

No. 682,366.

Patented Sept. 10, 1901.

F. H. NIES.  
SHOE FORM.

(Application filed Jan. 2, 1901.)

(No Model.)

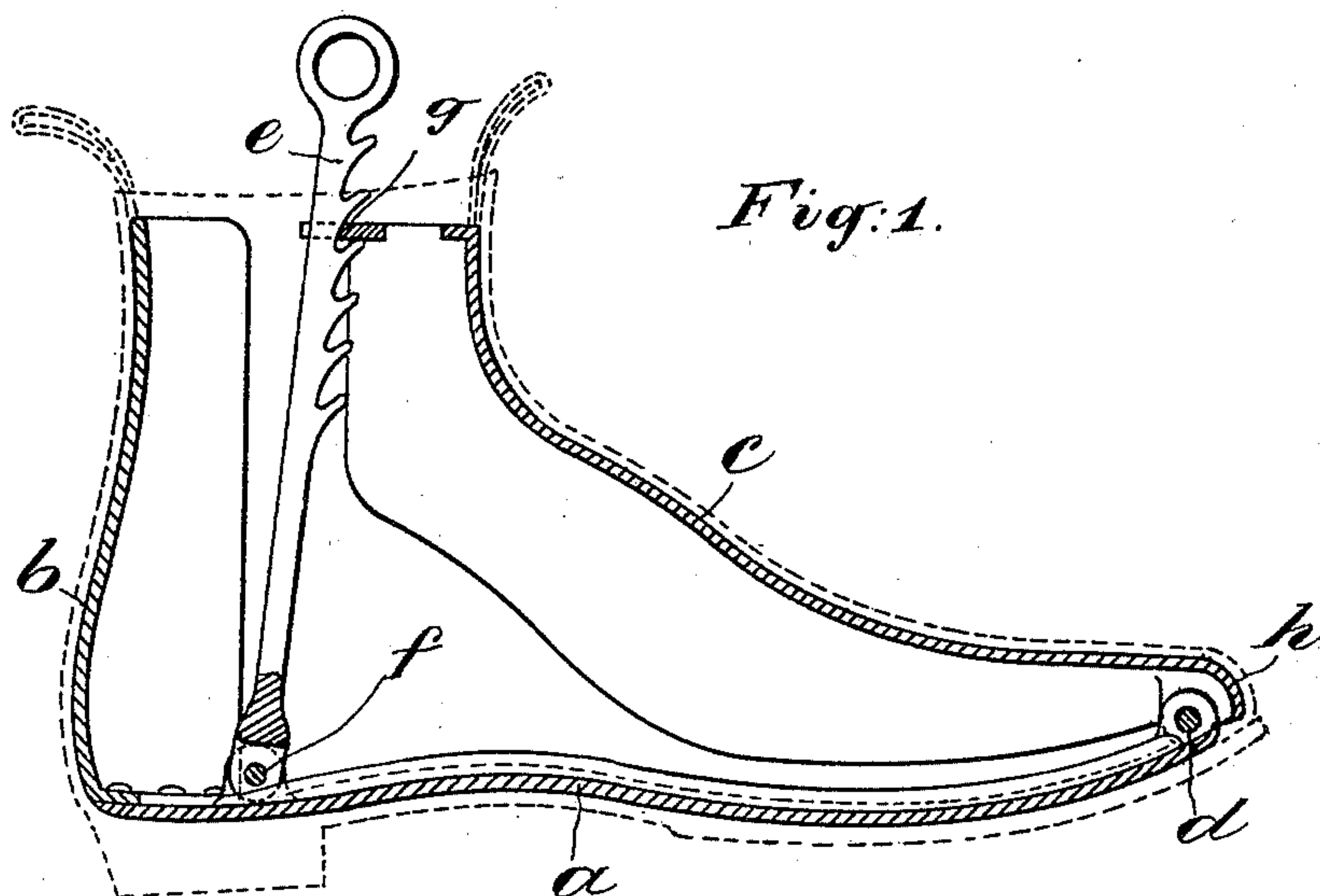


Fig. 1.

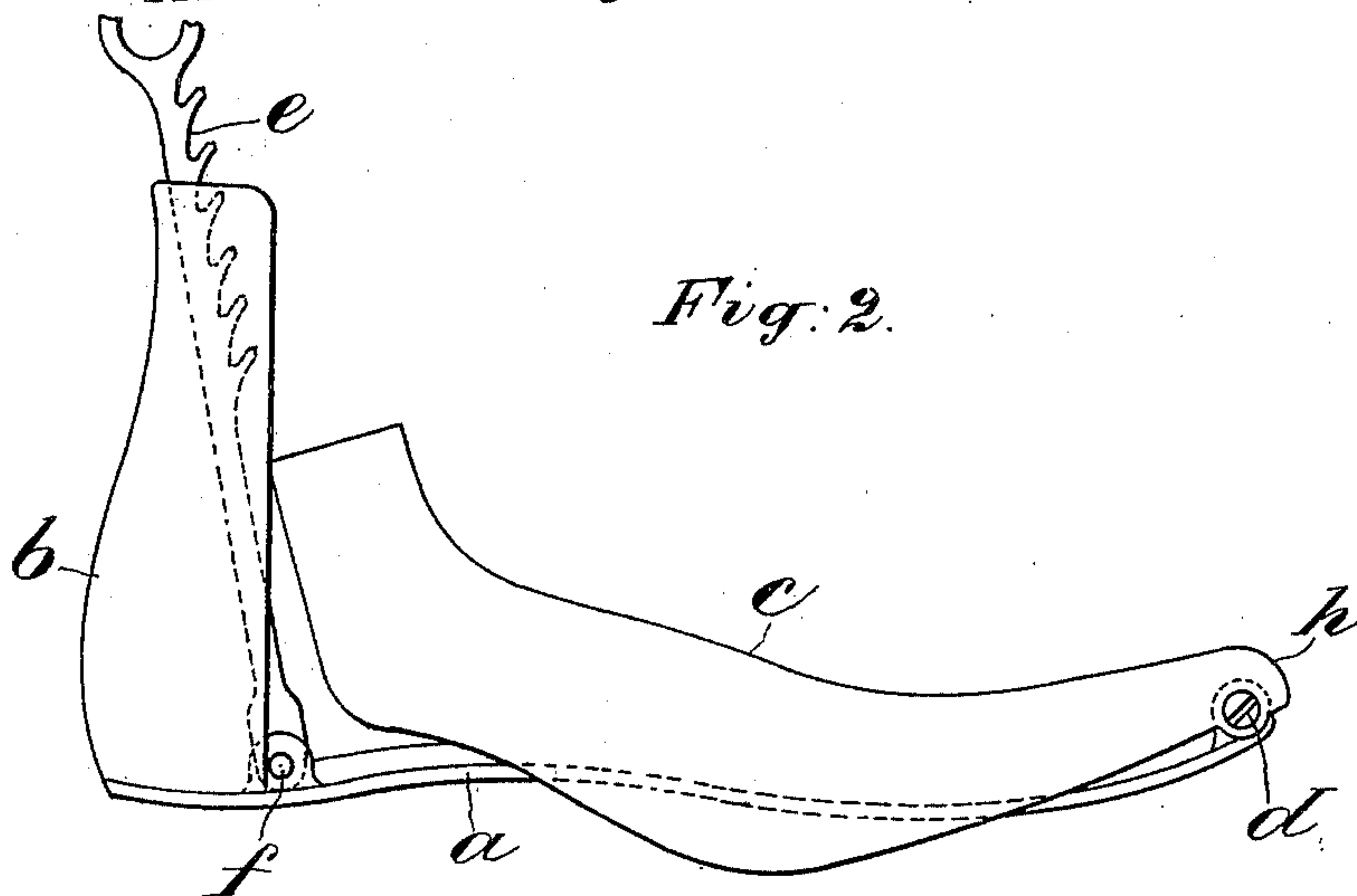


Fig. 2.

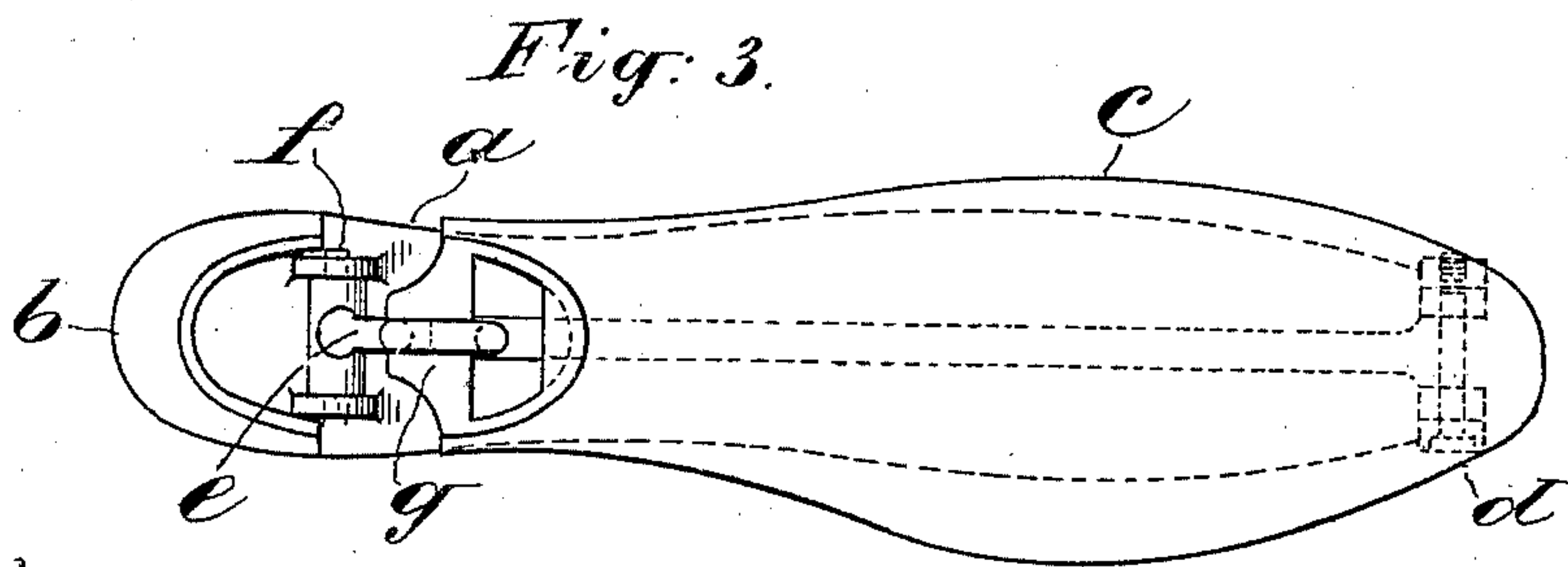


Fig. 3.

Witnesses:  
J. H. Wilmans  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FREDERICK H. NIES, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF  
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## SHOE-FORM.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 682,366, dated September 10, 1901.

Application filed January 2, 1901. Serial No. 41,777. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, FREDERICK H. NIES, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city of New York, borough of Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Shoe Forms or Trees, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to that class of devices called "boot trees or holders," which are adapted to fit into a shoe, gaiter, or boot and stretch it moderately, so as to preserve its form.

The device is designed for use at home by the wearer as distinguished from the class of trees, stretchers, and the like used by the maker for finishing a boot or shoe.

The object of the invention is to provide a simple and relatively inexpensive form or tree which operates only by a lifting of the upper section and which is devoid of screws for distending it.

In the accompanying drawings, which illustrate an embodiment of the invention, Figure 1 is a longitudinal vertical mid-section of the form, showing it distended in a gaiter, the latter being represented in dotted lines. Fig. 2 is a side elevation showing the form collapsed. Fig. 3 is a plan of the form.

The sole or sole-plate *a* is rigidly connected to the heel-piece *b*, the two forming the lower section of the form. These two parts may be integral, if preferred. The upper or movable section *c* is hinged at the toe by suitable hinging-lugs and a hinge-pin *d* to the front end of the sole-plate *a*. The stretching is produced by elevating the section *c* at its free rear end, when it is supported on a rack-bar *e*, hinged at its lower end to the sole-plate at *f*. These three parts—namely, the lower section, the upper section, and the rack-bar—constitute the whole form.

The form is inserted in the shoe when collapsed, as in Fig. 2, and when in place the upper section is lifted and supported by a bar or shoulder *g* thereon engaging one of the teeth on the rack-bar *e*, as seen in Fig. 1.

The form may be made of any suitable material—as metal, for example.

Preferably the curve at *h* of the toe of the upper section *c* will be concentric with the hinge-pin *d*, so that when the section *c* is turned about the hinge-axis its convex surface *h* will neither rise nor fall.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

1. In a shoe form or tree, the combination with the upper and lower sections thereof, hinged together at the toe, of the upright rack-bar hinged at its lower end to the lower section near the heel, said upper section being provided with a shoulder *g* to engage the teeth of the said bar, substantially as set forth.

2. A shoe-form comprising a sole-plate *a*, a heel-piece *b*, secured thereto, an upper section *c*, hinged at its front end to the front end of the sole-plate, and a ratchet device for supporting the rear free end of the section *c* when the latter is elevated, substantially as set forth.

3. The combination with the sole-plate and heel-piece, of the upper section *c*, hinged at *d* to the sole-plate and having its toe *h* curved concentric to the hinging-axis, and means for supporting the free rear end of the said section *c* when elevated, substantially as set forth.

In witness whereof I have hereunto signed my name, this 29th day of December, 1900, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

FREDERICK H. NIES.

Witnesses:

PETER A. ROSS,  
F. D. DIMAN.