

(No Model.)

R. RICE.

TRUSS.

No. 372,567.

Patented Nov. 1, 1887.

Fig. 1.

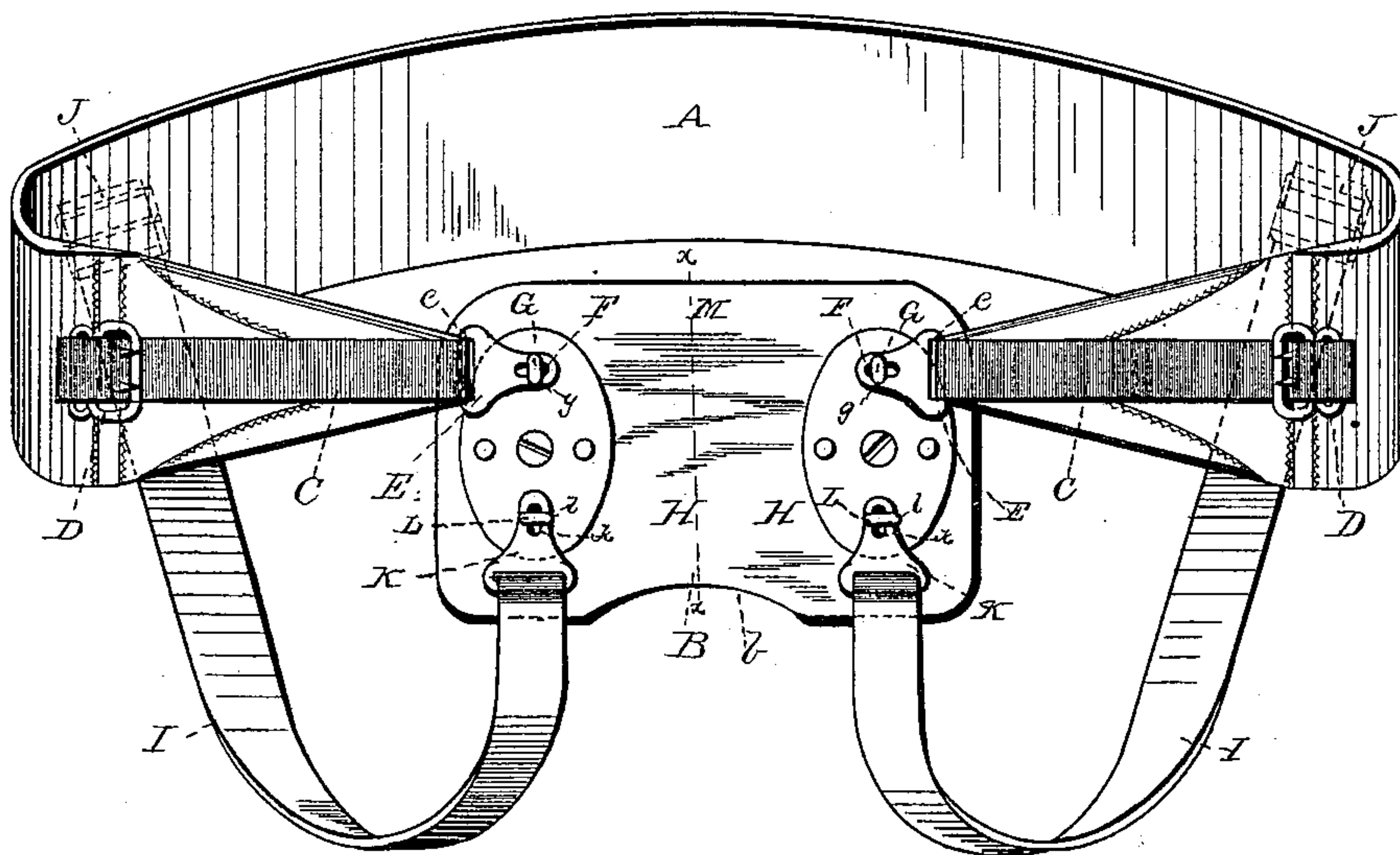
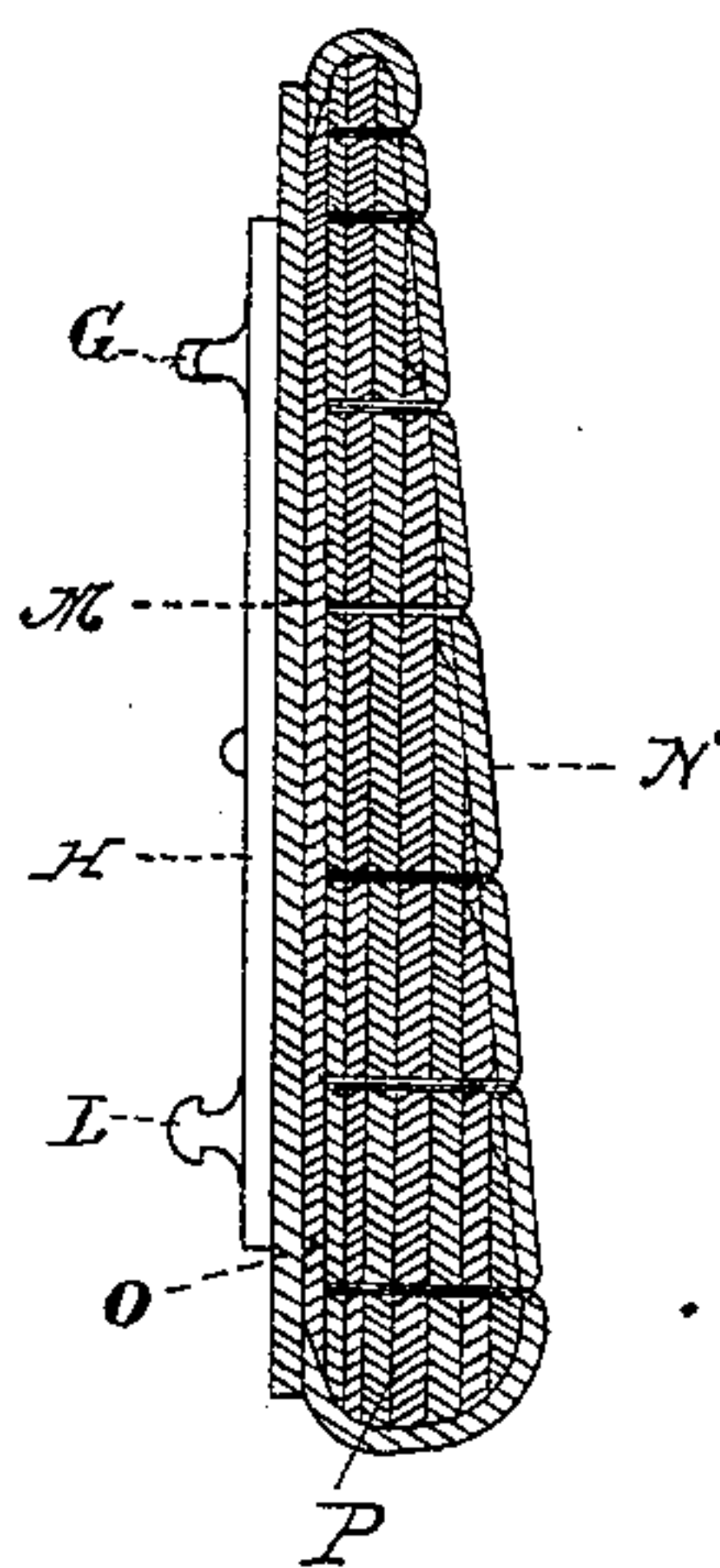


Fig. 2.



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TRUSS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 372,567, dated November 1, 1887.

Application filed July 11, 1887. Serial No. 243,985. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, REVILLO RICE, a citizen of the United States, resident at Council Bluffs, in the county of Pottawattamie and State of Iowa, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Trusses; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as 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 front view of my improved hernial support. Fig. 2 is a transverse section of pad on line *x x*, Fig. 1.

The invention relates to improvements in trusses for the relief of hernia; and it consists in the construction and novel combination of parts, as hereinafter set forth.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, A designates the waist-strap of the device, and B the pad, detachably secured to the ends of said strap by means hereinafter described.

The pad B has its lower edge provided with a centrally-incurved portion, *b*, and stands, when the device is in place, at the lower part of the pubic arch, and is sustained partly by the contiguous parts.

The pad B is made long enough to tie against both of the lower inguinal rings or openings, so that it will support the parts apt to descend, if the person wearing the device is afflicted with double hernia, or will prevent by its support and pressure the occurrence of hernia on the unaffected side in a case of single hernia, so that the pad not only holds up the parts apt to descend on the affected side, but prevents by its support the infirmity from happening on the opposite side.

The waist-strap is an elastic belt, and has attached to each end a strap, C, one end of which is permanently attached to the end of the waist-strap on the inner side thereof, the other end passing through a buckle, D, secured to the outside of the corresponding end of the waist-strap.

E is a metal plate, having a vertical slot, *e*, through which the strap C passes, so that the plate can slide on the strap.

F is a short longitudinal slot in the inner end of the plate E, which is of general triangular shape. The said slot engages upon a pin, G, projecting from the upper part of a plate, H, secured to the outer side of the pad near the end thereof. The pad is provided with similar plates, H, near each end, which plates are preferably oval, the pins G standing from the upper part of the plates. The pins are provided with heads *g*, extending upward and downward, so that the plates H have to be turned upward in order to engage the slots F and the pins G, and when the same are engaged and the plates turned to their normal positions, each head *g* lies across the corresponding slot, F, and prevents disengagement of the pin G therefrom.

I I are thigh-straps, each having its upper end engaged by a buckle, J, secured to the waist-strap a suitable distance from an end thereof. The said straps I are elastic, and each passes from the buckle engaging it downward and to the inner side of the thigh, and, passing upward on the front side of the body, has secured to its end a plate, K, similar to the plates E, the long transverse slot in said plate K engaging the end of the corresponding thigh-strap, and the short vertical slot *k* engaging the pin L, secured to the lower part of the corresponding plate, H, near the lower end thereof, and having a head, *l*, which extends laterally, so as to stand across the slot *k* when engaged therewith.

The pad is composed of an outer layer, M, of leather or other suitable material, to which the plates H are secured by screws or rivets, or by both, the inner layer, N, of soft leather, to rest against the skin, and the filling composed of the following elements:

O is a layer of india-rubber, which rests against the outer layer, M, and P is a packing of soft inelastic material, made, preferably, of layers of cloth stitched together, which packing rests between the india-rubber layer and the inner layer, N, of the pad. The said layers of cloth increase in width from the rubber layer to the inner layer of the pad, so that the pad increases in thickness from its upper edge to its lower edge.

The pad when in place gives a broad surface of support, and, as stated, covers both

lower inguinal rings, and the soft inelastic packing P, being backed by the rubber elastic packing O, gives a suitable amount of pressure on the skin, and yet does not cause abrasion, as the length of the pad prevents the slipping that is liable to occur with a small pad, thus avoiding the skin abrasions often produced by truss pads.

The pad, by increasing in thickness from its upper edge downward, more perfectly supports the abdomen above the pubic bone, upon which the lower part of the pad rests.

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

1. A hernial pad composed of an outer and inner layer, and a filling consisting of a thick layer of india-rubber resting against the outer layer of the pad, and a packing of some inelas-

tic material between the layer of india-rubber and the inner layer of the pad, substantially as specified.

2. A hernial pad composed of an inner and outer layer, and a filling consisting of a thick layer of india-rubber resting against the outer layer, and a packing of some soft inelastic material arranged in layers increasing in width from the rubber layer to the inner layer of the pad, so that the pad increases in thickness from its upper edge to its lower edge, substantially as specified.

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

REVILLO RICE.

Witnesses:

A. D. FOSTER,
M. BRENNAN.