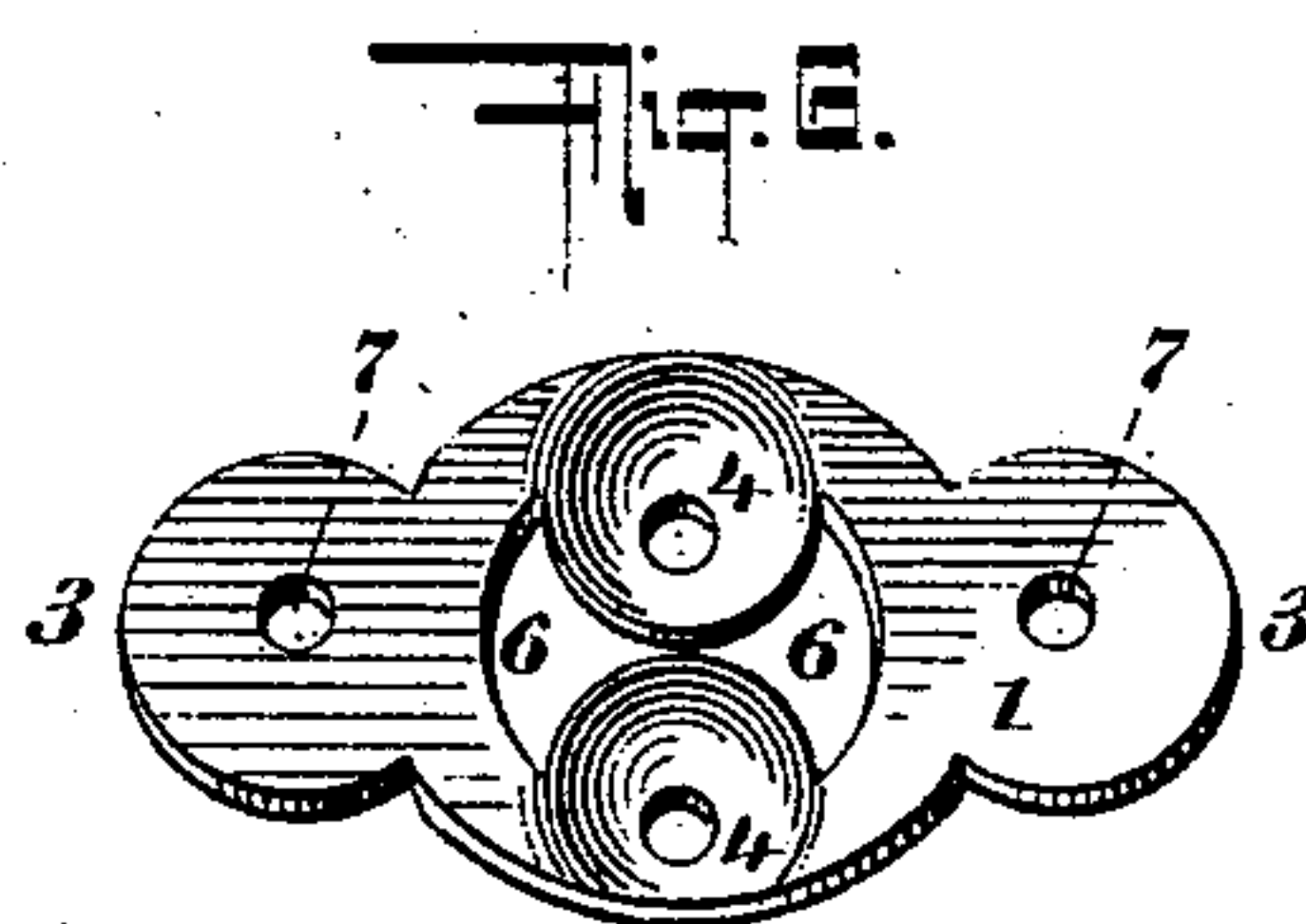
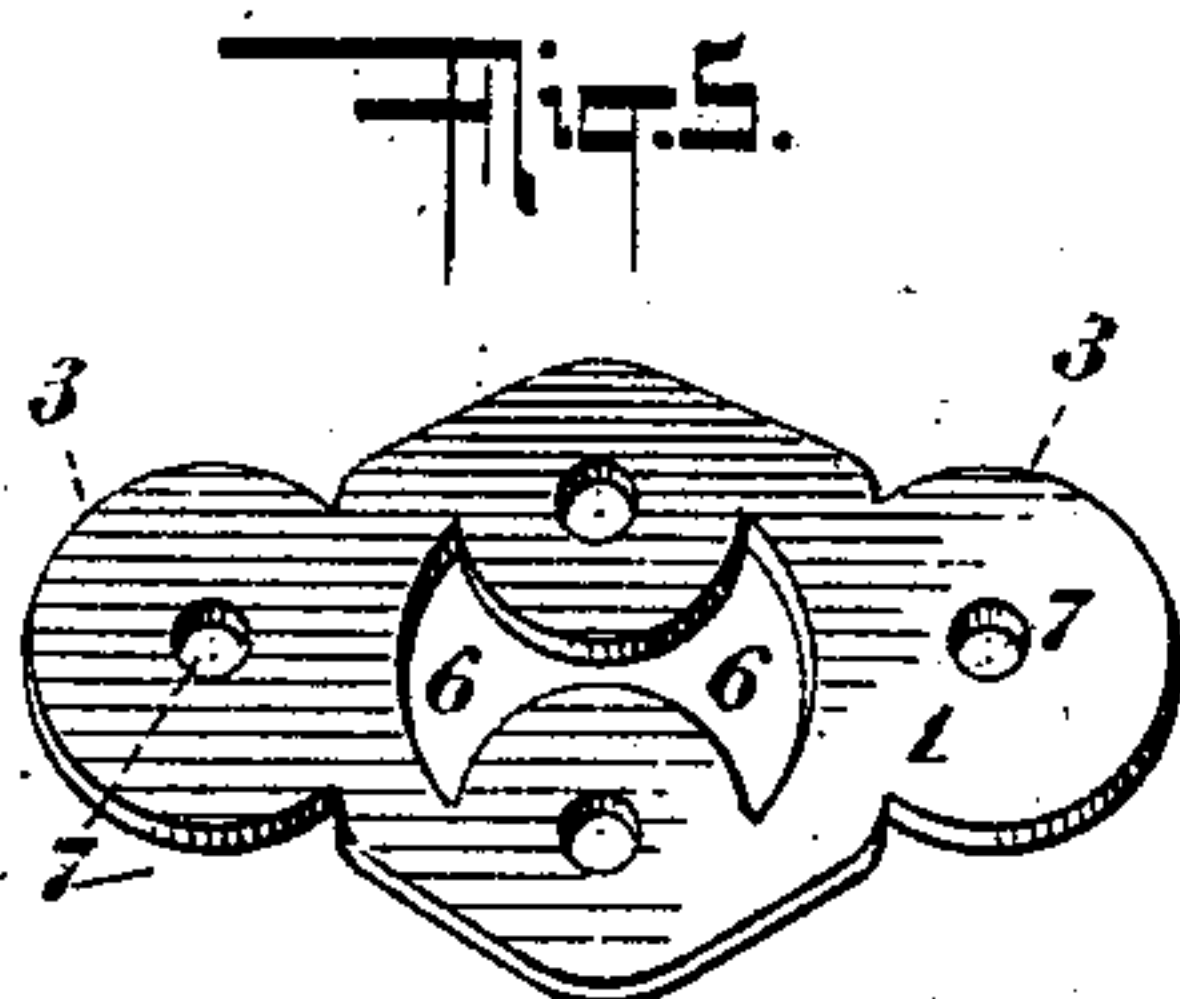
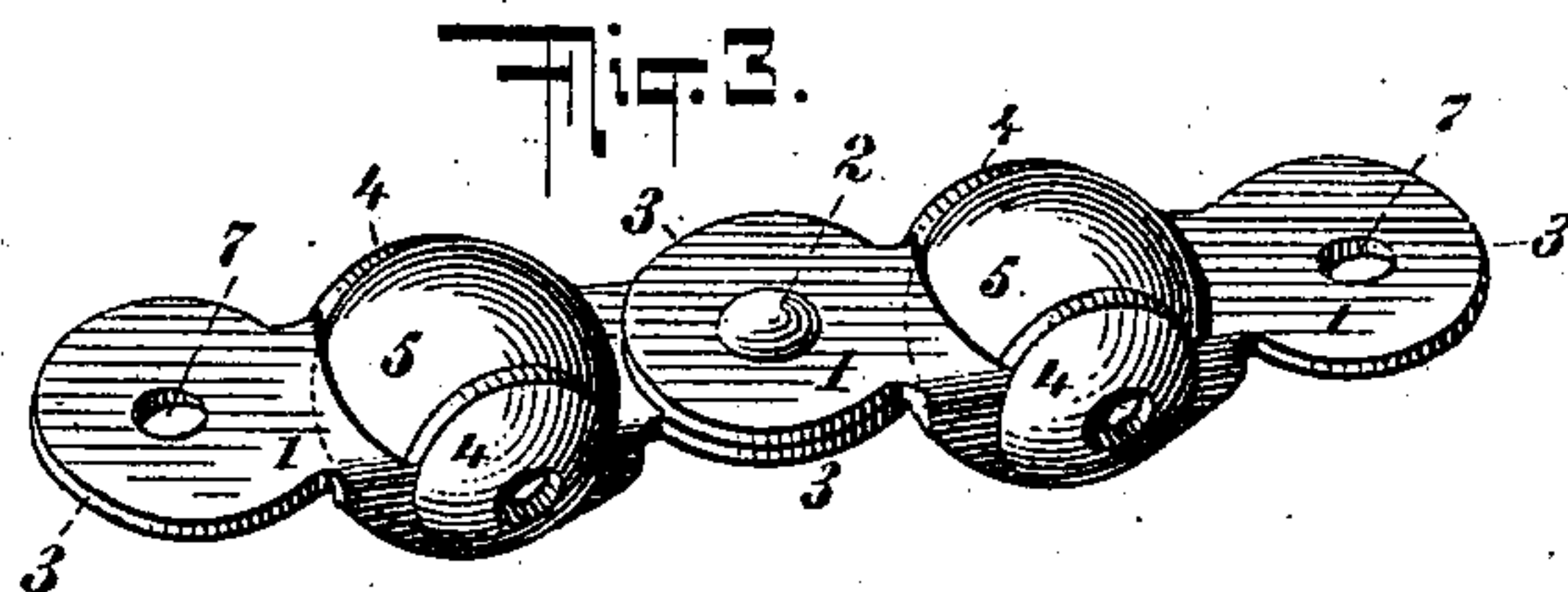
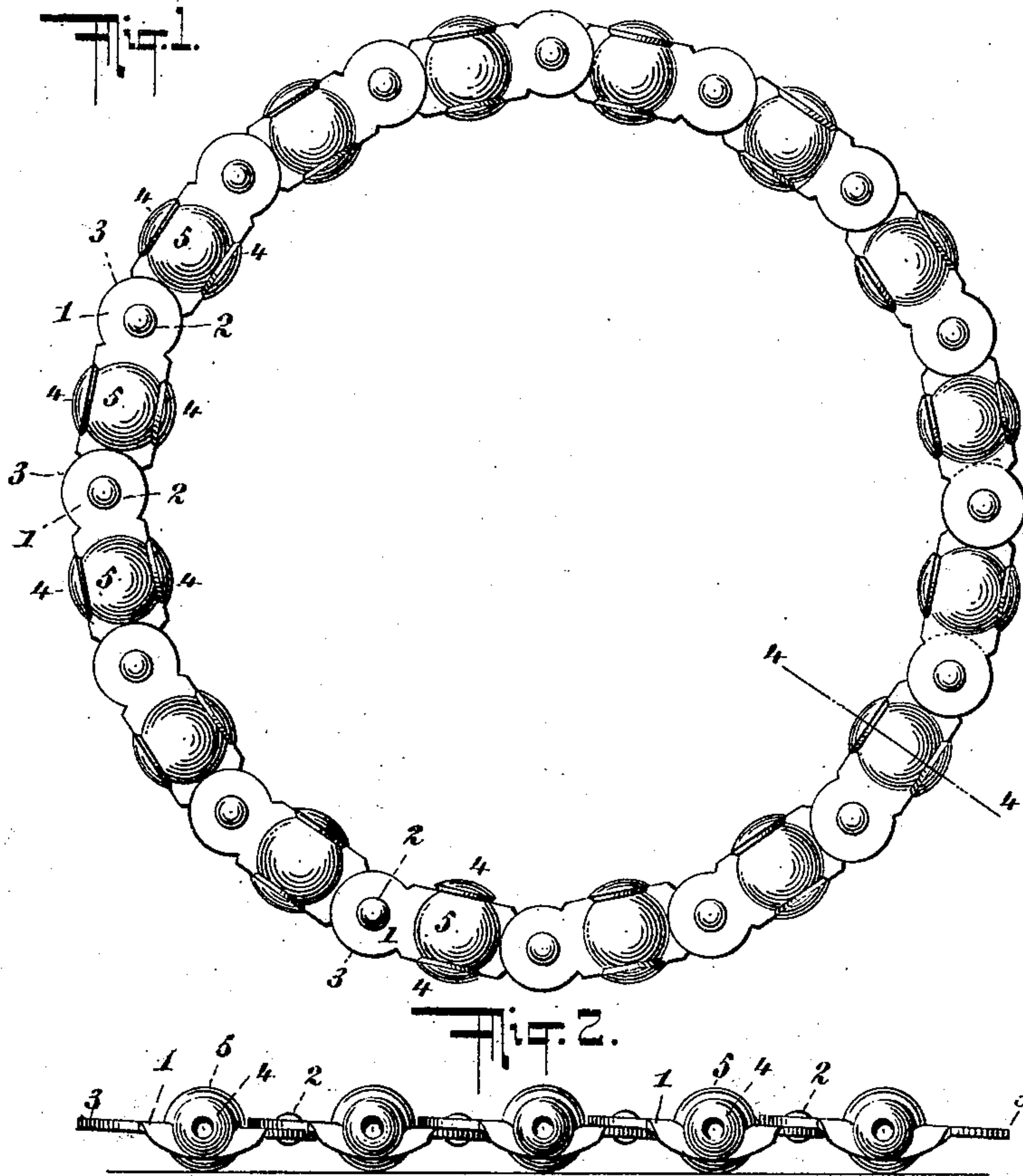


(No Model.)

H. A. BERGER.
ROLLER BEARING.

No. 543,718.

Patented July 30, 1895.



WITNESSES:
Gustave Daurich
John Kehlmebeck

INVENTOR
Henry A. Berger
BY
Albert H. Norris
ATTORNEY.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY A. BERGER, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

ROLLER-BEARING.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 543,718, dated July 30, 1895.

Application filed June 17, 1895. Serial No. 552,981. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY A. BERGER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Roller-Bearings, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to antifriction ball-bearings of the class having metallic or other spheres loosely held in operative connection with a carrier or frame adapted to be placed between the circle-irons of the fifth-wheels of vehicles, turn-tables, or other objects or structures having parts movable relatively to other parts.

The chief object of my present invention is to provide a new and improved ball-bearing wherein friction is reduced to a minimum by the employment of balls or spheres of suitable material held by novel means in operative connection with a carrier, cage, or frame.

To accomplish this object my present invention consists, essentially, in a ball-bearing comprising a ball or sphere and a single thickness of sheet metal provided with a ball-receiving opening and having opposite end portions bent downwardly to form two separated pendent ears of a thickness the same as the thickness of the sheet metal and struck up on their inner sides with concavities in which the ball or sphere is loosely arranged, said two ears projecting downward from opposite edge portions of the sheet metal to retain the ball or sphere.

The invention is illustrated by the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan view of a ball-bearing of circular form embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is an edge elevation of the same. Fig. 3 is a detail perspective view of two of the ball-carrying links pivoted together. Fig. 4 is a transverse sectional view through the center of one of the links, showing the ball in elevation. Fig. 5 is a perspective view of one of the link-blanks as it appears before concaving the ear portions and bending them laterally to form the opposing concaved ears; and Fig. 6 is a similar view showing the ears concaved, as they appear before bending them laterally.

In order to enable those skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will now de-

scribe the same in detail, referring to the drawings, wherein it will be observed that the carrier, cage, or frame of my improved ball-bearing is composed of a plurality of link-plates 1, pivoted together at their extremities through the medium of pivot-pins 2 in such manner as to form a band or ring of pivotally-connected links. The links are so connected as to provide at all times a flexible carrier, cage, or frame which can be made to conform to any desired curve or circle of greater or less diameter or radius. The link-plates are each composed of a single thickness of metal and are preferably cut or stamped from sheet-steel or any other metal or material of sufficient strength or durability suitable for the purpose in hand. The form of the link-blank is clearly shown in Fig. 5, and preferably the extremities are rounded or semicircular, as at 3. The blank is cut or stamped with two oppositely-arranged ear-blanks 4, approximately circular in outline and of similar diameter or dimensions. The two ear-blanks are bent laterally and stand approximately vertical, and the inner surfaces of the ear-blanks are made concave to conform exactly, or nearly so, with the circumference of a ball or sphere 5, which is adapted to be placed between the two ears before the latter are fully bent to their normal vertical position or approximately at right angles to the upper or lower flattened surfaces of the link-plate. After the ball or sphere is properly arranged between a pair of the concaved ears 4, as before explained, the ears can be pressed toward one another to place them in their normal permanent position in such manner that the concave inner surfaces of the ears accurately or nearly accurately fit the curved surface of the ball or sphere and loosely retain the latter in proper operative connection with the link-plate.

The link-plates are each constructed with an opening or orifice 6, arranged approximately at the central portion of the plate, so that when the ball or sphere is loosely confined or retained by the concave ears the ball or sphere will project above and below the upper and lower flattened surfaces of the link-plate. By this means the lowermost portions of the balls or spheres can rest against and roll upon any stationary or other object or support—such, for example, as the lower sec-

tion of the fifth-wheel of a vehicle or turn-
table—while the uppermost portions of the
balls or spheres can support a movable or ro-
tatable object—such, for example, as the up-
per part or section of the fifth-wheel or turn-
table.

The end portions of the link-blanks are pro-
vided with perforations 7 for the passage of
the rivets or pivot-pins, by which the several
link-plates are pivotally connected together
at their extremities to produce the flexible
carrier, cage, or frame.

The construction of the flexible ball carrier,
cage, or frame of pivotally-connected links
in the manner described and shown enables
it to be made of any length desired and to be
subsequently divided into sections of the
length required for curves or circles of vary-
ing diameters or radii, which sections can be
readily fitted to circular parts from the small-
est to the greatest diameter or to rectilinear
parts of any length whatever.

The concaved ball-seats in the ears of the
links retain the balls or spheres without the
necessity of using axles or journal-pins, and if
the balls are well lubricated friction is largely
reduced and a noiseless easily-running ball-
bearing is provided which is advantageous
and useful for many purposes. The concaved
ears are shown provided with central holes;
but these holes are not essential. If the holes
are provided, they may serve for the intro-
duction of a lubricant.

The link-plates can be rapidly produced
from sheet-steel or any other metal suitable
for the purpose, and the balls or spheres can

be made according to any known or desired
method. The balls or spheres are preferably
composed of iron or steel; but obviously they
can be made of any other material of suffi-
cient hardness and strength.

Having thus described my invention, what
I claim is—

1. A ball-bearing, consisting of a ball or
sphere, and a carrier comprising a single thick-
ness of sheet metal provided with a ball-re-
ceiving opening and having opposite edge por-
tions bent downwardly to form two separated
pendent ears of a thickness the same as the
thickness of the sheet metal and constructed
with concave inner surfaces in which said ball
or sphere is loosely arranged, said two ears
being located directly opposite one another to
retain the ball or sphere, and said ball or
sphere being located in the ball-receiving
opening to project above and below the said
single thickness of sheet metal, substantially
as described.

2. A ball-bearing, consisting of a plurality,
of pivotally connected link plates, each hav-
ing a ball receiving opening and a pair of con-
caved ears, and a ball or sphere loosely ar-
ranged in and solely retained by the opposing
concaved surfaces of each pair of ears.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set
my hand in presence of two subscribing wit-
nesses.

HENRY A. BERGER.

Witnesses:

A. C. RAUTSCH,
F. POTSCHACK.