

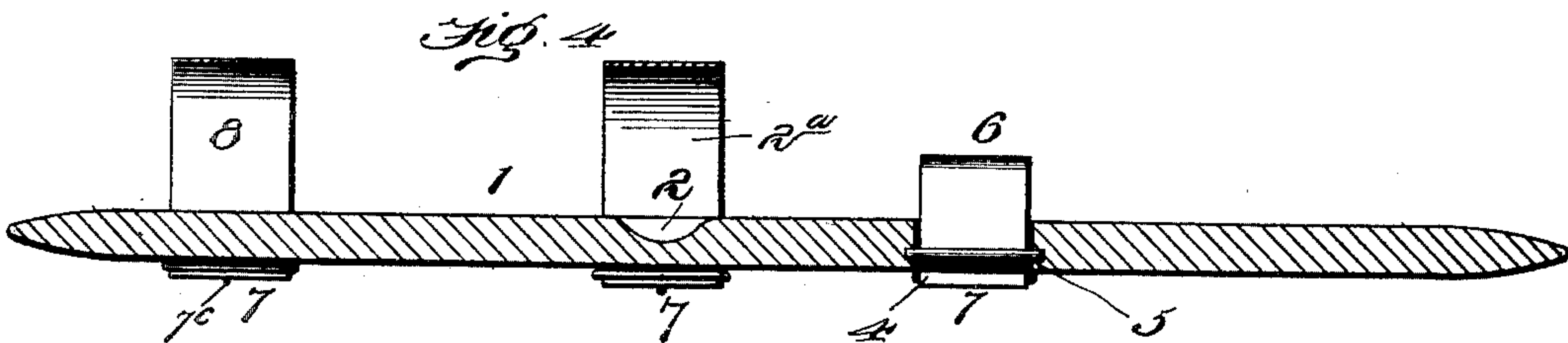
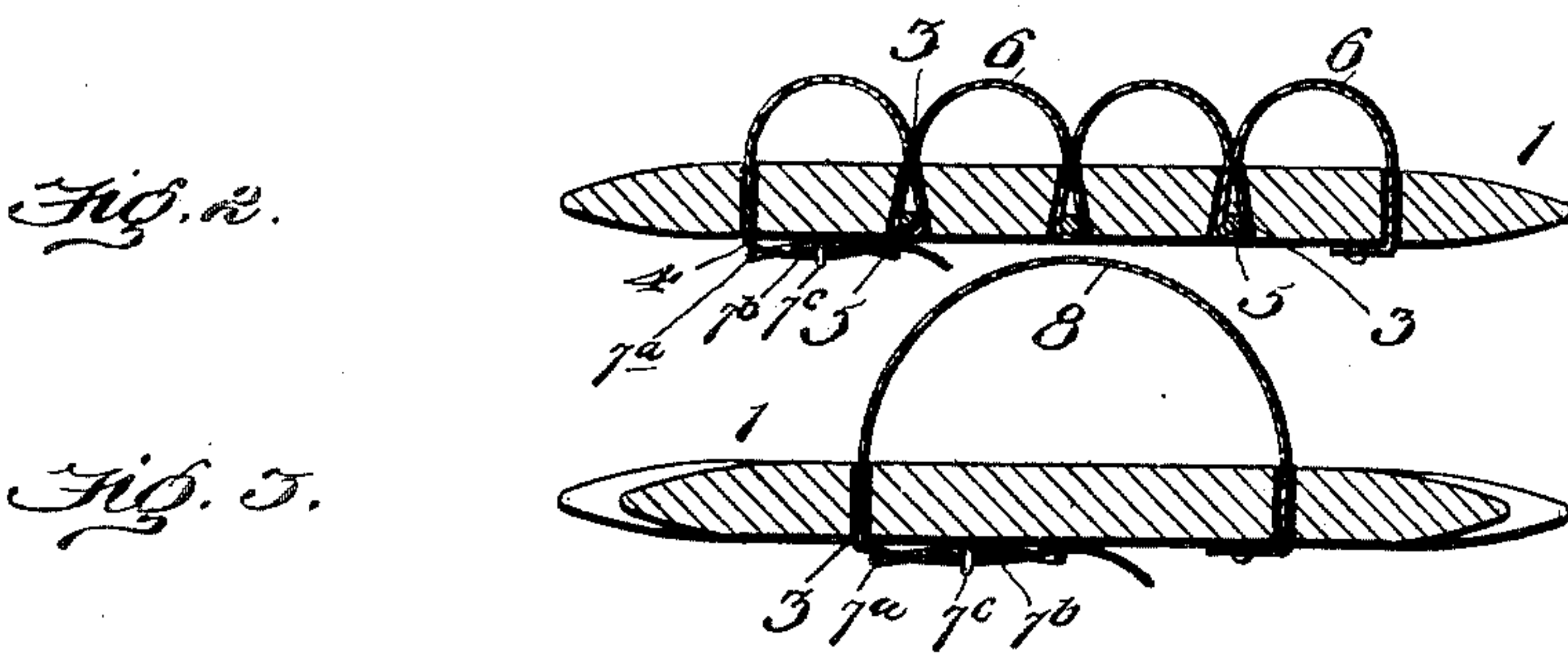
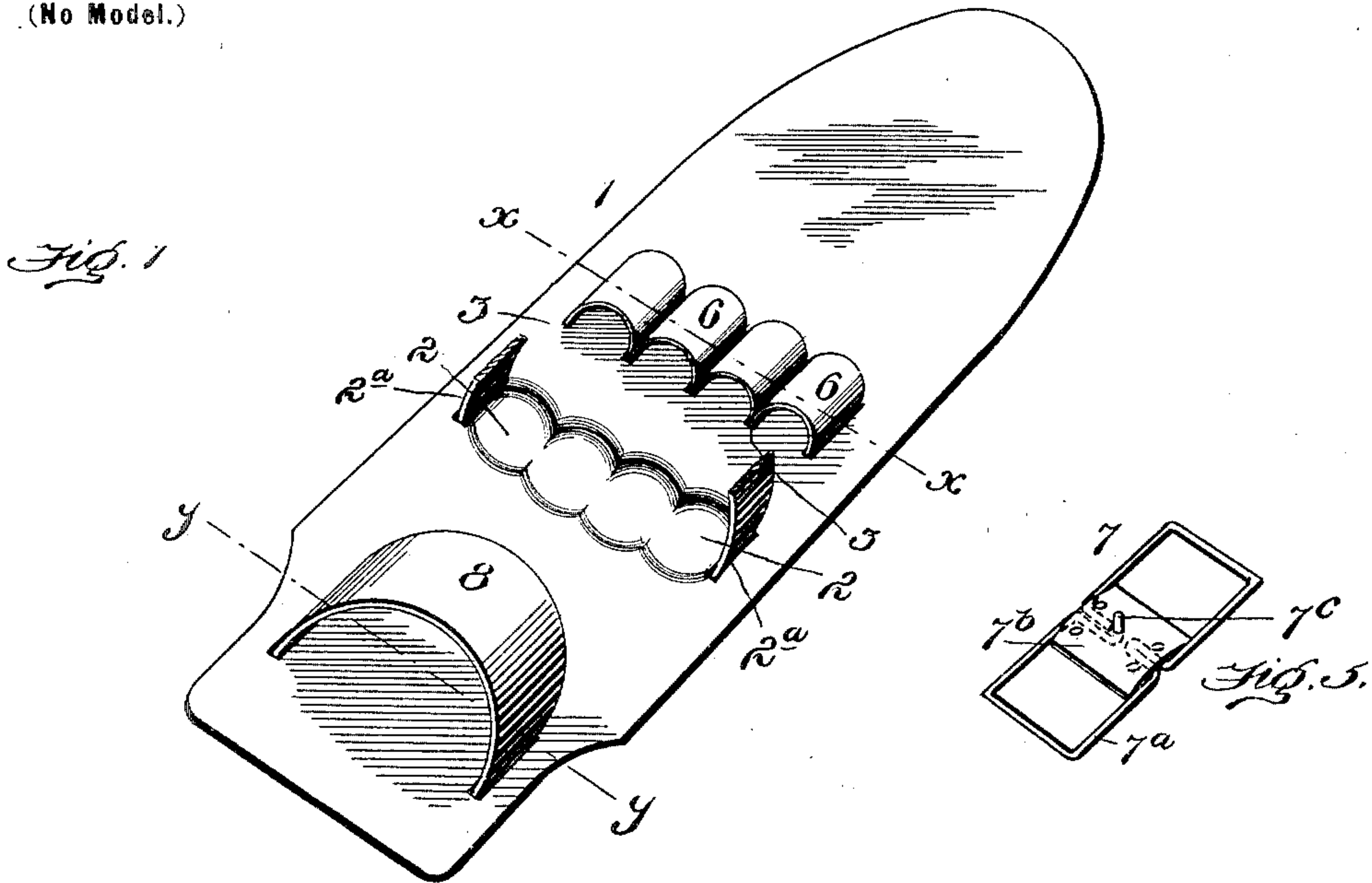
No. 675,695.

Patented June 4, 1901.

L. C. WHITCOMB.
SWIMMING DEVICE.

(Application filed Jan. 24, 1901.)

..(No Model.)



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LEWIS C. WHITCOMB, OF SPRINGRANCH, NEBRASKA.

SWIMMING DEVICE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 675,695, dated June 4, 1901.

Application filed January 24, 1901. Serial No. 44,600. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LEWIS C. WHITCOMB, a citizen of the United States, residing at Spring-ranch, in the county of Clay and State of Ne-braska, have invented certain new and useful
5 Improvements in Swimming Devices; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and ex-act description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it ap-
10 pertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to improvements in
15 what may be termed "swimming devices or apparatus." It has for its object, among other things, more especially to afford aid in an emergency—as, for instance, in case of the sinking of a battle-ship, thus providing for
20 great saving of life, shipwreck, or like casu-alty or accident, as well as to assist a swim-mer in propelling himself through the water—while it is easily and quickly applied, is adapt-ed to be readily accessible for service, and is
25 simple and inexpensive of manufacture.

It consists of peculiarities of construction and the combination and arrangement of the parts, substantially as hereinafter more fully disclosed, and specifically pointed out by the
30 claims.

In the accompanying drawings, illustrating the preferred embodiment of my invention, Figure 1 is a perspective view. Figs. 2 and 3 are cross-sections taken on the lines *xx* and
35 *yy* of Fig. 1, respectively. Fig. 4 is a longi-tudinal section. Fig. 5 is a detached per-spective view of the finger-loop-strap-secur-ing clamp or buckle.

Latitude is allowed herein as to details, as
40 they may be changed or varied, according to circumstances, without departing from the spirit of my invention and the same yet re-main intact and be protected.

In the embodiment of my invention I pro-
45 vide a suitably-shaped paddle or blade 1, preferably of wood, of which two are em-ployed in practice, preferably having feath-ering lateral and end edges to promote cleav-ing the water with the minimum resistance as
50 the swimmer propels himself therethrough. Said paddle or blade has at opposite points to the knuckles of the hand of the user or swim-

mer cavities or seats 2 2, adapted to readily receive and fulcrum the knuckles therein with the movement thereof in manipulating
55 the paddles or blades, thus increasing or aug-menting the purchase of the hand thereon.

Suitably rove or passed through holes 3, formed or made in the paddle or blade 1, is a continuous finger-loop-forming strap or web
60 4, with one end fixed to said paddle or blade by riveting or otherwise, and its other end fastened securely but readily detachably to the blade or paddle. The strap 4 as it is rove through the holes 3 is passed over pins
65 or partitions 5, one arranged in each hole, to provide for forming the finger-receiving loops 6 all upon one and the same side of the pad-dle or blade by such reeving of such strap, as will be readily appreciated. Also applied
70 to said paddle is a similarly-secured single-looped strap 2^a spanning or bridging the knuckle-cavities to provide for the retention of the paddle upon the hand when the fingers are withdrawn from the loops 6, as in grasp-
75 ing another support.

The fastening or buckle 7 for the one or de-tachable end of the strap or web 4 consists of a frame 7^a, of spring-metal wire, preferably bent rectangularly in general outline and re-
80 versely bent or looped back upon itself to form continuously therewith cross-bars, as it were, of a plate 7^b, with a preferably-rounded outer surface, and of a tongue or stud 7^c, forming a continuation of said wire and ex-
85 tending up through said plate. Said plate is suitably secured to the paddle, with the frame 7^a interposed therebetween, rivets or fasten-ings being passed through said plate and pad-dle and headed down in place. It will be ob-
90 served that after the finger-loop-forming strap or web has been passed through the final hole 3 to the left it is carried under the near end bar of the frame of the fastening or buckle, said end bar springing or snapping back upon the
95 strap. It is thence carried through said buckle, the tongue or stud 7^c being inserted into a coincident hole therein, and finally un-der the other or distant end bar of said buckle, also springing or snapping back upon the
100 strap, thus effectually securing the strap at its detachable end to the blade or paddle, as desirable, as will be readily understood. Said paddle or blade has also a similarly-secured

and end detachable wrist or arm loop forming strap 8, one or more, to hold the paddle or blade at that point to the arm or wrist of the swimmer or user. It will also be observed
 5 that in the use of my paddle or blade it is readily reversible from the back to the front of the hand, or vice versa, as may be required, according to the convenience of the user or swimmer in the act of swimming, and that the
 10 fingers can easily be withdrawn from the finger-receiving loops of the securing-strap to permit the hand to be readily manipulated, as in grasping any other article or support, &c.

The characteristic features of my invention
 15 are that it is reversible, feather-edged, life-preserving, capable of adjustment to accommodate different-sized hands, adapted to receive the knuckles of the hand of the user, is buoyant, can be readily or instantly shifted
 20 from the front to the back of the hand or from the back to the front of the hand, as may be required, and is adapted to permit the untrammelled use of the hand in grasping any other article or support, as in making a place
 25 of safety, &c.

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

1. A device of the character described, comprising a paddle or blade having a series of
 30 knuckle-receiving cavities or seats and means for attaching said paddle or blade to the hand of the swimmer, substantially as set forth.

2. A device of the character described, comprising a paddle or blade having a series of
 35 finger-receiving loops and a series of knuckle-receiving cavities or seats, substantially as set forth.

3. A device of the character described, com-

prising a paddle or blade having a series of
 40 finger-receiving loops formed of a continuous or single strap or web with its ends suitably secured thereto and itself rove through a series of holes in the blade or paddle, substantially as set forth.

4. A device of the character described, comprising a series of finger-receiving loops
 45 formed of a continuous strap or web with its ends connected to said paddle or blade, and itself rove through a series of holes in said
 50 paddle, said holes having arranged therein, a series of pins around which is passed said strap, substantially as set forth.

5. A device of the character described, comprising a paddle or blade having a finger-loop-
 55 forming strap, and a fastening or buckle for said strap consisting of a spring-metal frame and a plate secured to said paddle and said frame and having a tongue or stud engaging
 60 said strap, said frame also adapted to engage the strap, at its ends, substantially as specified.

6. A device of the character described, comprising a paddle or blade having a finger-loop-
 65 forming strap and a fastening or buckle for said strap consisting of a frame and a plate secured to said paddle and said frame, said frame being formed of a spring-metal wire bent into shape, with one end extending up
 70 through said plate, to form a stud or tongue adapted to engage said strap, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

LEWIS C. WHITCOMB.

Witnesses:

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 J. W. MISTER.