

No. 665.799.

Patented Jan. 8, 1901.

G. W. POTTER, JR.

BUCKLE.

(Application filed May 5, 1899.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

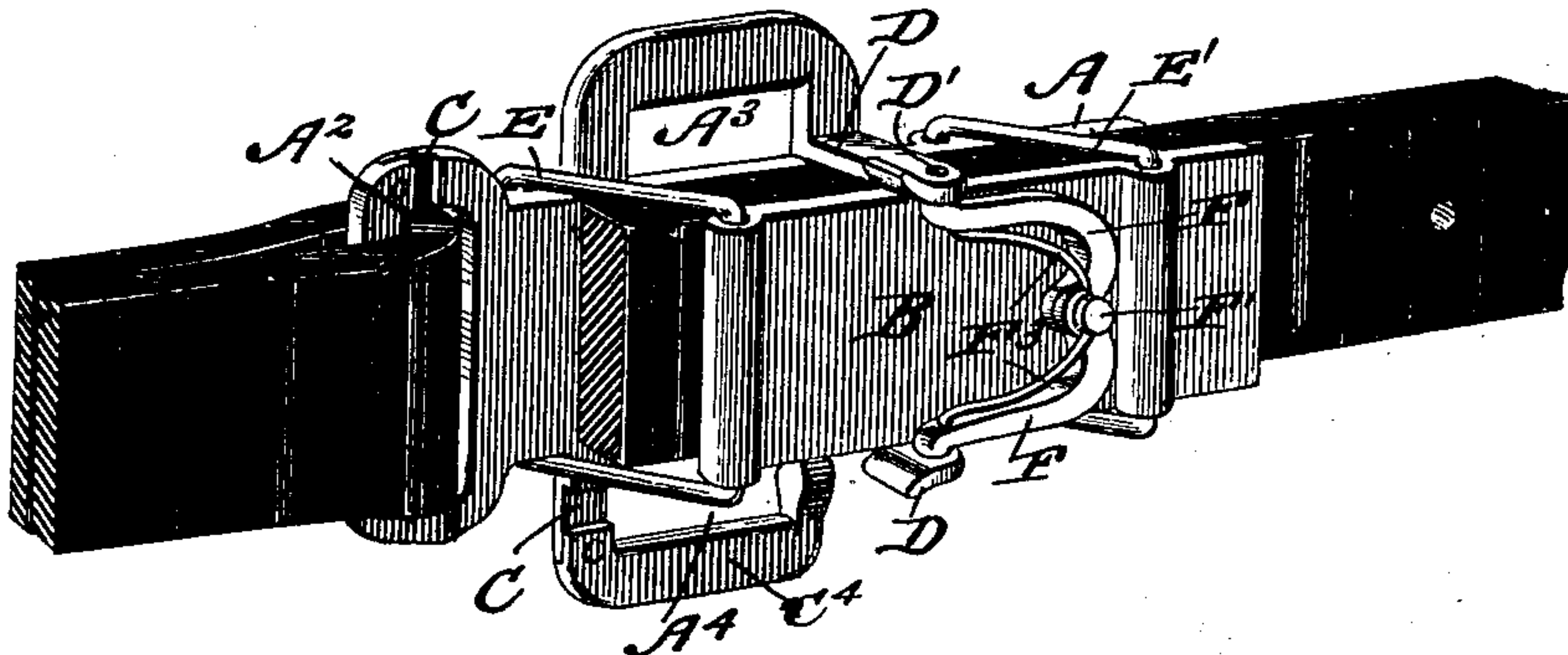


Fig. 2.

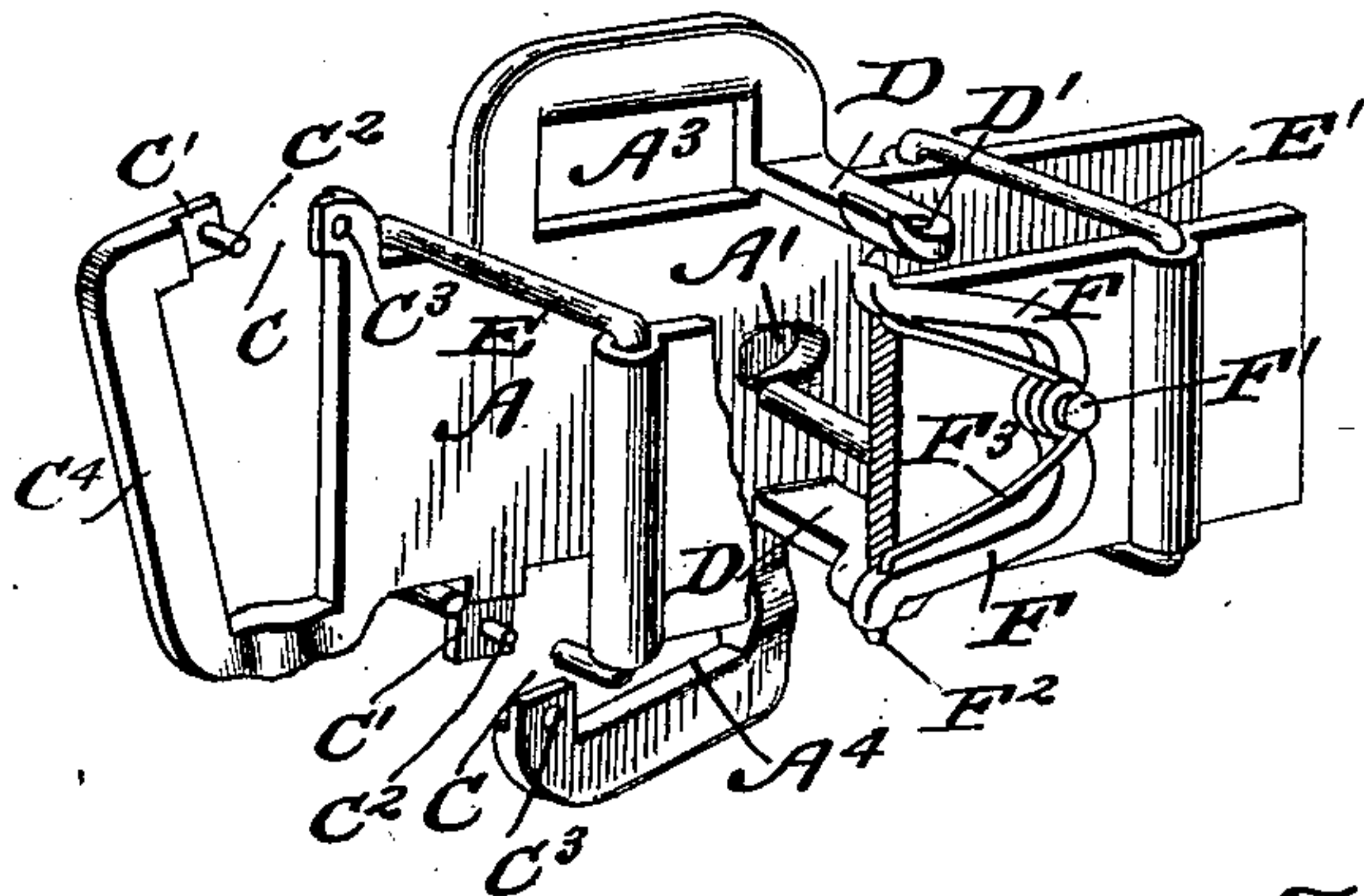


Fig. 3.

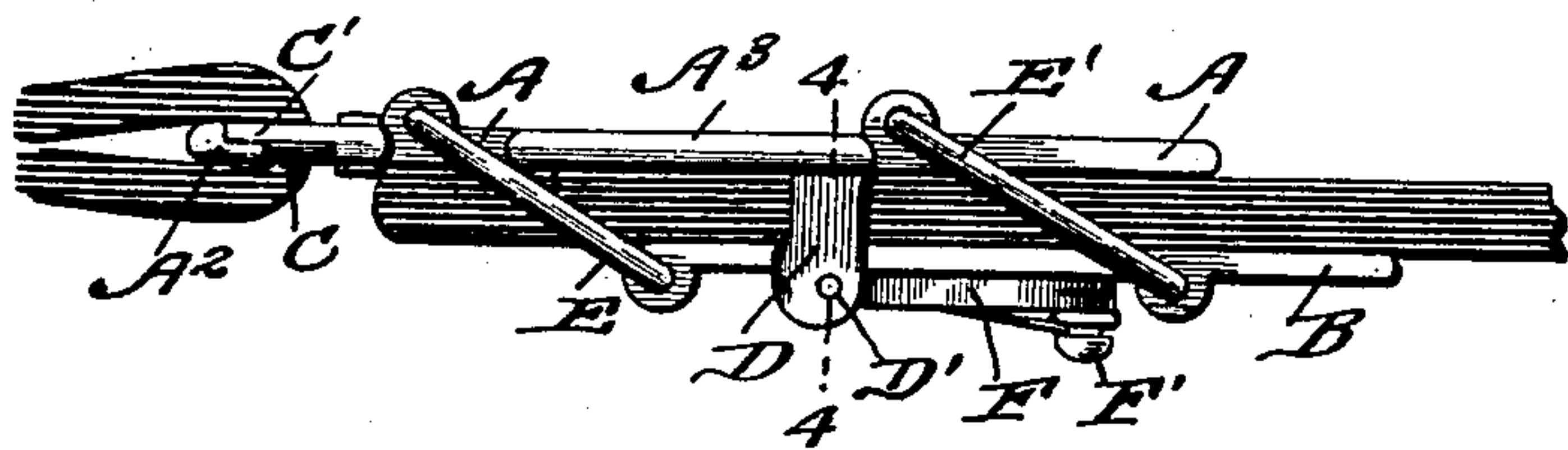


Fig. 4.

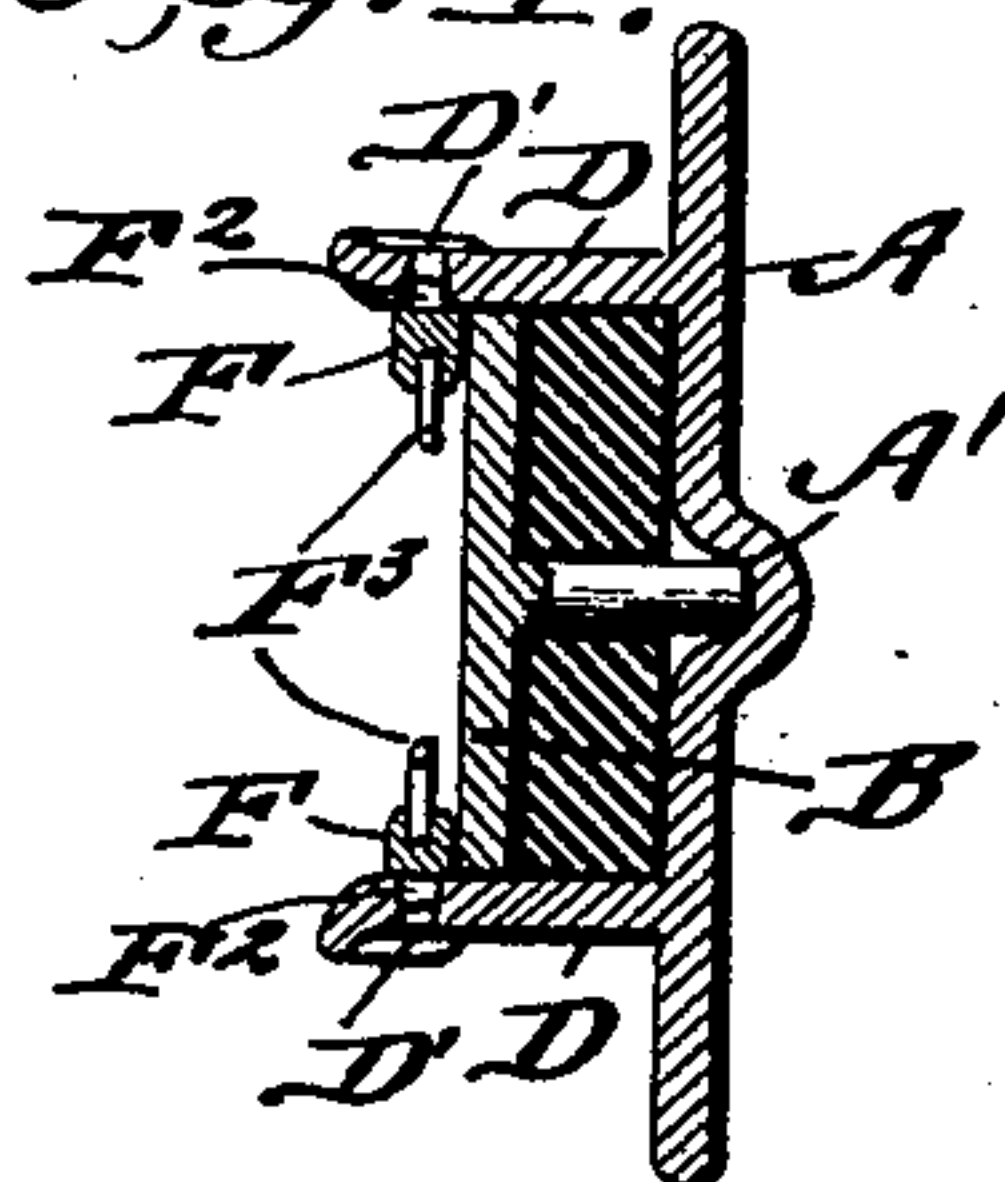


Fig. 5.

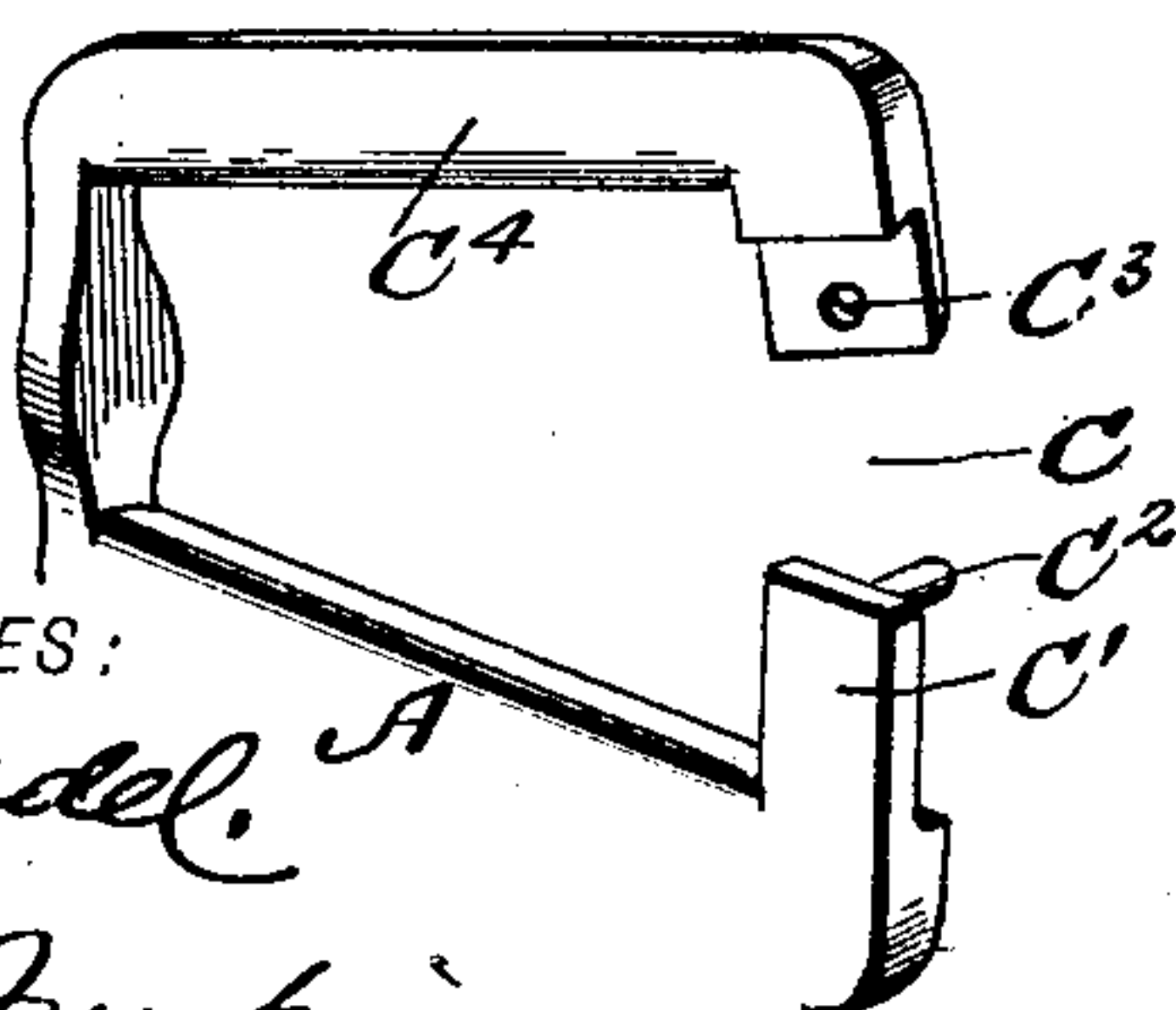
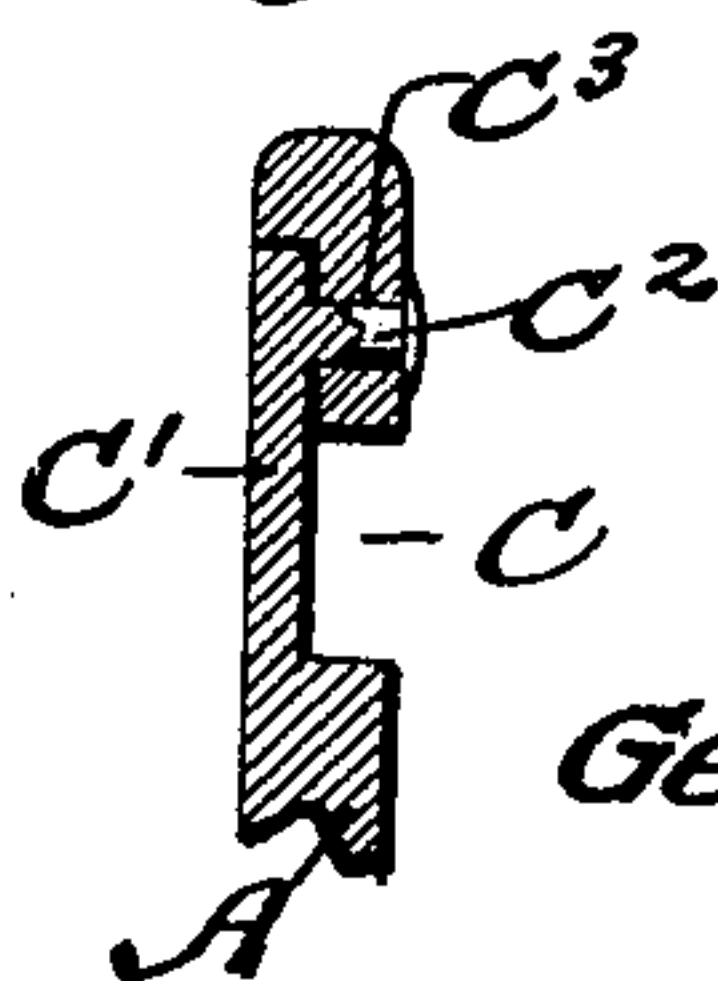


Fig. 6.



WITNESSES:

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE W. POTTER, JR., OF FAYETTE, MISSOURI.

## BUCKLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 665,799, dated January 8, 1901.

Application filed May 5, 1899. Serial No. 715,690. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, GEORGE W. POTTER, JR., residing at Fayette, in the county of Howard and State of Missouri, have made certain new and useful Improvements in Buckles, of which the following is a specification.

My invention is an improvement in buckles for use on harness, being in the nature of a tug-buckle and trace-carrier combined; and the invention consists in certain novel constructions and combinations of parts, as will be hereinafter described, and pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the invention as in use. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the buckle, the straps being removed. Fig. 3 is a top plan view of the buckle. Fig. 4 is a cross-sectional view on about line 4 4 of Fig. 3, and Figs. 5 and 6 are detail views.

The buckle, as shown, is formed with the base-plate A and the top plate B. The base-plate A is provided at A' with a seat for the point of the tongue on the plate B, and this seat A' is preferably in the form of a socket formed in the outer side of the base-plate, so the base-plate will protect the tongue from perspiration when the buckle is in use and so prevent the rusting of the tongue and the consequent sticking of the tongue in the holes in the tug and the rotting of the tug by the rusty tongue. This seat A' may project beyond the inner face of the base-plate, as shown in Fig. 4; but this is not necessary.

At its front end the plate A is provided with a loop A<sup>2</sup> for the hame-strap, and loops A<sup>3</sup> and A<sup>4</sup> are provided at the upper and lower edges of the plate A for the connection of the harness-straps, as will be understood from Fig. 1. The lower loop A<sup>4</sup> and the front loop A<sup>2</sup> are each provided with a slot C for the insertion of the harness-straps, and lugs C' are arranged to extend over this slot and have studs C<sup>2</sup>, which pass through perforations C<sup>3</sup> and are riveted when the plates C<sup>4</sup> are bent back, thus forming means for closing the slot C when the strap has been inserted. The base-plate A is also provided with lugs D, which project up alongside the plate B and are provided near their upper ends with openings D', which are entered by the studs on

the latch-bars mounted on the plate B and presently described.

The top plate B is connected at its front and rear ends with the base-plate A by means of the swinging loops E and E', which are pivoted at their inner and outer ends, respectively, to the base and top plates, so the top plate can swing back and forth over the base-plate and so it will be drawn back by the pressure on the tug when the tongue of the top plate is forced into one of the openings of the tug in the operation of the buckle. On the outer side of the top plate B, I provide the latches F, which are pivoted at F', are provided at their free ends with the lateral studs F<sup>2</sup> to enter the openings D' of the lugs D, and are actuated outward into engagement with such lugs by the spring F<sup>3</sup>, as shown in the drawings.

In the operation of the buckle it is suitably secured to the strap leading back from the hames and is supported by the back-strap of the harness. The tug can be inserted between the top and base plates, and the tongue of the top plate is inserted in the proper one of the holes of the tug, this operation requiring the swinging of the top plate backward and down upon the tug and forcing the point of the tongue into engagement with the base-plate. When the top plate has been adjusted to this position, the studs on the latches will automatically engage with the lugs D, projecting from the base-plate, and will lock the top plate, so the buckle cannot jar loose or the tug become otherwise accidentally released from the buckle. When it is desired to release the tug, it is only necessary to release the latches and swing the top plate up to free its tongue from the tug, when the latter can be readily withdrawn.

It will be noticed that the back plate or top plate B rests flat upon the tug and tends to prevent the splitting of the tug by the tongue; also, that the buckling or unbuckling of the tug is effected without requiring any bending of the tug, so the buckle can be readily changed from eye to eye of the tug. The buckle is also self-adjusting to the different thicknesses of the tugs, and the strain on the tug tends to close the buckle and increase the hold of same.



By avoiding any bending of the tug in buckling and unbuckling I avoid the cracking of the leather incident to such bending, as well as the breaking of the stitches, which frequently results from the frequent bending of tugs when used with the ordinary buckles.

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

1. A buckle comprising the base-plate having a seat for the point of a tongue and having at its upper lower and front edges, loops for connection with the harness-straps and having the front and lower loops provided with slots for the insertion of the harness-straps and with means for closing such slots, the top plate, the swinging loops connecting the top and base plates, the tongue on the

under side of the top plate, lugs on the base-plate projecting alongside the top plate, and latches on the top plate and arranged to engage the said lugs on the base-plate and lock the buckle substantially as set forth.

2. The combination of the base-plate, the top plate having the tongue, and connections between the top and base plates whereby the top plate can swing toward and from the base-plate, the lugs on the base-plate and projecting alongside the top plate, and the latch devices on the top plate and engaging said lugs whereby to lock the buckle substantially as set forth.

GEORGE W. POTTER, JR.

Witnesses:

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