

No. 627,758.

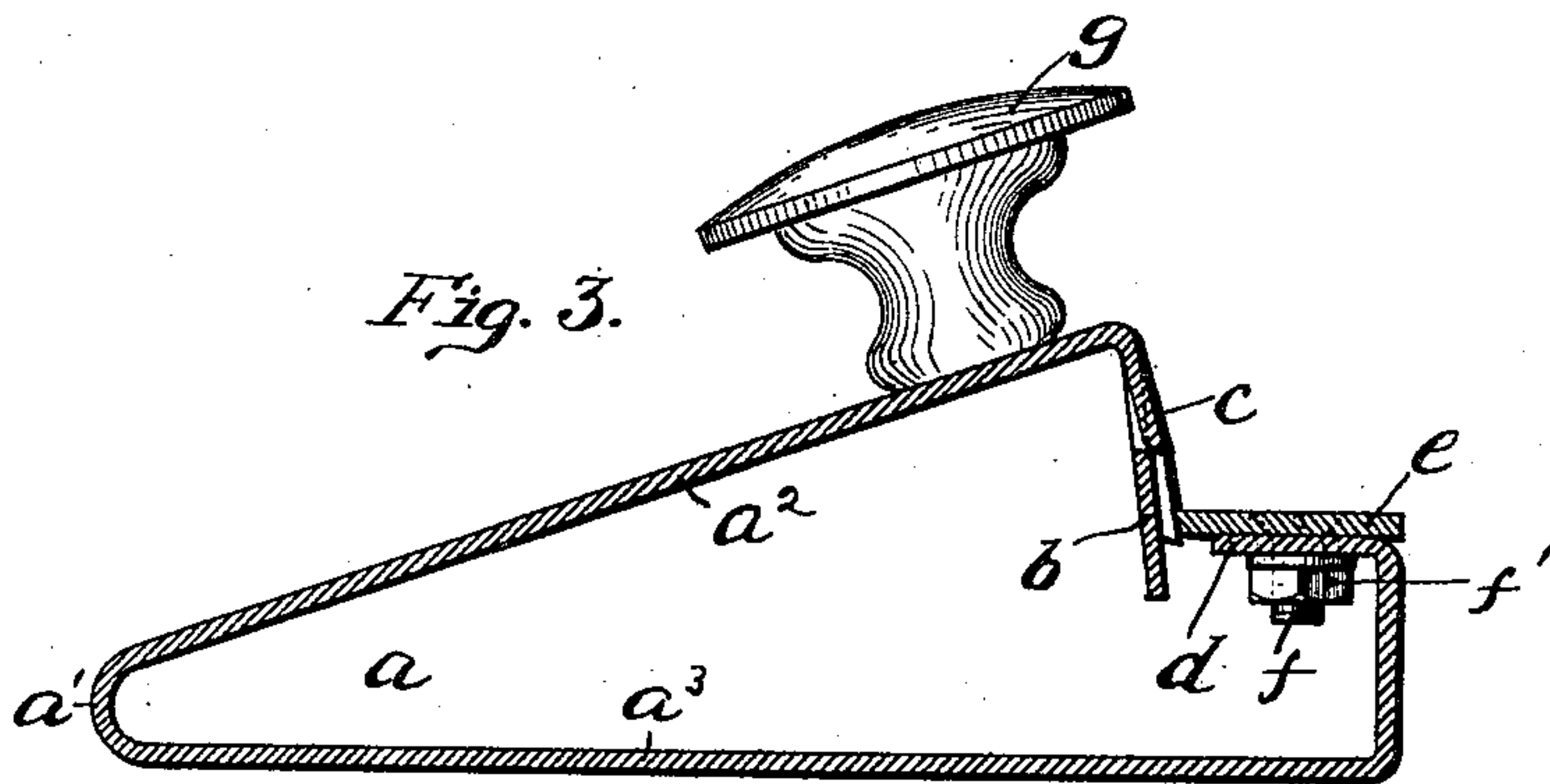
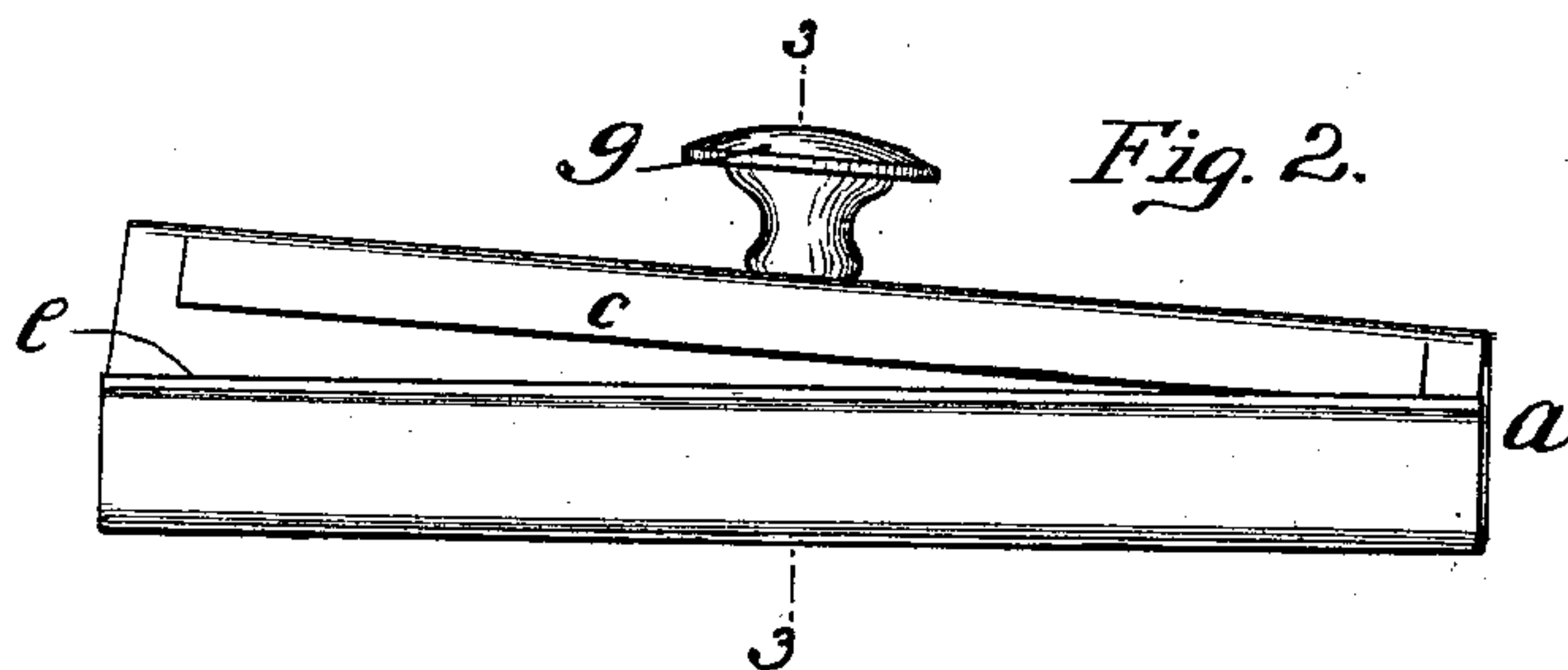
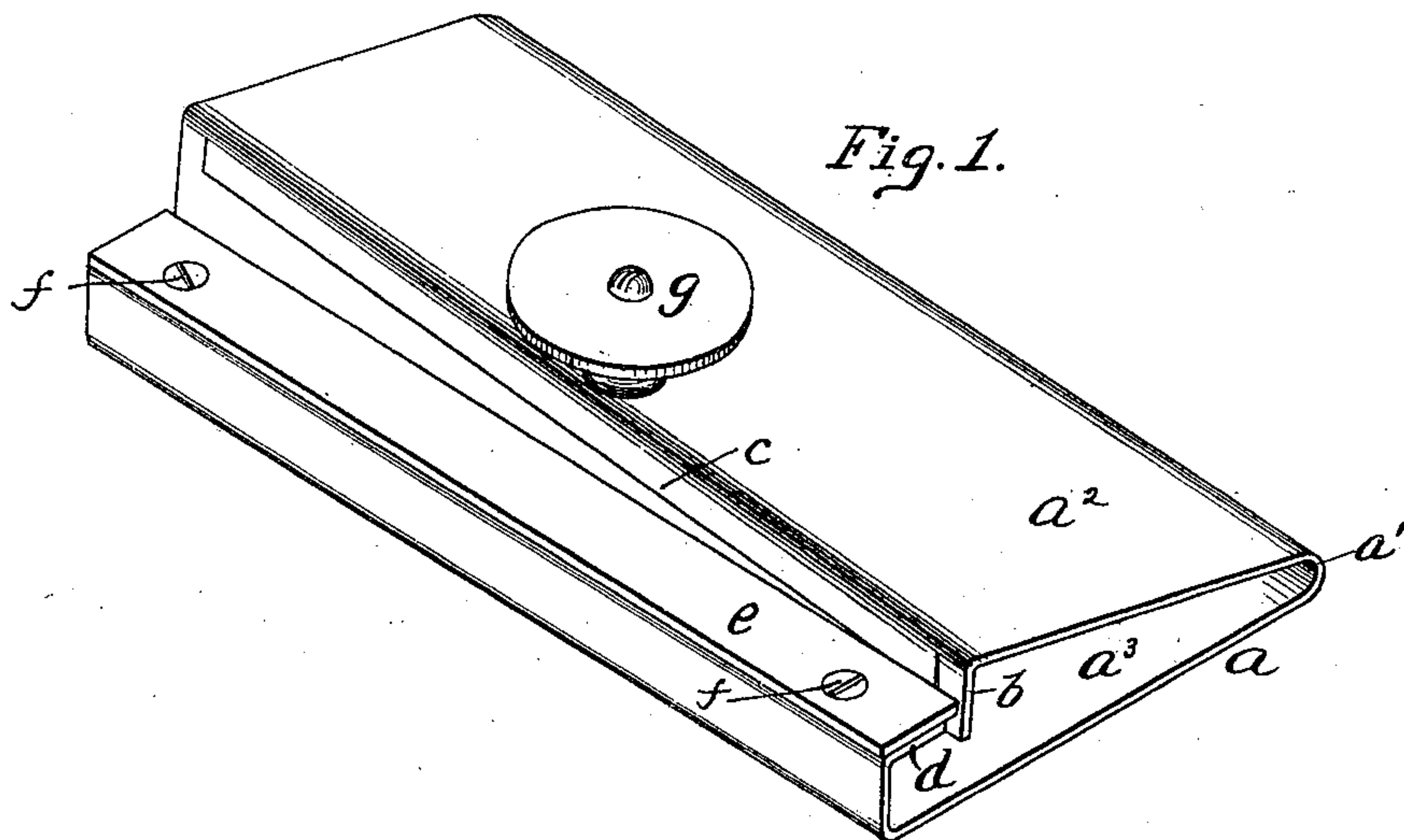
Patented June 27, 1899.

G. F. McKEEVER.

ENVELOP OPENER.

(Application filed Mar. 18, 1899.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE F. McKEEVER, OF ALLEGHENY, PENNSYLVANIA.

ENVELOP-OPENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 627,758, dated June 27, 1899.

Application filed March 18, 1899. Serial No. 709,608. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE F. McKEEVER, a resident of Allegheny, in the county of Allegheny and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Envelop-Openers; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof.

My invention relates to envelop-openers, its object being to provide a simple, durable, and inexpensive form of envelop-opener.

To these ends my invention comprises, generally stated, an envelop-opener comprising a body portion formed of one piece of sheet metal of proper resiliency, said metal being bent to form an upper plate and a lower plate, the said upper plate having a downwardly-extending gage and a cutting-knife and said lower plate supporting a stationary knife which acts in conjunction with said first-mentioned knife to cut the edge of the envelop inserted in the cutting position.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will describe the same more fully, referring to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved envelop-opener. Fig. 2 is a front or face view of same; and Fig. 3 is a cross-section on the line 3 3, Fig. 2.

Like letters of reference indicate like parts in each view.

In the accompanying drawings the reference-letter *a* designates the body portion of my improved envelop-opener, said body portion being formed of sheet metal of the proper gage and resiliency. I prefer to employ crucible spring-steel, although other metals possessing sufficient resiliency may be employed. The sheet metal is bent in the manner shown, as at *a'*, so as to form the upper and lower plates *a²* and *a³*, respectively. The lower plate *a³* is substantially horizontal and forms a base-plate or rest for the envelop-opener. The upper plate *a²* has the downwardly-extending portion *b*, which acts as a gage and regulates the amount to be cut from the envelop when inserted in the cutting position, as will more fully hereinafter appear. The upper cutting-knife *c* is formed in this gage *b*, said knife being formed by cutting the metal in said gage in the manner illustrated, so as

to permit of the outward projection of the knife beyond the face of the gage. The lower edge of the cutting-knife is then properly sharpened. The bottom plate *a³* extends beyond the top plate *a²*, and said bottom plate is bent up in such shape as to form the support *d*, which carries the stationary knife *e*. This stationary knife *e* may be secured to the support *d* by means of the screws *f*, with the nuts *f'* engaging therewith. The opening in the support *d*, through which the screw *f* passes, is slotted, so as to permit of the adjustment of the knife *e* to and from the gage *b*.

In constructing my improved envelop-opener the metal is so bent to form the same that the upper plate *a²* thereof is higher at one end than at the other, so that the knife *c* will at one end be normally below the stationary knife. By this construction when the upper plate *a²* is lowered in the cutting operation there is no liability of the upper knife coming in contact with the stationary knife, so as to interfere in any way with the downward movement of the upper knife.

When it is desired to open an envelop with my improved envelop-opener, the envelop rests upon the stationary knife *e* and the outer edge of the envelop is pressed against the gage *b*. With the other hand the operator then grasps the handle or knob *g* and forces down the upper plate *a²*, carrying with it the knife *c*. By this action the edge of the envelop is sheared off, and when the operator removes the pressure from the knob *g* the upper plate *a²*, due to the spring of the metal, resumes its normal position ready for the next operation. As stated before, the body portion of the envelop-opener is made of spring metal with sufficient resiliency so that the bend *a'* will act as a hinge and that after the cutting operation the upper plate *a²* will return to its normal position.

By the above construction I provide a simple form of envelop-opener which is durable and inexpensive. The body portion is formed of one piece of metal, and the necessity of separate top and bottom plates connected by hinges is avoided.

I do not wish to limit myself to the exact construction illustrated, as that may be varied in certain details without affecting the spirit of my invention.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to protect by Letters Patent, is—

1. In an envelop-opener, a body portion formed of sheet metal bent to form an upper
5 and lower plate, the lower plate acting as a base or support, said upper plate being bent to form a downwardly-projecting gage, a knife formed within said gage by slitting the metal longitudinally and vertically at each end of
10 the longitudinal cut, and a stationary knife carried by the lower plate, substantially as set forth.

2. In an envelop-opener, a body portion formed of sheet metal bent to form an upper

and lower plate, the lower plate acting as a 15 base or support, and the upper plate being higher at one end than at the other, said upper plate having a downwardly-projecting gage, a knife formed within said gage, and a stationary knife carried by the lower plate, 20 substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I, the said GEORGE F. McKEEVER, have hereunto set my hand.

GEORGE F. McKEEVER.

Witnesses:

ROBT. D. TOTTEN,
ROBERT C. TOTTEN.