

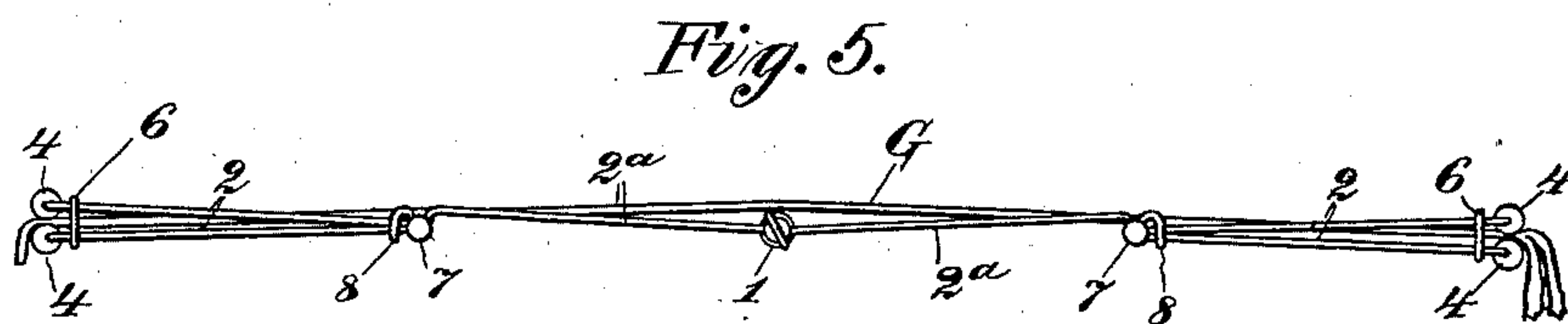
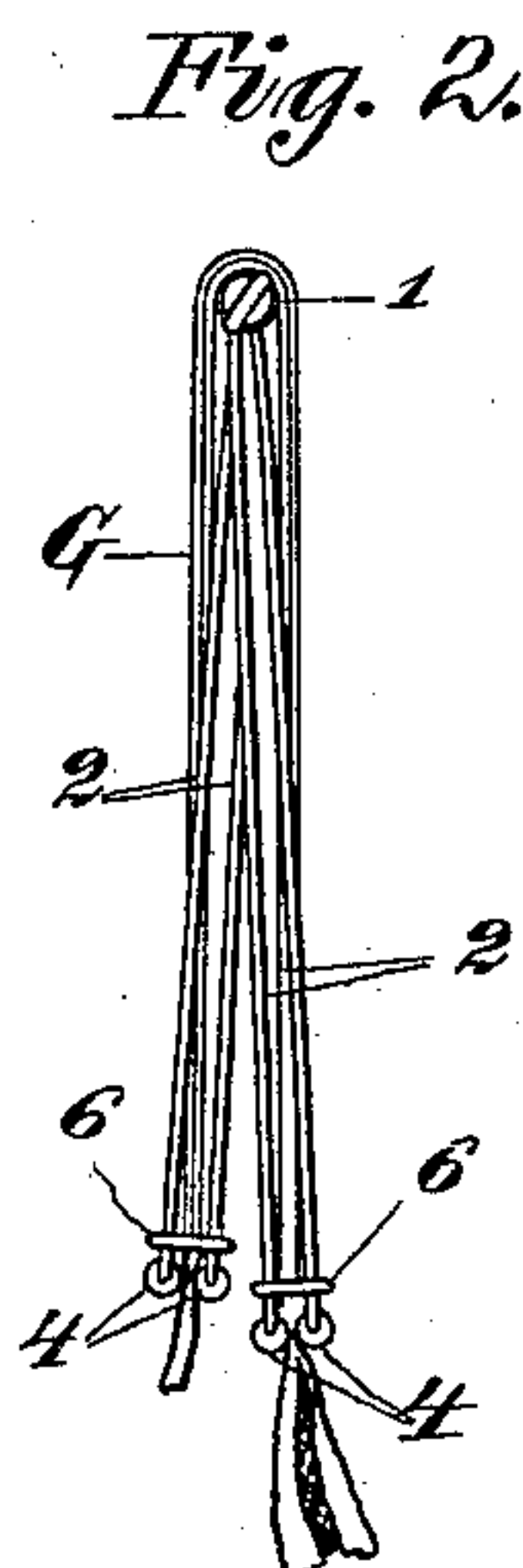
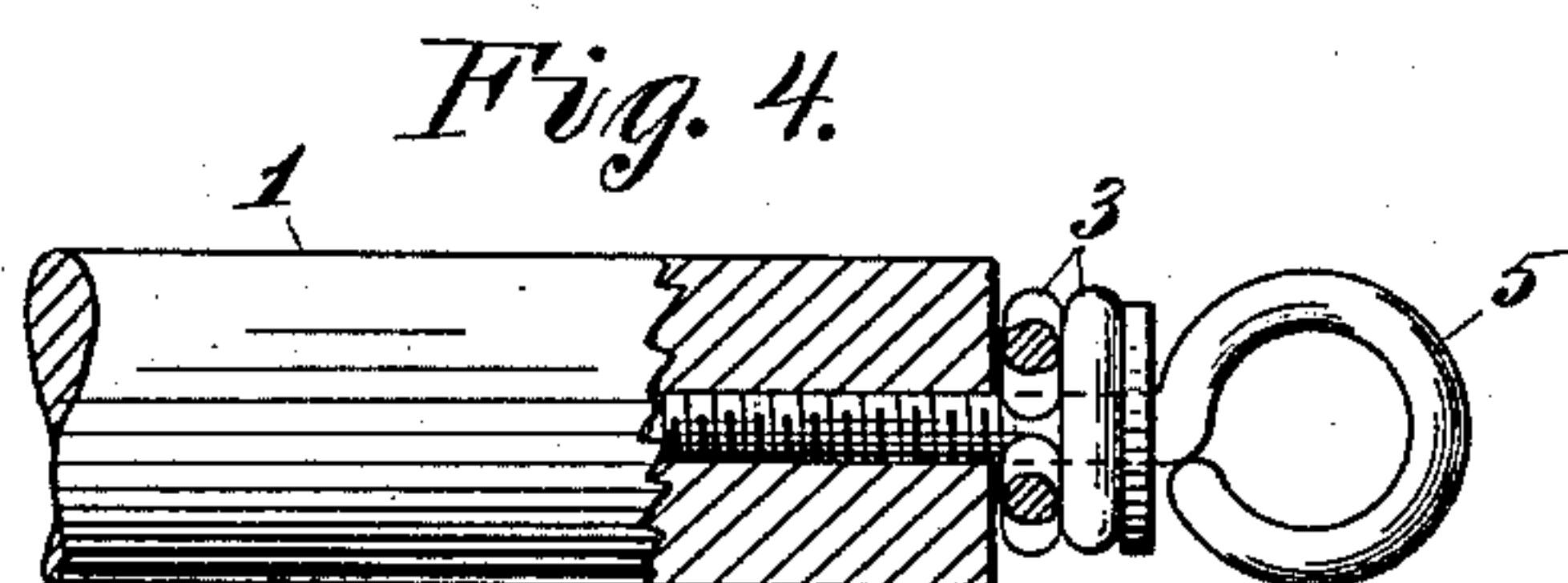
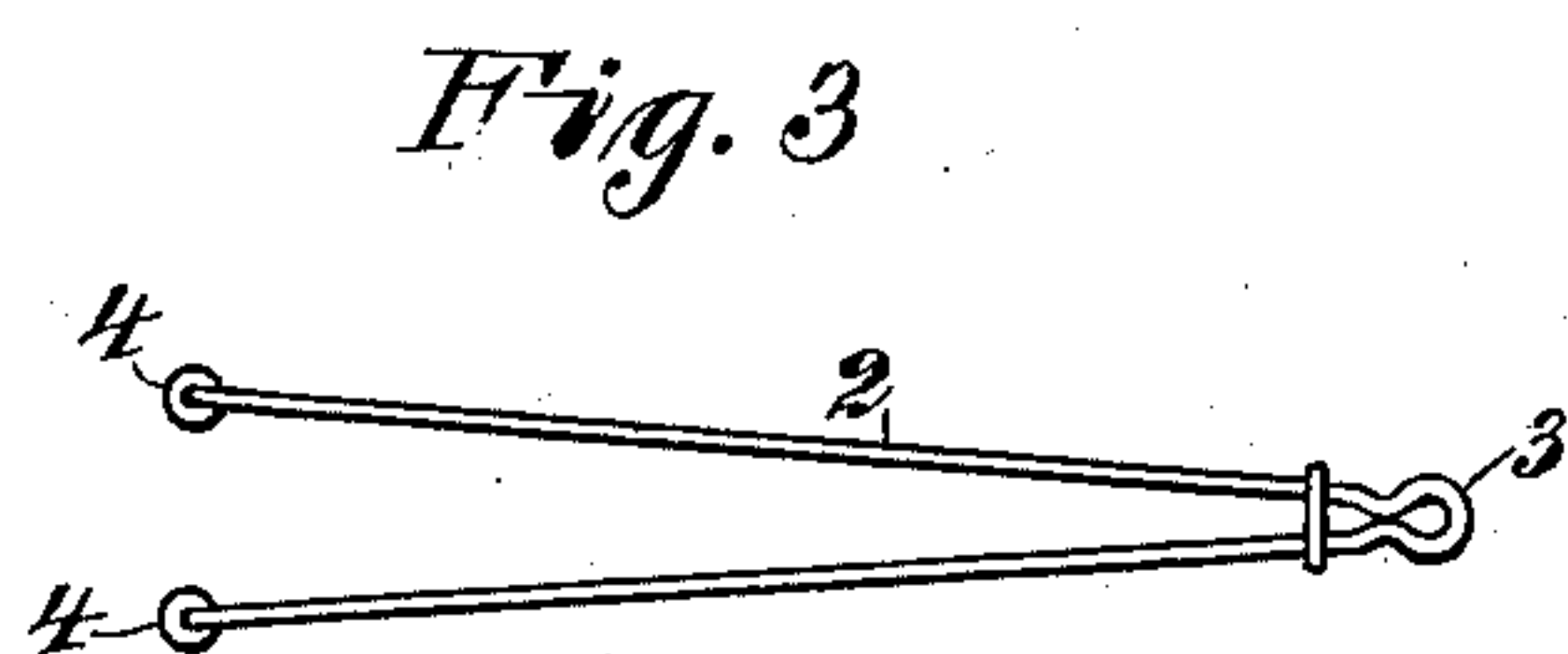
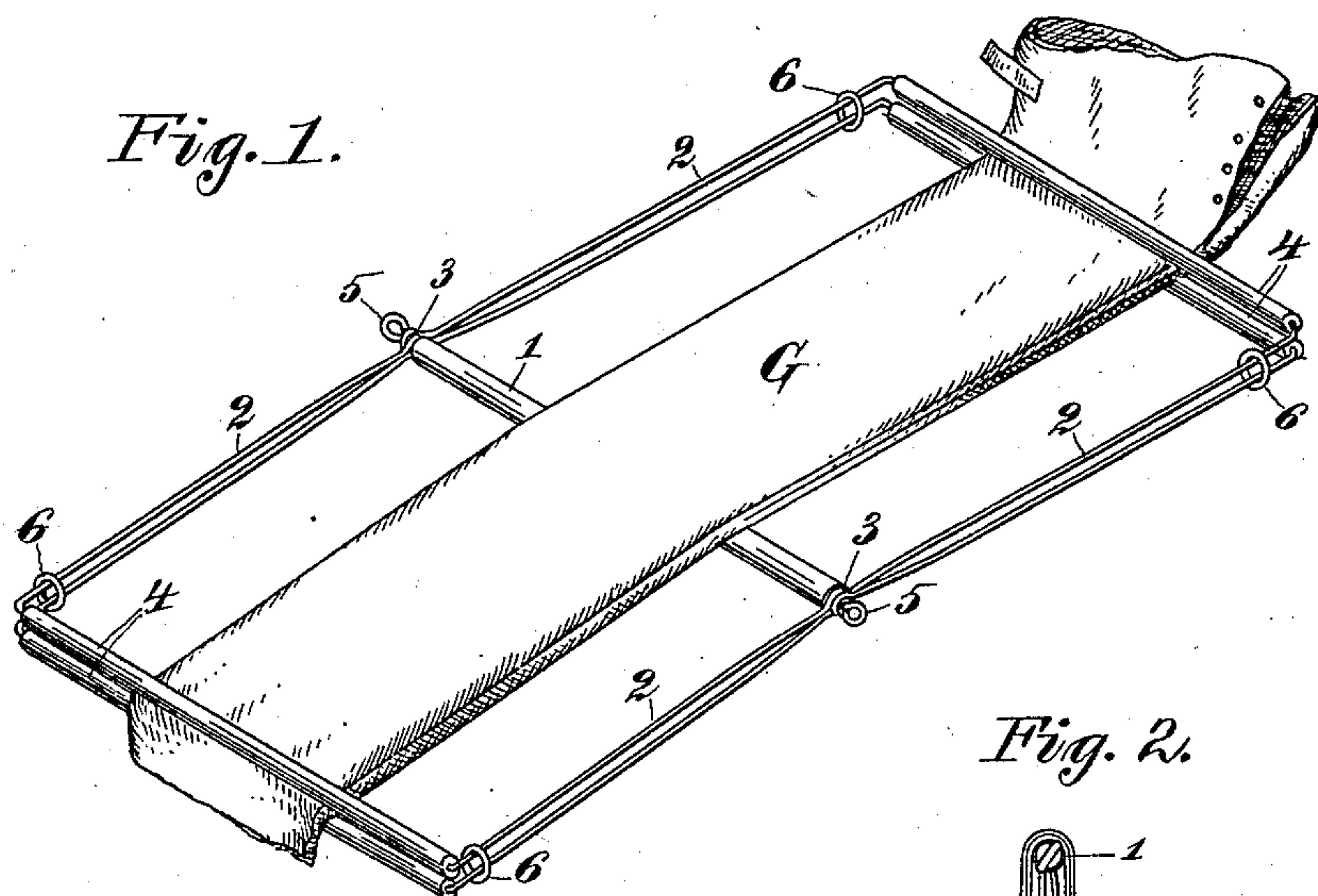
No. 673,197.

Patented Apr. 30. 1901.

A. L. COLLINS.
GARMENT STRETCHER.

(Application filed June 30, 1900.)

(No Model.)



WITNESSES

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ARTHUR L. COLLINS, OF SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

GARMENT-STRETCHER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 673,197, dated April 30, 1901.

Application filed June 30, 1900. Serial No. 22,114. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ARTHUR L. COLLINS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Scranton, in the county of Lackawanna and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Garment-Stretchers, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to the class of devices designed for stretching trousers to prevent the bagging or set at the knees thereof; and the purpose is to provide a simple, inexpensive, and compact folding stretcher which will accomplish the object sought with perfect satisfaction.

In the drawings which serve to illustrate the invention, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the stretcher, showing the garment clamped in it; and Fig. 2 is an edge view showing the stretcher folded and the garment thereon stretched. Fig. 3 shows one of the clamping-arms detached. Fig. 4 is an enlarged view of the stretching roller or bar and illustrating the hinging of the clamping-arms thereto. Fig. 5 illustrates a form of the stretcher where there is an intermediate locking hinge or joint in each flap to enable the stretcher to be folded up more compactly.

Referring primarily to Figs. 1 to 4, the stretcher comprises a stretching roller or bar 1, with two clamping-flaps hinged thereto. When the device is laid flat, the garment G, clamped therein, as seen in Fig. 1, and the flaps folded, as seen in Fig. 2, the garment will be drawn over the bar 1 and stretched. The stretcher and garment, folded as in Fig. 2, may be packed in a dressing-case, traveling-bag or trunk, if desired.

Each flap of the stretcher consists of two clamping-arms 2, each of which is formed, preferably, from a single piece of stout wire, Fig. 3, bent or folded at the middle, where a hinging-eye 3 is formed. The two arms forming a flap are connected by two clamp rods or bars 4, which extend across from one arm to the other and are fastened at their ends to the extremities of the corresponding branches of the arms, as clearly shown. It is convenient to make the bars 1 and 4 of wood and cylindrical in form, but this is not essential to the invention. The eyes 3 on the arms 2 may be hinged on the stem of a screw-eye 5, driven into the end of the bar 1, as seen in Fig. 4, but

any suitable hinging screw or pin may be employed in lieu of a screw-eye. The free end of each of the branches of the wire arm 2 may have a short length or portion of the wire bent at a right angle to the arm and this portion be driven into the end of the bar 4 to form a fastening.

The flaps are alike in construction; but one may be made a little shorter than the other, so as to fold into the latter, and thus reduce the thickness in packing the stretchers for storage or shipment.

On each arm 2 is a slide-ring 6, which when moved out along the branches of the arm draws the latter together and causes the bars 4 to clamp the garment G tightly.

The operation has been sufficiently explained. It need only be said that any garment or article may be stretched in the device either in a wet or dry state. If wet, it may be allowed to dry while stretched and smooth.

Fig. 5 shows a form of the stretcher where there is a joint in the flap, so that each flap may be folded at the middle for economy of space in packing. In this construction the clamping-arm 2 is pivotally connected or hinged at 7 to an arm 2^a, which latter is hinged to the bar 1. This arm 2^a is here shown as of wire, with an eye to receive the hinge-pin at 7 and a stirrup 8 formed in it to engage the arm 2 and prevent any flexure at the joint 7 while the garment is being stretched.

The arms 2 may be of ordinary heavy iron wire, which will have spring enough to cause them to spring apart normally; but steel wire would be preferable. It is this construction of the arms 2, which carry the clamping-bars 4, of spring-wire, in one piece, of V form, with the hinging-eye 3 produced therein at the bend, that forms the important feature of the invention so far as relates to cheapness and simplicity of construction and convenience in use.

I am aware that it is not new to form a clamp in a garment-stretcher of wooden clamping-frames hinged to the main frames; but these do not spring apart when released and have not the qualities of simplicity and cheapness that reside in my stretcher.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

1. In a folding garment-stretcher, the combination with the transverse stretching-bar, of the two clamping-flaps, each consisting of two spring wire arms, each formed by bending the wire at its middle and forming a hinging-eye at the bend or bight where it is hinged to the said transverse bar, two clamping-bars 4, connecting the corresponding branches of the respective arms, and means for bringing said bars 4 together in clamping, substantially as set forth.

2. In a folding garment-stretcher, the combination with the transverse stretching-bar, of the two clamping-flaps, each consisting of two spring wire arms 2, each formed by bending

the wire at its middle and forming a hinging-eye at the bend or bight where it is hinged to the said transverse bar, two bars 4, of wood, said bars connecting the corresponding branches of the respective arms, and slide-rings 5 on said branches, substantially as set forth.

In witness whereof I have hereunto signed my name, this 27th day of June, 1900, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ARTHUR L. COLLINS.

Witnesses:

WATSON BROWNING,
J. LAWRENCE STELLE.