

(No Model.)

B. L. BLAIR.
BASE BALL MASK.

No. 432,970.

Patented July 29, 1890.

Fig. 1.

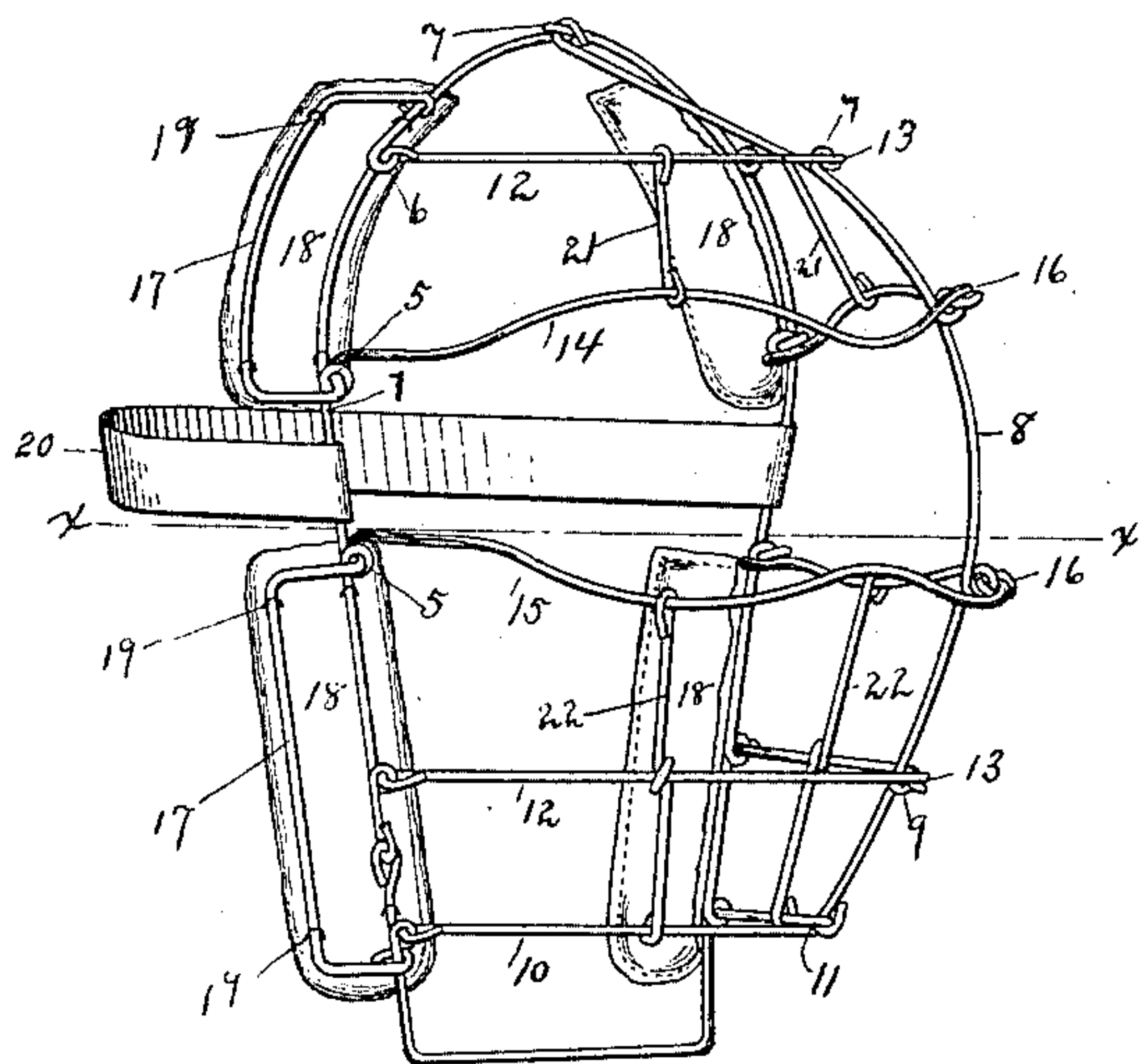


Fig. 2.

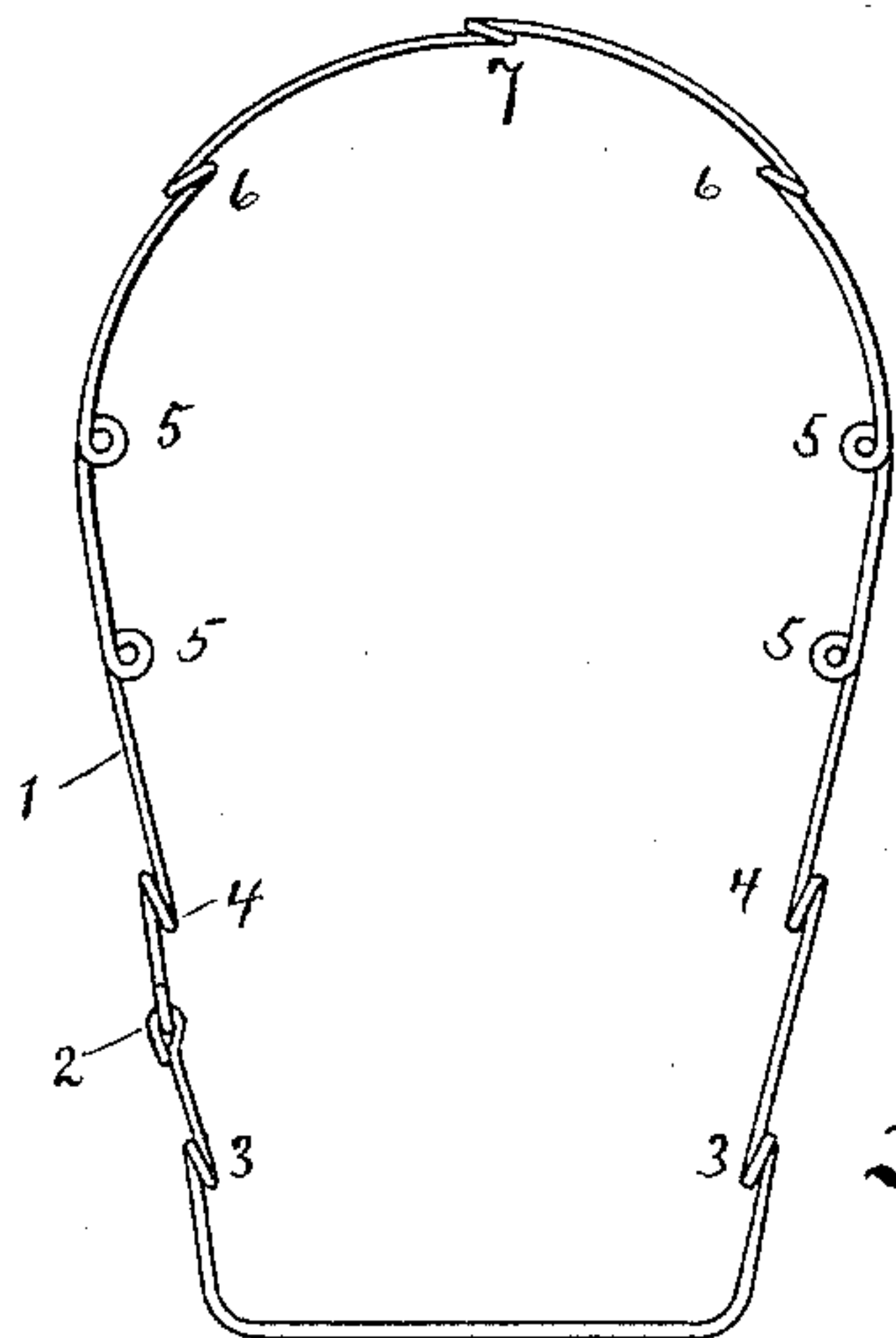


Fig. 3.

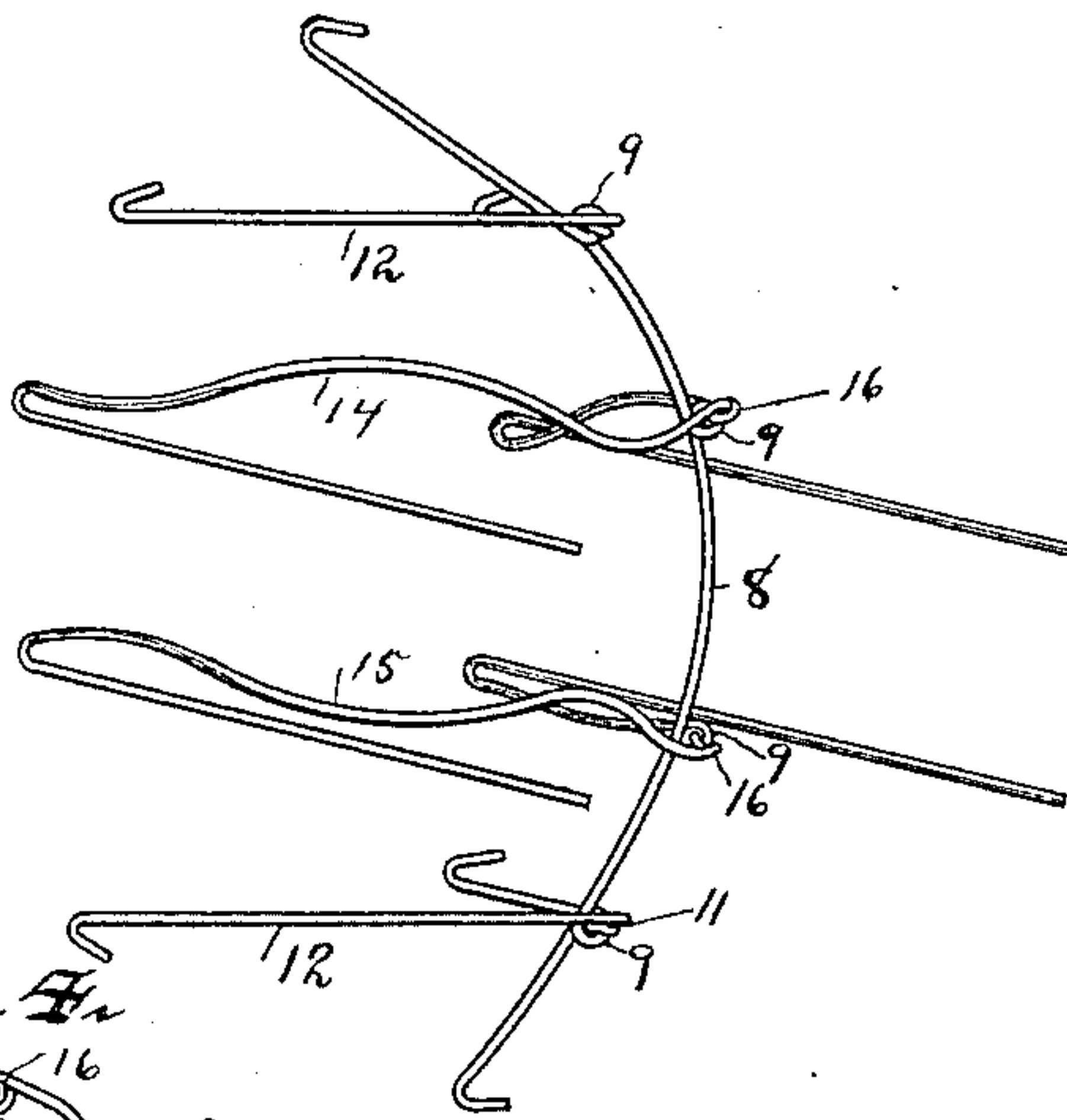
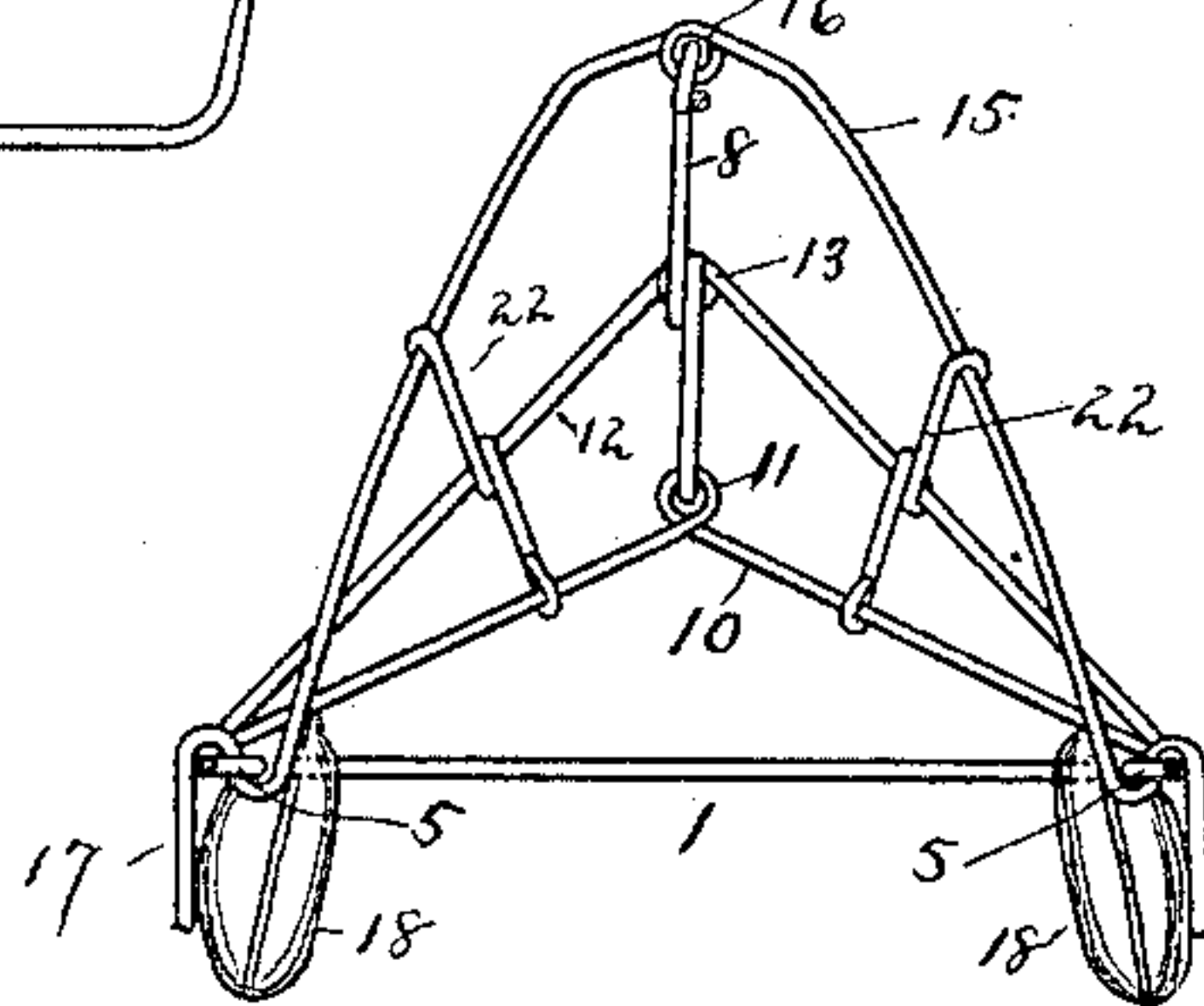


Fig. 4.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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BASE-BALL MASK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 432,970, dated July 29, 1890.

Application filed November 8, 1889. Serial No. 329,640. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BARTON L. BLAIR, of the city of Rochester, county of Monroe and State of New York, have invented certain
5 new and useful Improvements in Base-Ball Masks; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, and to figures of reference marked
10 thereon.

My present invention has for its object to provide an improved mask for the use of base-ball players which shall be simple and
15 cheap in construction and strong enough to stand all the hard usage to which such articles are subjected without liability of becoming broken and of coming apart, or of the parts slipping on each other, so as to allow
20 the mask to be knocked out of shape; and to these ends it consists in certain novelties of construction and combinations of parts, all as will be hereinafter described, and the novel features of construction pointed out in the
25 claims at the end of this specification.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a mask constructed in accordance with my invention; Fig. 2, a view of the main frame; Fig. 3, a view of the front portion
30 before the cushion-supports are formed; Fig. 4, a section on the line *x x* of Fig. 1.

Similar figures of reference in the several figures denote similar parts.

In forming my improved mask I first form
35 a loop or main frame 1 of a single piece of wire with the ends joined, as at 2, a series of loops or eyes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 being formed therein, all of them, except the loops 5, being at substantially right angles to the plane of said
40 frame, while loops 5—one pair arranged on each side—project in substantially the plane of said frame or parallel therewith. The front or guarding portion of the mask consists of a central piece or backbone 8, formed of a
45 single piece of heavy wire or similar material formed with a series of loops 9 therein, to which the cross-wires are attached, the upper end of said backbone being attached to the loop 7 of frame 1 by being passed through it
50 and turned over, as shown, while the lower

end is attached to a V-shaped piece of wire 10, having its ends passed through the loops or eyes 3 in the main frame and secured by being bent over, and at its central forward portion is formed a loop or eye 11, through
55 which eye the end of backbone 8 is passed, being bent over, as at the upper portion. This lower brace 10 throws the lower end of the backbone outward away from the user's face, leaving the lower portion of the frame
60 1 projecting below and acting as a throat-guard.

The cross wires or strips 12, near the upper and lower ends of the central stiffening-piece 8, are of approximately V shape with their
65 ends looped through eyes 4 and 6, and are provided with central loops 13, interlocked with eyes or loops 9 in said piece 8, these two loops preventing all movement and holding the parts firmly.
70

The central cross or guard wires 14 15, which respectively come above and below the eyes of the wearer, are preferably bent, as shown, so as not to obstruct vision, the central portion of each being formed with a loop or eye
75 16, engaging the eyes 9 in the piece 8, while their outer ends are passed through the eyes 5 in the main frame, preferably from the rear, bent around the outer side of the frame to the rear again, then parallel, or approximately so,
80 with the main frame, forming cushion-rests 17, their outer ends being attached to the main frame by being looped around it, as shown. It will be understood from the above that the cushion-rests are formed by the ends
85 of the wires 14 and 15, and that the wires 14 are bent upward and wires 15 downward, as shown, though I do not desire to be confined to the feature of necessarily forming these rests from extensions of the guard-wires. Suitable
90 cushions 18 are attached to the rests 17, either by sewing or by wire loops 19, as shown.

20 represents the strap, elastic or otherwise, passing around the user's head and holding the mask in position, the cushions resting
95 against his face in the ordinary manner.

The wires 12 and 14 are tied together by small links or loops 21, arranged, preferably, over the center of the sight-openings, and
wires 10, 12, and 14 are secured and braced
100

by wires 22, having the eyes at the center, securing them to wire 12, and the loops at the ends embracing the others.

The mask as a whole is well braced, and the parts being fastened by interlocking loops or eyes it cannot be knocked out of shape, as can those in which the intersecting wires are merely soldered together, and, furthermore, will effectually protect the wearer. By forming the central stiffening-piece with the loops or eyes 9, particularly those through which the wires 14 and 15 are passed, the openings between the wires cannot be enlarged by a base-ball wedging between them and injuring the user; but they will be held in position all the time, and while it is desirable that the loops 16 be formed in these cross-wires I do not desire to be confined to this construction, as they could in some forms of mask be dispensed with. A further advantage of this construction is that the ends of all the cross-wires have a firm bearing on the main frame by reason of the loops 3, 4, 6, and 7, said ends resting against the two portions of the frame at the bottom of the loop, and the wires 14 and 15, by being bent around, as shown, through the eyes 5, have a firm bearing, so that endwise thrust upon them will not tend to separate them, but will come upon the main frame and the cushions attached to it.

In forming the mask I prefer to form the main frame 1 as in Fig. 2, and then form the loops in the central wire 8, and attach and form the cross-pieces thereon, leaving the ends of wires 14 and 15 straight, as in Fig. 3. Then I insert the part shown in the latter figure through the main frame from the rear, with the ends of wires 14 and 15 projecting through eyes 5, and secure the ends of the central and transverse wires 14 and 15 around to form the cushion-seats, as shown.

The tying-wires and lower guard 10 may be put on at any time after the other parts are in place.

While I have described this mask as made of wire, it is obvious that strips of any material could be employed.

I claim as my invention—

1. In a mask, the combination of the main frame having a series of loops or eyes formed

therein at the sides, with a series of transverse wires having their ends secured to the eyes on the main frame, substantially as described.

2. In a mask, the combination, with the main frame, of a stiffening front piece having a series of loops or eyes formed therein and a series of transverse wires passing through the loops in the front piece and secured to the main frame, substantially as described.

3. In a mask, the combination, with the main frame having the series of loops or eyes formed therein at the sides, of a stiffening front piece having a series of loops and a series of transverse wires passing through the loops in the front piece and secured to the loops in the main frame, substantially as described.

4. In a mask, the combination, with the main frame, of a stiffening front piece having a series of loops and a series of transverse wires formed with loops or eyes interlocking with those in the front piece and secured at the sides to the main frame, substantially as described.

5. In a mask, the combination, with the main frame having the loops or eyes formed at the top and sides projecting toward the front, of a vertical and a series of transverse wires, forming the mask-front, fastened to the loops or eyes on the main frame by having their ends looped through them, substantially as described.

6. In a mask, the combination, with the main frame having the loops or eyes at the sides, of the transverse wires extending across the front of the main frame, with their ends passing through said eyes and bent to form cushion-rests, substantially as described.

7. In a mask, the combination, with the main frame having the laterally-projecting loops or eyes at the sides, of the transverse wires extending across the front of the frame, with their ends projecting through said eyes and bent to form cushion-rests, substantially as described.

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Witnesses:

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