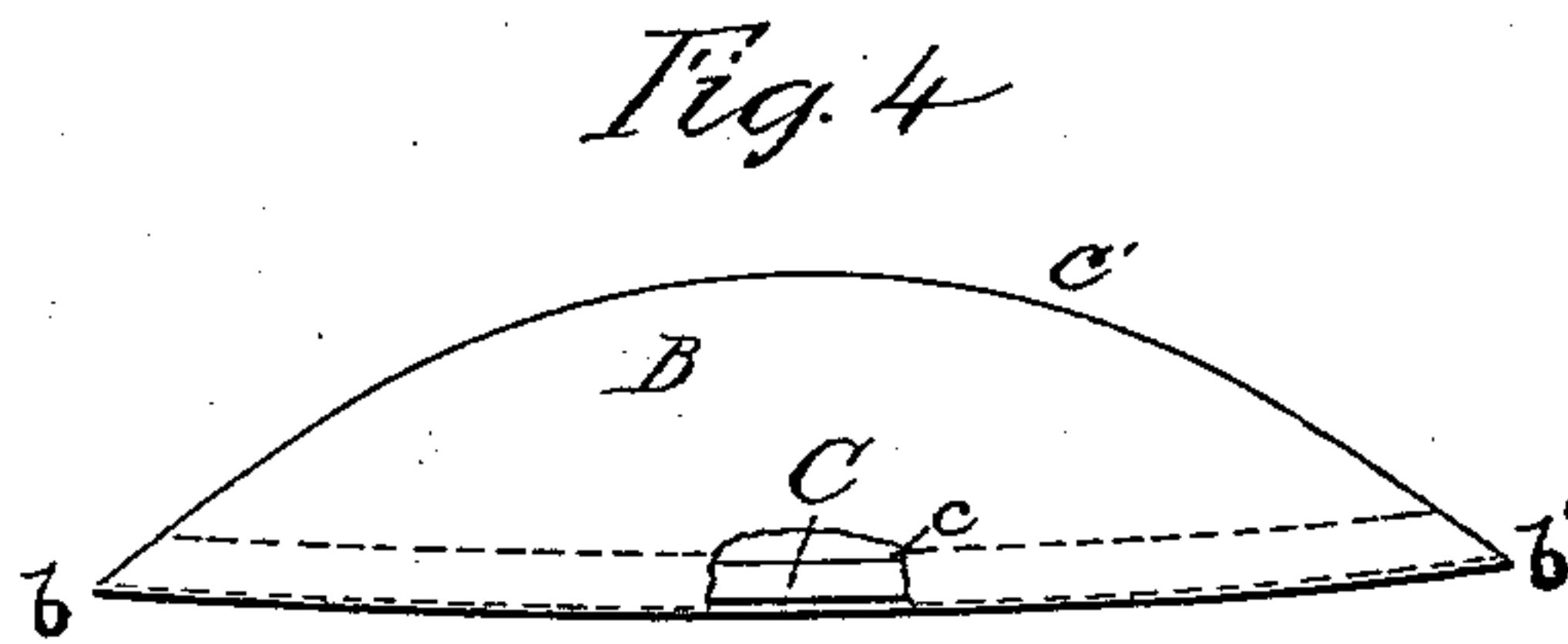
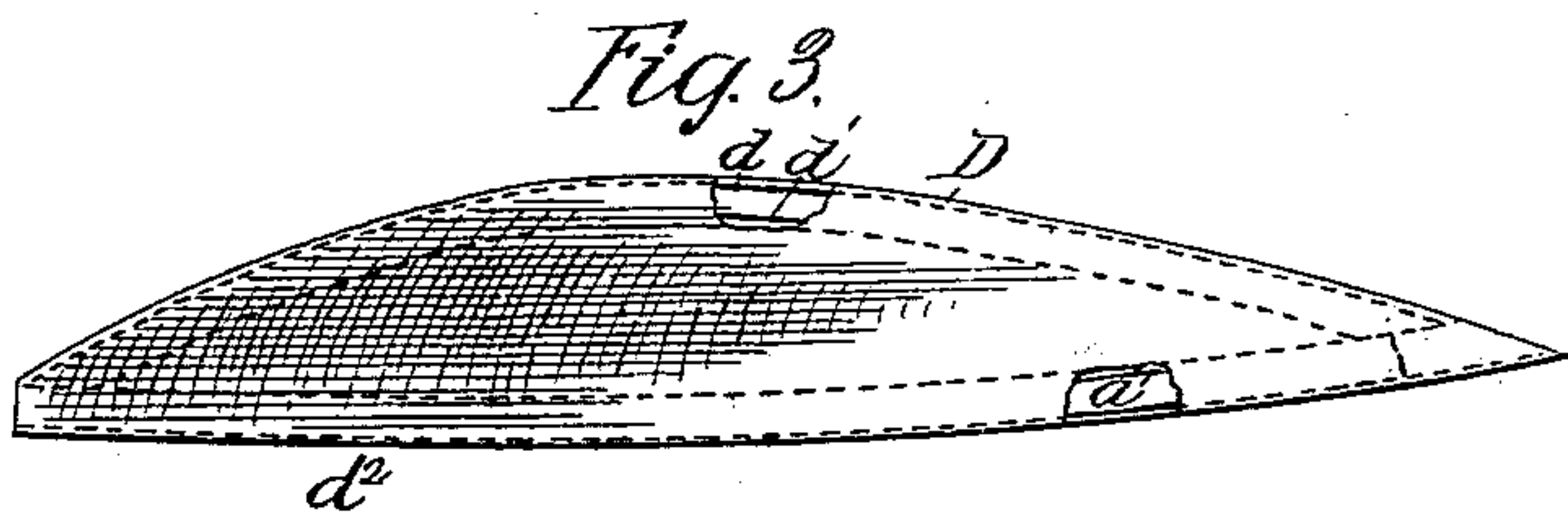
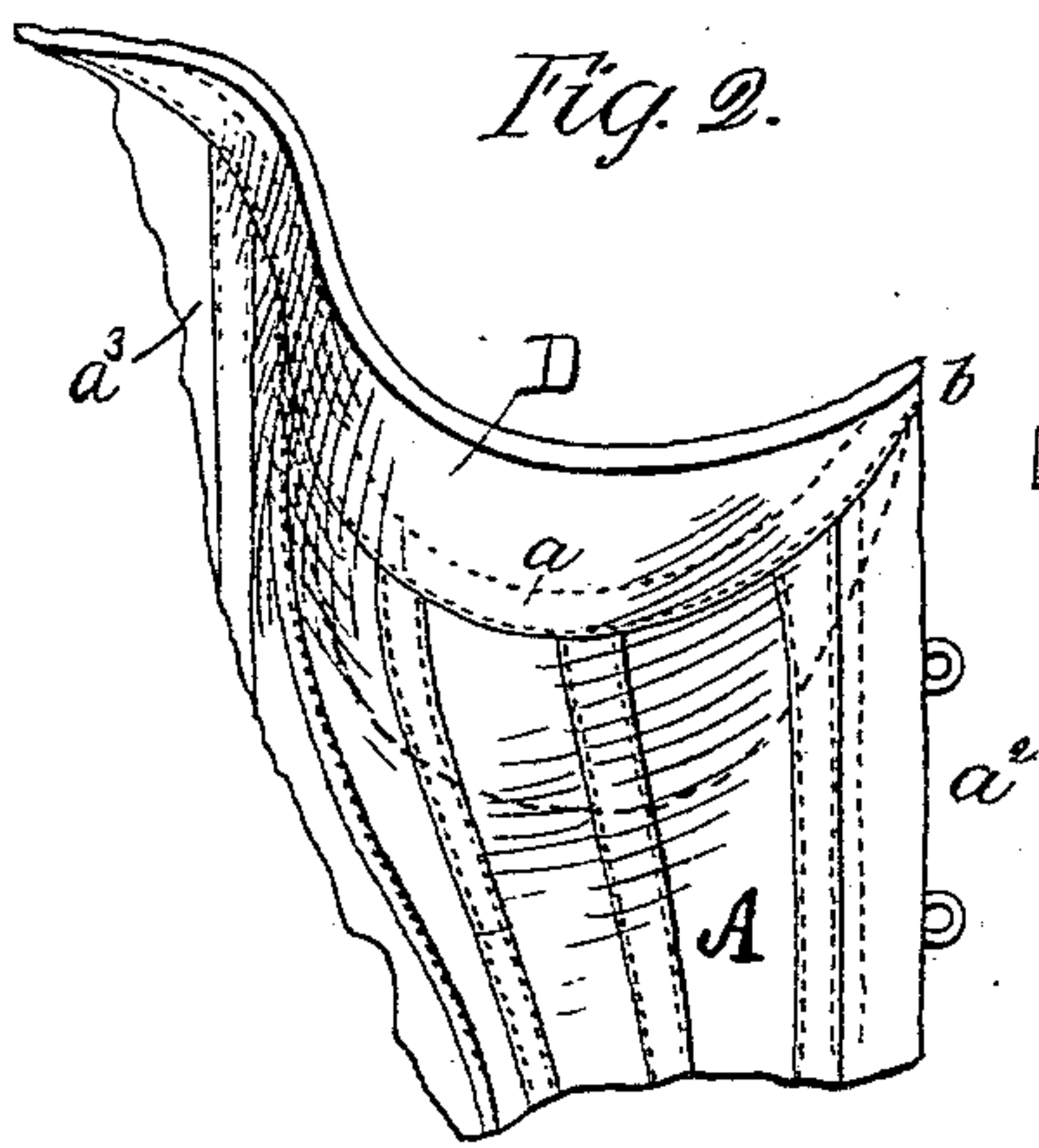
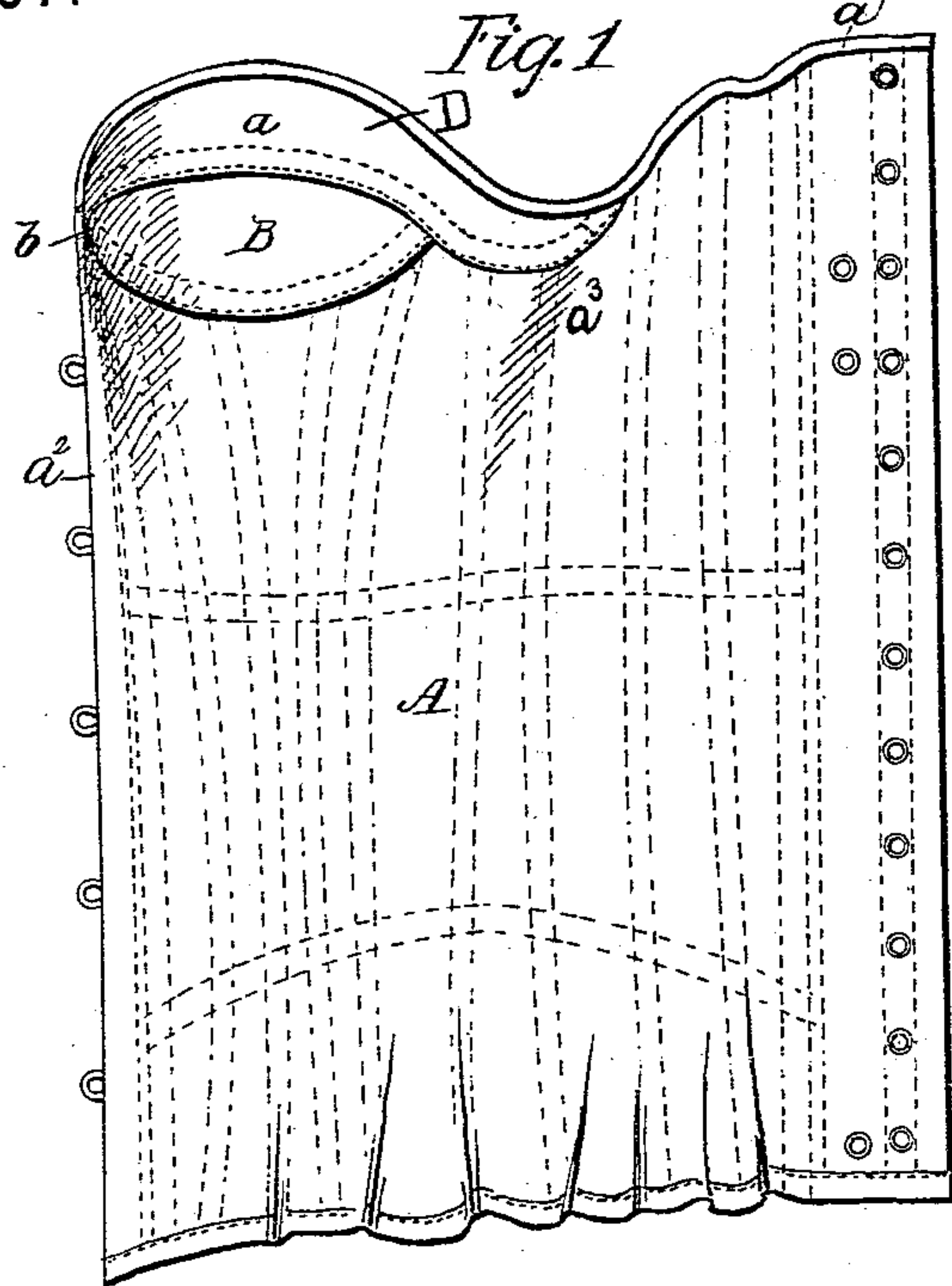


(No Model.)

M. E. HALL.  
CORSET.

No. 555,157.

Patented Feb. 25, 1896.



Witnesses:  
Chas B. Shumway  
J. M. Callahan

Inventor  
Mary E. Hall  
By Robinson & Fisher  
her attorneys.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MARY E. HALL, OF NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF  
TO HENRY H. TODD, OF SAME PLACE.

## CORSET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 555,157, dated February 25, 1896.

Application filed November 7, 1895. Serial No. 568,194. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, MARY E. HALL, a citizen of the United States of America, and a resident of the city and county of New Haven, in the State of Connecticut, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Corsets, fully described and set forth in the following specification, taken in connection with the drawings, which form a part thereof, and in which similar letters of reference represent like parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 is an inside view in perspective of a corset embodying this invention. Fig. 2 is an outside perspective view of the breast portion of the corset. Fig. 3 is a detail perspective view, partly broken away, of the dress-guard. Fig. 4 is a detail perspective view, partly broken away, of the former.

This invention relates to corsets, and has for its object the production of a corset the breast portion of which will be uniformly rounded and graceful without relation to the figure of the wearer. To accomplish this result a dress-guard, the edges of which are curved outwardly, with a resilient stiffener near its upper edge, is secured to the upper edge of the corset and extends from the flap of the corset to a point well under the armpit thereof. This, with another feature of my invention, consisting of a supplemental piece known as the "former," attached to the inner side of the breast portion and extending horizontally therein, overcomes the sinking in of the dress and gives to the dress a uniformly-rounded and graceful appearance.

In the drawings the corset-body is represented by the letter A, and the upper edge thereof by *a*. In the upper edge a strip of bone or steel or other suitable material *a'* extends horizontally from the front of the corset to the part that fits under the arm of the wearer. To this strip is attached the former B, which is of cloth or other material, the upper and lower edges of which are curved and meet at the points *b* and *b'*. The lower edge is formed with a pocket *c* for a strip of bone or steel C, Fig. 4, and the upper edge, *c'*, is secured to the edge *a* of the corset, and the end *b* near the front of the corset, the whole former extending horizontally across the breast portion. By this arrangement of the strips *a'* and C the portion of the corset below the strip *a'* is rounded out, as shown in Fig. 2, even

where the figure of the wearer naturally does not tend to accomplish this result. The dress-guard D is secured to the upper edge, *a*, of the corset, extending horizontally from the front flap *a<sup>2</sup>* of the corset to the armpit *a<sup>3</sup>*, slightly beyond the end of the strip *a'*. The upper edge of the dress-guard D is curved outwardly, with a pocket *d* for a strip of bone or steel *d'* near the edge, and the lower edge is but slightly curved, as shown. The lower edge, *d<sup>2</sup>*, being affixed to the upper edge, *a*, of the corset, the guard is rounded over, as shown in Fig. 2, and with the corset presents a rounded appearance and prevents the dress of the wearer from sinking in, as stated above.

In Fig. 3 the steel or bone stiffener *a'* is shown inverted in the lower edge of the dress-guard; but obviously when the parts are secured together the position of the stiffener is on the upper edge of the corset proper.

Having now fully described my invention, what I desire to secure by Letters Patent is—

1. The combination in a corset, with the breast portion thereof; of a former extending across the inside of said breast portion, and secured to the upper edge thereof; a dress-guard having its lower edge secured to the upper edge of said corset, and extending from the flap of the corset to the armpit thereof; the upper and lower edges of said former and dress-guard being curved outwardly; the upper edge of the corset proper and lower edge of the former being provided with a resilient stiffener.

2. The combination in a corset, with the breast portion thereof; a dress-guard having its lower edge secured to the upper edge of said corset, and extending from the flap of the corset to the armpit thereof; the upper and lower edges of said dress-guard being curved outwardly; and the upper edges of the dress-guard and corset proper being provided with a resilient stiffener, substantially as described.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand, at New Haven, in the county of New Haven, State of Connecticut, this 5th day of November, 1895.

MARY E. HALL.

Witnesses:

F. PHILIP FARNSWORTH,  
GEORGE W. ROBINSON.