

(No Model.)

F. H. FOSTER.
GRILLE.

No. 549,714.

Patented Nov. 12, 1895.

Fig. 1.

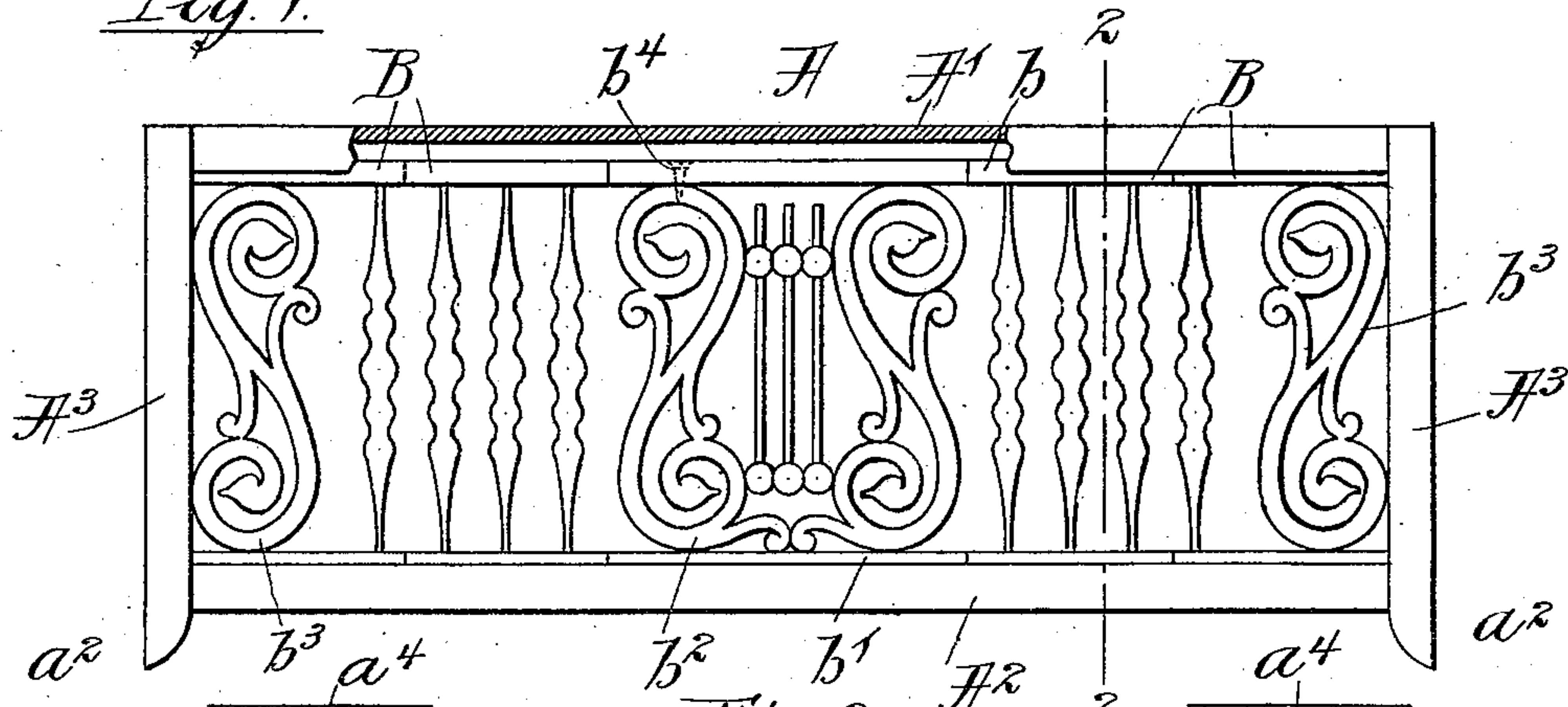


Fig. 2.

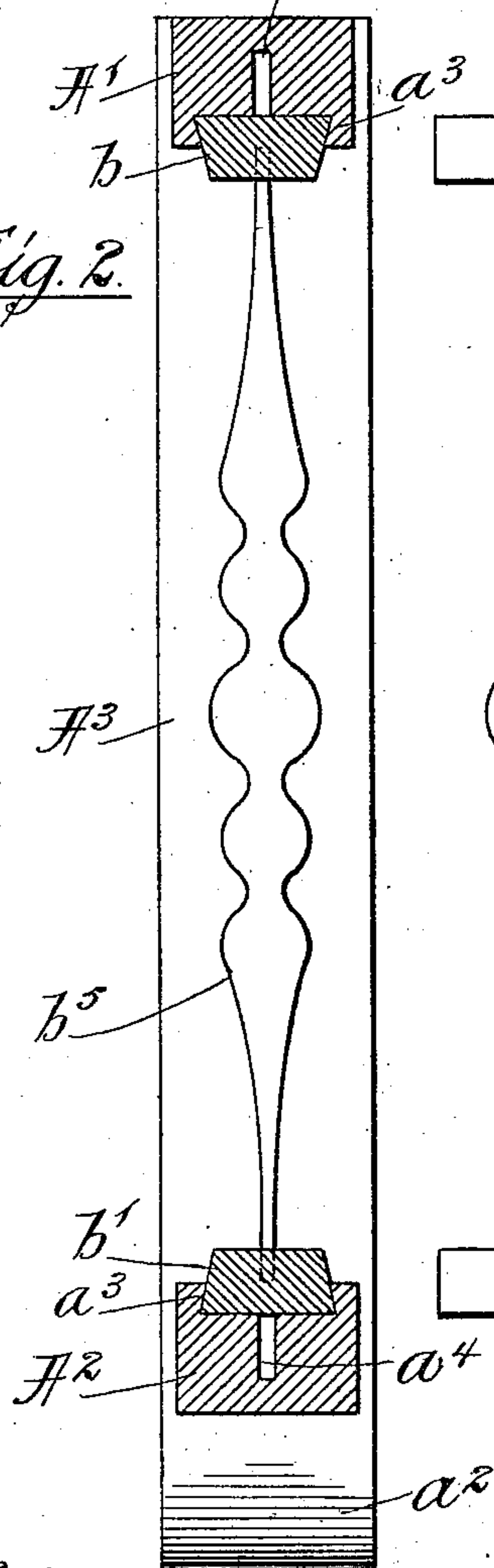


Fig. 3.

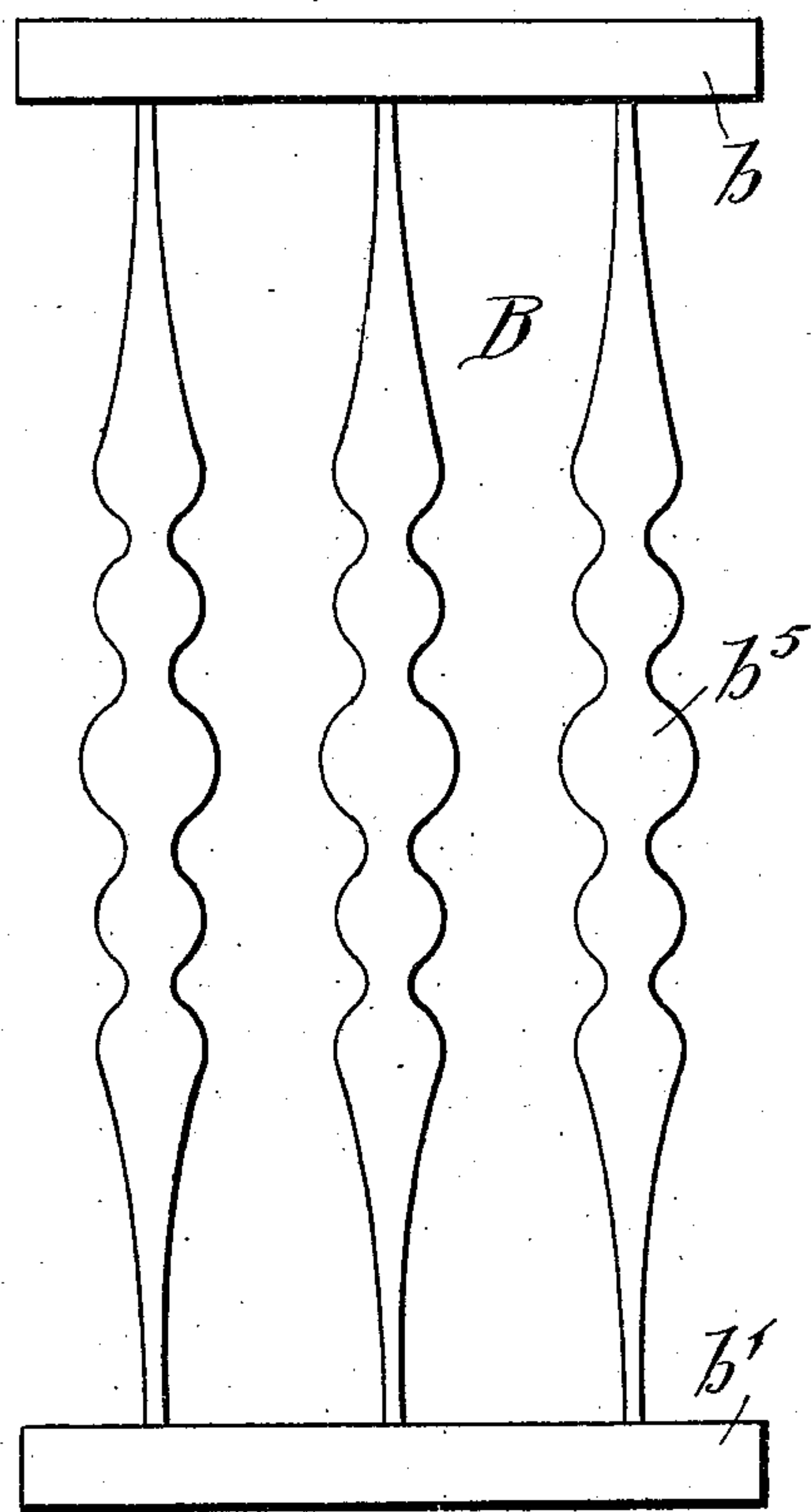
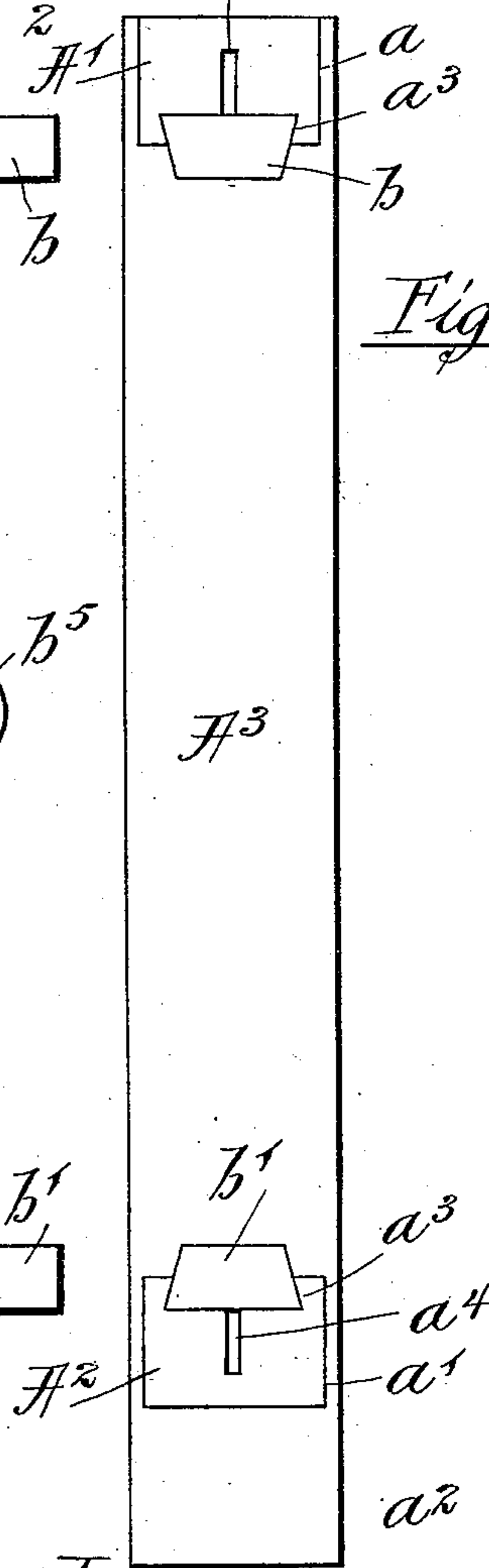


Fig. 4.



Witnesses.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK H. FOSTER, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR TO THE GEO. L. THOMPSON MANUFACTURING COMPANY, OF SAME PLACE.

GRILLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 549,714, dated November 12, 1895.

Application filed May 31, 1895. Serial No. 551,148. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK H. FOSTER, of Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Grilles; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to improvements in grilles or ornamental gratings such as are commonly applied to the upper parts of door and window openings or other similar places in buildings; and it relates more particularly to improvements in that class of grilles which are constructed in sections, so as to be capable of being readily fitted to various widths of opening, and by carrying a comparatively small stock of which the dealer may be prepared to supply customers at once with grilles for almost any width of door or window opening instead of being obliged to make a new grille for each different width of opening.

The invention consists in the matters herein set forth, and particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a front elevation of a grille constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is an enlarged transverse section taken on line 2 2 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is an enlarged detail of one of the ornamental sections. Fig. 4 is an enlarged end view of the grille.

In said drawings, A designates a rectangular framework comprising upper and lower longitudinal rails A' and A² and vertical side bars A³. Said rails A' A² are designed to be made in pieces of considerable length and cut off as required to fit the particular opening for which they are intended. The side bars A³, however, are made the same for all widths of opening in grilles of a given depth and are recessed or mortised at their upper and lower ends to receive the extremities of the rails A' A². For the ends of the upper rail A' open mortises *a* are herein shown as provided in the extreme upper ends of the side bars A³, so that said upper rail will lie against the top of the door or window casing when the grille is in place. The ends of the lower rail A² are

shown as received within mortises *a'*, which are formed in the side bars a short distance above the lower ends thereof, and the lower extremities *a*² of said side bars are preferably rounded or beveled off to meet the sides of the window or door casing, as shown, so as to afford a proper finish at this point.

B B designate a plurality of separate panels placed end to end within the frame A and constituting the inner ornamental portion of the grille. Said panels are provided with upper and lower longitudinal bars *b b'*, which are adapted to fit and slide within longitudinal grooves *a*³, formed in the inner faces of the frame-rails A' and A². The number of panels placed within the frame A will of course depend upon the width of the window-opening, the rails A' A² being cut off to fit said opening and a sufficient number of panels inserted between them to fill the opening when the side bars A³ are added. If an exact number of said panels fail to fill out the frame exactly, one or more of them is cut off sufficiently to reduce their aggregate width to the desired proportions.

In the approved construction shown the grooves *a*³ of the upper and lower rail A' and A² are made of dovetail shape, or wider at the bottom than at the mouth, and the bars *b b'* of the panels B are made of corresponding cross-section, so that when the panels are once inserted between the rails A' A² they will serve to bind the latter together even before the side bars A³ are applied and will afterward hold the top rail down in its mortise *a*. A saw kerf or groove *a*⁴, sunk into the rail at the bottoms of the grooves *a*³, prevents the panels from binding in the grooves, while enabling them to be fitted closely therein.

With the foregoing construction the process of preparing a grille for any given width of opening is extremely simple. The upper and lower rails A' and A² are cut off to fit the opening from the long pieces kept regularly in stock. A number of panels B sufficient to reach across the opening when the side bars A³ are in position are then placed between the rails A' A² by inserting their upper and lower bars *b b'* in the grooves *a*³ and sliding them endwise until the central design of the grille is completed, said design being made up to

suit the taste by selecting the panels as desired. In case an exact number of panels should fail to exactly fill the allowed space one or more may be cut off to meet the required dimensions. The end bars A^2 are then applied and the grille is complete and ready to be placed in position.

Any style of ornamental design may obviously be employed in the panels B and as great a variety of panels of differing design carried in stock as may be found convenient. The length of the separate panels may also be varied, as desired, to accommodate the different designs and to enable the frame A in different lengths of grilles to be exactly filled up with greater facility. In constructing panels with double or single scrolls $b^2 b^3$, as shown in the center and end panels of the drawings, or other similar patterns the scrolls may be conveniently sawed out in the usual manner and secured to the upper and lower bars $b b'$ of the panel by screws b^4 or otherwise. When rounds or similar turned pieces b^5 are used, they will ordinarily be inserted in sockets bored in the bars $b b'$, as indicated by dotted lines in Fig. 2.

I claim as my invention—

1. A grille comprising a rectangular frame

formed by continuous upper and lower rails provided with longitudinal grooves in their adjoining faces, and detachable side bars connecting said rails, and an inner ornamental portion formed by a plurality of separate panels having upper and lower marginal bars fitting movably within the grooves of the frame rails, substantially as described.

2. A grille comprising a rectangular frame formed by continuous upper and lower rails provided with dovetailed longitudinal grooves in their adjacent faces, and detachable side bars provided with mortises to receive the ends of said rails, and an inner ornamental portion formed by a plurality of separate panels having upper and lower marginal bars fitting movably within the longitudinal grooves of the rails and binding the latter together, substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention I affix my signature, in presence of two witnesses, this 25th day of May, A. D. 1895.

FRANK H. FOSTER.

Witnesses:

C. CLARENCE POOLE,
TAYLOR E. BROWN.