

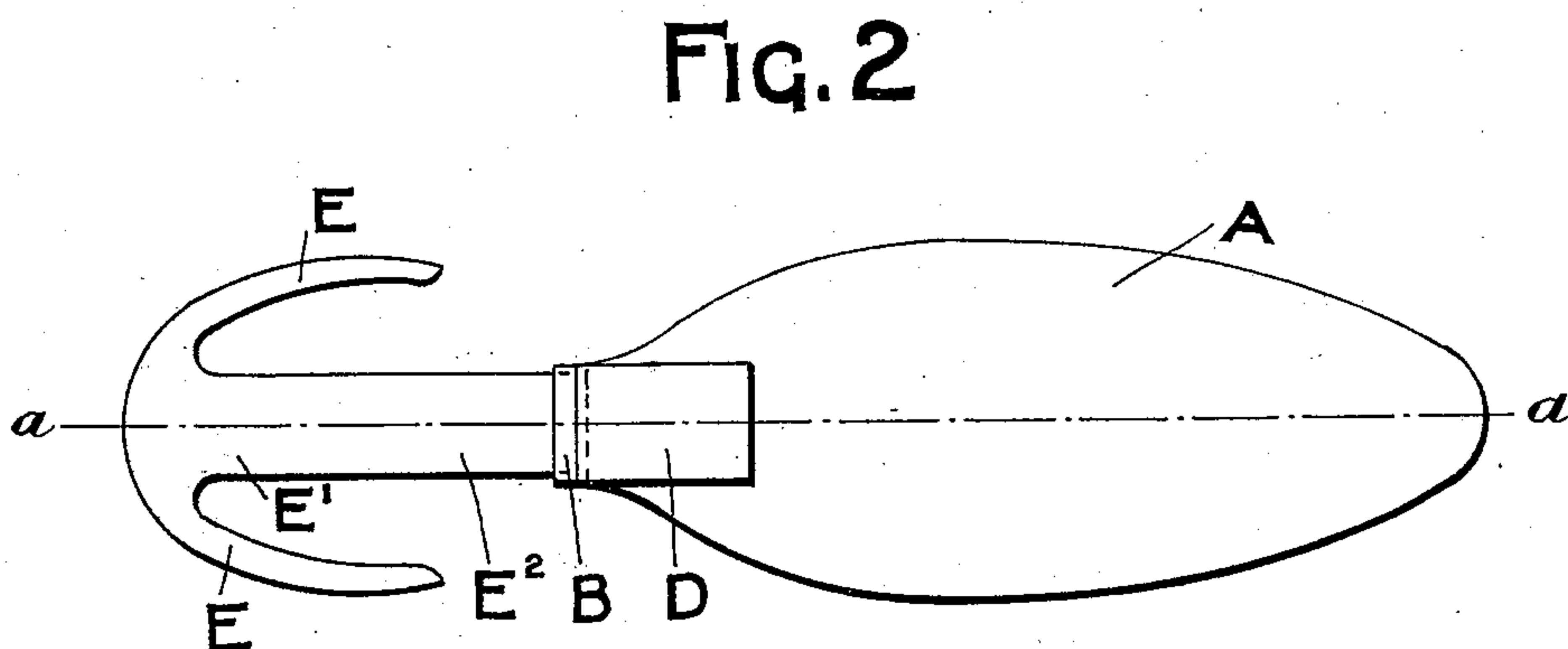
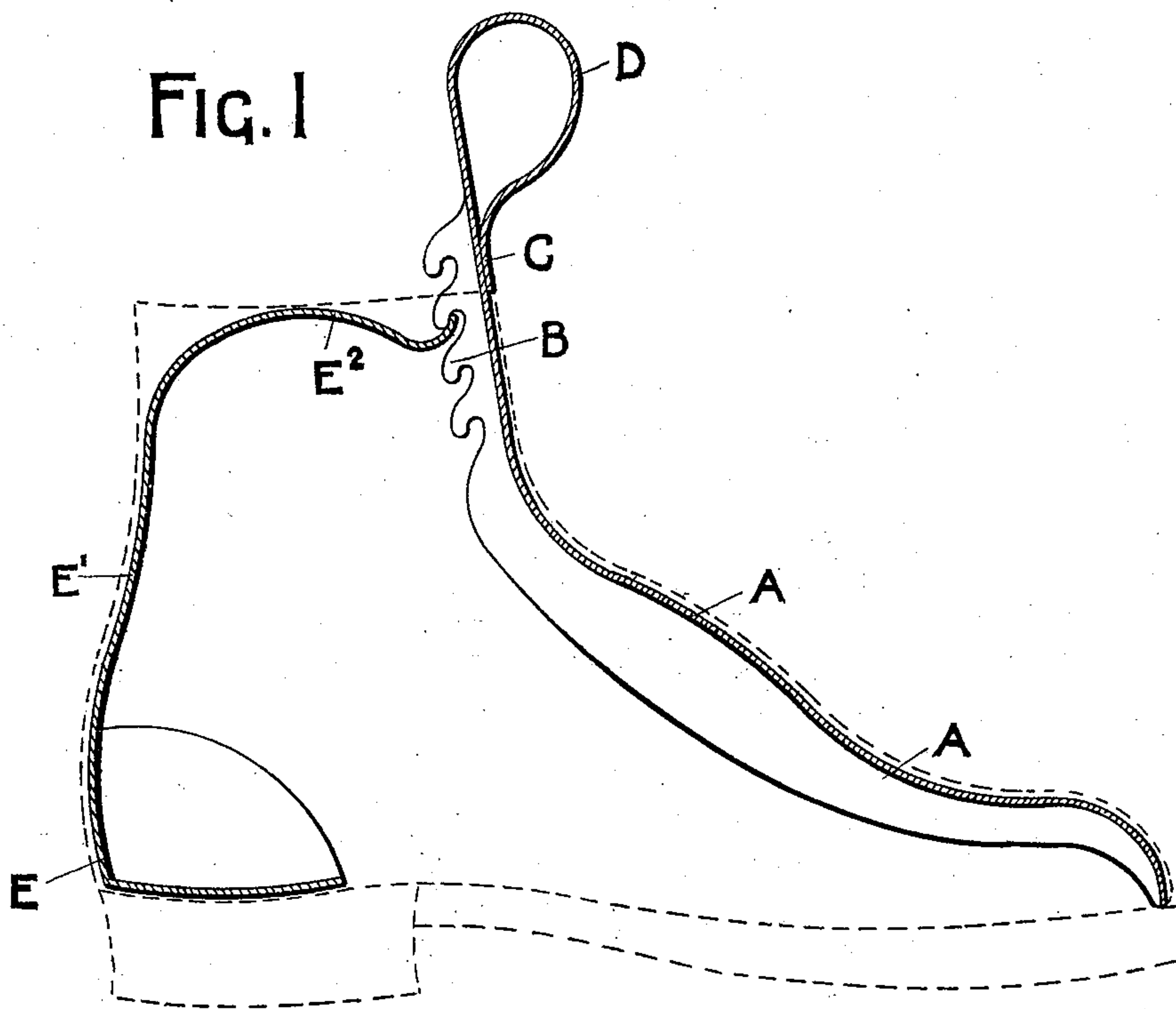
(No Model.)

T. AUSTIN.

DEVICE FOR PRESERVING OR RESTORING SHAPE OF BOOTS OR SHOES.

No. 599,091.

Patented Feb. 15, 1898.



Witnesses:

E. R. Polton  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS AUSTIN, OF ALVASTON, ENGLAND.

DEVICE FOR PRESERVING OR RESTORING SHAPE OF BOOTS OR SHOES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 599,091, dated February 15, 1898.

Application filed June 28, 1897. Serial No. 642,680. (No model.) Patented in England September 15, 1897, No. 13,568.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, THOMAS AUSTIN, a subject of the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, and a resident of 63 Alvaston street, Alvaston, in the county of Derby, England, have invented a certain new and useful Improved Device for Preserving or Restoring the Shapes of Boots or Shoes, (for which I have received a patent in Great Britain, the said patent being numbered 13,568 and dated September 15, 1897,) of which the following is a specification.

The object of my invention is to provide a simple device for preserving the shapes of boots and shoes or for restoring their shape when they have become unduly creased, wrinkled, or otherwise distorted.

Referring to the drawings which form a part of this specification, Figure 1 is a vertical longitudinal section on line *a a* of Fig. 2, showing an application of my invention. Fig. 2 is a plan of same.

In carrying out my said invention I form a front shell or shape A, of metal or other suitable material. This may be of any form, according to the class or shape of boot or shoe it is required for, and carries a rack B, its upper extremity being turned over and riveted or otherwise secured, as at C, to form a loop D for convenience in handling or hanging up. A back shape E is fitted in the back of the boot or shoe and is bent over at E' to fit or spring into one of the notches of the rack B, the pressure on the front and back of the shoe being regulated, as desired, by placing the end of the spring E' in one or the other of the notches, as shown.

The rack may either be formed in a piece with the front shape A or be riveted or other-

wise secured thereto, and the loop D may be of leather or other suitable material, if desired, instead of metal. The tip of the spring may be notched out to fit accurately into the rack, and the lower extremities of both front and back shapes or shells may have short projections, teeth, or studs, if desired, to engage the sole and heel of the boot or shoe.

The dotted lines on Fig. 1 give the outline of a somewhat heavy class of boot to facilitate the illustration of my invention. It will, however, be evident that the device may be applied to almost any form of boot or shoe. In the latter case it would not extend so far in an upward direction, and the spring E' would take a somewhat different form.

A great advantage of this device is that it keeps the inside of the boot open and allows it to be thoroughly aired. This is not the case with the ordinary boot-tree or solid device used for the same purpose.

Having now described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The improved device for preserving or restoring the shape of boots and shoes consisting of a front shell or shape A carrying a rack B and loop D, in combination with a back piece E and spring E' the latter being adapted to engage the notches on the rack B substantially as described.

It witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two witnesses.

THOMAS AUSTIN.

Witnesses:

W. SWINDELL,  
C. B. SHERWIN.