

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

A. RITTER.

PURSE AND METHOD OF MAKING SAME.

No. 490,165.

Patented Jan. 17, 1893.

Fig. I.

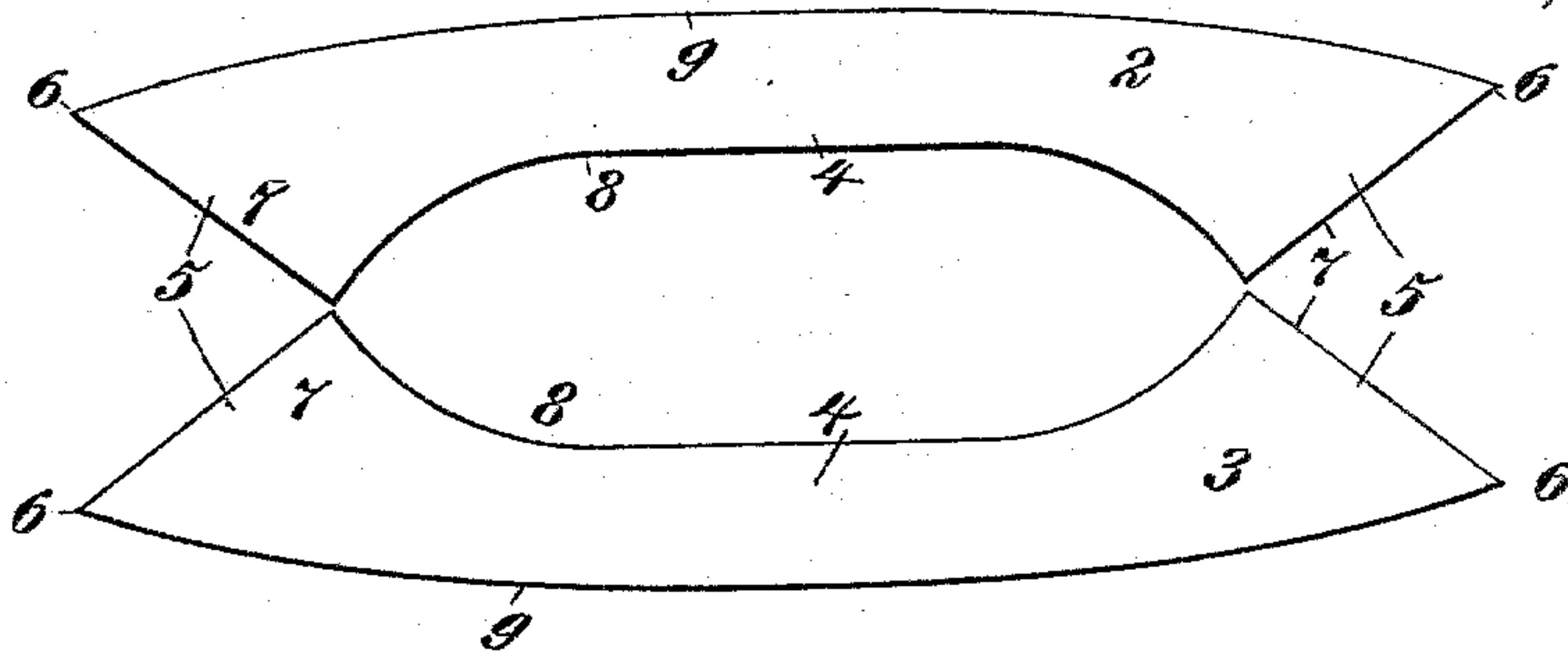


Fig. II.

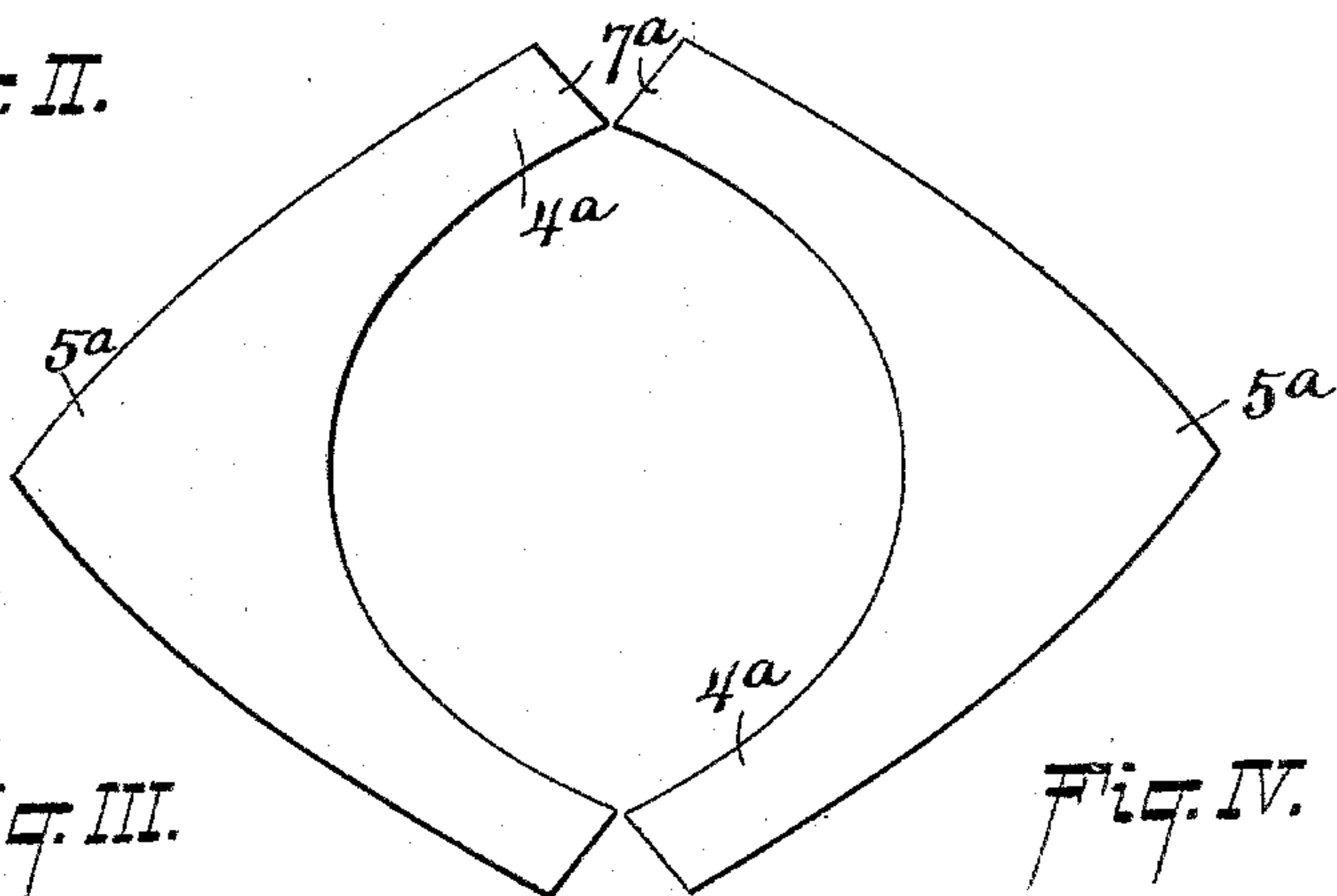


Fig. III.

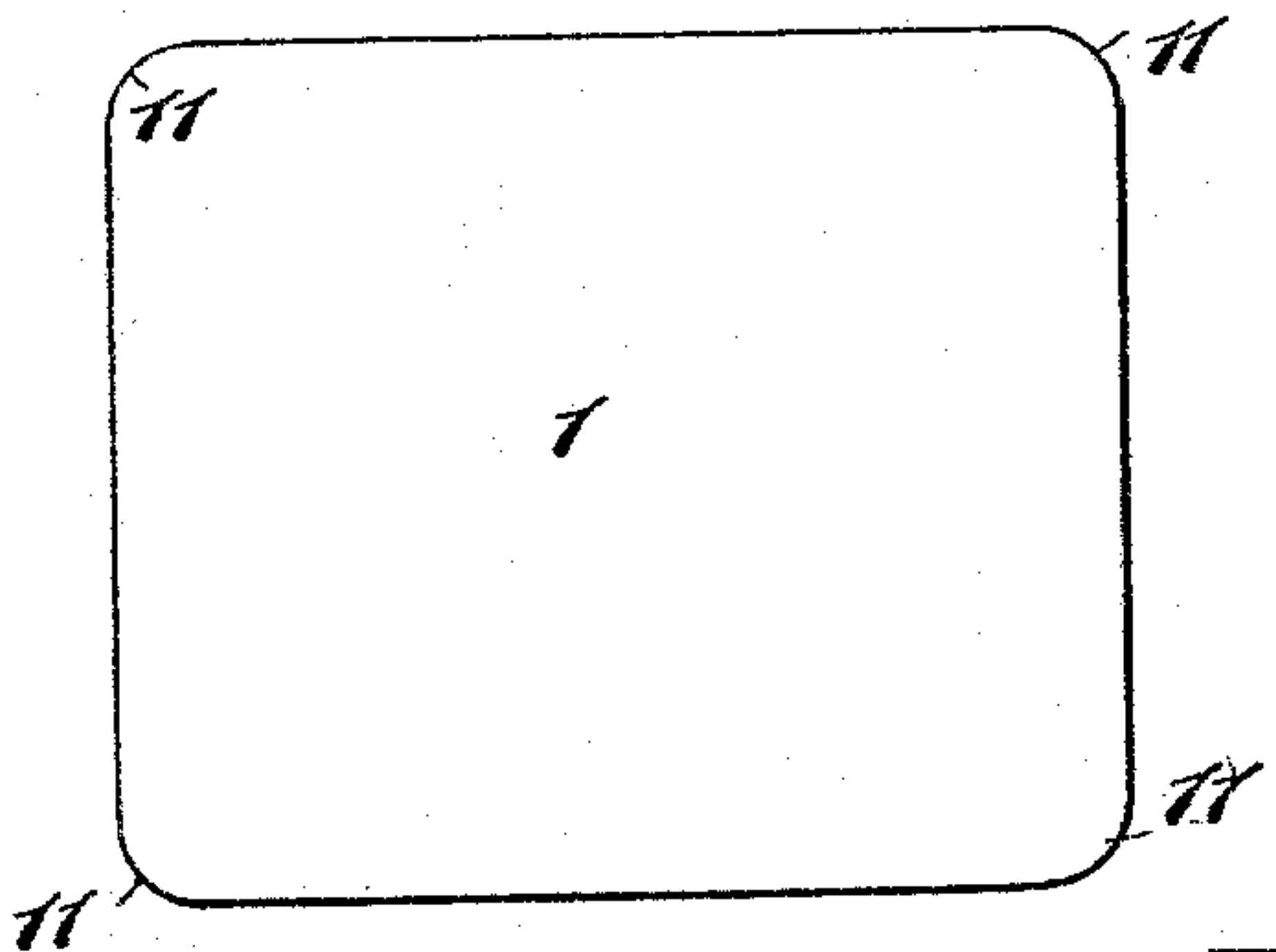


Fig. IV.

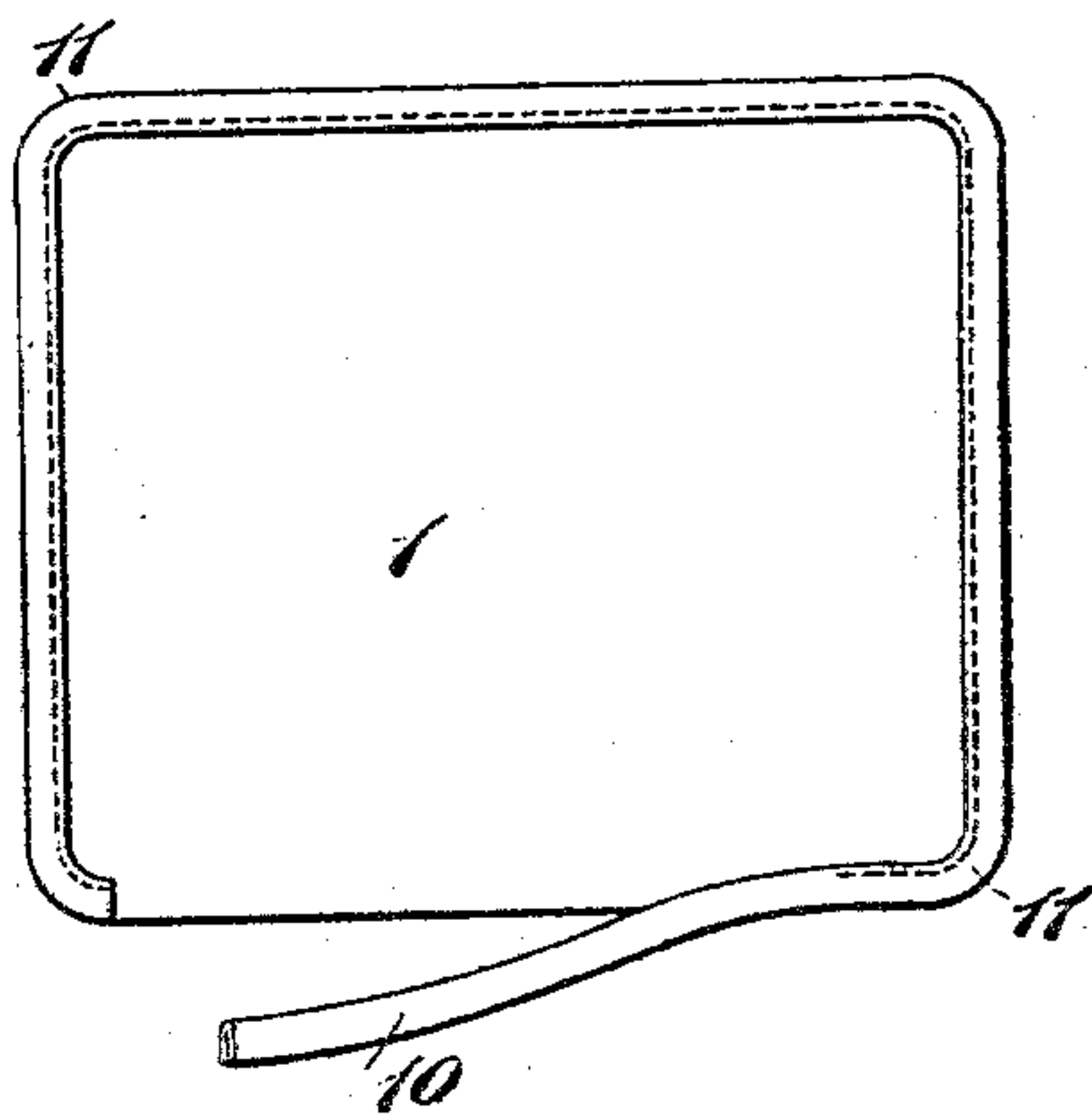
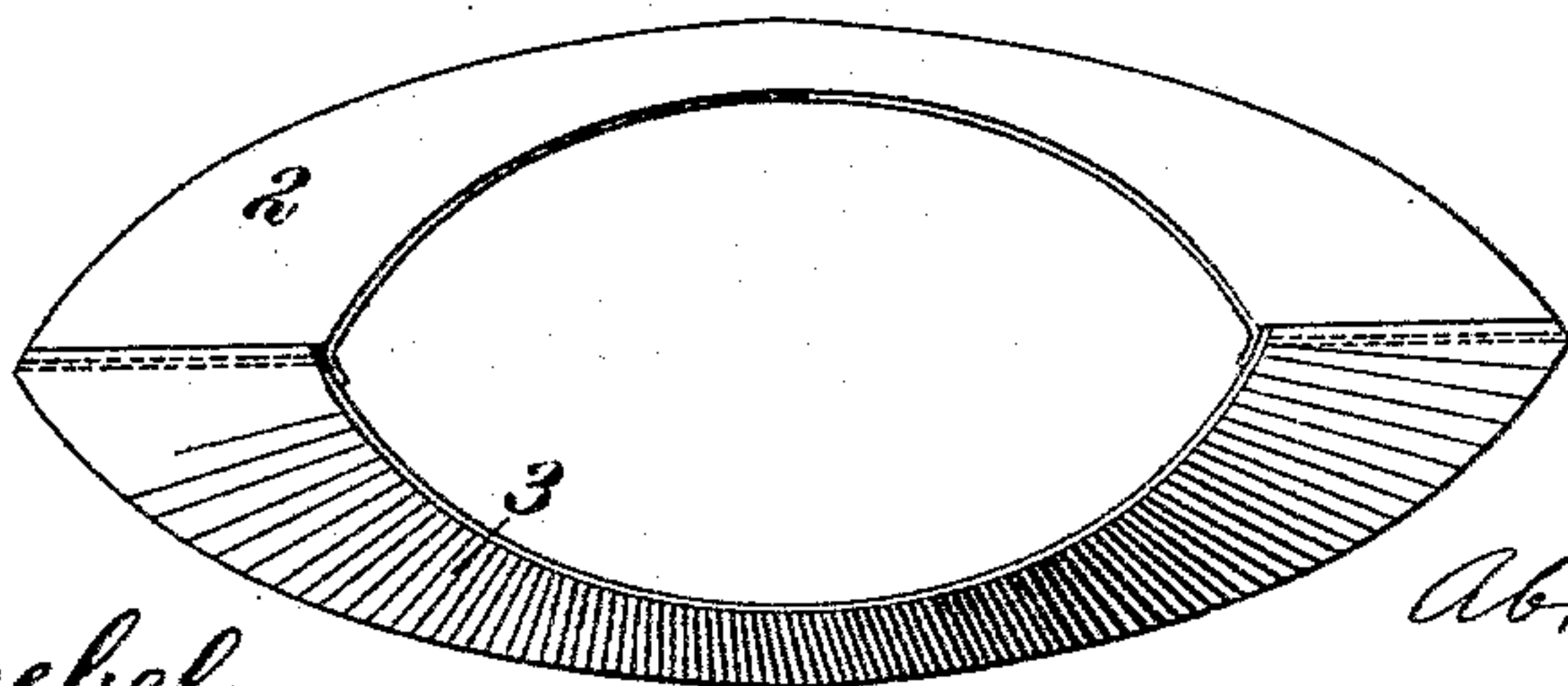


Fig. V.



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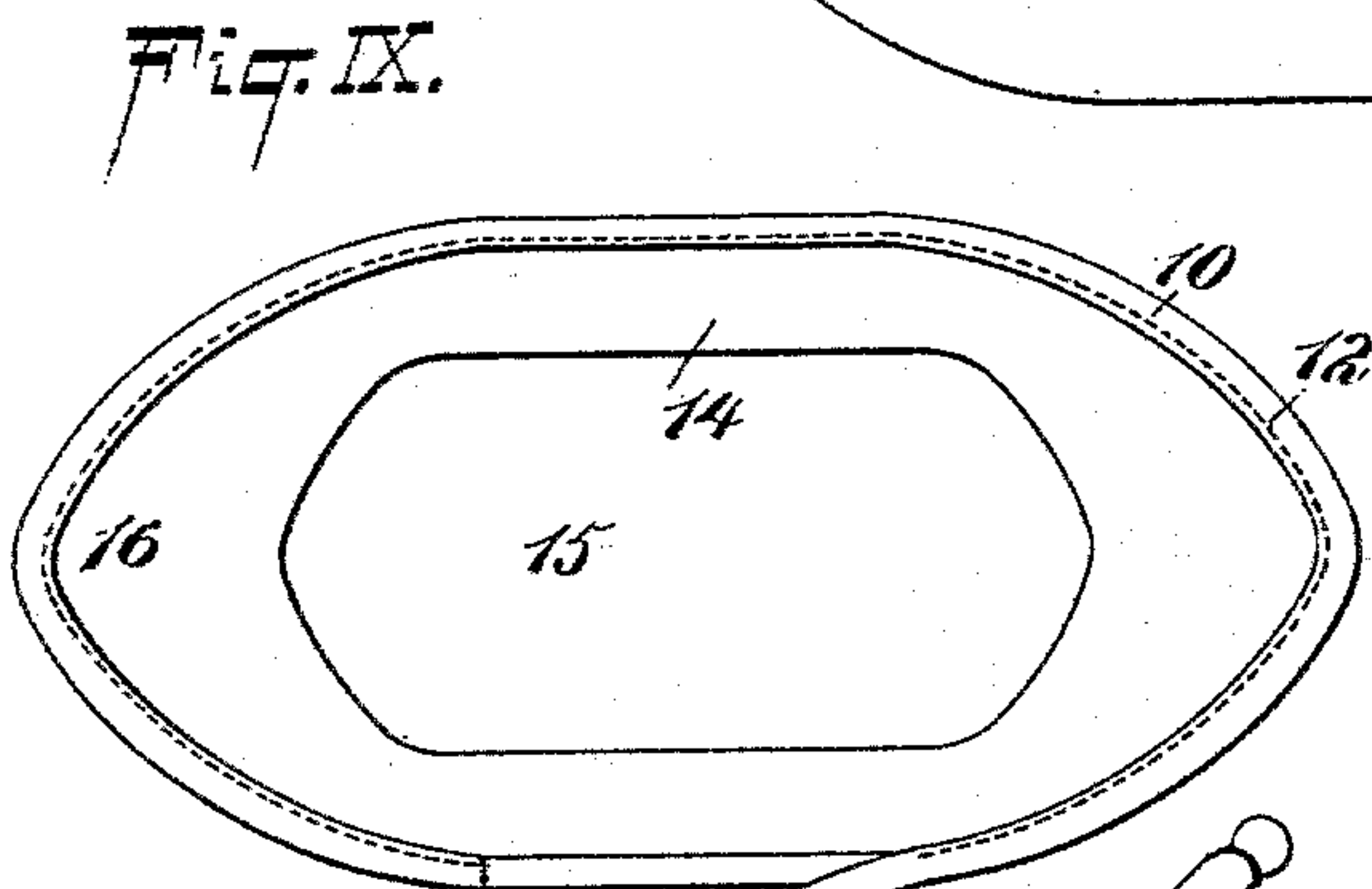
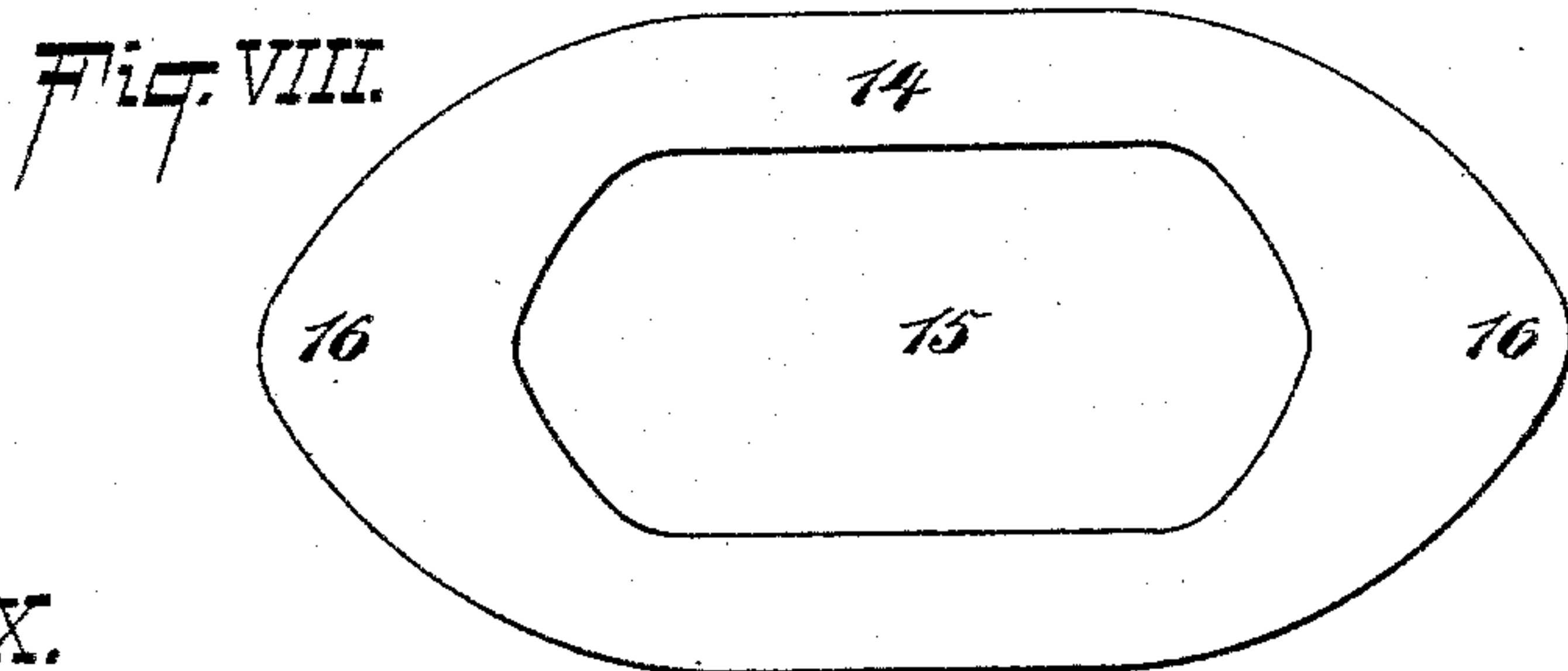
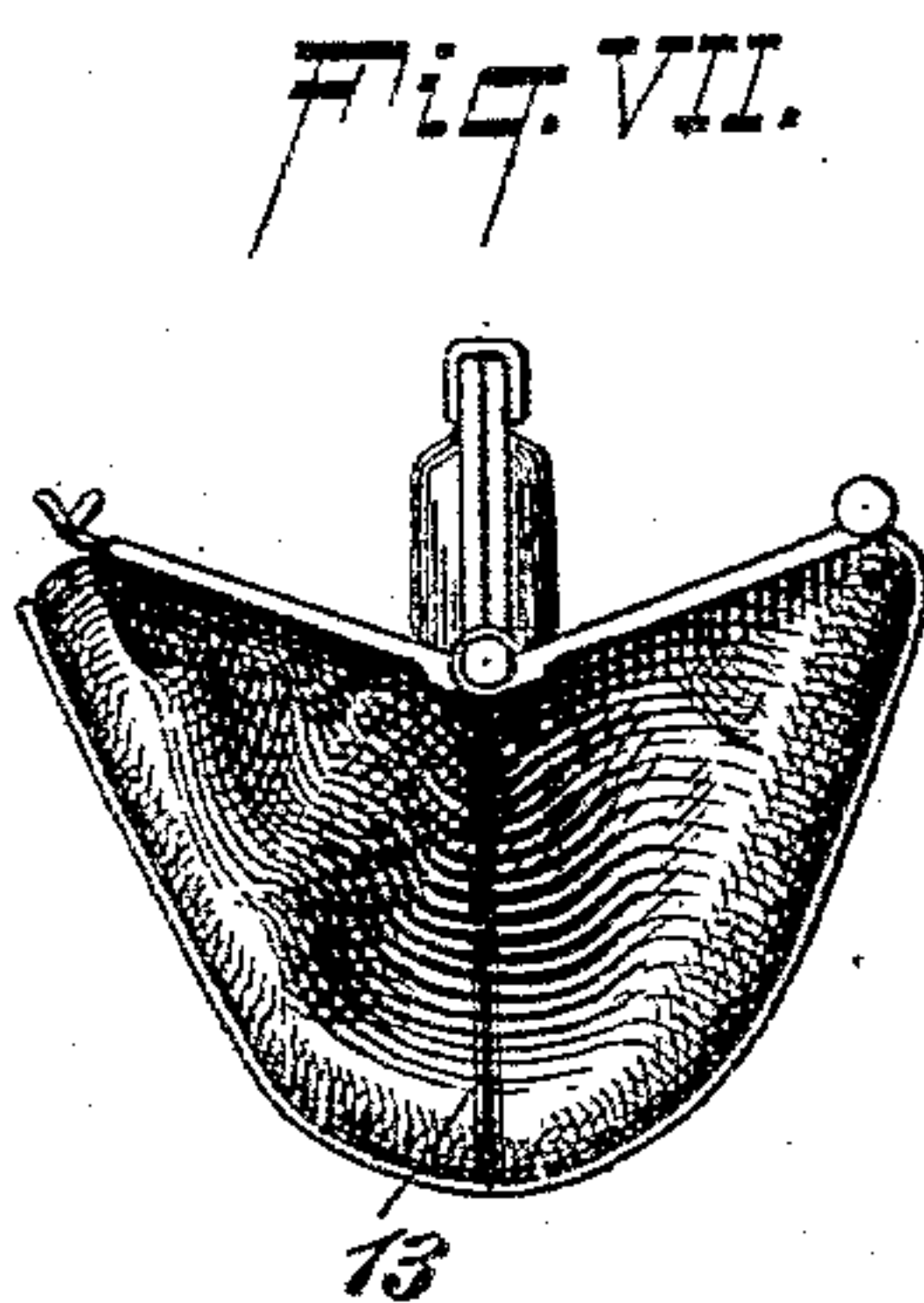
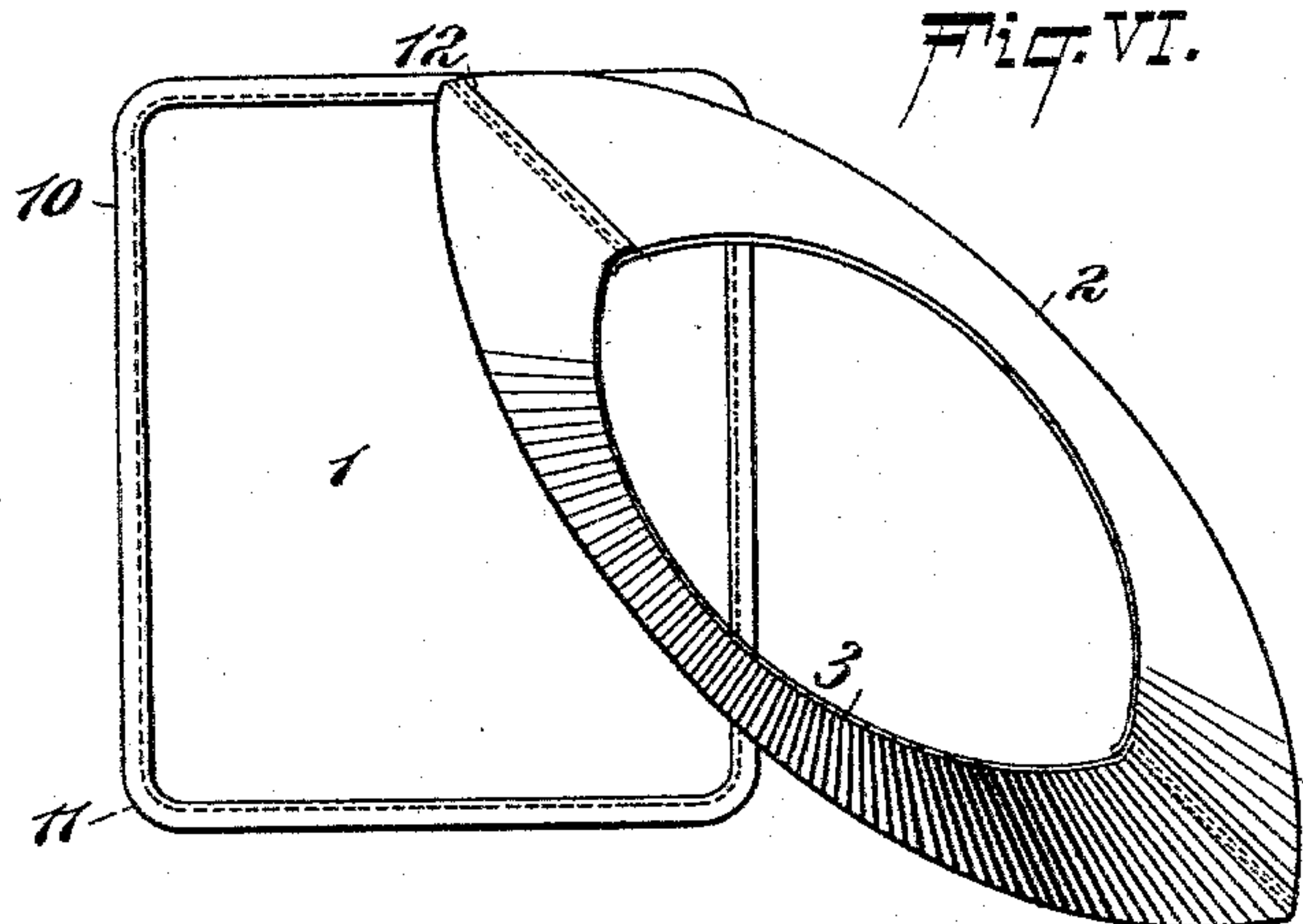


Fig. X.

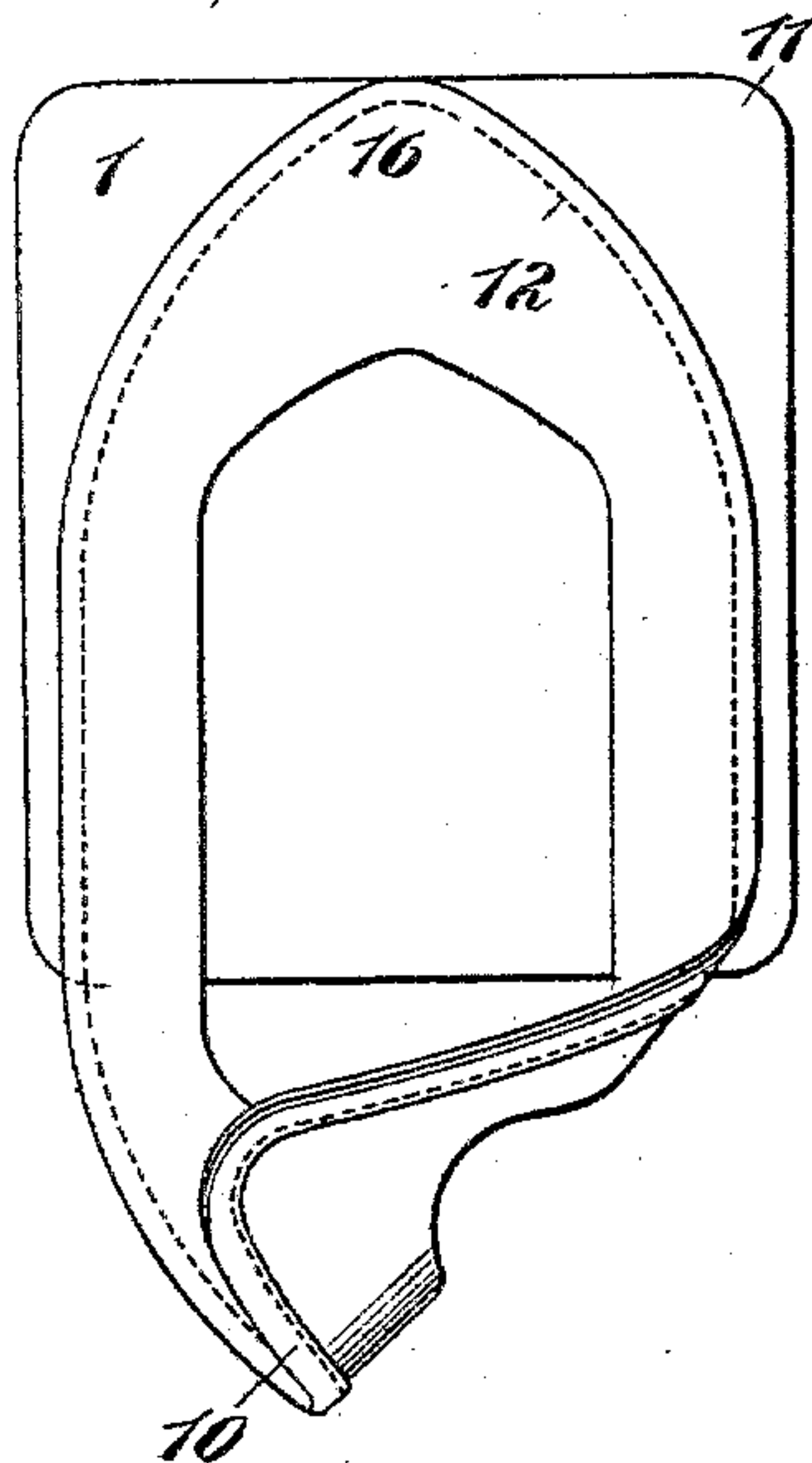
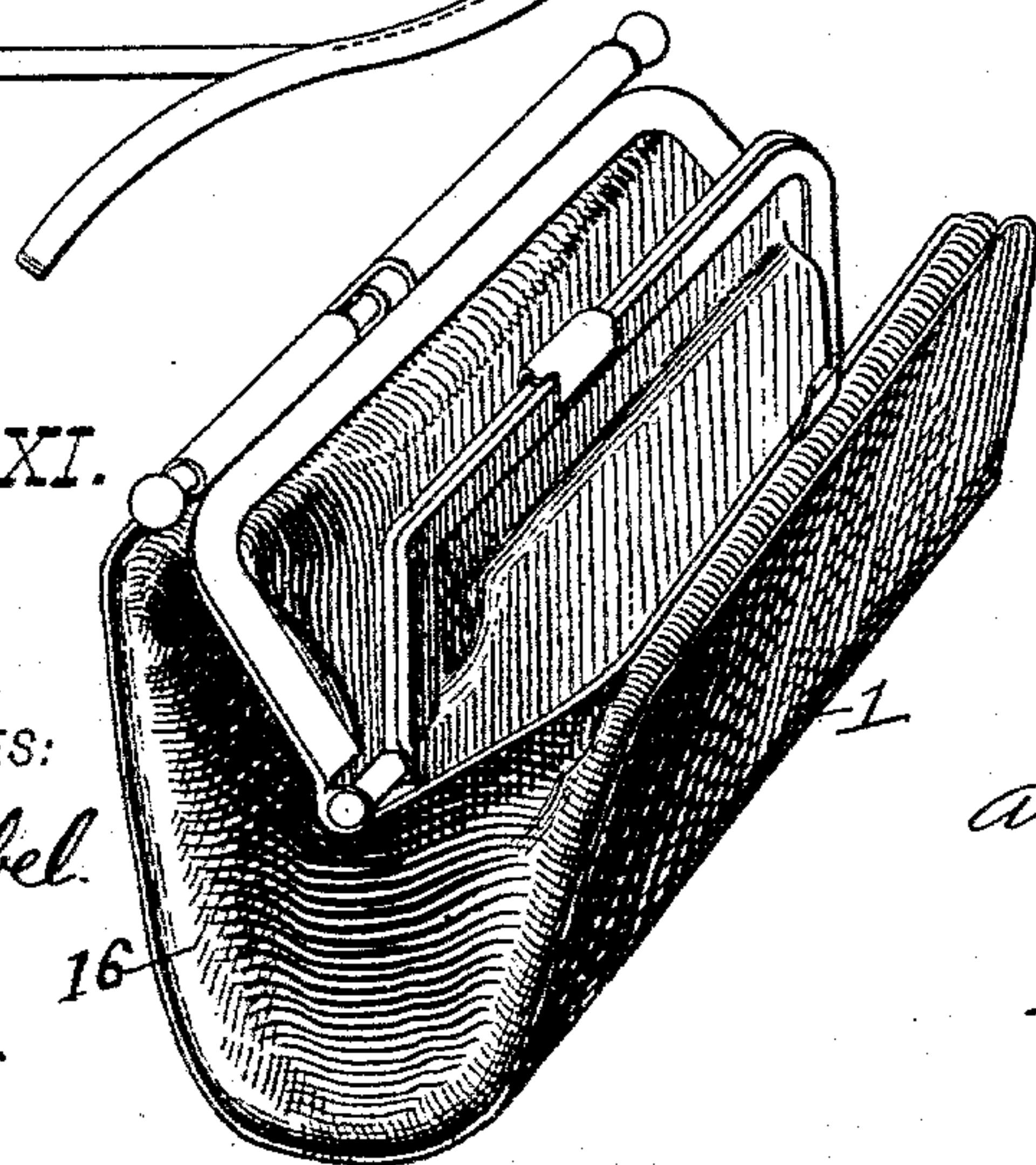


Fig. XI.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ABRAHAM RITTER, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNOR TO RUDOLPH WOLFF & CO., OF SAME PLACE.

## PURSE AND METHOD OF MAKING SAME.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 490,165, dated January 17, 1893.

Application filed September 2, 1892. Serial No. 444,895. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ABRAHAM RITTER, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city, county, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Purses and Methods of Making the Same, of which the following is a specification.

My improvements relate to the gusset of a purse—its form, method of manufacture and method of attachment to the cover and frame to form the purse, and I will first proceed to describe the invention with reference to the accompanying drawings and then point out in the claims the novel features.

In said drawings: Figures I and II represent in outline two forms of gussets which have been heretofore employed and Fig. III is a similar view of the ordinary cover-blank, which is also used in my improvement, and Fig. IV the same with the welting applied. Fig. V shows the shape of the old gusset, when its two halves are sewed together. Fig. VI illustrates the method of applying the old form of gusset to said cover. Fig. VII is an end view of a purse made with the form of gusset shown in Fig. I. Fig. VIII is a view in outline of my improved gusset. Fig. IX is a similar view showing the welting applied thereto. Fig. X is a view illustrating the method of applying my improved gusset, with welting attached, to the cover. Fig. XI is a perspective view of a purse completed with my improved gusset.

The class of purses to which my invention relates are, in their simplest form composed as a rule of a cover of more or less stiff leather, a metal frame holding the clasp, and a gusset of flexible leather which connects the frame to the cover in such manner as to permit the opening and closing of the purse. The cover is stamped out in one piece of the form shown at 1 in Fig. III. The two gusset blanks to be used therewith are stamped usually out of more flexible leather than the cover—in the form shown in Fig. I. Each blank, 2, 3, forms a half of the completed gusset and the two halves are the counterparts of each other; *i. e.*, if placed one flat on top of the other so that the finished side of the leather would be exposed in both, their edges

would correspond throughout. Each has the slim central portion 4, the enlarged ends 5, 5, the points 6, 6, the diagonal cut edges 7, 7, and the inner edge 8, of a sharper curve than the outer edge 9.

In putting the pocket-book together the two half-gussets 2, 3 are first sewed together along the diagonal edges 7, resulting in a complete gusset of the shape shown in Fig. V. The gusset instead of being flat, converges inward. Meanwhile, the welting 10 has been sewed around the edge of the cover 1 on the outer or finished surface of the leather as shown in Fig. IV. In this old form, the welting cannot be sewed directly to the gusset for in doing so the outer edge of the gusset would become lengthened and the gusset consequently distorted. The welting must therefore be first sewed to the cover—an operation which is impeded in speed by the sharp corners 11 of the cover which must be rounded by the sewer. Next the gusset is sewed to the welted cover. And in doing this in the old way, several difficulties arise. The cover is placed as shown in Fig. VI with the welting uppermost and the gusset is laid thereon with its finished surface next the welting. It will be seen that this hides the seam in the welt so that when the operator attaches the gusset by running the seam 12 along the edge, she cannot use the welt seam as a guide and an imperfect and uneven job results. Furthermore it is found in practice that the sewed gusset does not fit the cover—owing to slight differences in the sewing of the edges 7. A trifling error in sewing these edges makes it necessary to rip the seam and trim the gusset—each trimming rendering the gusset more unfit for use on the cover which it was originally stamped to fit. When at length the gusset is sewed on and the material turned and the frame attached, making the complete purse shown in Fig. VII, there is it will be seen, a seam at 13 at each end of the book. These seams detract from the beauty, durability and strength of the purse and with the most careful sewing and with the best material are apt to expose ragged views of the unfinished leather. With the form of two-part gusset shown in Fig. II, in which the line of joining of the



parts only is shifted, substantially the same difficulties arise. The seam 13 is only changed from the ends to the top of the purse. In this form of gusset the narrow central portions 4<sup>a</sup> extend in the form of arms from the enlarged ends 5<sup>a</sup> and are divided by the diagonal cuts 7<sup>a</sup> which must be united to complete the gusset making the same conified form of gusset shown in Fig. V that results from the two-part gusset of Fig. I.

It will be seen that it is desirable to make a gusset in one piece, to sew the welting to the gusset instead of to the cover, and to do away with all stretching and seaming of the gusset. To these ends I stamp or form the gusset of one piece of flexible leather as shown in Fig. VIII. The gusset is made flat, with a central aperture 15 and rounded ends 16 united by the narrow strips of material 14, which I will call the sides of the gusset. When stamped in this form the welting is sewed to its edge as shown in Fig. IX. This stiffens the gusset so that it will retain its shape in applying it to the cover. The gusset is not,—like the two-part gusset,—liable to change in shape when the welting is being applied to it, having no points or ends to be distorted or expanded. Next the gusset is laid on the cover—with the welting between the two—and using the seam of the welting as a guide (such seam appearing as shown in Fig. X) the operator runs a seam all around. The gusset being continuous and being further stiffened by the welting, does not become distorted. It is always sure to fit, being

stamped accurately to correspond with the cover and having no element of variation introduced subsequently in the way of sewed seams to affect its size. It exposes no seams but as shown in Fig. XI which shows the turned and completed purse presents at the ends a clear, strong and durable surface. The simple single gusset is also more readily fastened to the frame of the purse than the seamed gusset and when so fastened presents a neater appearance. It furthermore requires but a single operation to stamp it out, instead of the two stamping operations required by the old gusset, and uses less material.

Having thus described my invention, the following is what I claim as new therein and desire to secure by Letters Patent:—

1. In a purse, in combination with the cover and frame, a gusset formed of a single flat continuous piece of material, having the end portions 16 connected by the narrow sides 14 whereby the single piece gusset is adapted to entirely surround the purse frame substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. The method of making purses, which consists in forming the cover and gusset, the latter of a single continuous piece of material, sewing the welting on to the edge of the gusset, and then sewing the welting gusset to the cover, substantially as set forth.

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Witnesses:

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HARRY C. KNIGHT.