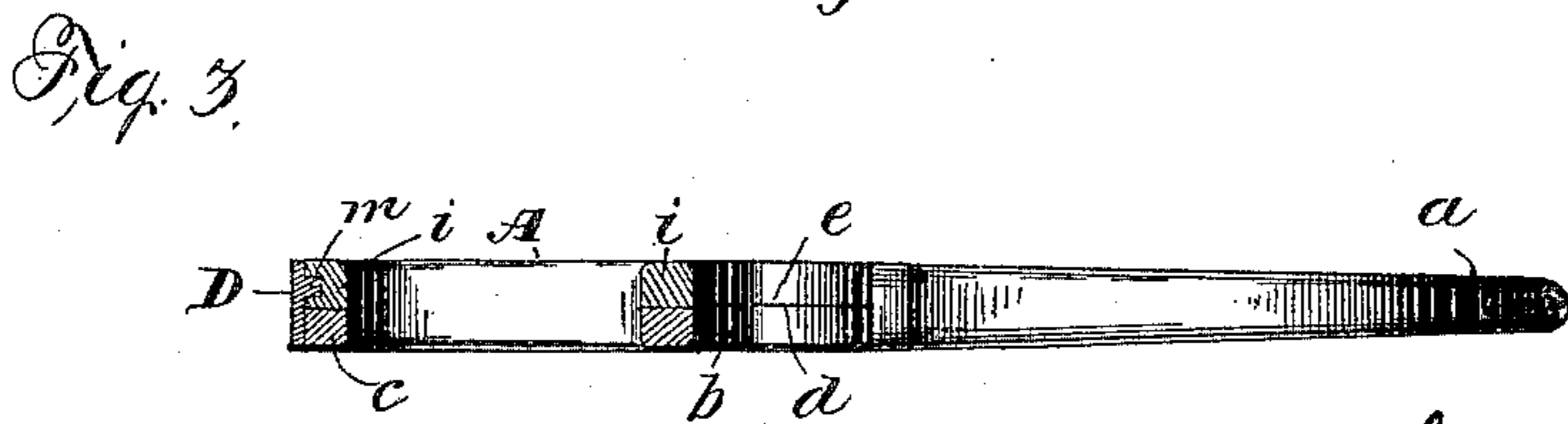
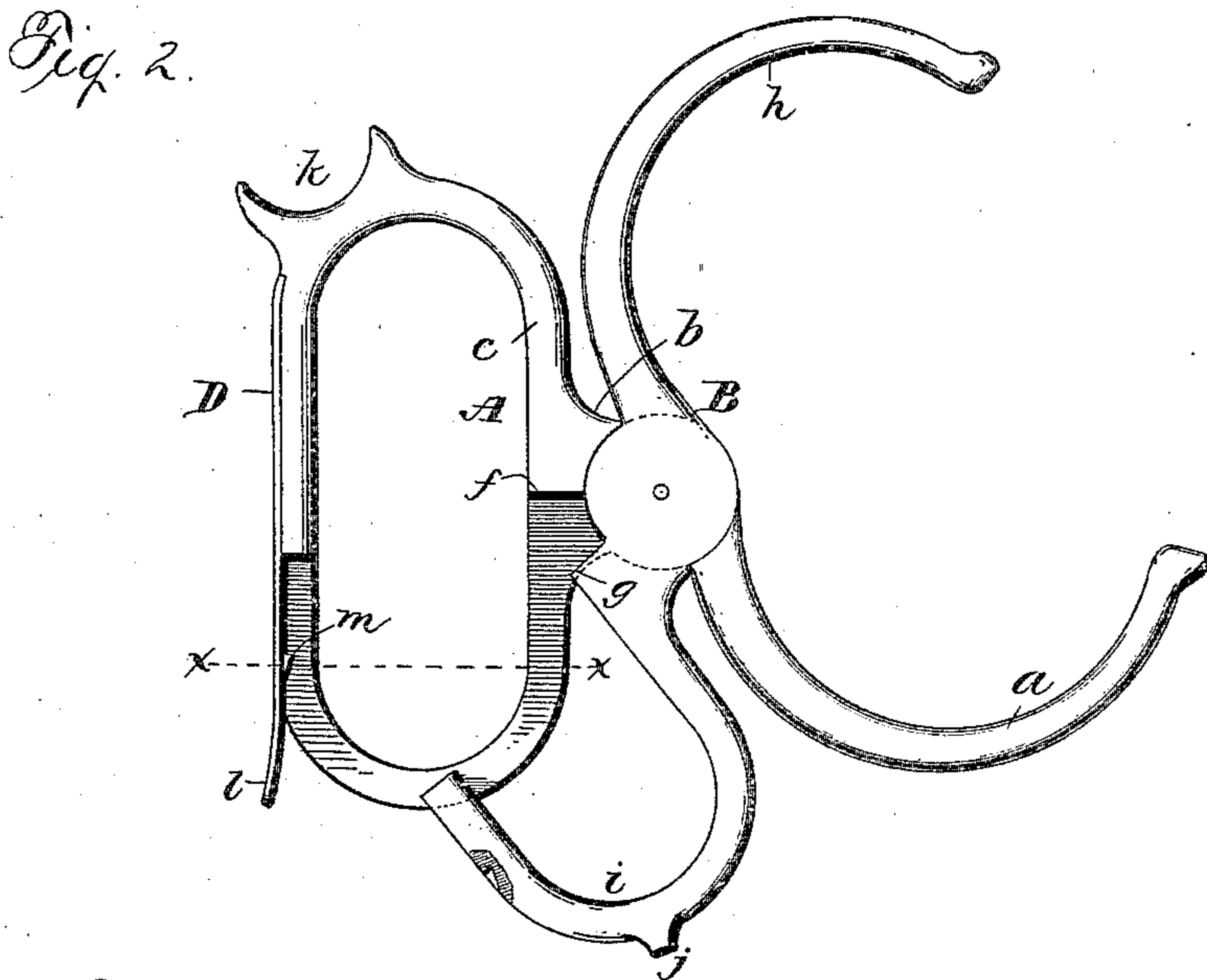
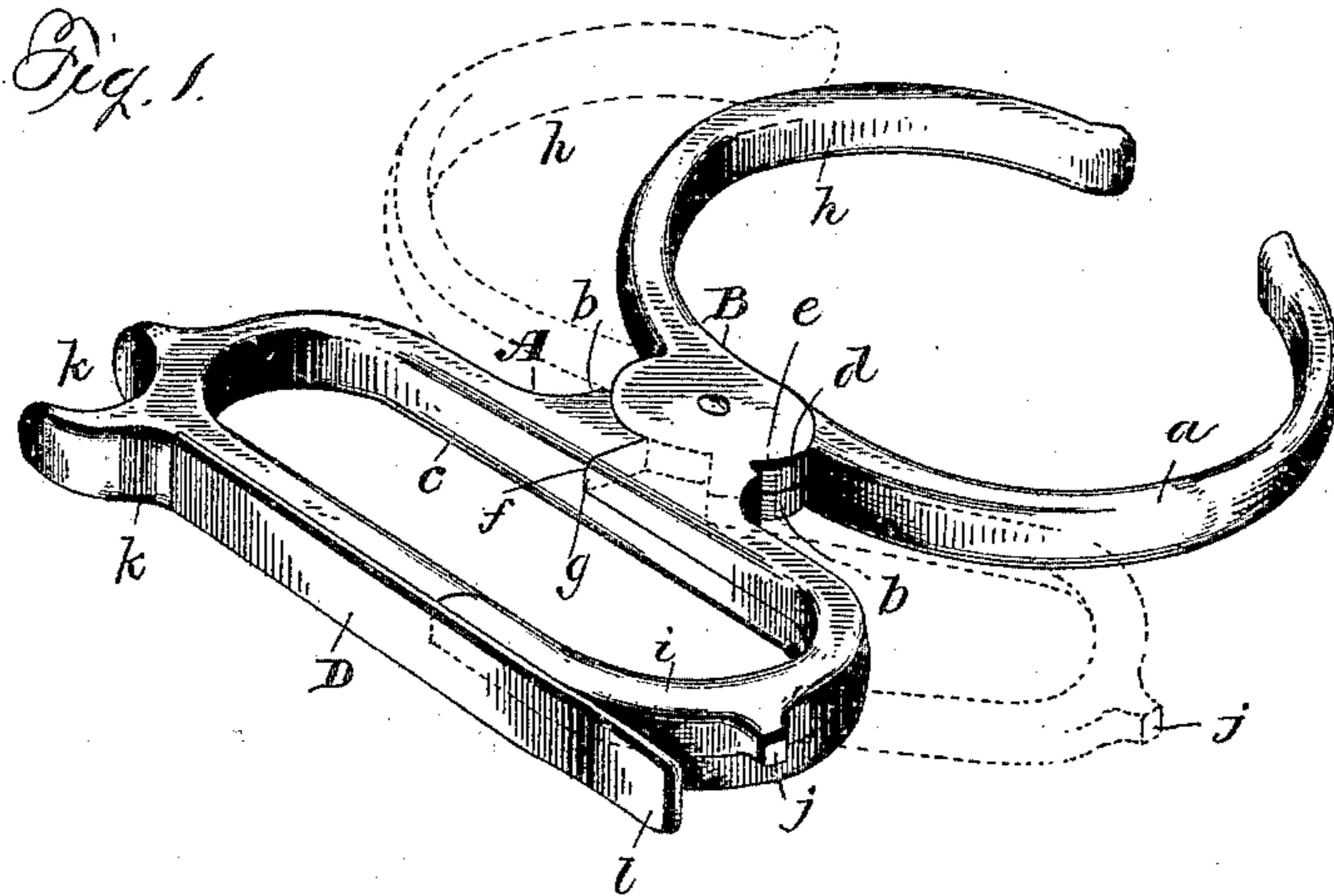


(No Model.)

M. S. THOMAS.
POLICE NIPPERS.

No. 446,616.

Patented Feb. 17, 1891.



Witnesses
Chas. Williamson
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MERTON S. THOMAS, OF PULTENEY, NEW YORK.

POLICE-NIPPERS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 446,616, dated February 17, 1891.

Application filed December 3, 1890. Serial No. 373,435. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MERTON S. THOMAS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Pulteney, in the county of Steuben and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Police Nippers; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to that class of devices known as "police-nippers" or "shackles," and more particularly to that class of these devices in which provision is made for the ready application of the nippers to a prisoner's hand and immediately locking the same.

Heretofore it has been proposed to construct the handle portion of the nippers of two parts of like contour, so pivotally arranged that when closed they form a complete handle by which the nippers are held in the hand of the officer; but this arrangement necessitates a change in the position of the hand in order to avoid being injured by the opening or closing of the two-part handle, during which change the prisoner is very apt to break loose and escape from the officer. It has also been proposed to form the handle of two substantially L-shaped parts, with the lateral branches extending in opposite directions, a spring-plate being secured to one and designed to engage the other to hold the two parts in their closed position. This arrangement, however, is very apt to catch the hand of the person using the nippers, either between the two overlapping parts of the handle or by the spring-plate.

The primary object of the present invention, therefore, is to overcome these difficulties; and to this end, and to such others as the invention may pertain, it has the following objects in view: to provide nippers wherein the officer can have a firm grip on the handle and will not have to change the position of his hand, while the thumb is free to act and with full strength to open and close the nippers. It matters not what part of the

wrist the nippers come in contact with, the officer can easily open and close and lock the nippers securely and with ease.

A further object is to provide a nipper of this character that will be more convenient and more quickly applied than previous forms. In my nippers there is no sharp edge to come between the fingers of the officer to cut them or to cramp the hand. They are simple, cheap, and durable, and in practical use have proved most efficient.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will hereinafter appear, and the novel features thereof will be specifically defined by the appended claims.

The novelty in the present instance resides in the peculiarities of construction of the nippers, as will be more fully hereinafter described, shown in the drawings, and then particularly pointed out in the claims.

The invention is clearly illustrated in the accompanying drawings, which, with the letters of reference marked thereon, form a part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved nippers shown open in dotted lines and closed in full lines. Fig. 2 is a side view of the nippers open. Fig. 3 is a section through the nippers on the line *xx* of Fig. 2.

Like letters of reference indicate like parts throughout the several views.

Referring now to the details of the drawings by letter, A designates what I term the "stationary" part of the nippers, because in applying or removing the nippers from the wrist this part thereof had or need have no movement. It is formed with a nipper-jaw *a* of proper size, a shank *b*, and a hand-loop *c*. The shank is halved out, as shown at *d*, in a way common to this and analogous devices to form a portion of a hinge, the corresponding part of the other part of the nippers being correspondingly reversely halved out, as shown at *e*. The shank at its junction with the hand-loop is by this halving out formed with a shoulder *f*, against which the shoulder *g* on the other part engages to limit its movement, as will hereinafter appear. The other part B is formed with a nipper-jaw *h* and with a portion of a hand-loop *i*, which is substantially one-half a loop in form and also in thickness. The hand-loop *c* of the part A is

halved out for substantially one-half of its contour on one side and the part hand-loop of the part B completes its contour when the same is closed, as shown by full lines in Fig.

5 1. The part hand-loop of the part B is formed with a teat or projection *j*, which forms a thumb-piece, against which the officer presses his thumb to open the nipper-jaws when he desires to apply the same to the wrist of a
10 prisoner. The hand-loop of the part A is formed with a substantially semicircular finger-hold *k* for the reception of the little finger of the officer.

15 D is a flat spring-plate secured in any suitable manner to the outer face of the hand-loop of the part A, being fastened at the end nearest the little finger-hold *k*, with its other end free and preferably slightly turned up, as shown at *l*, and arranged to engage the
20 free end of the part hand-loop of the part B, being preferably provided with a projection or catch *m* upon its under side, the inner face of which is square and designed to engage a corresponding notch in the free end of the
25 hand-loop of the part B, as shown.

The operation and manner of applying the nippers will be readily understood. Normally they are closed, as shown by full lines in Fig. 1. When the officer desires to apply
30 them to the wrist of a prisoner, he places his little finger in the finger-hold *k*, his other three fingers in the hand-loop of the part A, and with his thumb presses upon the teat on the hand-loop part of the portion B and forces
35 it away, as indicated by dotted lines in Fig. 1, and thus separates the nipper-jaws, which he then places over the wrist of the prisoner, and then with his thumb pulls back the part

hand-loop of the portion B and holds it in addition to its locking by the spring lock-plate, 40 which is automatic in its action. It will thus be seen that the hand of the officer is at all times firmly grasping the hand-loop of the nippers and is not in danger of being injured by the opening or closing of the nippers. 45

What I claim as new is—

1. A police-nippers composed of the part A, with nipper-jaw shank and hand-loop with portion removed, and the part B, pivoted to the part A and formed with half hand-loop, 50 also of half thickness and arranged to complete the contour of the hand-loop of the part A, and a spring locking-plate on the hand-loop of the part A and arranged to engage the free end of the half-loop of the part B, 55 substantially as specified.

2. The police-nippers described, composed of the part A, having nipper-jaw, halved-out shank, and hand-loop with finger-hold, and upon one side of one half reduced in thick- 60 ness substantially one-half, the part B, having nipper-jaw, halved-out shank, and half hand-loop in thickness corresponding to the half thick part of the hand-loop of the part A and formed with teat to receive the thumb, 65 and the spring locking-plate secured to the hand-loop of the part A and arranged to engage the free end of the loop portion of the part B, substantially as shown and described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in 70 presence of two witnesses.

MERTON S. THOMAS.

Witnesses:

J. H. McCONNELL,
THOS. J. WAGSTAFF.