

(No Model.)

J. W. LUFKIN.

METHOD OF FORMING OVEREDGE OR BUTTON HOLE STITCHES.

No. 461,841.

Patented Oct. 27, 1891.

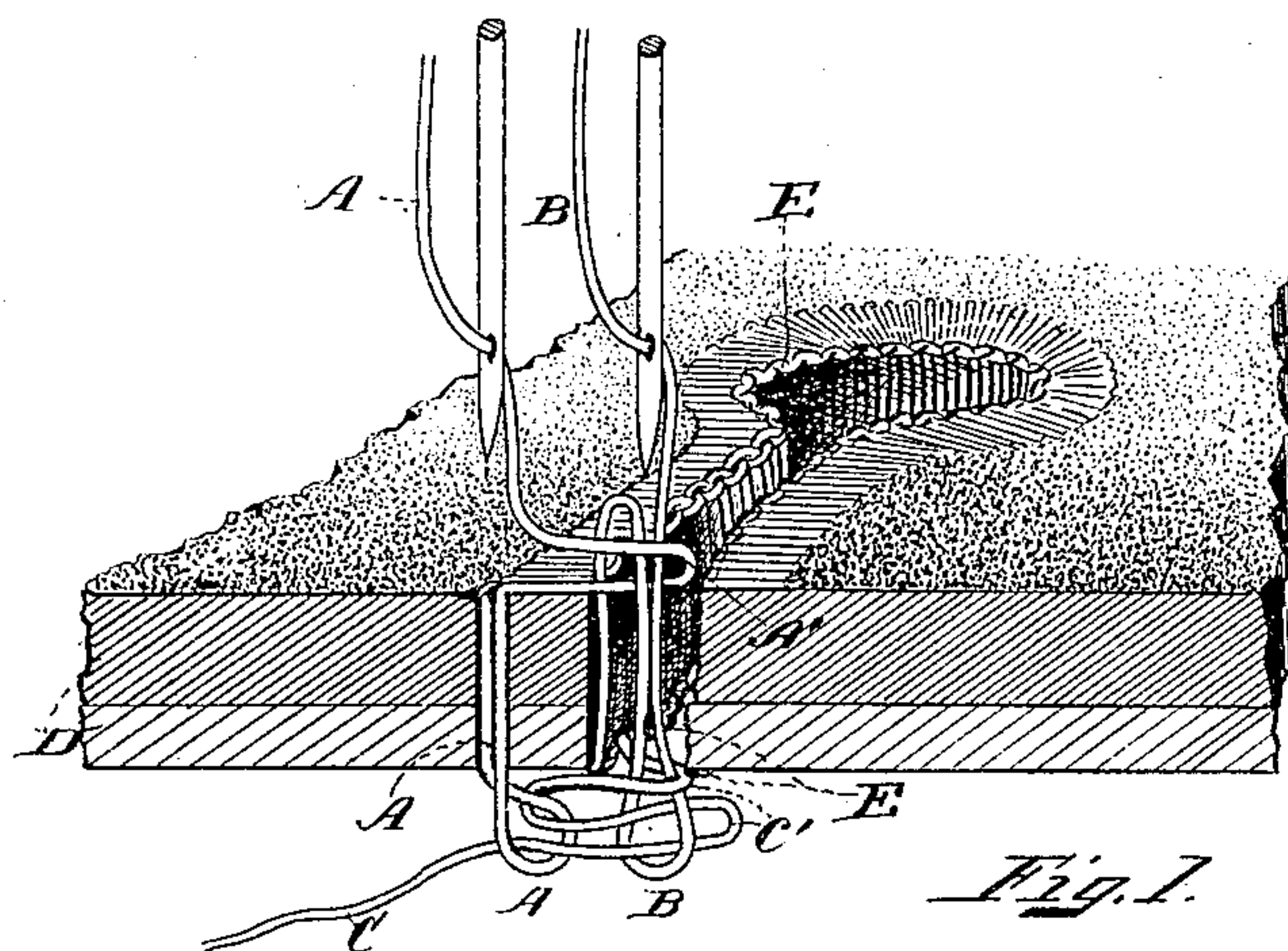


Fig. 1.

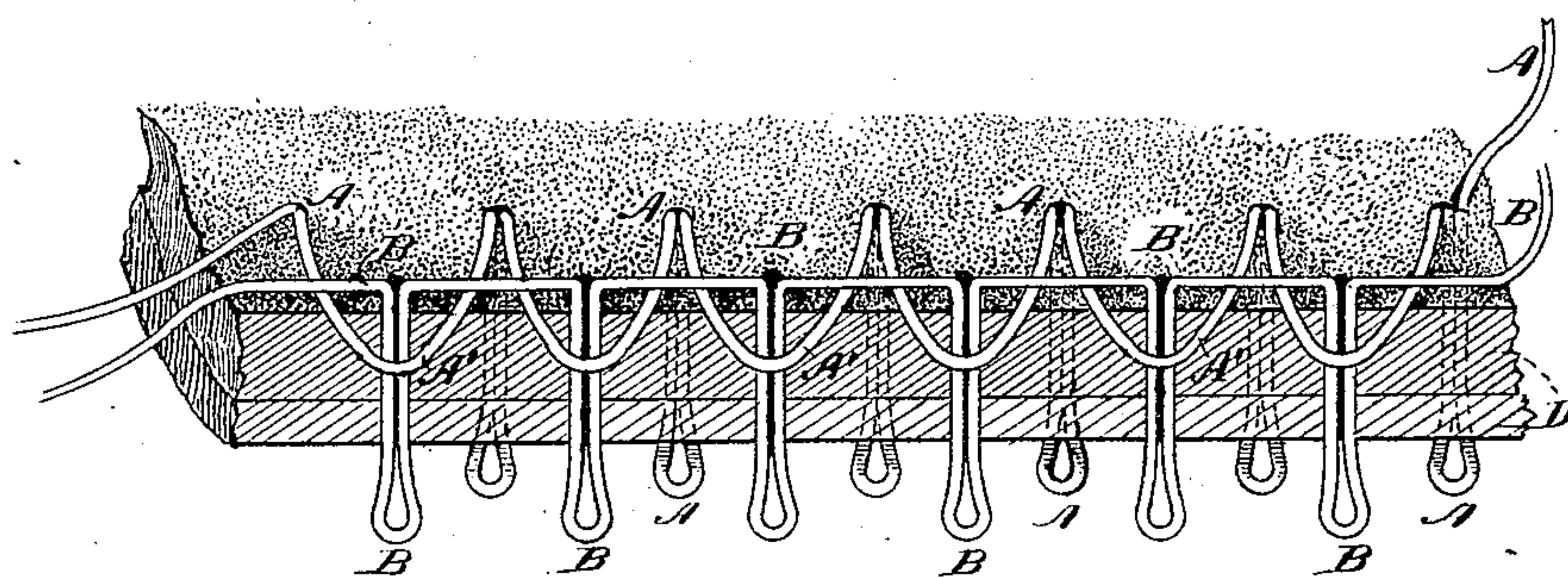


Fig. 2.

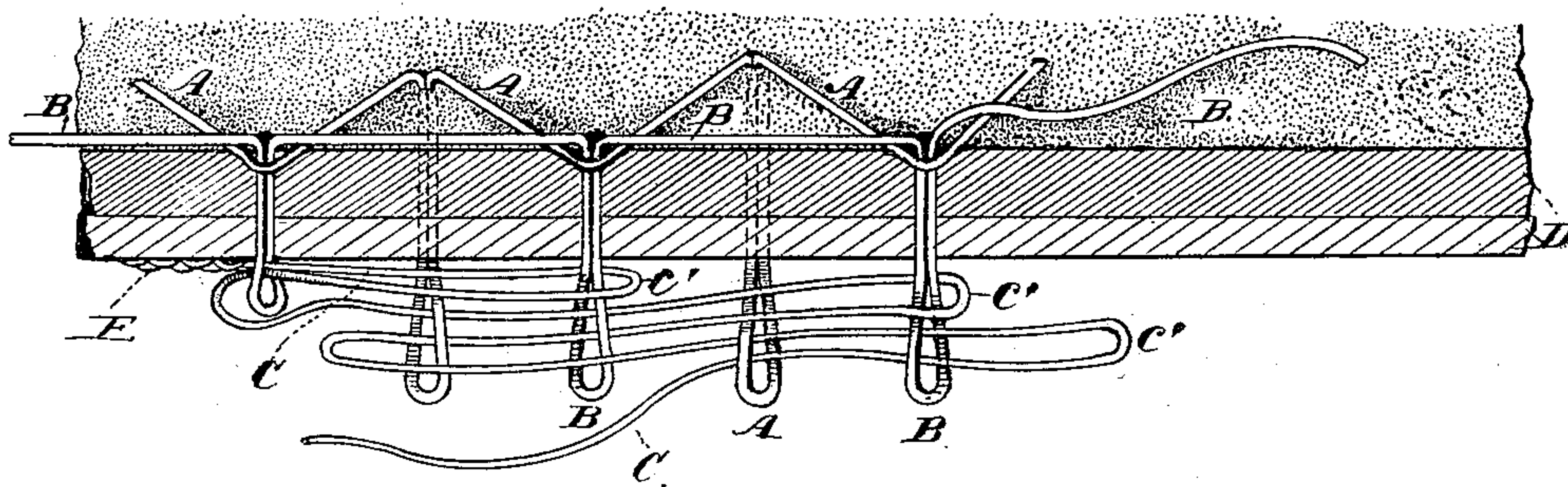


Fig. 3.

Witnesses:

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Inventor:  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN W. LUFKIN, OF WINCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS.

## METHOD OF FORMING OVEREDGE OR BUTTON-HOLE STITCHES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 461,841, dated October 27, 1891.

Application filed March 23, 1891. Serial No. 385,988. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHN W. LUFKIN, of Winchester, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in the Method of Forming an Overedge or Button-Hole Stitch, which will, in connection with the accompanying drawings, be hereinafter fully described, and specifically defined in the appended claim.

My invention relates to an overedge or button-hole stitch, which is practically formed by mechanism; and it consists in a method of forming a button-hole stitch of three threads interlaced with each other through and over the edge of the goods in which the button-hole is made in the manner hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a representation of an enlarged section, partly in perspective, of a button-hole edge as finished by my improved stitch, and illustrating in sectional elevation the manner of interlacing the threads composing the stitch with each other through and over the edge of the material in which the button-hole is made. Fig. 2 is an edge view, enlarged, showing only the two upper threads, one being carried through the goods and loosely interlaced with the other over the edge of the material, as when forming a part of the completed stitch. Fig. 3 is a similar view, showing the three threads loosely interlaced through and over the edge of the material as they are connected in the formation of the complete stitch.

In the formation of my said stitch I employ two threads A and B above the material, the edge of which is to be finished therewith, and a third thread C below the material. The thread A is carried through the body of the goods D, while thread B is carried simultaneously down by the edge of the goods. A loop A', formed of thread A, is at the same time carried laterally to and slightly beyond the edge of the goods on the upper side thereof, so that thread B in its passage down by the edge is carried through said loop A'. When the two upper threads have been thus connected above and carried below the material and loops thereof have been formed below, as shown in the drawings, then thread C is passed through both said loops of the

upper threads. A loop C', formed of the under thread C, after it has been passed through the loops of the upper threads, as described, is seized and held open and in position while the upper threads are being drawn up and until they descend again, when thread B in its descent is also passed through the under loop C', so held open and in place to receive it. Then the thread C is again passed through the two loops of threads A and B last formed and is seized and held as before. Thus the formation of the overedge-stitch is completed and repeated in the process of finishing an edge, and thus thread A passes through the goods and is interlaced directly with thread C on the under side of the goods and with thread B on the upper side, while thread B passes by the edge of the material and is interlaced directly with thread A on the upper side or edge of the goods, and is doubly interlocked with thread C on the under side or edge by descending through the loop C' thereof, and then having another loop C' passed through its loop, as described and shown. The stitch thus formed, when "set" or drawn close to the edge, produces a compact and durable covering of the edge and a handsome "purl" on both sides or edges of a button-hole so finished, which double purl constitutes two re-enforcing lines or bars E, parallel with the edge, and consequently imparts greater lineal strength to the button-hole and does away with the necessity of putting in the usual additional cord or bar around the button-hole. Another important advantage of this method is that by cutting the loop C' of the under thread, as may be done automatically, when the stitching of a button-hole or a line of edge-finish is so completed, the last stitch formed is securely and firmly locked against raveling, as is obvious from an examination of the construction of the stitch, and therefore the end of a button-hole so stitched does not require the usual subsequent finishing operation (commonly performed by hand or by a special machine) of fastening or "barring off" at the end of the stitching, thus saving time and avoiding considerable additional expense.

I claim—

The herein-described method of forming an overedge-stitch of three threads, A, B, and C,

consisting in passing a loop of the thread A  
through the fabric, drawing a second loop of  
such thread A to the edge of the fabric above  
the latter, passing a loop of the thread B  
5 through the second loop formed in the thread  
A above the fabric and down by the edge of  
the fabric and through a loop of the third  
thread C below the fabric, and then passing

a loop of the thread C through the loops of  
threads A and B below the fabric, substan- 10  
tially as described.

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Witnesses:

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