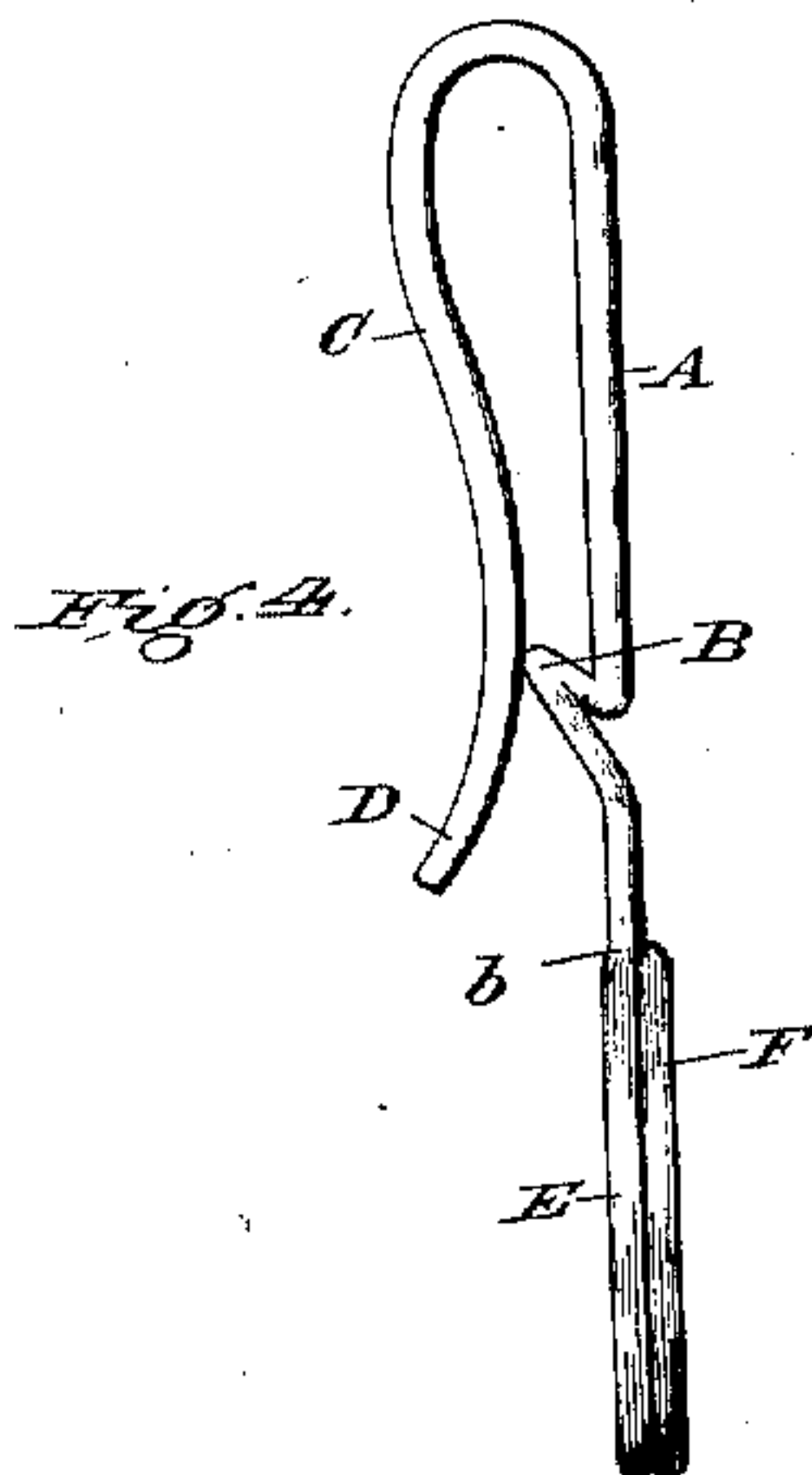
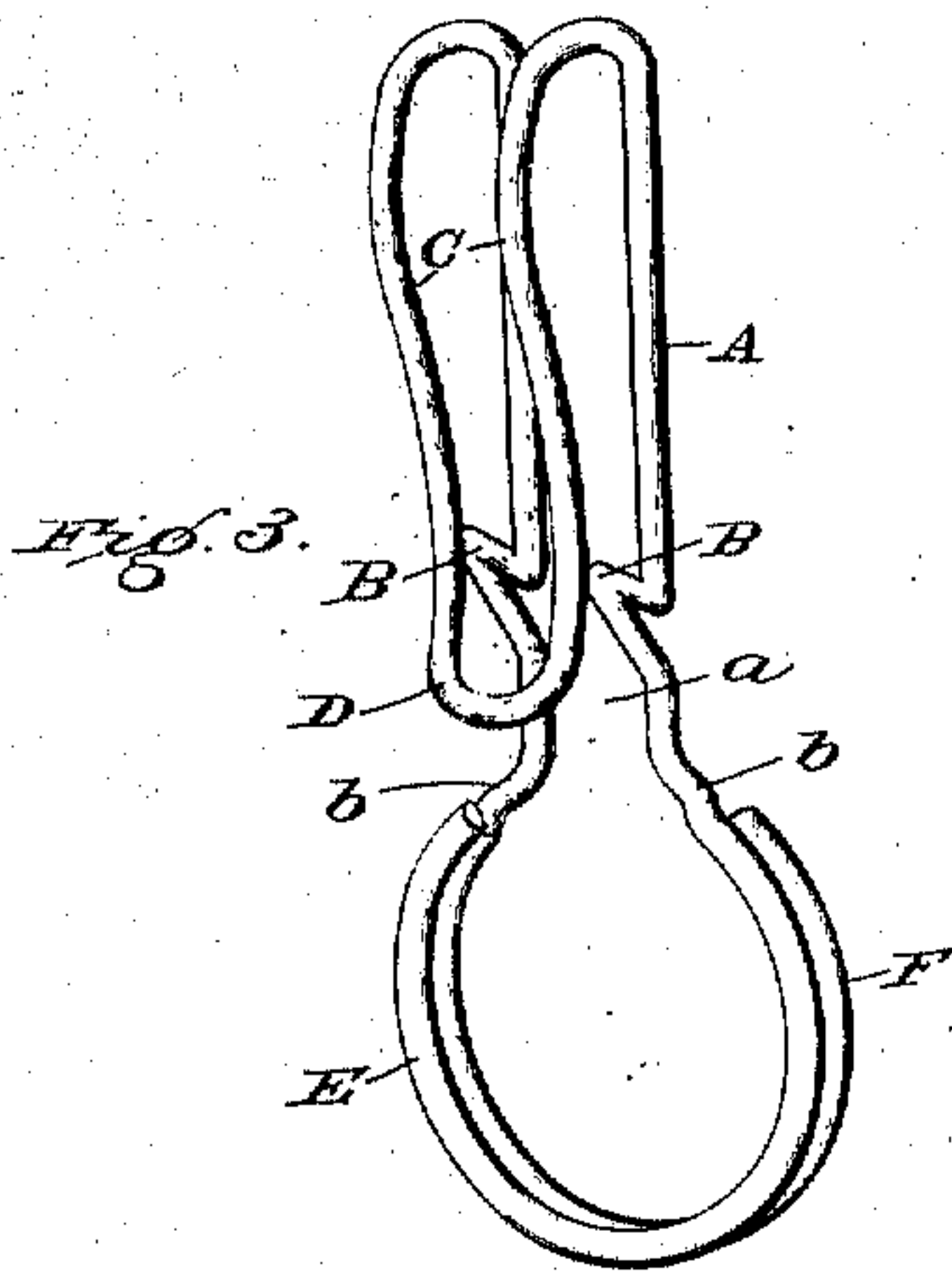
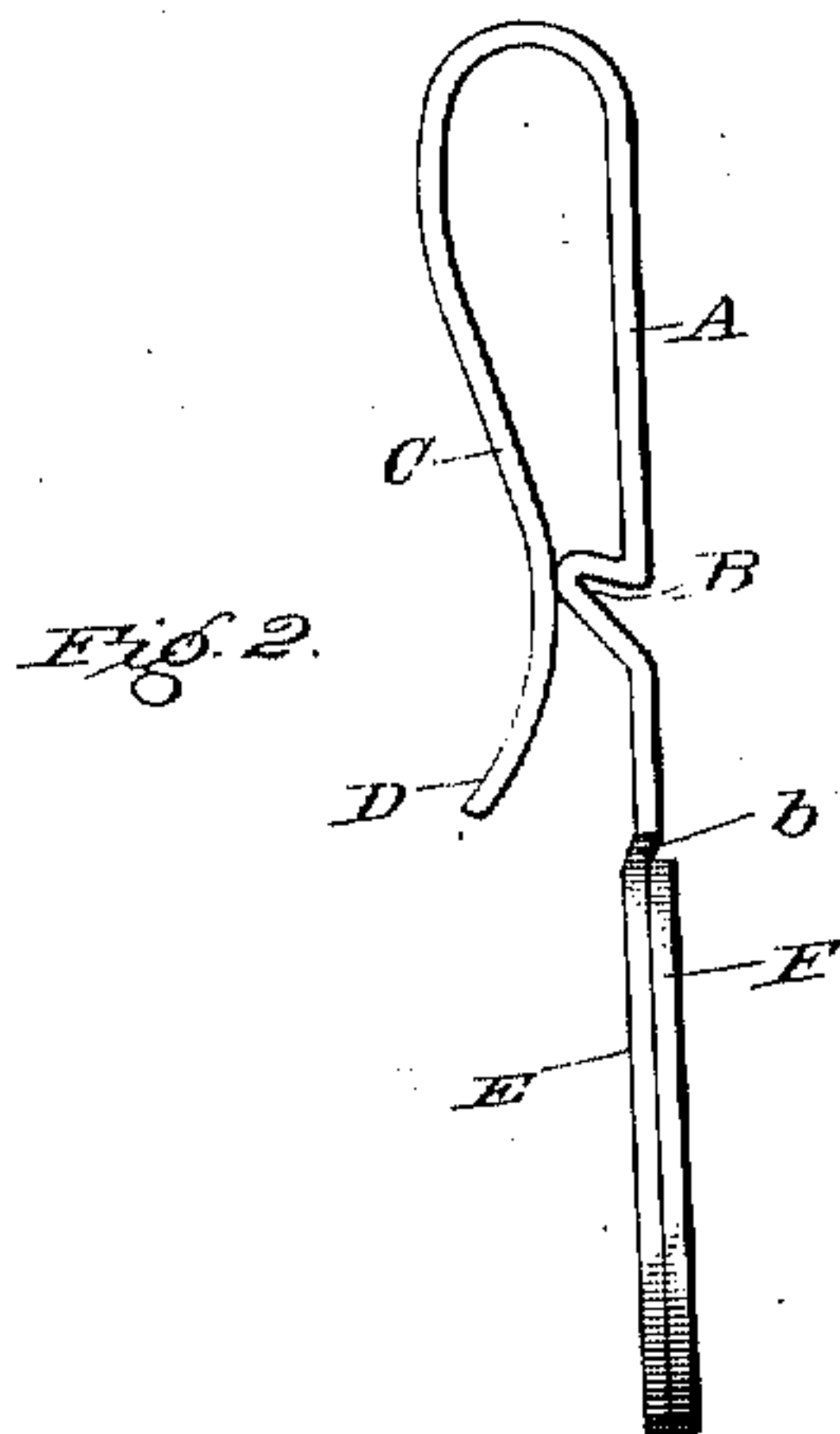
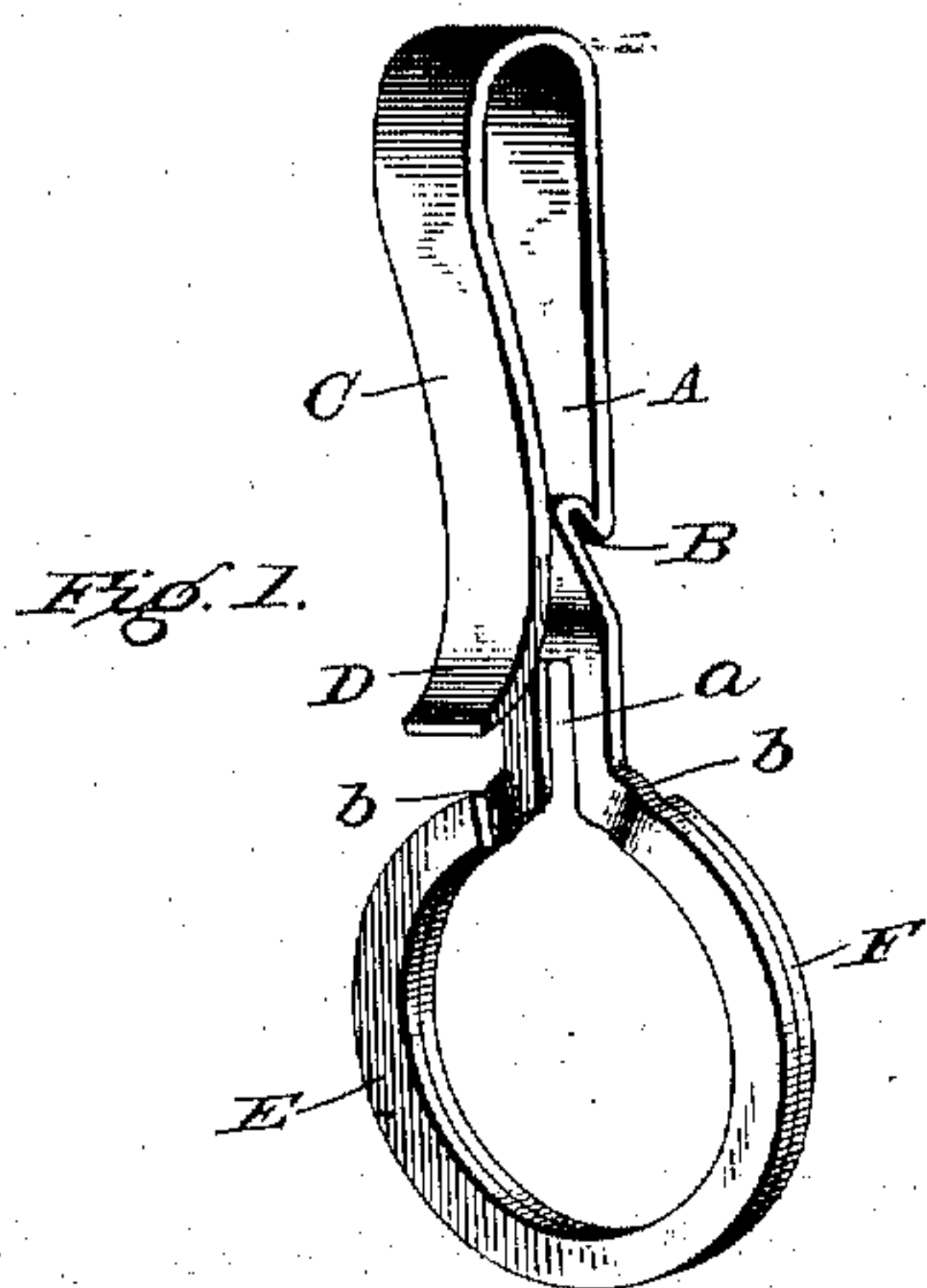


(No Model.)

A. TWEEDALE.
KEY RING.

No. 533,385.

Patented Jan. 29, 1895.



Witnesses

Harry D. Rohrer.
J. W. Ritter Jr.

Inventor

Alonzo Tweedale.
J. E. Dyre atty.

By

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALONZO TWEEDALE, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

KEY-RING.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 533,385, dated January 29, 1895.

Application filed May 5, 1894. Serial No. 510,215. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALONZO TWEEDALE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Washington, in the District of Columbia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Key Rings or Supports; and I do hereby 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.

My invention relates to improvements in key-rings or supports, and has for its object the production of such rings and combination therewith of a ready and convenient means of attachment to a garment of the user.

It is a well known fact that rings in a large variety of forms are in almost universal use by persons carrying keys, for the purpose of bunching and preserving them against loss or misplacement; but it is equally well known that rings and keys contained thereon are both frequently lost when no precaution is taken to prevent misplacement. As a remedy for this evil it is a common expedient to chain such ring and keys to the clothing of the carrier, but this course is open to serious objections arising from a positive limit placed upon the use of said keys by the length of chain employed, the necessity of wholly removing a key from the lock each time it is used before the user can withdraw, as well as the frequency with which such chains are accidentally parted from various causes. In contradistinction to this and for the purpose of rectifying these evils the hereinafter described combined key-ring or support and attachment has been devised whereby a number of keys may be secured in an orderly though detachable manner to the clothing of the carrier, thus being rendered easy of access at all times, as well as unrestricted in their use by the height or position of locks, and moreover, keys thus secured are possessed of the special advantage that they in no way tend to tear out or wear out the pockets of the carrier, all as will later appear.

The invention will now be particularly described and pointed out in the claims following.

In the accompanying drawings which form part of this specification, and in which like

letters indicate like parts wherever employed: Figure 1, represents a perspective view of my invention in its flat or preferred form; Fig. 2, a side view of same; and Figs. 3 and 4, views corresponding with Figs. 1 and 2 respectively, representing one modification of the device formed of round metal or wire.

Reference being had to the drawings and letters thereon A indicates the shank of my invention being provided at a convenient position with an upwardly projecting barb B which is preferably formed by a simple bend and return bend of the shank itself as most clearly shown by Fig. 2. At its upper end shank A is also provided with a contiguous spring bill C which is bent upon said shank, is brought into close relation with barb B thereof, and finally terminates in the downwardly extending hook D. Immediately below barb B, shank A is bifurcated as shown at *a*, and at *b b* the bifurcations E, F, thus formed, are oppositely disposed, each being provided with a return bend and folding upon the other, thus constituting a spring splitting the two members whereof are preferably in different, though adjacent, planes and terminate in close proximity to the opposite sides of shank A at *b b*.

At *b b* it will be observed bifurcation E is off-set slightly to receive the end of its corresponding member F, and in like manner bifurcation F is off-set to receive the end of its corresponding member E thus rendering the ring more compact and to a degree embedding the free ends of its two members. This being substantially the construction of my invention preference is given to the flat form illustrated by Figs. 1 and 2 owing to its simplicity, cheapness, ease of construction, and durability, the device in this form being struck up from a single strip of sheet metal of a standard width and thickness, same being bifurcated, bent as shown, and properly tempered. It will be understood however, that the wire form illustrated by Figs. 3 and 4 is particularly well adapted to the embodiment of my invention, and in like manner many changes of configuration and arrangement of parts may be made and substituted for those herein shown and described without in the least departing from the spirit

of my invention—as for instance members E, F, of the split-ring shown, may if desired be arranged and adapted to rest normally in the same plane rather than one above the other; and likewise barb B may be formed of an outwardly extending tongue cut from the body of shank A, or an independent tongue may be secured thereto.

In its preferred form however, the use and operation of my invention is as follows: A key may be introduced to the ring by starting the eye thereof upon the free end of one ring member E or F and following same to a point where the key passes the free end of the opposite member, whereupon the eye of said key incloses both members of the ring and the key descends to the lowermost position thereon. Similarly an assortment of keys may be bunched upon the ring, and when so secured the whole attached to the clothing of the user by inserting the fold of a pocket or waistband between the bill C and barb B the spring of said bill permitting such adjustment. When in this position it will be observed the device is secure against accidental dislodgment owing to the bite taken upon the garment by barb B co-acting with the spring hook C; but at the same time the device is capable of being instantly removed for use by the insertion of a finger of the user beneath the hook D thus relieving the pressure of spring bill C.

In practice the most convenient point of attachment as above set forth is found to be the waistband of trousers immediately above a hip pocket into which the lower end of the keys may, if desired, be permitted to rest, but special precaution is taken to prevent such keys descending to the bottom of the pocket where it has been found by experience they

would form an obstruction and be particularly wearing upon the pocket itself.

Upon reference to Figs. 1 and 3 it will be observed that provision is made for the removal of a particular key or keys without displacing the rest, this being accomplished by advancing all preceding keys into the bifurcating slot α where they remain until the key in question is inserted beneath the free end of one ring member E or F whereupon it is forced through the slit of said ring and out.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

1. In a key-support the combination with a shank bearing a suitable bill and barb, and an overlapping split-ring formed upon the end of said shank with its end spring terminating adjacent to the shank, substantially as described.

2. In a key support made from a continuous piece of metal, the combination with a bifurcated shank bearing a suitable bill and barb, and a split-ring consisting of oppositely disposed members beginning at a point below the end of said bifurcation and terminating adjacent thereto, substantially as described.

3. In a key support made from a single piece of metal the combination of a shank bifurcated at its lower end and terminating in oppositely disposed overlapping ring members, a barb formed upon said shank, and a spring hook bent thereon, substantially as described.

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

ALONZO TWEEDALE.

Witnesses:

WM. E. DYRE,

HUGH M. STERLING.

It is hereby certified that in Letters Patent No. 533,385, granted January 29, 1895, upon the application of Alonzo Tweedale, of Washington, District of Columbia, for an improvement in "Key-Rings," errors appear in the printed specification requiring correction, as follows: In line 57, page 2, the word "end" should read *ends*, and the word "spring" should be stricken out; and that the said Letters Patent should be read with these corrections therein to make the same conform to the record of the case in the Patent Office.

Signed, countersigned, and sealed this 5th day of February, A. D. 1895.

[SEAL.]

JNO. M. REYNOLDS,
Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

Countersigned:

JOHN S. SEYMOUR,
Commissioner of Patents.