-rod.

In carrying out my invention I form a shank-piece, *a*, of leather-board, the under side of the piece being preferably beveled along its edges, as usual, to bring the entire margin of the piece to a thin edge. I then take a rod, *b*, of any suitable malleable metal without temper, using, by preference, untempered steel, and point and bend the ends thereof to form spurs *b' b'*, about at right angles with the body of the rod. I then press the spurs *b' b'* into the under side of the leather-board piece *a* until the body of the rod is in close contact with said piece, and preferably somewhat embedded therein, sufficient pressure being em-

ployed to indent the leather-board and cause the rod to form for itself a cavity therein, as shown in Fig. 3. The spurs *b' b'* are turned or clinched at their points by contact with a suitable metallic clinching-surface while they are being driven in, the rod being thus firmly united to the leather-board. After this the piece *a* and rod *b* may be molded or bent into any desired curvature, which is made permanent by the malleability of the rod. The rod is so thick and strong that it cannot be broken by any pressure to which it is liable to be subjected when in a boot or shoe, such as the pressure that would be exerted by the wearer's foot on a spade or like implement; hence the improved shank is particularly useful in boots or shoes such as are worn by laborers, its combined cheapness and strength rendering it particularly desirable for such purposes.

My invention is distinguished from a leather-board shank having a piece of spring-steel riveted to it—such as has been before known—by the fact that the metal portion is malleable and not springy, and is therefore capable of retaining the shank in any desired curvature, while the spring-piece is limited to the curvature originally imparted to it before tempering.

I claim—

The herein-described shank, composed of a strip of leather-board having a rod of malleable metal embedded therein, said rod having spurs formed on its ends inserted and clinched in the leather-board strip, and curved with the leather-board to permanently retain the latter in its curved position, substantially as specified.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses, this 18th day of March, 1887.

WILLIAM GORDON.

Witnesses:

C. F. BROWN,

A. D. HARRISON.