

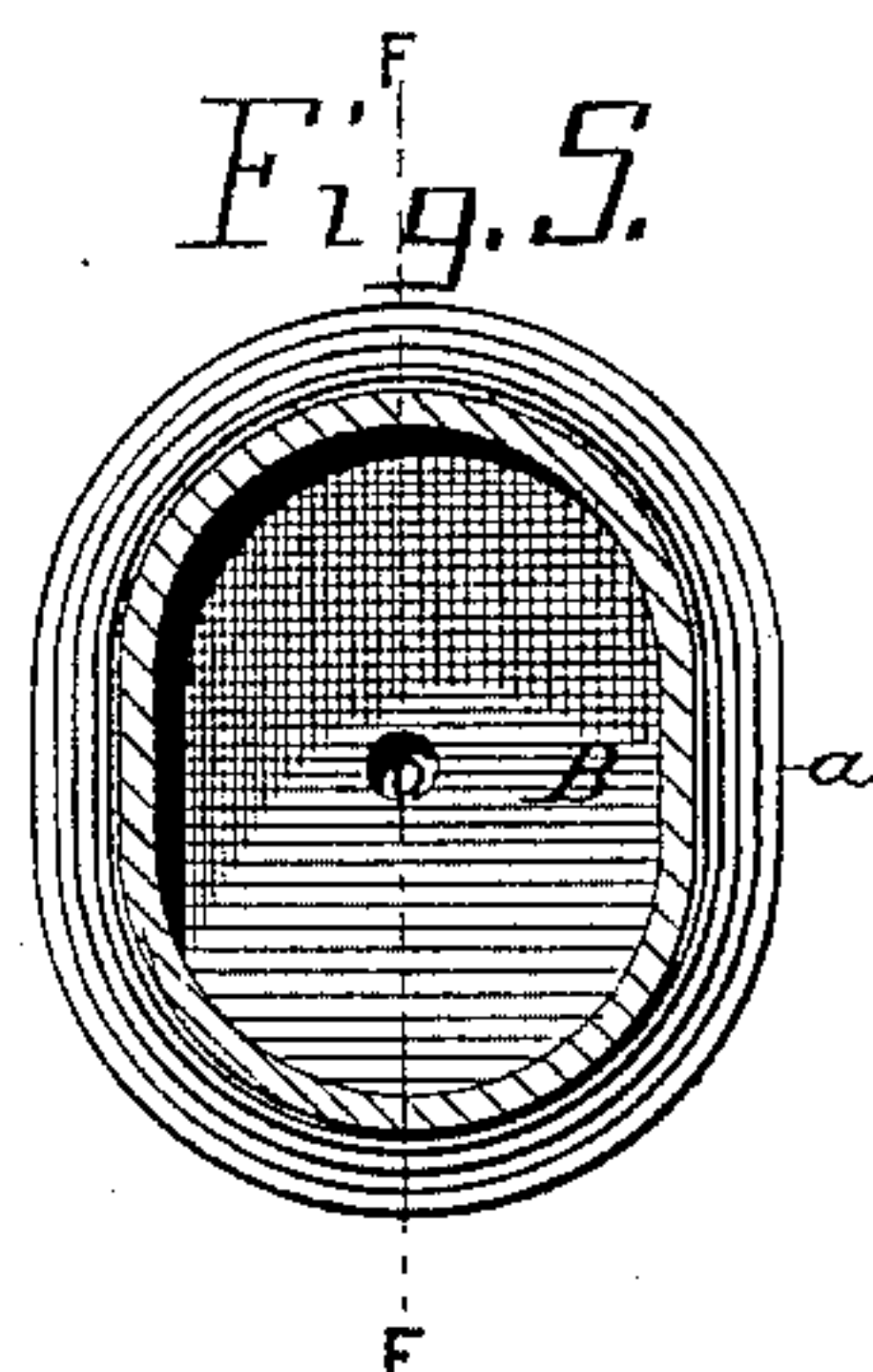
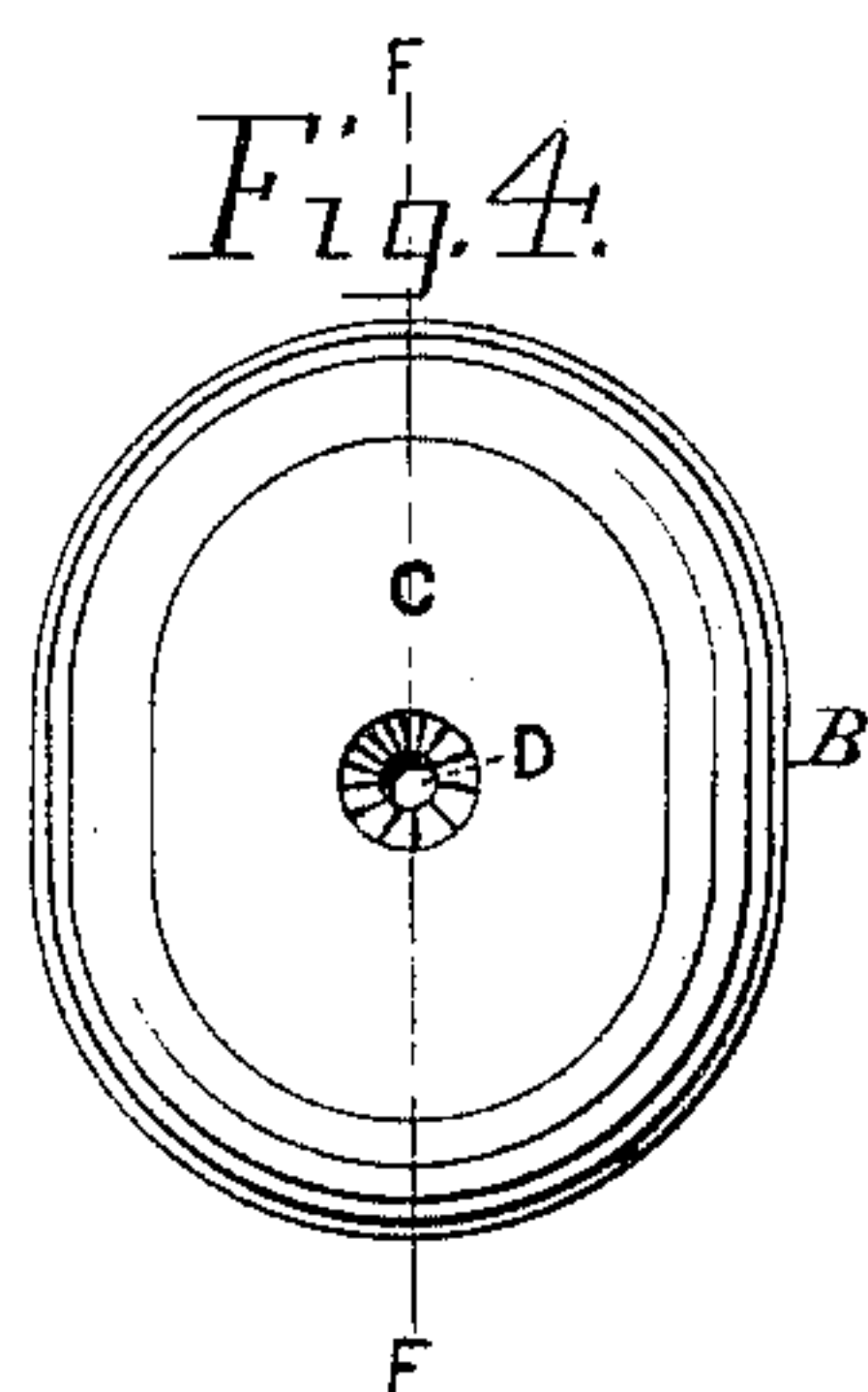
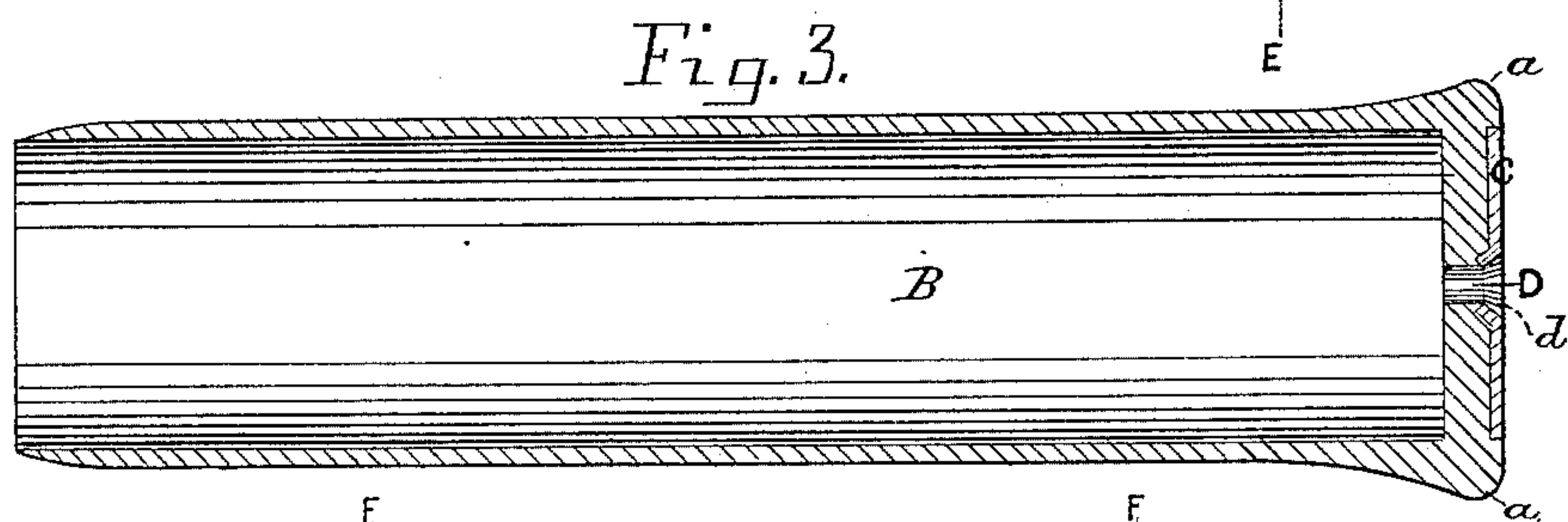
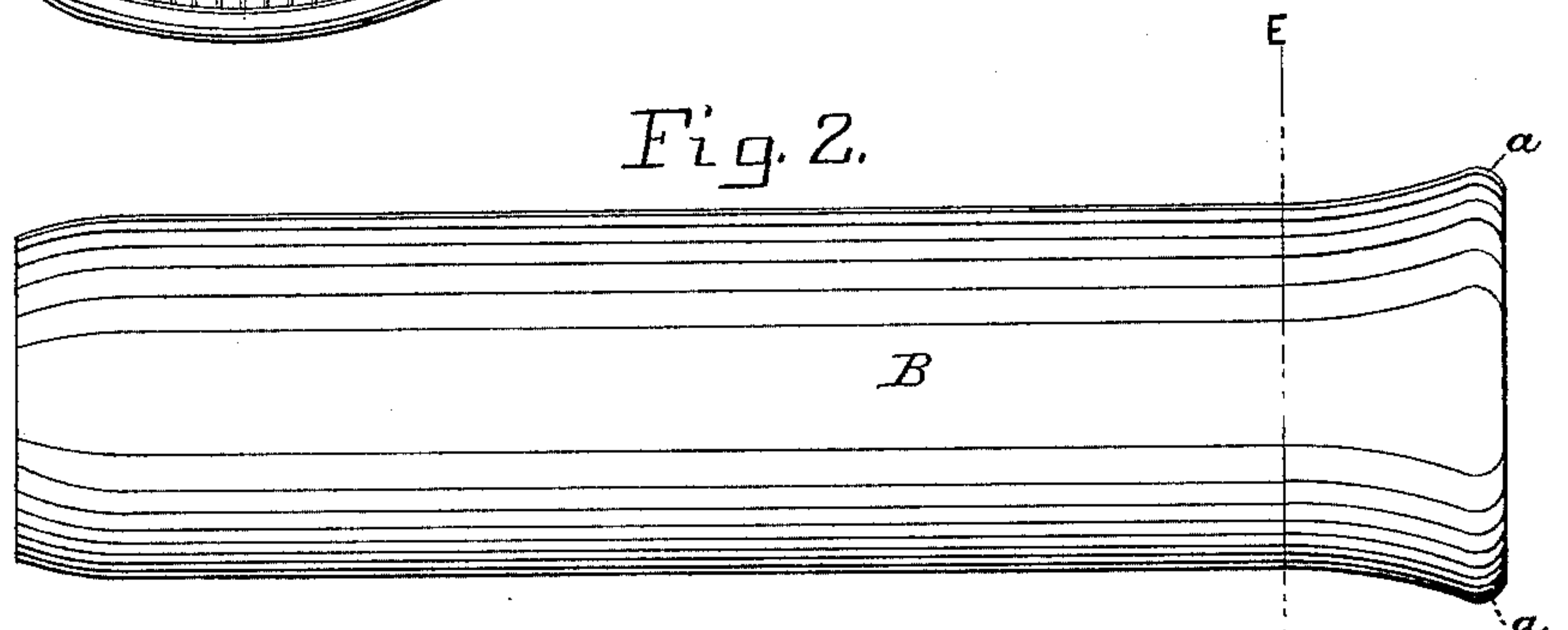
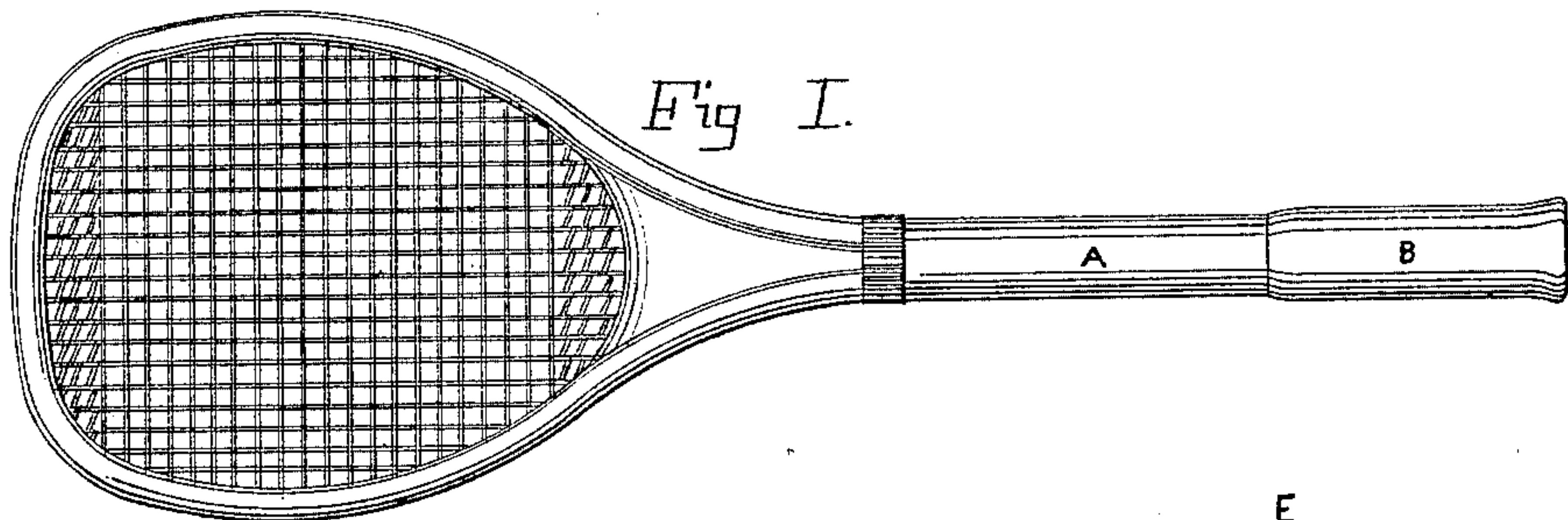
(No Model.)

R. W. MORGAN.

RUBBER SLEEVE FOR TENNIS RACKETS.

No. 399,340.

Patented Mar. 12, 1889.



WITNESSES.

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ROBERT WEBB MORGAN, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

RUBBER SLEEVE FOR TENNIS-RACKETS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 399,340, dated March 12, 1889.

Application filed May 4, 1888. Serial No. 272,831. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT WEBB MORGAN, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Rubber Sleeves for Tennis-Rackets, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to improvements in rubber sleeves for tennis-rackets; and it consists in a flexible sleeve of novel construction applied to the handle of the racket for the purpose of enabling the user to handle the racket with comfort.

I have illustrated the invention in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a face view of a racket with my invention applied to the handle thereof. Fig. 2 is an enlarged view of the sleeve. Fig. 3 is a central vertical longitudinal section of the same. Fig. 4 is an end view of the sleeve, and Fig. 5 is a vertical section on the line E E of Fig. 2. The sectional view in Fig. 3 is taken on the dotted line F F of Figs. 4 and 5.

In the drawings, A designates the handle of the racket, and B the sleeve, of rubber or other flexible substance, which is applied upon the shank end of the handle. The sleeve B is extended laterally at its outer end, forming a cushioned shoulder, *a*, which aids in preventing the racket slipping from the hand. The shoulder *a* also enables the user to obtain a firm grip upon the handle A. In the end of the sleeve B is seated a backing-plate, C, having a countersunk aperture, *d*, in line with the aperture D, formed in the end of the sleeve.

In the application of the invention the sleeve B is slipped upon the shank end of the racket-handle A and there secured by means of an ordinary screw passing through the apertures *d* D into the wood of which the handle is constructed. The size of the sleeve B is such that it will closely hug the surface of the handle A, and while the same is being inserted upon the handle the air within the sleeve will be permitted to escape through the aperture D, the latter thus performing two functions, one

being to permit the sleeve to be placed close upon the handle without the formation of an air-cushion in the end thereof, and the other being to permit the sleeve to be secured upon the handle by means of a screw and the plate C. While the racket is in use there would naturally be a tendency in the handle A to slip from the sleeve B; but any ill effects from this are thoroughly overcome by the use of the plate C, which extends laterally from the aperture D and serves as a backing for the sleeve. The sleeve B will be of sufficient length to offer a suitable gripping-surface for the hand, and this surface being soft will prevent the handle from hurting the hand and render the same comfortable in use. The end of the rubber sleeve is thicker than the cylindrical portion thereof and affords a body for the shoulder *a*, which dispenses with the necessity of employing the usual leather or wooden shoulder commonly found on the ends of the handles of tennis-rackets. The thick end of the rubber sleeve prevents the sleeve from cutting through and imparts durability to the article. The rubber cushion *a* on the end of the sleeve is especially desirable as affording comfort to and preventing the racket from slipping from the hand.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The sleeve B for the handle of tennis-rackets, the said sleeve consisting of the cylindrical portion having the thickened end adapted to fit against the end of the handle and forming a body for the cushion-shoulder *a*, substantially as shown and described.

2. The sleeve B, of rubber or other soft material, having an apertured end, combined with the backing-plate C, also provided with an aperture, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

Signed at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, this 28th day of April, A. D. 1888.

ROBT. WEBB MORGAN.

Witnesses:

CHAS. C. GILL,
HERMAN GUSTOW.