

(No Model.)

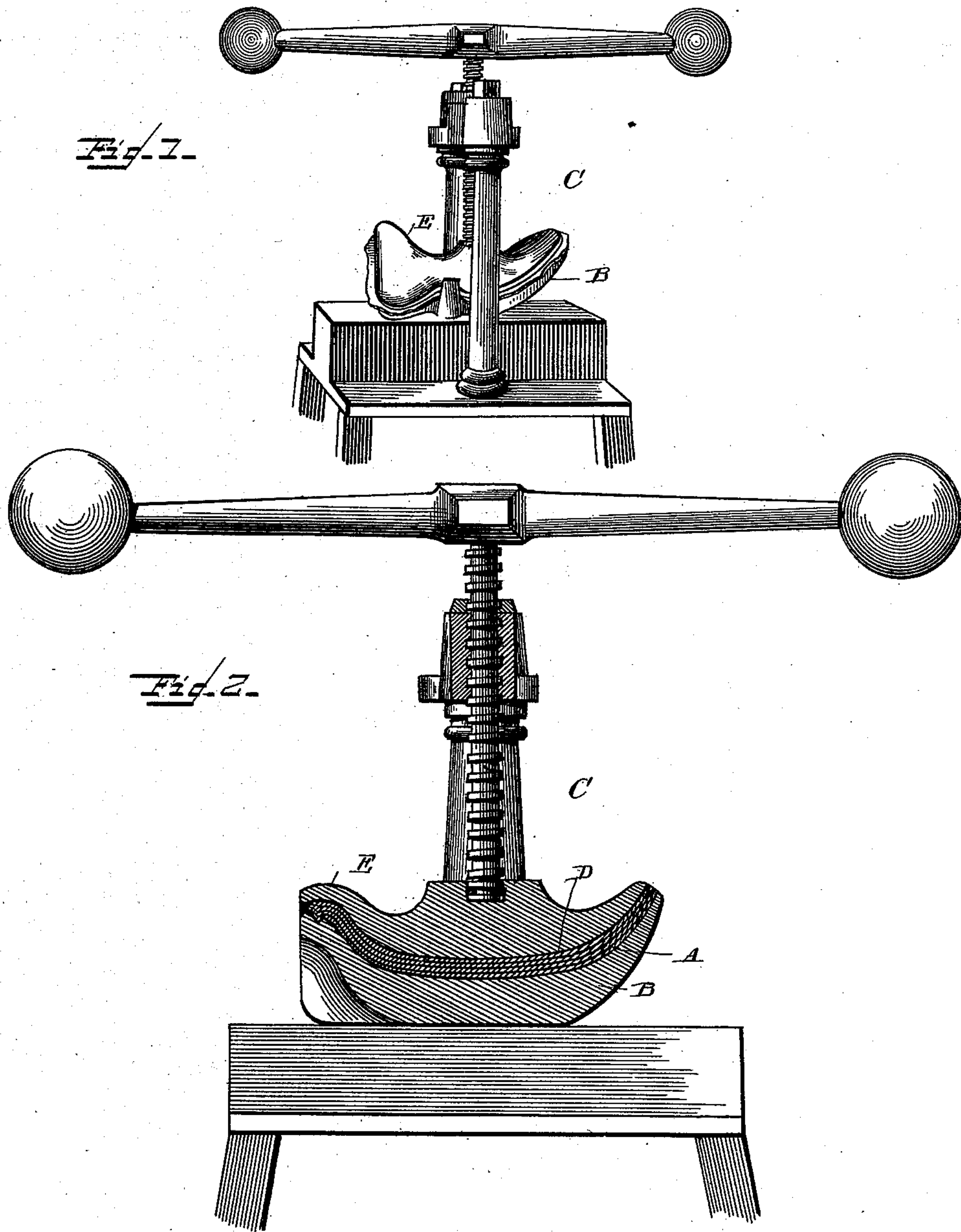
2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

J. M. FINK.

PROCESS OF FORMING FLEXIBLE SADDLE TREES.

No. 401,938.

Patented Apr. 23, 1889.



WITNESSES.

Edwin L. Yewell,
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INVENTOR

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(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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Fig. 3.

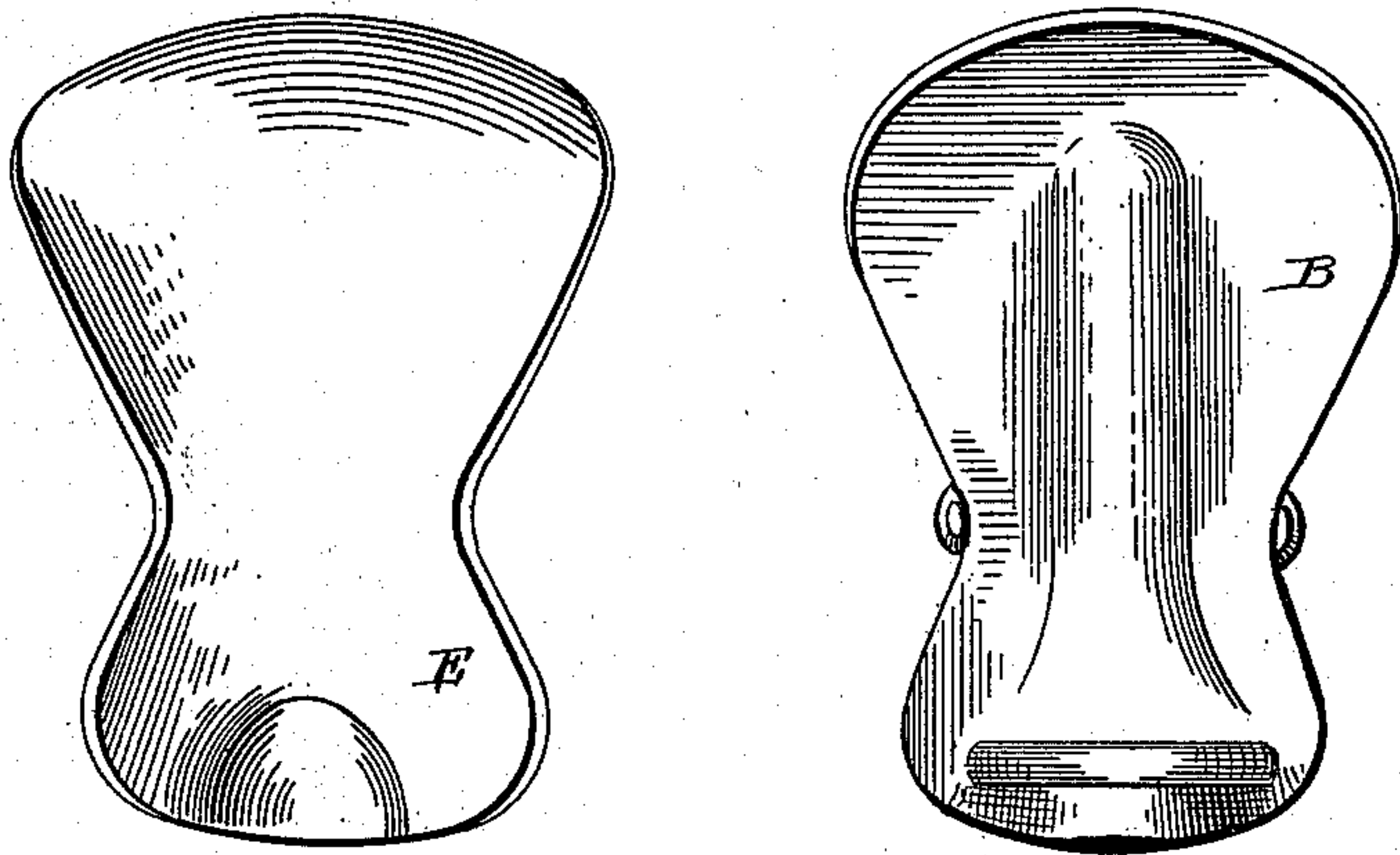


Fig. 4.

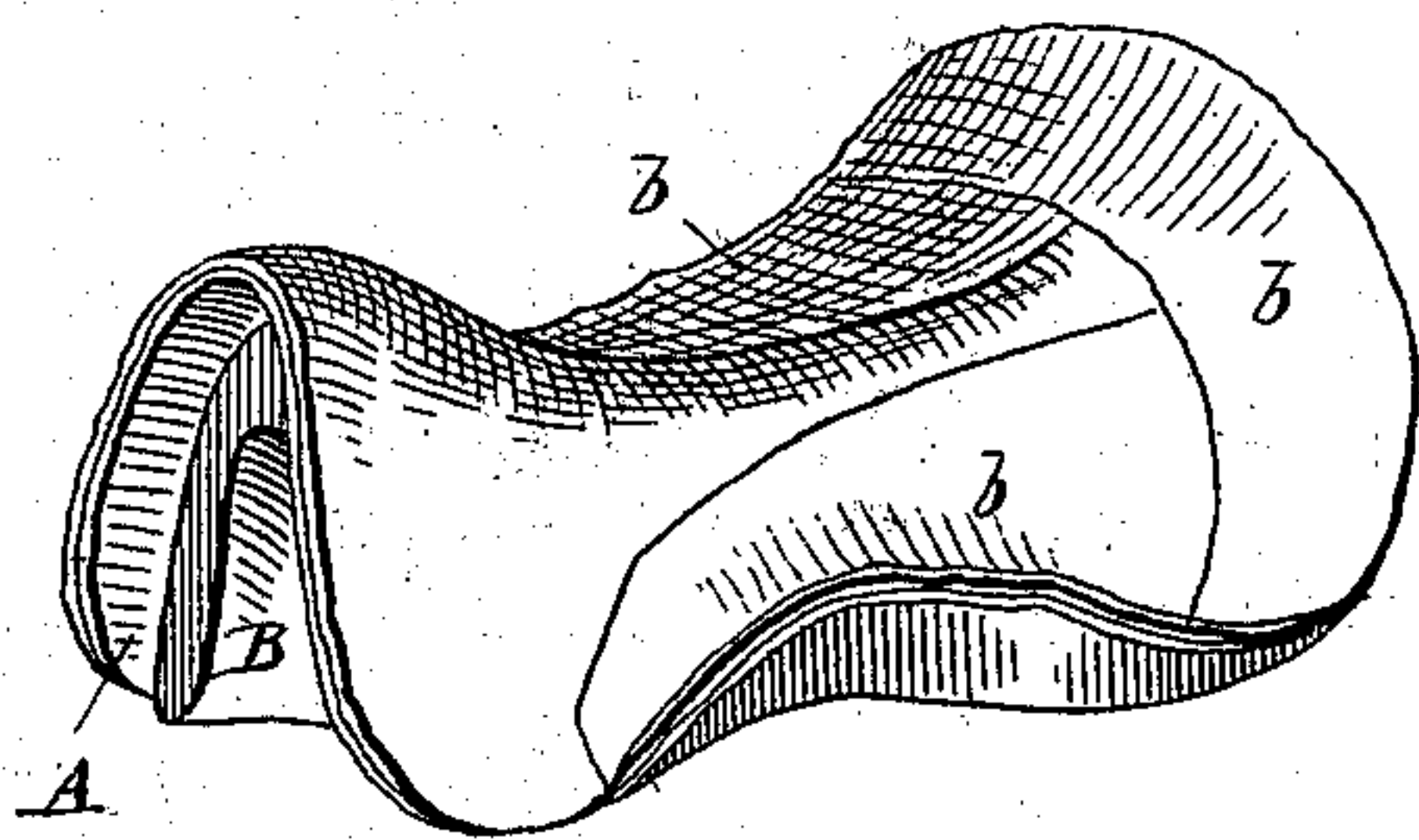


Fig. 5.

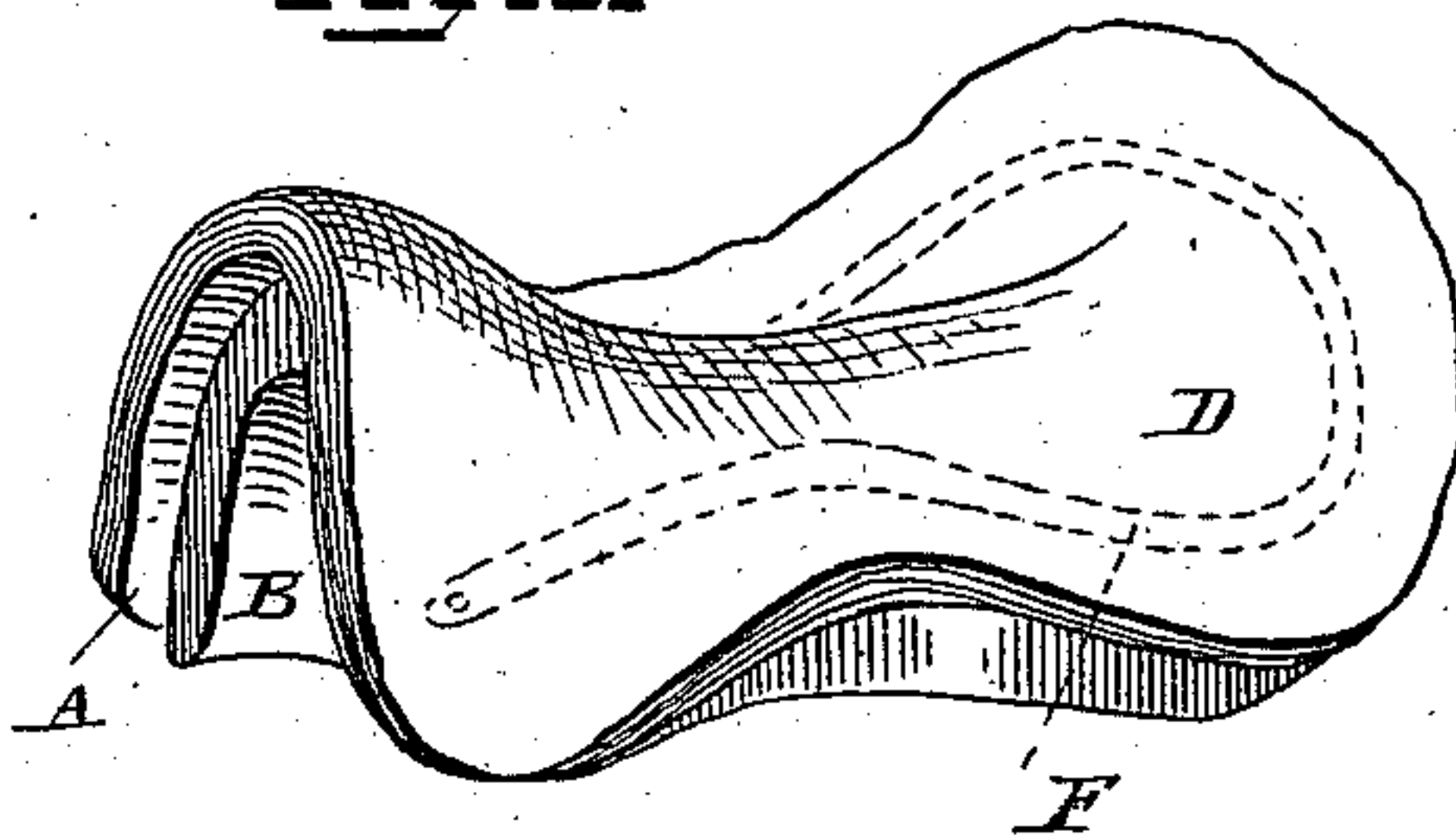


Fig. 6.

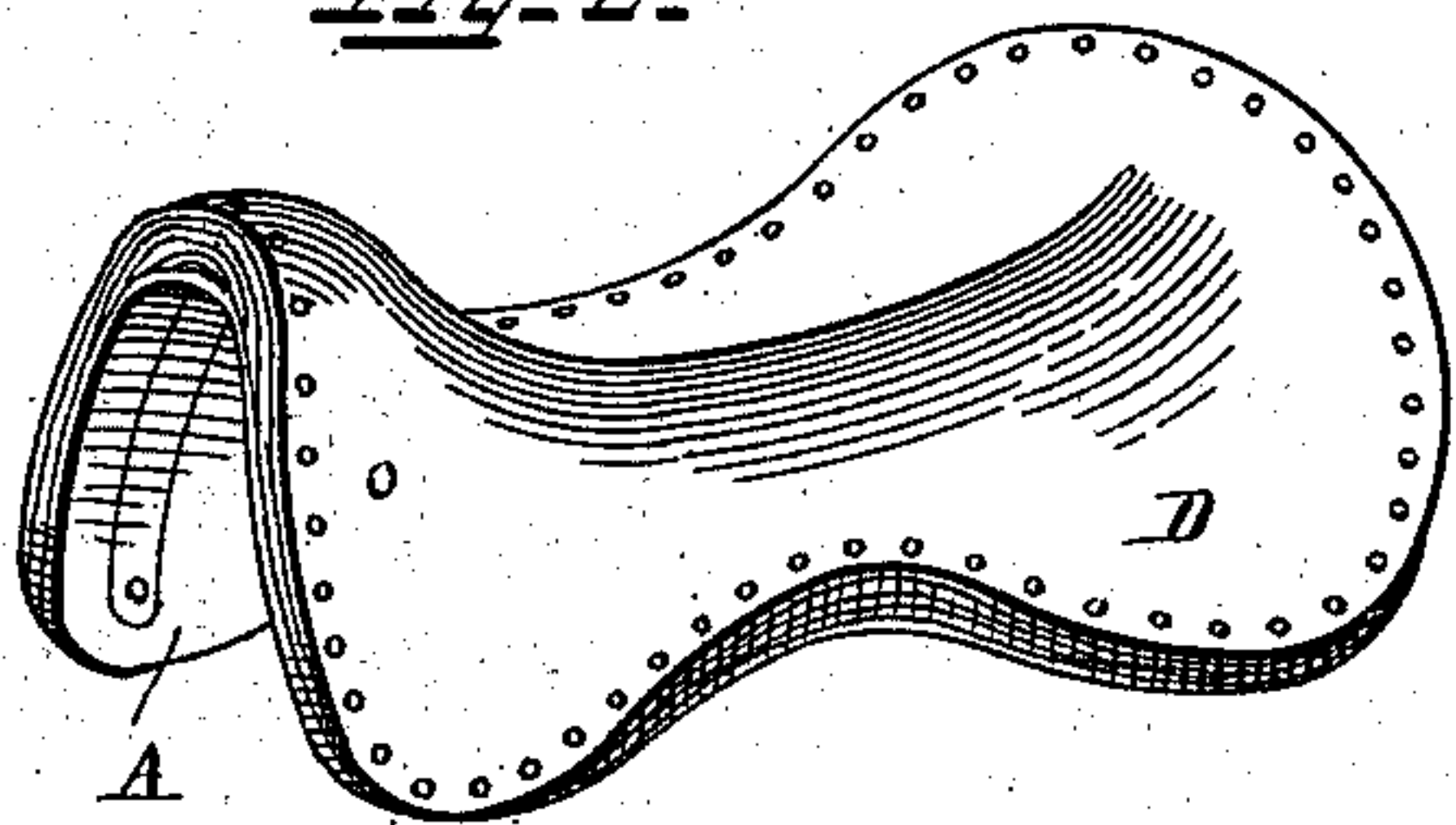


Fig. 7.

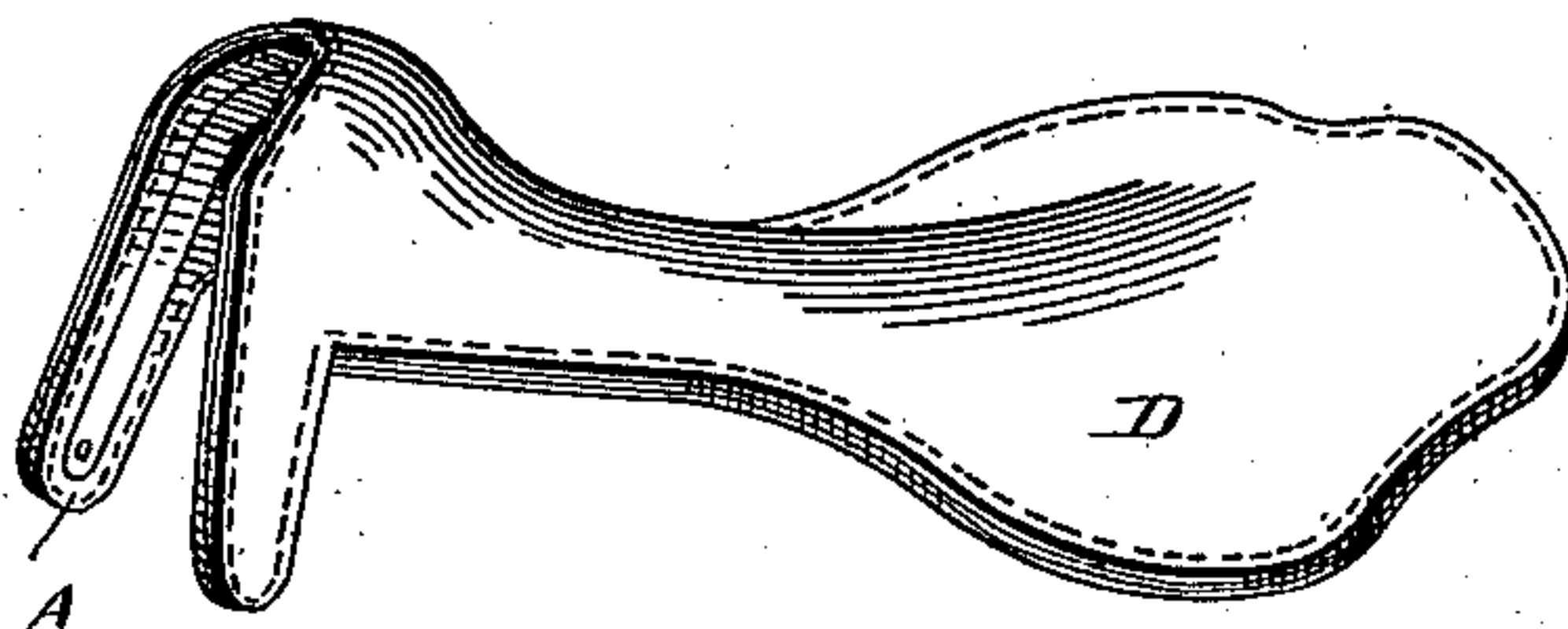
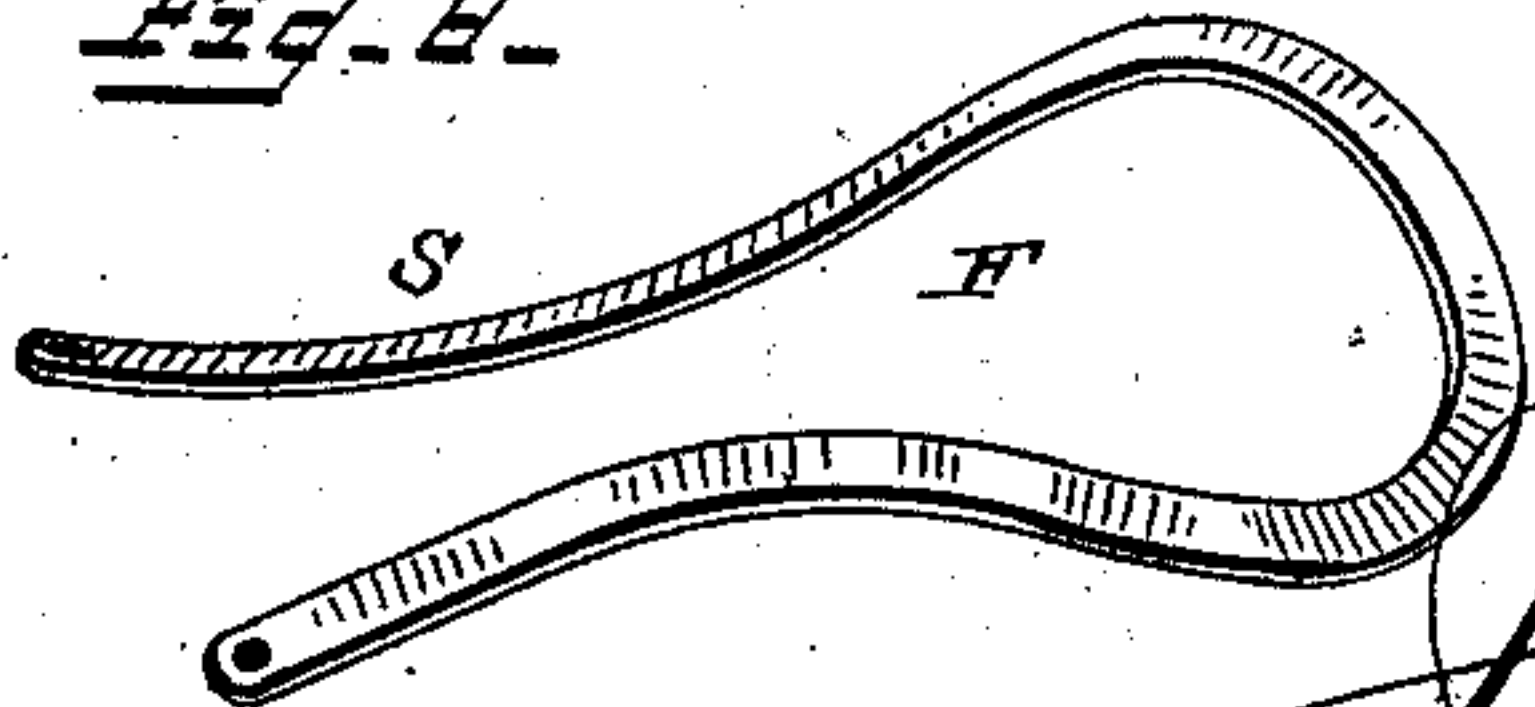


Fig. 8.



WITNESSES

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN M. FINK, OF LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, ASSIGNOR TO FINK & FELDHAUS,
OF SAME PLACE.

PROCESS OF FORMING FLEXIBLE SADDLE-TREES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 401,938, dated April 23, 1889.

Application filed June 30, 1888. Serial No. 278,618. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN M. FINK, a citizen of the United States, residing at Louisville, in the county of Jefferson and State of Kentucky, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Processes of Forming Flexible Saddle-Trees of Leather or the Like; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to a process of forming saddle-trees of layers of leather or other flexible material; and it consists in the carrying out of the several steps hereinafter described and claimed.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the press employed in carrying out my invention. Fig. 2 is a sectional view thereof. Fig. 3 is a plan view of the interior surface of the top and bottom dies. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the tree in course of construction. Fig. 5 is a similar view after it is compressed. Figs. 6 and 7 are perspective views of two forms of completed trees. Fig. 8 is a perspective view of one form of strengthening-plate used in the construction of the tree.

Corresponding parts in the figures are denoted by the same letters of reference.

In carrying out my invention, after the leather or other flexible material is thoroughly moistened a layer, A, forming the bottom of the tree, is drawn over the surface of the bottom die, B, of the press C, said layer being sufficiently large to cover the die; or it may be spliced out to the requisite size, and can be fastened to the die, if found preferable. The tree is then built up with suitable pieces, b, preferably secured to the bottom layer by an adhesive substance or by tacks. The pieces b are disposed in such manner as to leave the central longitudinal portion of the tree thin, such construction being designed to prevent injury to the horse's back. After the tree has been built to the desired thickness the top layer or cover, D, is placed upon the tree. The cover may be of one solid piece, or it may be of two or more pieces spliced together, and is preferably secured to the tree by an adhesive substance or by tacks. When the tree is thus far completed, it is placed within the press under the top die, E,

and pressed between the dies to give it the proper contour. The tree is left in the press as long as necessary, when it is removed therefrom, together with the bottom die, upon which it is left to dry sufficiently to retain its contour. It can then be pressed again if found necessary. When the tree has been sufficiently dried, the edges are trimmed to the desired shape and size, and, if found preferable, the complete tree may be partially or entirely stitched or tacked around the edge.

If desired, I may employ one or more suitable gullet or stiffening plates, F, either within the tree during the course of construction or upon the top or bottom surface of the tree. These plates may be of any preferred construction; but in some forms of tree it has been found preferable to employ the construction shown in Fig. 8, which consists of an approximately U-shaped spring-plate, S, disposed lengthwise of the tree and preferably secured at its ends to a gullet-plate.

It will be obvious that I may use any construction of dies or press in the construction of the trees in lieu of that shown; also that the trees may be formed of any shape which may be desired.

I am aware that it is not broadly new to make articles of leather by first securing layers of the same together and then subjecting them to pressure; and to this step I make no claim, my invention consisting of the several steps herein described, and pointed out in the claim.

I claim as my invention—

The improved process for forming flexible saddle-trees of layers of leather or other flexible material, consisting in first moistening the layers, then building the saddle-tree from said moistened flexible layers, filling in at proper places with strips b to give it the desired shape, placing the cover upon the portion thus formed, then subjecting the tree to pressure between suitable dies, and finally trimming the edges of the layers and strips to the desired shape and size, substantially as specified.

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

JOHN M. FINK.

Witnesses:

HENRY KOENIG,
GEO. BEAVERSEN.