

(No Model.)

M. LUDWIG.  
DRESS STAY.

No. 538,337.

Patented Apr. 30, 1895.

Fig. 1.

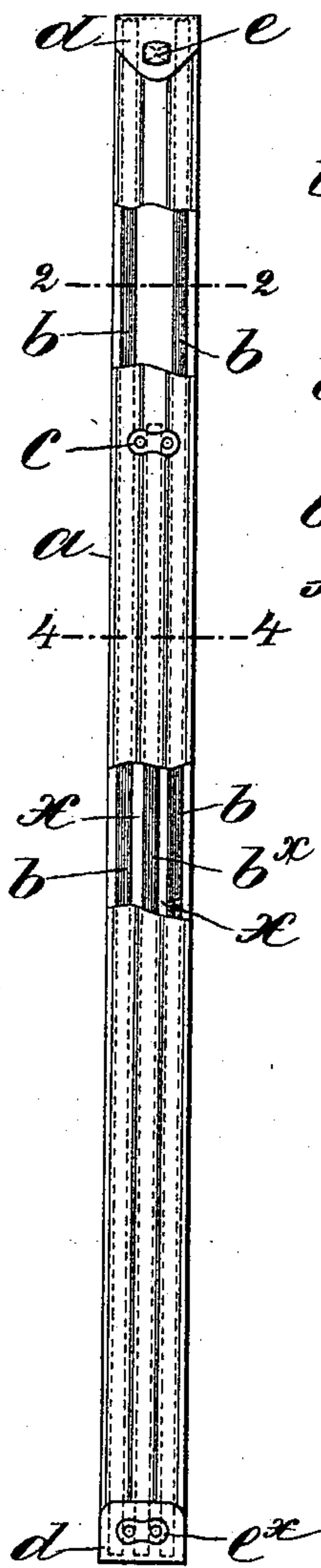


Fig. 2.

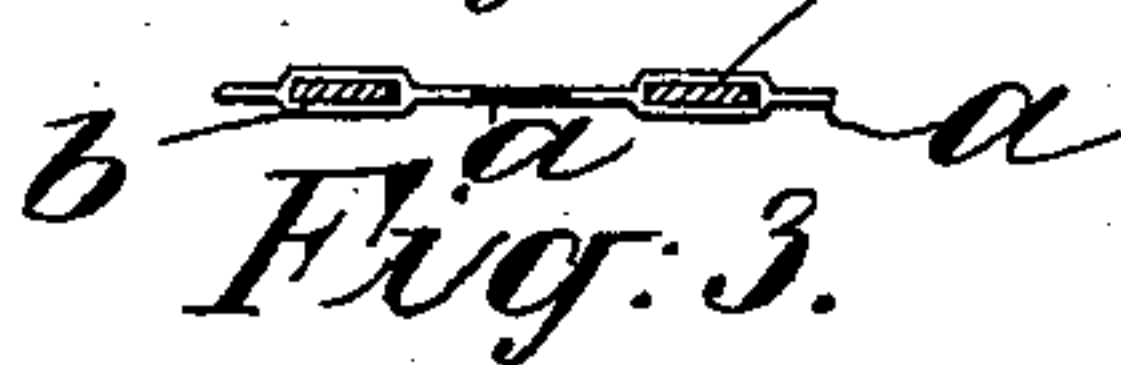


Fig. 3.

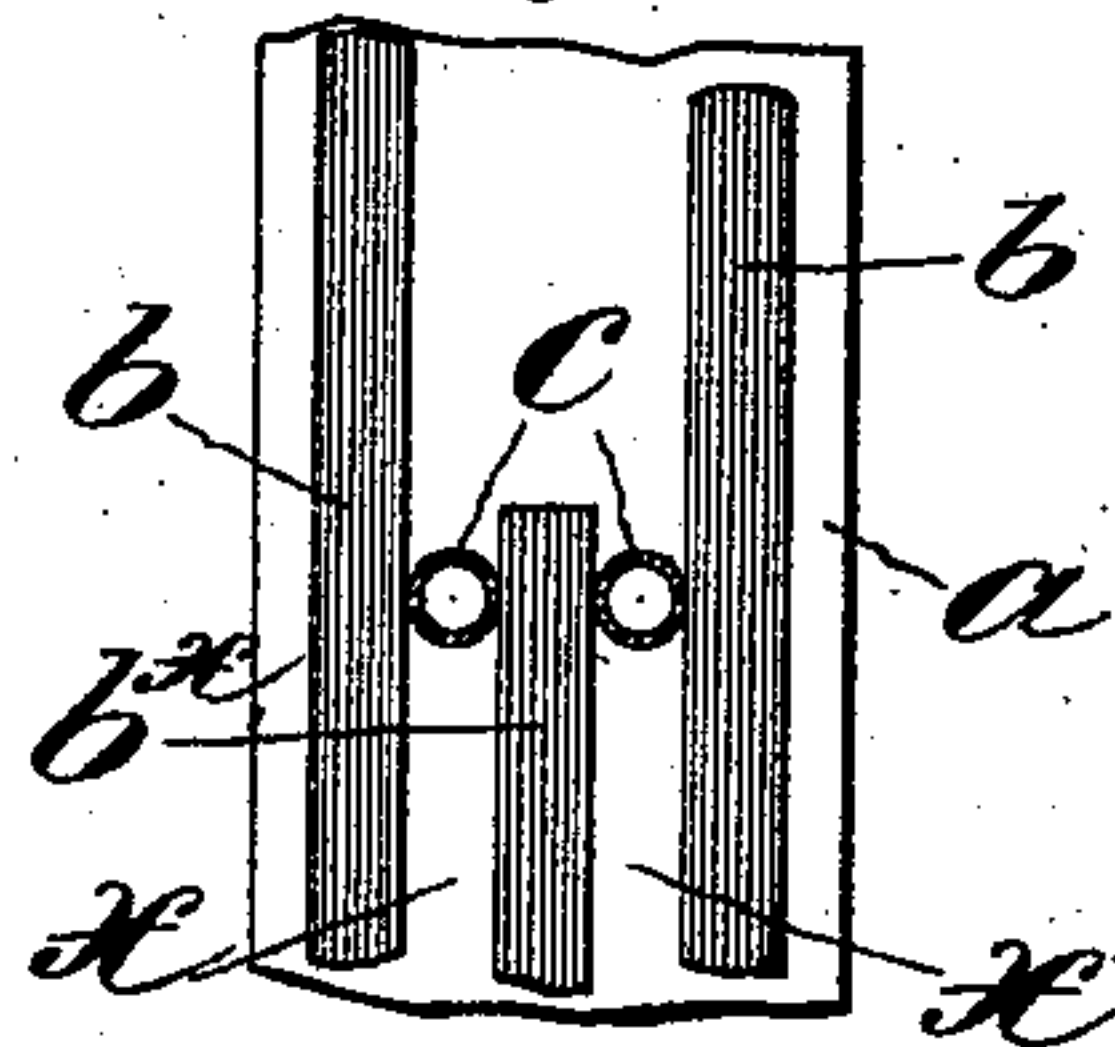


Fig. 4.

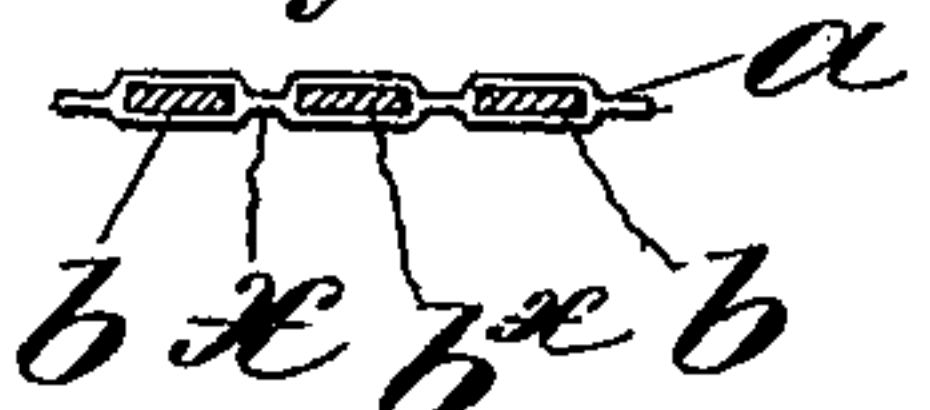
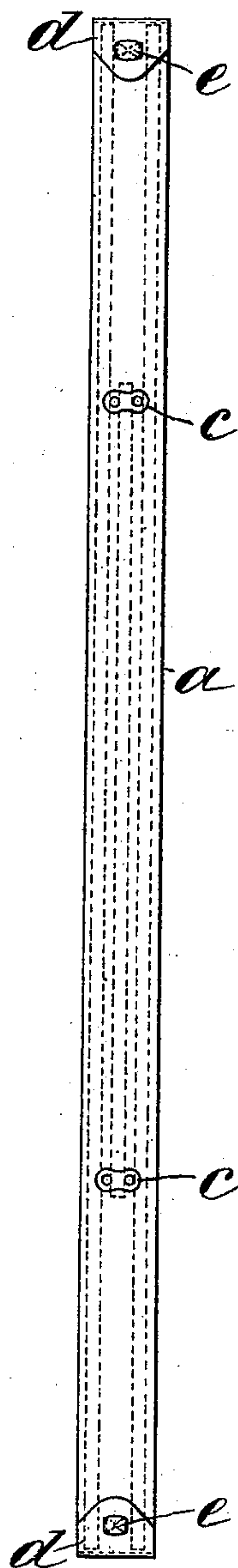


Fig. 5.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## DRESS-STAY.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 538,337, dated April 30, 1895.

Application filed September 18, 1894. Serial No. 523,373. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, MAX LUDWIG, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city, county, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Dress-Stays, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to certain improvements in the class of dress-stays wherein elastic metal strips are inserted in pockets formed in a textile covering.

It is desirable in a dress-stay that it shall be broad and capable of being twisted torsionally to some extent without injury; and also that it shall be more flexible and yielding at the end-portion than at the middle part, and especially at that end-portion which is to be uppermost in the dress-waist.

The object of my invention is to provide a dress-stay which shall have the above-described advantages and also others which will be explained hereinafter.

In the accompanying drawings I have illustrated an embodiment of the invention.

Figure 1 is a face-view of the stay, parts of the outer covering being removed at two points to disclose the metal strips. Figs. 2 and 4 are cross-sections of the stay, on a large scale, the points where the sections are taken being indicated at lines 2, 2, and 4, 4, respectively in Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is an enlarged detail view which will be hereinafter described. Fig. 5 is a face-view of the stay provided with a flexible portion at both ends, as will be explained hereinafter.

Referring primarily to Figs. 1 to 4, *a* is the textile casing, having formed in it three longitudinally arranged pockets, and *b*, *b*<sup>x</sup>, *b* are three strips of elastic metal, as spring steel, placed in the said pockets. These form a wide stay and the three strips of metal are so placed as to leave comparatively wide spaces *x* between them whereby the stay is capable of being twisted torsionally with ease and without injury to the stay. This spacing is clearly shown in the several views. The middle strip *b*<sup>x</sup>, is shorter than those at the sides and near the end of said strip *b*<sup>x</sup>, is set a double eyelet, *c*, the members of which occupy the spaces *x* between it and the adjacent strips and serve to distance the strips as clearly seen in Fig. 3, and also as a convenience for stitching the stay at this point to the dress, the needle being passed through the eyelet holes. Beyond this point, upward, the stay has but two metal

strips whereby this end-portion of the stay is rendered more flexible and yielding than the main portion. At the upper end of the stay is the cap-piece, *d*, of textile material, secured in place by a clip or "spangle," *e*, situated between the strips *b*, *b*, at this point. At its other end the stay has a double eyelet, *e*<sup>x</sup>, to secure the cap-piece and for the additional purpose of providing a convenience for stitching the stay to the dress at this point. The eyelet is omitted from the upper end of the stay as it is not desirable that the stay shall be sewed to the dress at this end.

The stay illustrated in Fig. 5 differs from that described only in having both of its extremities constructed like the upper end of the stay seen in Fig. 1.

The casing *a*, will, by preference, be of textile material and have the pockets formed in it by weaving; but it might be of leather, felt, or similar soft, flexible material and have the pockets formed by stitching.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

1. A dress-stay comprising a casing of soft, flexible material with three longitudinal pockets and three strips of elastic or spring metal in said pockets, the middle strip being shorter than the other two, and means for spacing apart and distancing said strips, substantially as set forth.

2. A dress-stay comprising a casing of soft, flexible material with three longitudinal pockets and three strips of elastic or spring metal in the said pockets, the middle strip, *b*<sup>x</sup>, being shorter than the other two, and a double eyelet set in the casing near the end of the said shorter strip *b*<sup>x</sup>, as set forth.

3. A dress-stay comprising a casing *a*, having three longitudinally arranged pockets spaced apart as at *x*, the two full-length metal strips *b*, *b*, in the side pockets, the shorter middle strip *b*<sup>x</sup>, in the middle pocket, the double eyelet *c*, in the casing near the end of the shorter strip, and a cap-piece *d*, on the end of the stay, held in place by a spangle, *e*, substantially as set forth.

In witness whereof I have hereunto signed my name in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

MAX LUDWIG.

Witnesses:

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