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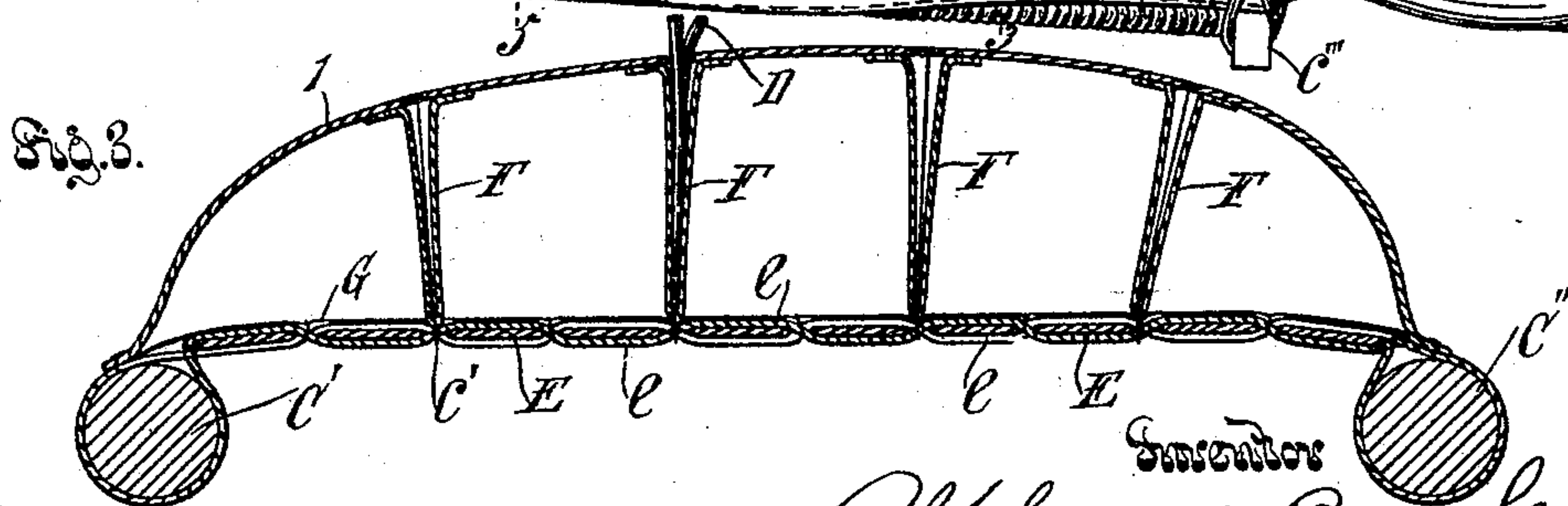
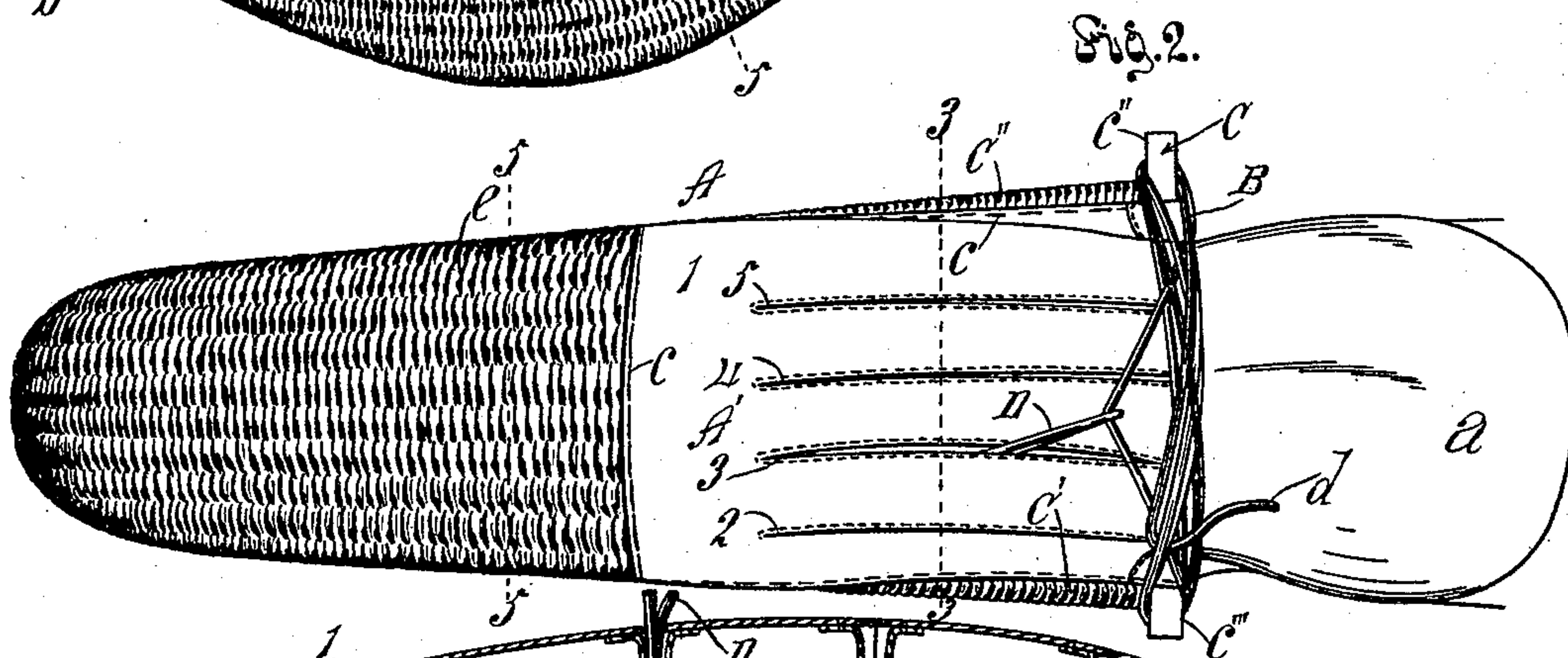
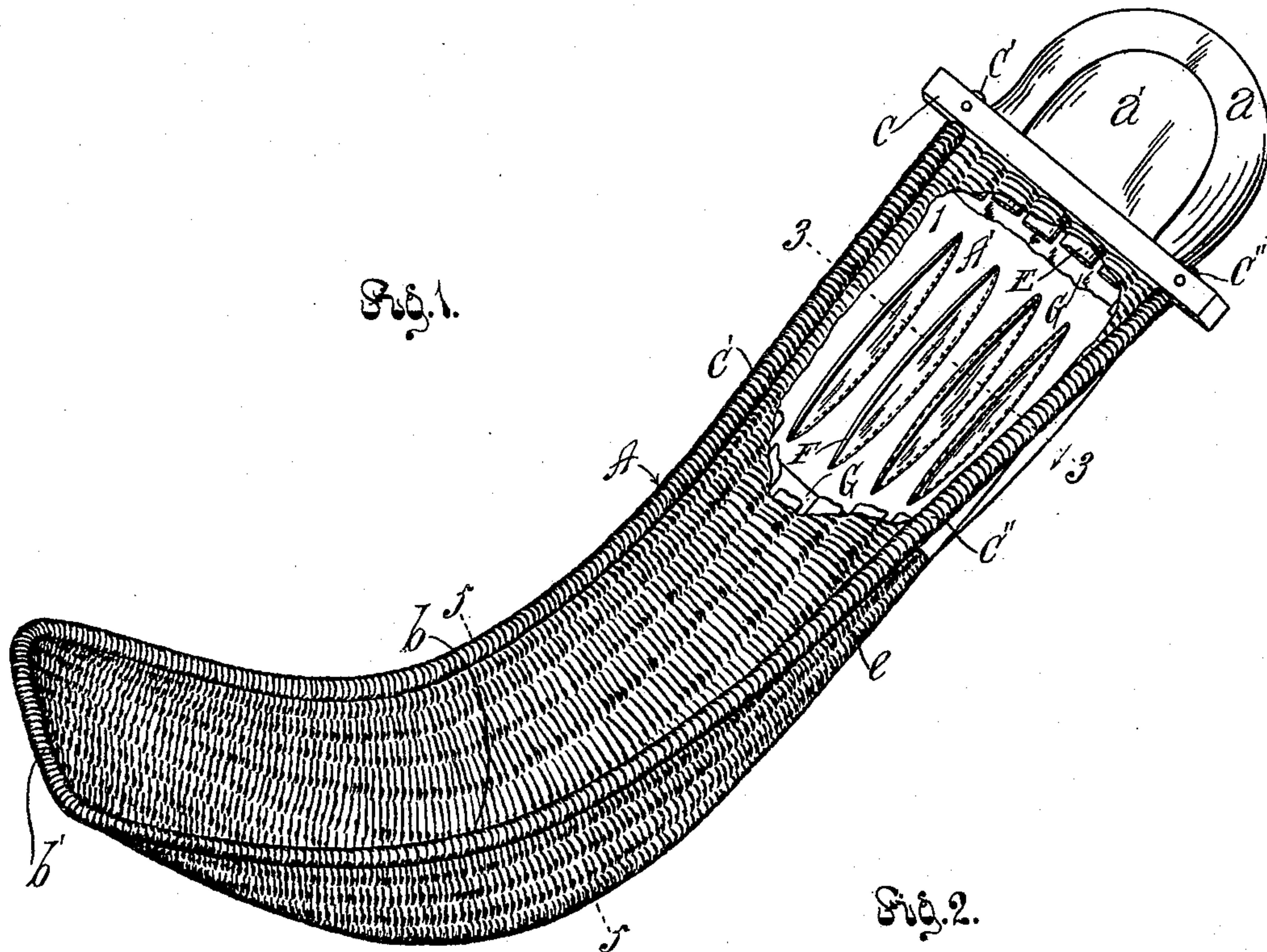
Patented Feb. 6, 1900.

A. B. SMITH.
CESTA OR HAND BALL BASKET BAT.

(Application filed July 25, 1898.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.



Witnesses
 George Kingman.
 J. Townsend.

Alphonse B. Smith
by Townsend Bros.
his atty.

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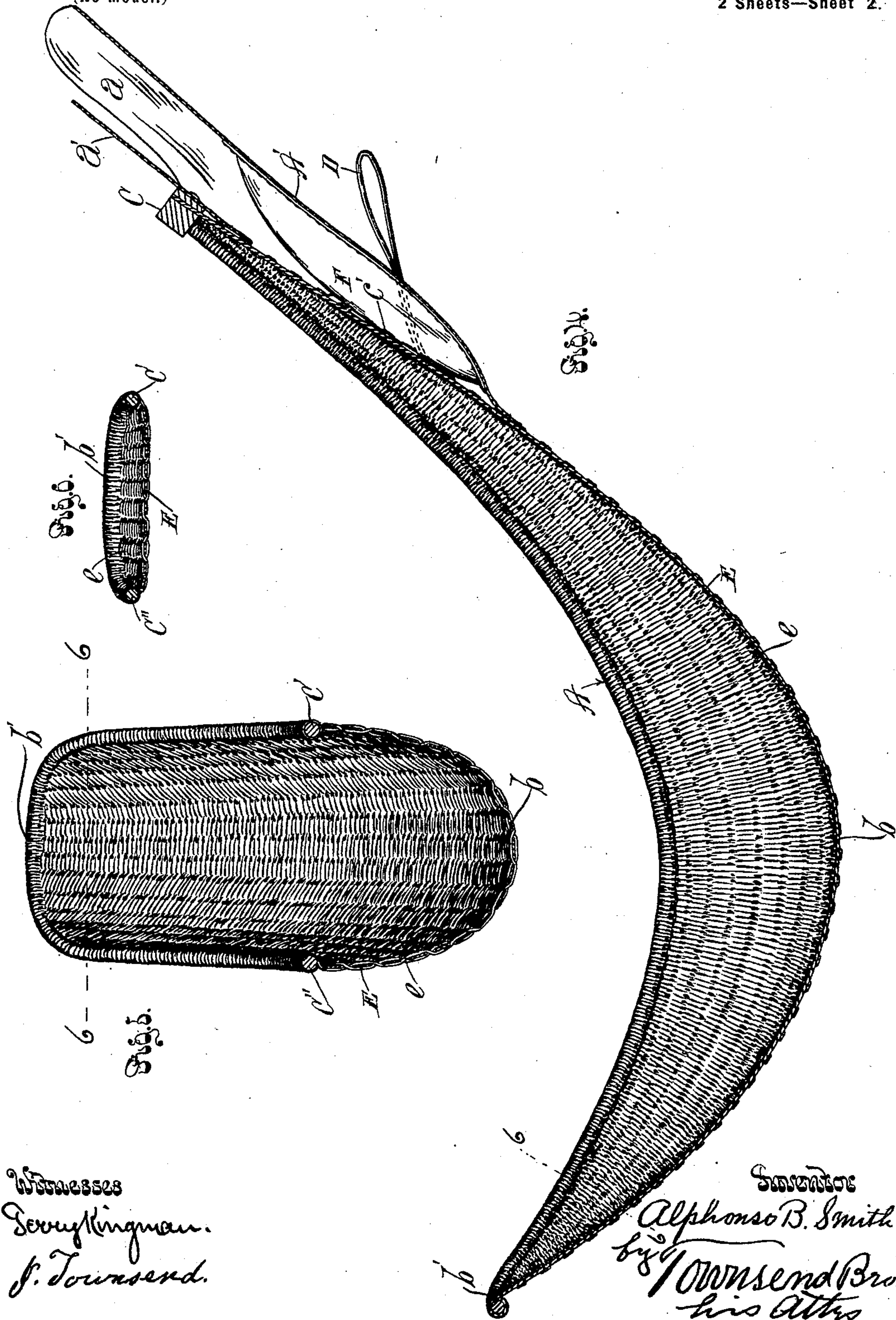
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CESTA OR HAND BALL BASKET BAT.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALPHONSO B. SMITH, OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

CESTA OR HAND-BALL BASKET-BAT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 642,638, dated February 6, 1900.

Application filed July 25, 1899. Serial No. 725,065. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALPHONSO B. SMITH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Los Angeles, in the county of Los Angeles and State of California, have invented a new and useful Cesta or Hand-Ball Basket-Bat, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in the hand basket-bat for use in playing "fronton."

In playing the game fronton the ball is caught by the player in the cesta or hand basket-bat which is attached to the hand of the player by means of a pouch at the upper end thereof in which the hand is inserted. The ball is projected from the cesta by a swinging movement of the hand and arm and in playing the game the ball is never touched by the player.

One object of my invention is to provide an improved cesta or hand-bat which will be very durable and which will serve to more perfectly retain the ball when the player has caught it therein, thereby giving the player greater control over the ball and also affording a more ready means for projecting the ball.

A further object of my invention is to provide means whereby the player will have perfect control over the motion of the cesta when catching or throwing the ball.

A further object of my invention is to provide means for firmly fastening the hand of the player within the glove or pouch of the cesta and to allow of the free movement of the wrist therein.

The accompanying drawings illustrate my invention.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved cesta, portions of the same being broken away to expose the partitions in the hand-retaining glove. Fig. 2 is a rear view of the cesta, indicating the manner of lacing around the wrist to retain the hand within the glove. Fig. 3 is an enlarged cross-section of the cesta and hand-retaining glove on line 3 3, Figs. 1 and 2. In this view the cesta is shown turned upside down. Fig. 4 is a longitudinal mid-section of the cesta. Fig. 5 is a cross-section through the bulge on line 5 5, Figs. 1, 2, and 4. Fig. 6 is a cross-section on line 6 6, Figs. 4 and 5.

A is the cesta.

A' is the hand-retaining glove.

B is the lacing for fastening the cesta to the hand.

C is a cross-bar which connects the two side members C' C''. The lacing B is woven back and forth over the ends of the cross-bar C.

D is a loop fastened to one of the slats of the cesta and coming up through one of the partitions of the glove.

E E are the slats of the cesta.

F F are the partitions in the glove.

a a' are leather flaps or shields to protect the wrist of the player from abrasion of the skin by the lacing-straps.

b is the ball-receiving bulge of the cesta.

b' is the flat point or nose.

c indicates stitching with which the end of the glove or sack is attached to the slats.

d is the free end of the lacing-strap.

e e is the wicker-work strips woven between the slats to form the basket and to hold the slats in place.

The sides of the glove are fastened to the side bars C' and C'' and to the cross-bar C by stitching or by any other suitable means, and the end thereof is held to the wicker-work by stitching or other suitable means.

The glove is formed of a flexible sheet 1, fastened at three edges to the back of the bat-body by the stitching c at the heel of the bat-body and slitted longitudinally intermediate its ends.

2, 3, 4, and 5 indicate the slits.

The partitions are preferably formed of flexible members, one for each slit, each of said members being fastened to the bat-body and to the sheet at the edges of the slit to which said member pertains. The members are preferably formed of one piece and folded longitudinally and fastened to the bat-body at the fold by any suitable means, such as the stitching c'. The partition members are preferably fastened to the bat-body at spaces apart which are narrower than the spaces between the slits, so that the walls of the partition set between the fingers and the bat-body. This gives a firm support to each of the fingers at the bat-body, but allows a certain freedom of movement to the fingers, which in practice will be held tight in the glove by bending the fingers as much as pos-

sible, the depth of the partitions being sufficient to allow a slight bending of the fingers for this purpose.

In practice the player inserts his hand in the glove A' and the partitions F F separate the fingers, thereby serving as a support and giving the player perfect control over the cesta. After the hand has been inserted into the glove the lacing-strap B, which is provided with a loop at one end, is thrown over the end *c''* of the cross-bar C, and the other end is passed through the loop D and around the other end of the cross-bar *c'''* and thence completely around the wrist of the player, on the outside of the shields *a a'*, and back to the end *c''* of the bar, thence around the wrist and back to the end *c'''*, thence around the wrist, and back to a convenient crossing-point, where the end is tucked under the lacing, as shown at *d*. This mode of attachment allows free movement of the wrist of the player, while the fingers are supported by the partitions of the glove.

The heel of the bat is broad and flat, and the bat tapers from the heel to the point, thus affording a sufficient breadth at the heel for attachment of the glove and support for the hand and providing a perfect guideway for directing the ball when it is thrown. The overhanging side bars C' C'' give greater strength and rigidity to the bat and assist in properly retaining and throwing the ball. The overhanging portion disappears at the toe or point of the bat.

The belly *b* of the cesta is of considerably greater depth than the remaining portion and serves to retain the ball when caught by the player. The side bars C' and C'' of the cesta are curved and parallel with each other and are formed of a single strip or bar, preferably of bamboo, which is curved into the desired shape, and the slats are of varying lengths, increasing from the sides of the bat toward the mid-width thereof, and are fastened to the cross-bar C at one end and to members C' C'' at the nose or point *b* at the other end, the shorter slats being near to the side bars C' and C'' and the longer slats being arranged in the middle. Wicker-work strips are then woven over the side bars and through and between the slats to firmly hold them together. The longer slats being in the mid-width and curved more in proportion to their length than the shorter slats form the belly or bulge to receive the ball. The side bars overhang the edges of the bulge. The glove portion is preferably made of leather, with a lining G of cloth over the wicker-work.

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

1. A cesta or hand-ball bat having a curved portion which is provided with a bulged receptacle.

2. In a cesta or hand-ball bat, the hand-retaining partitioned receptacle fastened thereto.

3. In a cesta, the combination of the hand-receiving glove fastened thereto; the wrist-protecting shields; and the lacing wound around the wrist and fastened to the cesta.

4. In a cesta, the combination of the glove having wrist-shield portions; the loop fastened to the slats and passing upward between the partitions of the glove; the lacing fastened to the end of the cross-bar of the cesta, thence through the loop, around the other end of the cross-bar and around the wrist of the player.

5. A cesta or hand-ball bat flat at the ends and curved intermediate the ends and provided with a ball-receiving bulge in the curved portion.

6. A cesta or hand-ball bat straight in cross-section at the nose, curved in the intermediate portion and provided at the curve with a bulge decreasing in depth toward the nose and heel of the bat.

7. A cesta or hand-ball bat straight in cross-section at the nose, curved in the intermediate portion and provided at the curve with a bulge decreasing in depth at the nose and heel of the bat; and inwardly-projecting side bars overhanging the cavity at the bulge.

8. A cesta or hand-ball bat provided with a bulge intermediate its ends and having side bars overhanging at the intermediate portion.

9. A cesta or hand-ball bat composed of a cross-bar at the heel; a bent member to form the edge bars of the cesta with ends fastened to the cross-bar; slats fastened at one end to the cross-bar and fastened at the other end to the bend of the bent member, the slats being tapered from the front end toward the middle and the slats increasing in length from the sides toward the mid-width of the bat and being bowed at their middles to form a bulge in the bat.

10. The combination with a cesta or hand-ball-bat body, of a flexible sheet fastened at three edges to the back of said body at the heel thereof and slitted longitudinally intermediate its ends; a plurality of flexible members, one for each slit, each of said members being fastened to the bat-body and fastened to the sheet at the edges of the slit to which said member pertains.

11. The combination with a cesta or hand-ball-bat body, of a flexible sheet fastened at three edges to the back of said body at the heel thereof and slitted longitudinally intermediate its ends; a plurality of flexible members, one for each slit, each of said members being folded longitudinally and fastened to the bat-body at the fold at spaces apart which are narrower than the spaces between the slits, and fastened at its edges to the sheet at the edges of the slit to which said member pertains, the spaces between the lines at which the folds are fastened to the bat-body being narrower than the spaces between the slits.

12. The combination of a cesta or hand-

ball-bat body, provided with longitudinally-
arranged slats; a flexible sheet fastened at
three edges to the back of said body at the
heel thereof and slitted longitudinally inter-
5 mediate its ends with spaces between the
slits greater than the width of the slats; a
plurality of flexible members, one for each
slit, each of said members being folded lon-
10 gitudinally and fastened at its edges to the
sheet at the edges of the slit to which said
member pertains; and stitches through the
folds of said members respectively to fasten
the folds to the ball-bat body.

13. A cesta or hand-ball bat provided on
15 its back at the heel of the cesta with a glove

fixed to the bat-body and a loop fastened to
the bat-body and extending between the fin-
gers of the glove.

14. A cesta or hand-ball bat provided on
its back with a glove with wrist-shields pro- 20
jecting beyond the heel of the bat; a loop
fastened to the bat-body and extending be-
tween fingers of the glove; a cord-retaining
device provided at the heel of the bat-body;
and a lacing-cord to be passed through the 25
loop and around the retainers.

ALPHONSO B. SMITH.

Witnesses:

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