

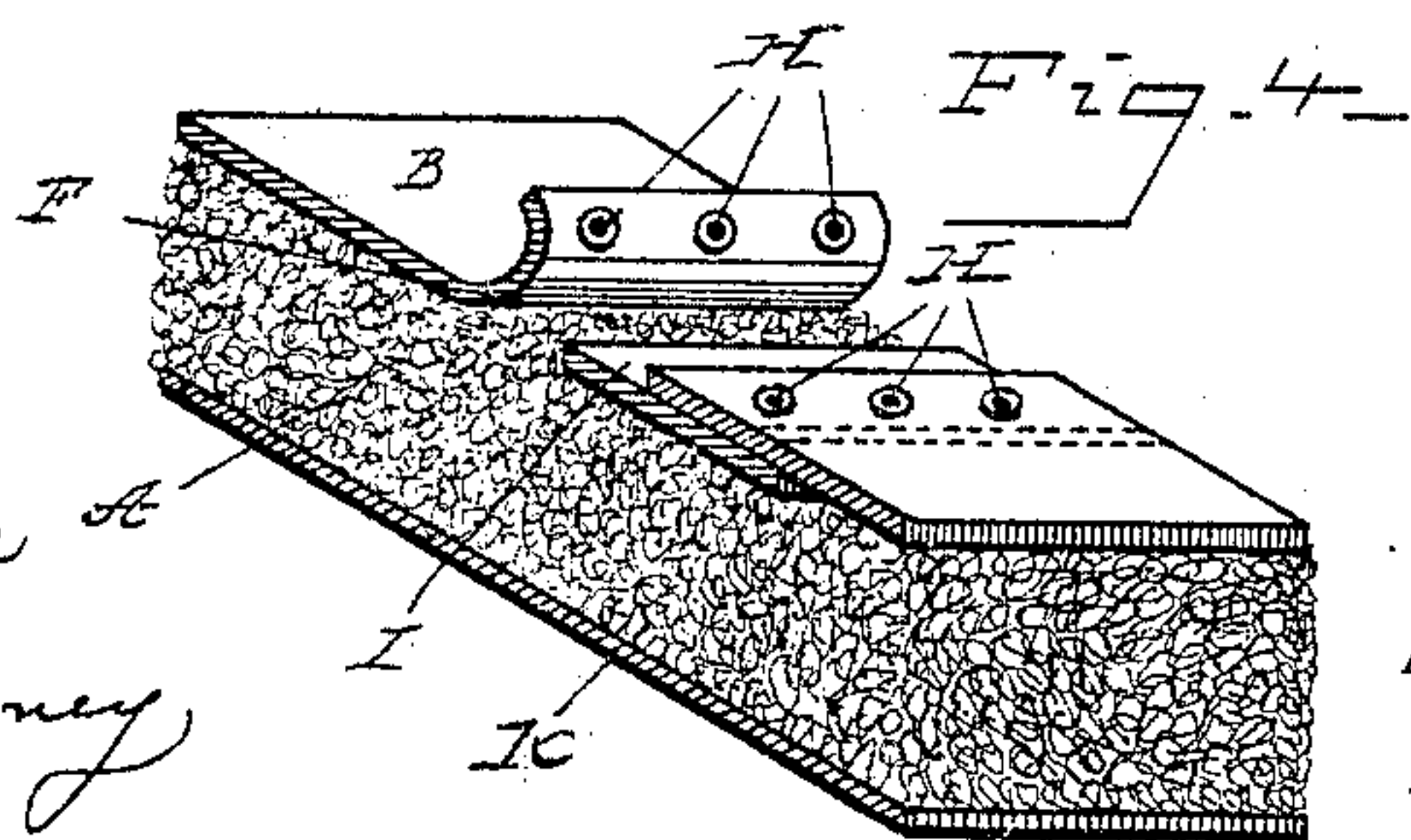
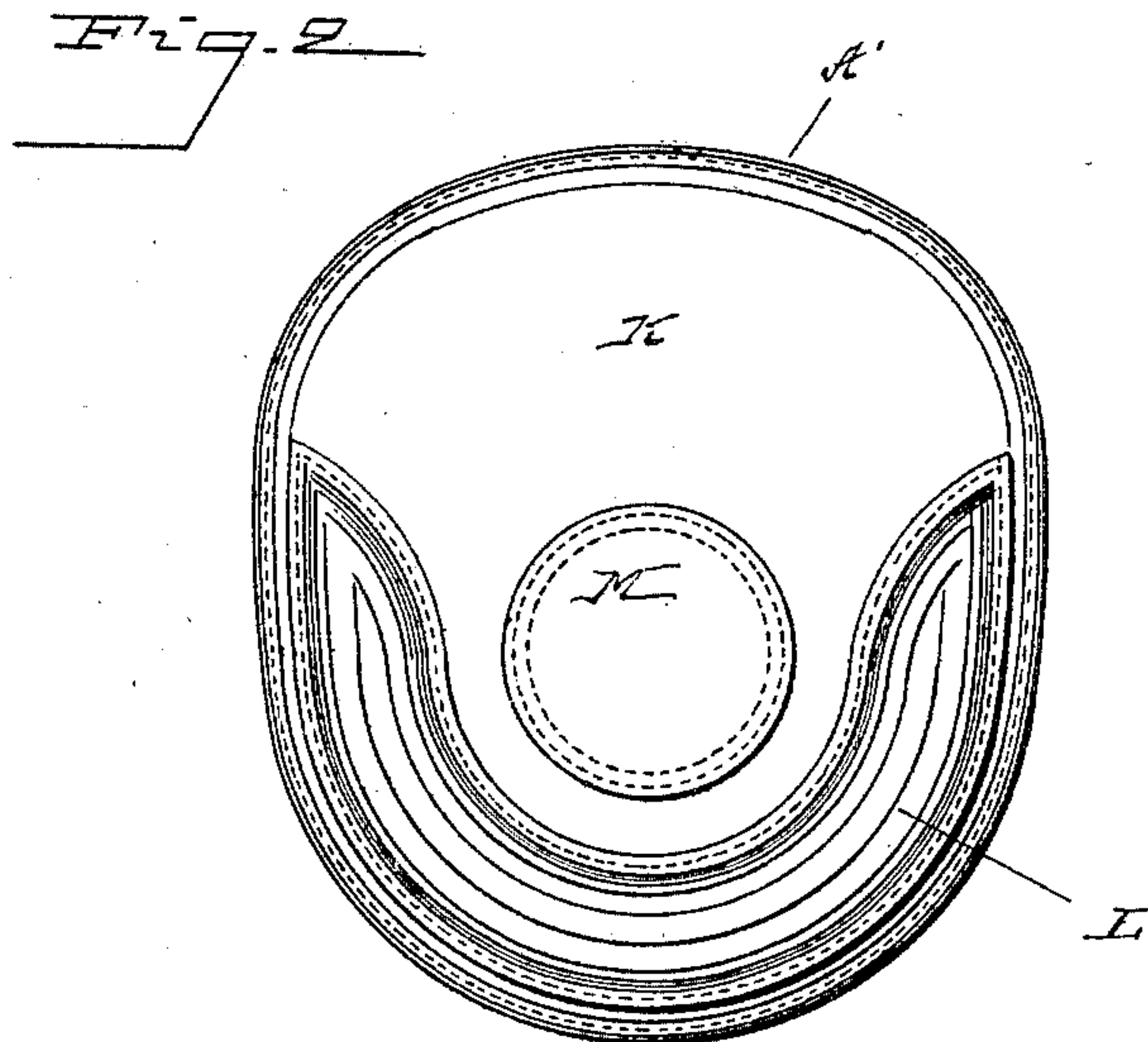
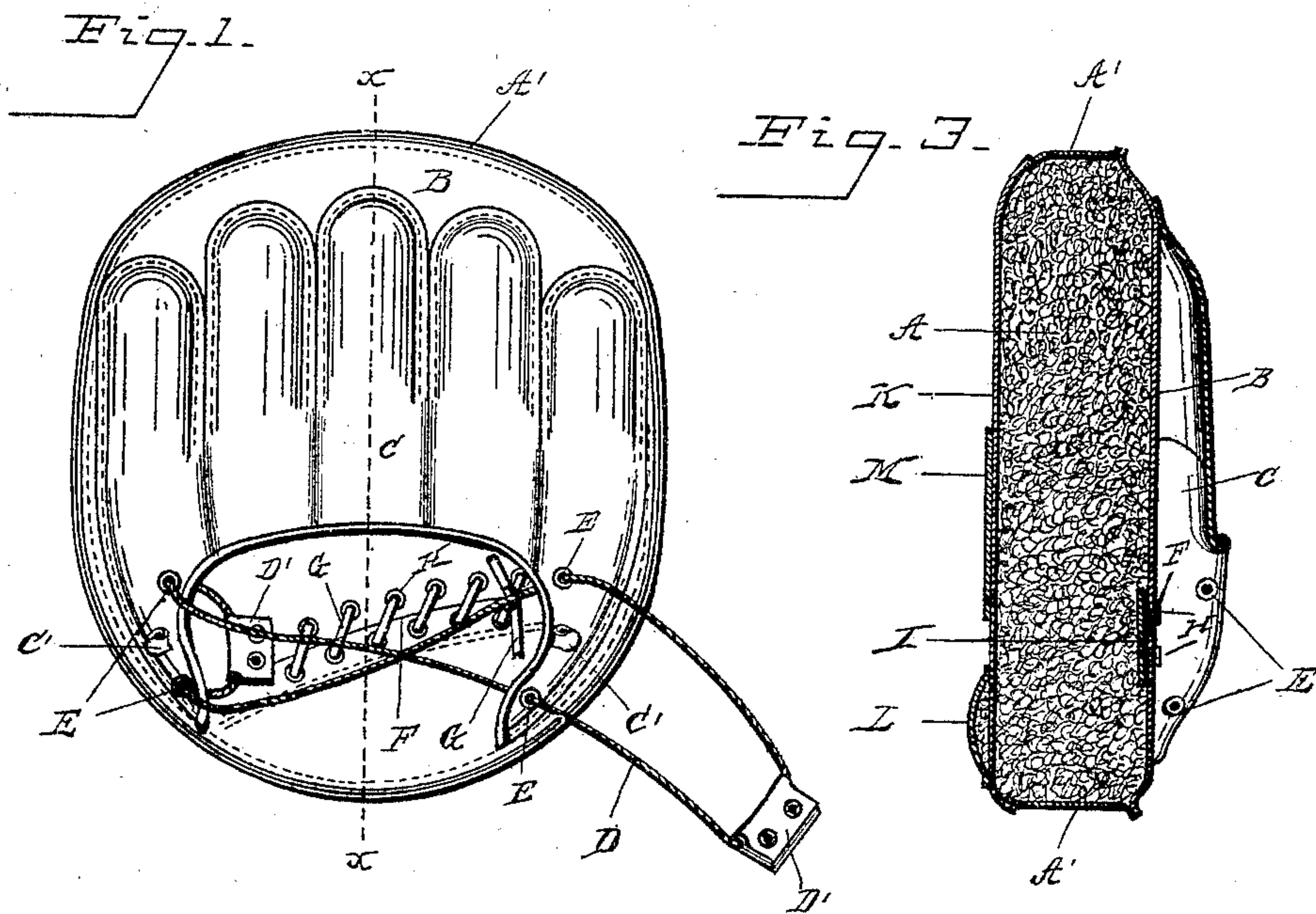
**No. 622,733.**

Patented Apr. 11, 1899.

W. S. TOMPKINS.  
CATCHER'S MITTEN.

(Application filed May 5, 1898.)

(No Model.)



WITNESSES:

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM SHOOT TOMPKINS, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## CATCHER'S MITTEN.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 622,733, dated April 11, 1899.

Application filed May 5, 1898. Serial No. 679,778. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM SHOOT TOMPKINS, a citizen of the United States, residing at New York, (Brooklyn,) Kings county, and State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Catchers' Mittens, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to that class of hand-coverings which are used by base-ball players and commonly known as "catchers' mitten;" and the object of my improvements is to provide a mitten which may be used with equal facilities on either right or left hand.

A further object of my improvements is to provide means whereby the padding of the mitten may be easily renewed.

The invention consists in certain other novel features, which will be fully hereinafter described; and particularly pointed out in the claims.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a rear elevation of the mitten. Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the same. Fig. 3 is a cross-section through line X X, Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a fragmentary detail view of the opening through which the padding is inserted.

Similar letters refer to corresponding parts throughout the several views.

A represents the padded body of the mitten and which is surrounded by a marginal edge A', preferably of the form shown. B represents the rear face of the mitten, and C the hand-retaining glove attached thereto. This glove is provided with five fingers of approximately the same size and shape, so as to fit either right or left hand, the exterior fingers being alternately used as thumbs. All five of these fingers are arranged side by side and are very near the same length, the three central ones being substantially so. The two outer fingers, which are intended to receive the thumb of either the right or left hand, are but slightly shorter than the other three fingers, and hence the glove is adapted to be used upon either the right or left hand alike.

In order to enable the player to lace the mitten from either right or left side, the glove is further provided with two lacing-hooks C', situated one on each side of the opening of the glove.

D represents an endless lacing-cord running

through four eyelets E, said cord being adapted to normally engage the hooks above referred to. For the purpose of facilitating the lacing the cord is provided with two stops, which consist of plates placed loosely upon the cord and which are adapted to serve as hand-holds in quickly adjusting the cords D D'.

F represents the opening through which the padding is inserted. This opening is composed of a slit extending across the rear face of the padded body and is preferably situated adjacent to that portion which comes in contact with the palm of the hand in order to protect the opening from exposure, with consequent danger of spreading apart when the mitten is in use. The opening is closed by means of a lacing-cord G, which engages a series of eyelets H, situated on each side of the opening. In order to prevent any padding to accidentally work its way out through the opening, the same is provided on its inner side with a tongue or shield I.

K represents the front portion of the mitten and which I provide with a supplemental horseshoe-shaped padding L, situated adjacent to the sides and lower end of said front portion. This padding greatly promotes the rigidity and durability of the mitten and protects the player from the danger of having the ball glance off toward the wrist. It also aids materially in the retention of the ball, as it forms a pocket extending from the wrist and side portions toward the center or palm portion of the mitten.

In order to further promote the durability of the mitten, I reinforce the front portion with an additional center piece M and which may be easily renewed when worn out.

The advantages of the above features are obvious.

By having the marginal edge with the shape shown a greater catching-surface is obtained, and the danger of having the mitten split is entirely eliminated.

Aside from the great convenience of having the mitten capable of being used on either right or left hand, such a change distributes the wear of the mitten and consequently insures the greatest possible durability.

I am aware that catchers' mittens provided with means for renewing the padding have been constructed before. The methods here-



tofore employed for that purpose have, however, not been satisfactory. The openings have either been located along the edge of the padded body, which greatly impairs the durability of the mitten, or they have been so intricate in their construction as to require the complete taking apart of the mitten when renewing the padding—a requirement which of course considerably diminishes its utility. In my construction the interior of the padded body is easily accessible and at the same time is amply protected while the mitten is in use.

I do not desire to limit myself to the particular construction herein shown and described, as I am aware that many changes may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of my invention.

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

1. In a catcher's mitten, a padded body, and a hand-retaining glove attached to the rear face of the body, the glove being provided with the three central fingers of approximately the same length, and the two outer fingers adapted to fit upon the thumb of either the right or left hand and which fingers are all arranged parallel with each other upon the padded body, substantially as shown.

2. In a catcher's mitten, a padded body, and a hand-retaining glove attached to the rear face of said body, the three central fingers of the glove being of approximately the same length, and the two outer fingers adapt-

ed to be used upon the thumb of either the right or left hand, all of which fingers are arranged parallel with each other upon the padded back, combined with means for lacing the glove for either the right or left hand, substantially as described.

3. In a catcher's mitten, a padded body, a hand-retaining glove attached to the rear face of the said body, and provided with the three central fingers which are approximately of the same length, and two outer fingers which are adapted to fit upon the thumb of either the right or left hand, all of which fingers are arranged parallel with each other upon the padded back, combined with a lacing-cord and hooks upon which the cord may be made to catch at either side of the hand, substantially as set forth.

4. A catcher's mitten adapted to be used upon either right or left hand, having a padded body, a hand-retaining glove attached to the rear face of said body, said glove being provided with fingers of approximately the same size and shape, an opening comprising a slit extending through and across said rear face, and situated in the palm portion thereof, said opening being provided on its inner side with a protecting-shield, and with means for closing the opening, and means for lacing the glove from either right or left side, substantially as set forth.

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Witnesses:

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