(No Model.)

W. HURD.

CEILING.

No. 555,097. Patented Feb. 25, 1896.

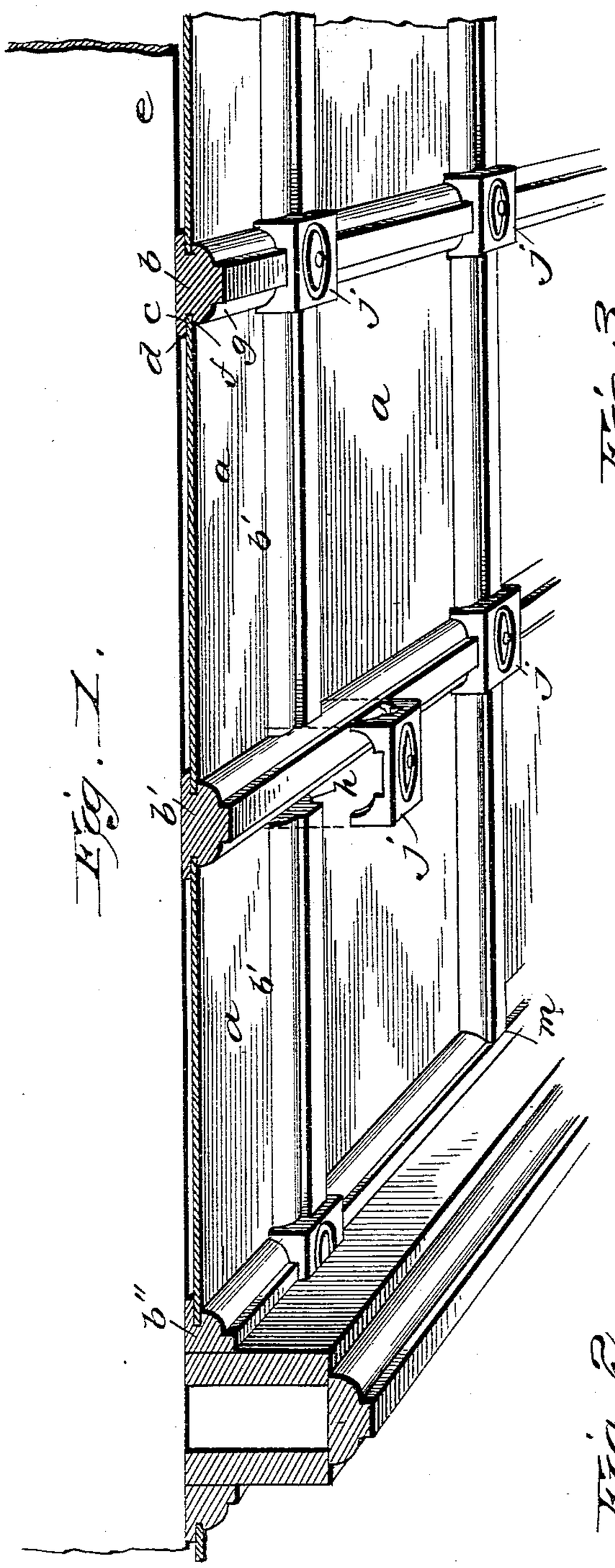

Fig. 1.

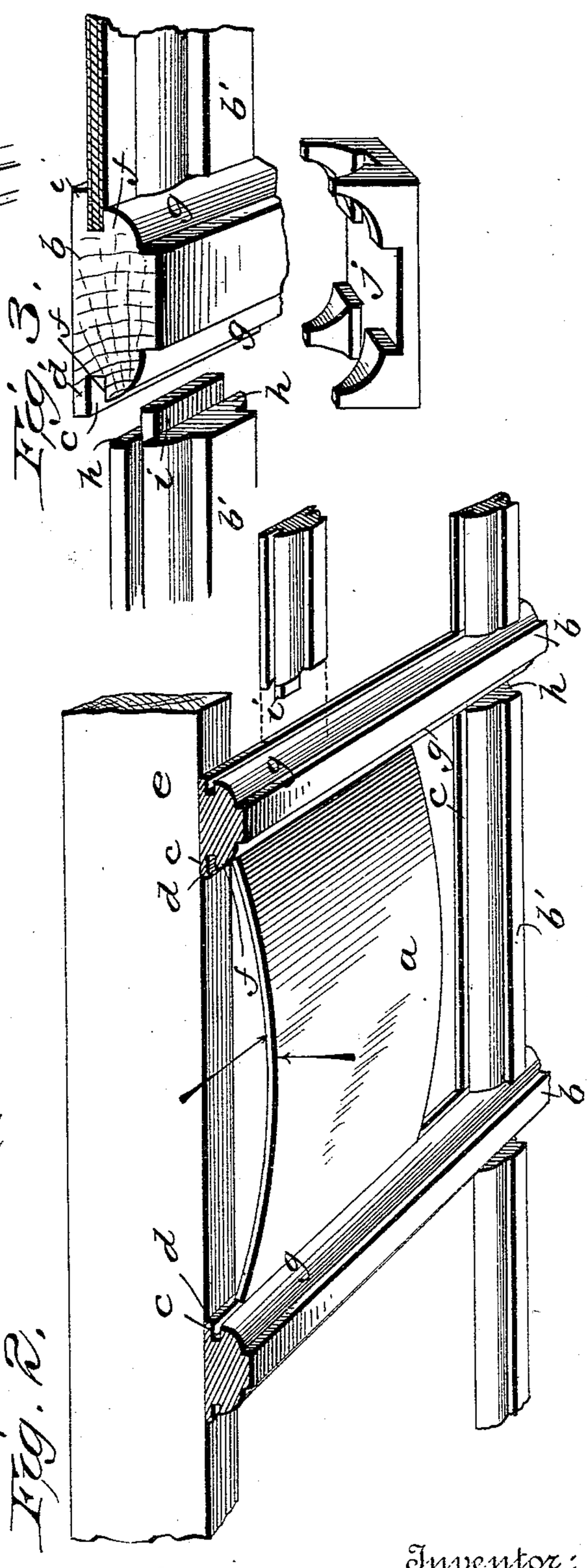

Fig. 3.

Fig. 2.

Witnesses
Wm. J. Linden
Geo. R. Hainline

Inventor:
Warren Hurd
per Rhesa G. DuBois.
Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WARREN HURD, OF WATKINS, NEW YORK.

CEILING.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 555,097, dated February 25, 1896.

Application filed November 8, 1895. Serial No. 568,342. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WARREN HURD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Watkins, in the county of Schuyler and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Ceilings; and I do 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, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

The purpose of my invention is to provide a ceiling which can be put up in sections with greater facility and cheapness, and which will present a finished and beautiful appearance.

To this end my device consists of certain peculiarly-constructed strips or moldings, together with panels adapted to be inserted between them, and other details of construction which will be more fully described hereinafter and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents a perspective view, partly in section, of the outside of my improved ceiling as applied to an ordinary building, one of the corner-blocks being shown removed a short distance to disclose the connections beneath; Fig. 2, a perspective view illustrating the manner in which the panels and moldings are inserted, and Fig. 3 a perspective view of a corner-joint in which the parts are shown enlarged.

The reference-letter *a* denotes the panels, which are composed of flexible sheets of wood veneer, although it is apparent that metal or other kinds of material might be successfully substituted. These panels are rectangular, and are held in position to form the ceiling by moldings or strips *b* placed crosswise of each other to leave a rectangular space for the panels. In the opposite sides of the moldings are longitudinal grooves *c* adapted to receive the edges of the panels. These grooves are so cut as to leave a base-flange *d* which bears against the joists *e* and overlaps the edge of the panel and projects beyond the edge of a lower flange, *f*, which supports the panel. The sides of the moldings are provided with a longitudinal bevel *g*, extending transversely from the central portion of the molding up to the edge of the groove, for the purpose of facilitating the insertion of the panel.

In order to make a neat and artistic joint where the moldings intersect, the ends of the cross-moldings are each cut off to leave a square end *h* above and below a centrally-projecting tongue *i* adapted to enter the side groove *c*. A corner-block *j* is provided and suitably recessed to fit over the ends of these cross-moldings. When thus constructed the parts are put together by first nailing moldings *b''* in the corners of the ceiling, then fastening two or more moldings to the ceiling parallel to each other and a suitable distance apart to receive the panels. The latter are then applied by bending them downward, as shown in Fig. 2, so as to draw the opposite edges nearer together and permit them to pass by the flange *f* and enter the grooves *c* in the moldings. In this operation the bevel *g* will serve as a guide in allowing the edge of the panel to slide over it into the groove, and the widened base-flange comes into play to prevent the edge of the panel from moving past the groove and becoming caught against the edge of the flange, for it will be seen that the moment the edge of the panel passes the edge of the flange *f* it will come into contact with the under surface of the flange *d*, spring laterally into the groove, flatten itself out, and be held in its place. After having been inserted in the grooves the panel should be moved edgewise until the third edge enters the groove in the corner molding *b''*. A cross molding or rail *b'* should now be placed in a relatively oblique position between the parallel moldings, then straightened around into a rectangular position parallel with the unconfined edge of the panel, to bring the tongues *i* into the grooves and hold the bar in place, and at the same time bring its own grooves into coincidence with the intersecting moldings. The bar should now be slid laterally until the edge of the panel enters the groove in its side. The corner-blocks are next applied, whereupon one panel of the ceiling will be completed. The entire ceiling can be formed by a repetition of substantially the same process.

Although I have shown corner-blocks to cover the intersections of the moldings, yet it is evident that they might be dispensed

with by concaving the end of the cross-molding to fit snugly over the bevel *g*, as shown at the point *m* in Fig. 1; but this way is much more laborious and expensive than the other, because a carpenter can saw the end to form the square face *h* and apply a corner-block in much less time than he could cut out a concavity.

Among the advantages of my ceiling are those of surpassing beauty when natural woods are used and exceeding cheapness owing to the use of veneer and the ease and quickness with which it can be put on.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

1. In a ceiling, two or more parallel moldings having longitudinal grooves in their contiguous sides, a supporting-flange constituting the lower wall of the groove, a base-flange constituting the upper wall and being wider than the supporting-flange, and a beveled side, in combination with a flexible panel adapted to be sprung in between said moldings, substantially as described.

2. A ceiling composed of panels sustained by moldings having longitudinal grooves to receive the edges of the panels, beveled sides sloping to the grooves, a supporting-flange, a base-flange wider than the supporting-flange and a flexible panel adapted to be sprung into said groove, all combined to operate as and for the purposes set forth.

3. A ceiling composed of parallel, grooved moldings *b* each having a supporting-flange *f*, and base-flange *d*, wider than the supporting-flange, a beveled side *g*, a flexible panel the edges of which are adapted to be sprung into the grooves, and a cross-molding having grooves to coincide with those of the other moldings, and a tongue adapted to enter the latter, all arranged and adapted to operate in the manner and for the purposes set forth.

In witness whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

WARREN HURD.

Witnesses:
H. V. L. JONES,
WM. D. HURD.