

No. 686,050.

Patented Nov. 5, 1901.

J. L. GILLUM.  
COMB.

(Application filed June 5, 1901.)

(No Model.)

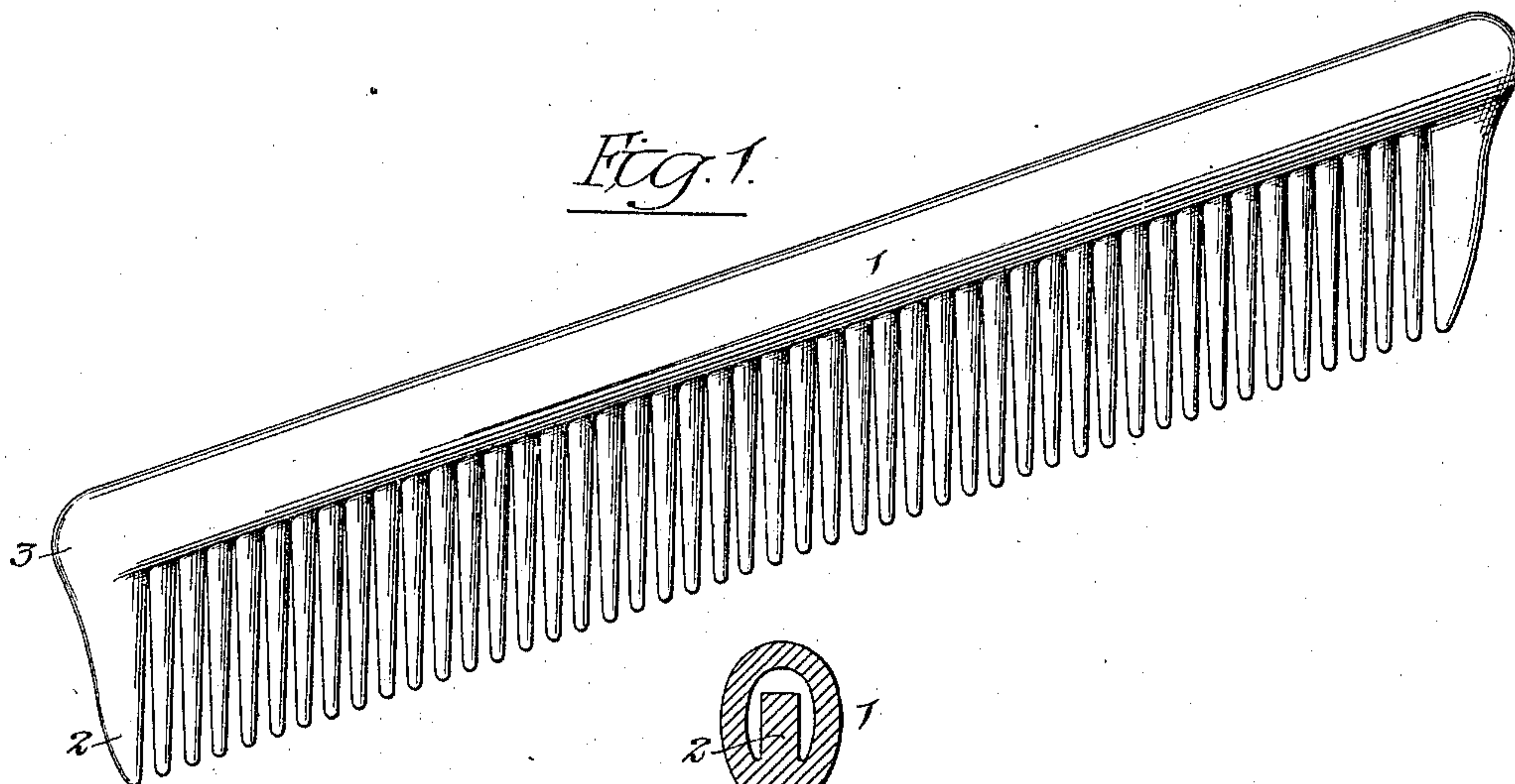


Fig. 2.

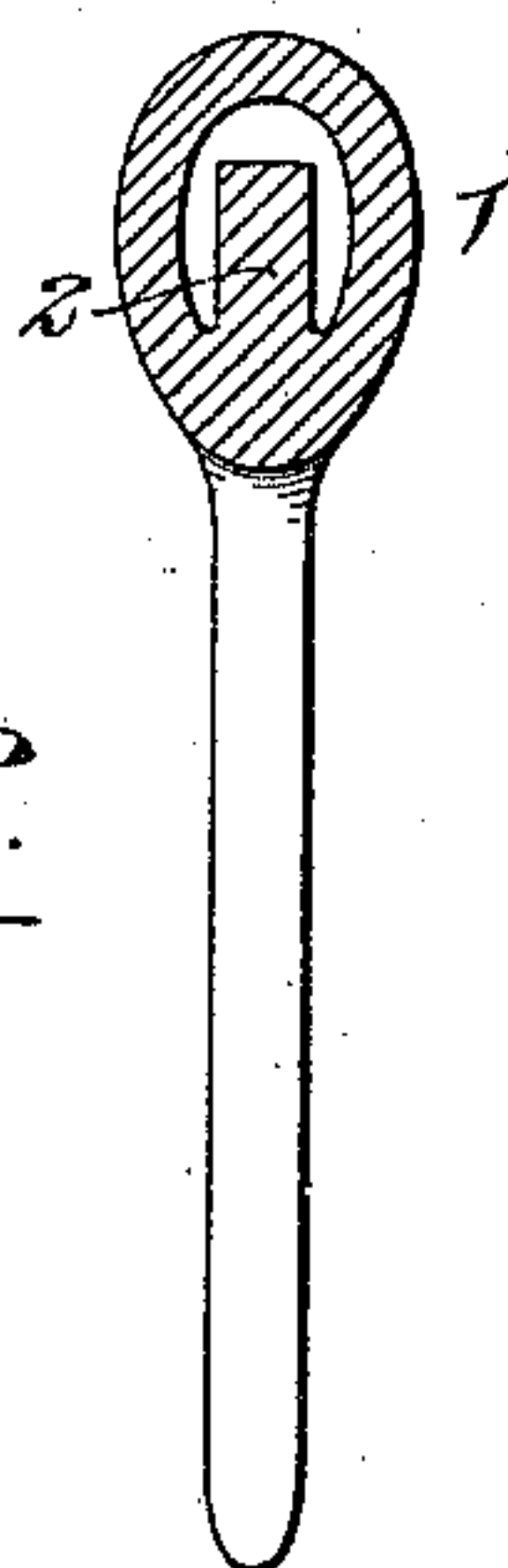


Fig. 3.

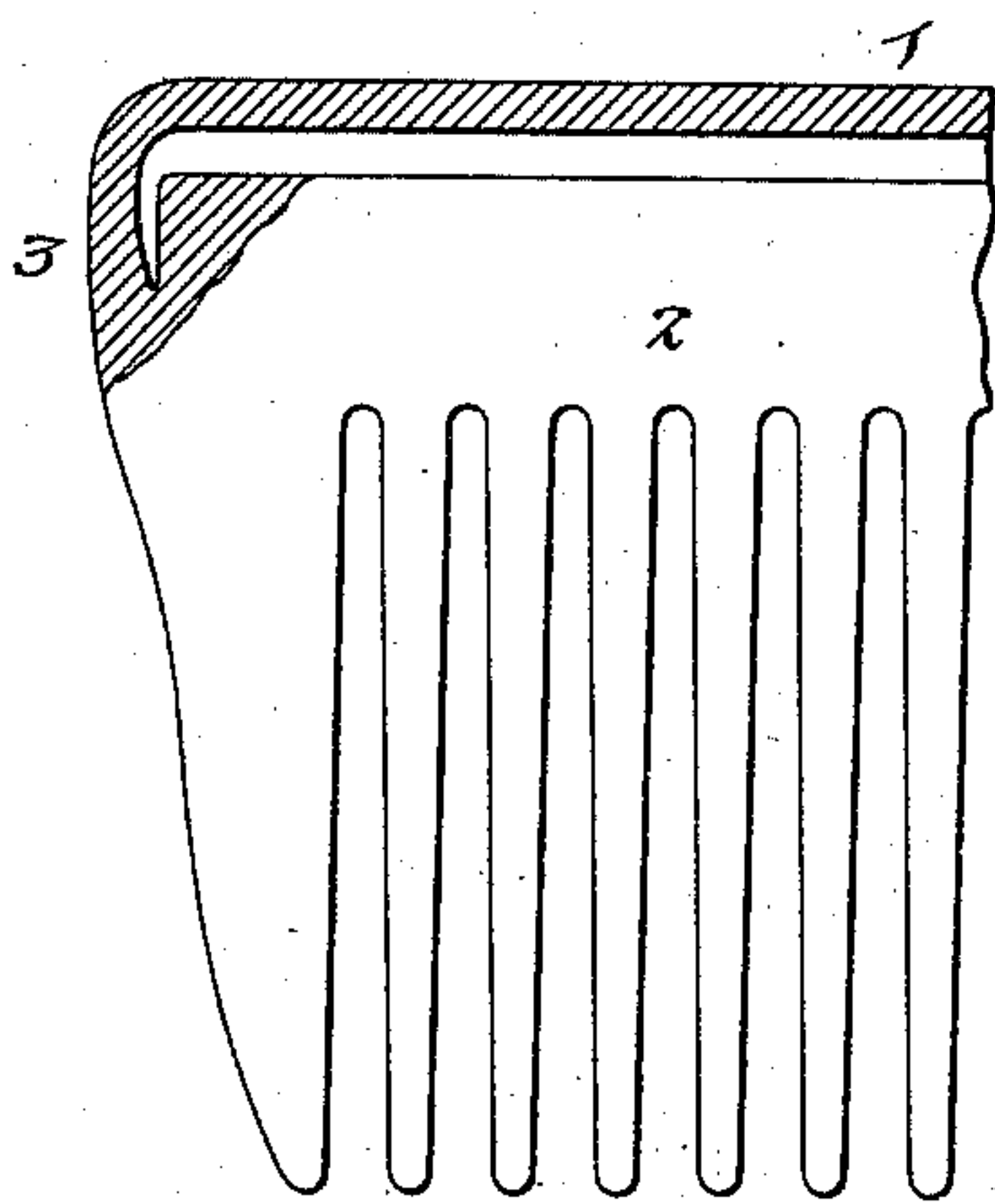
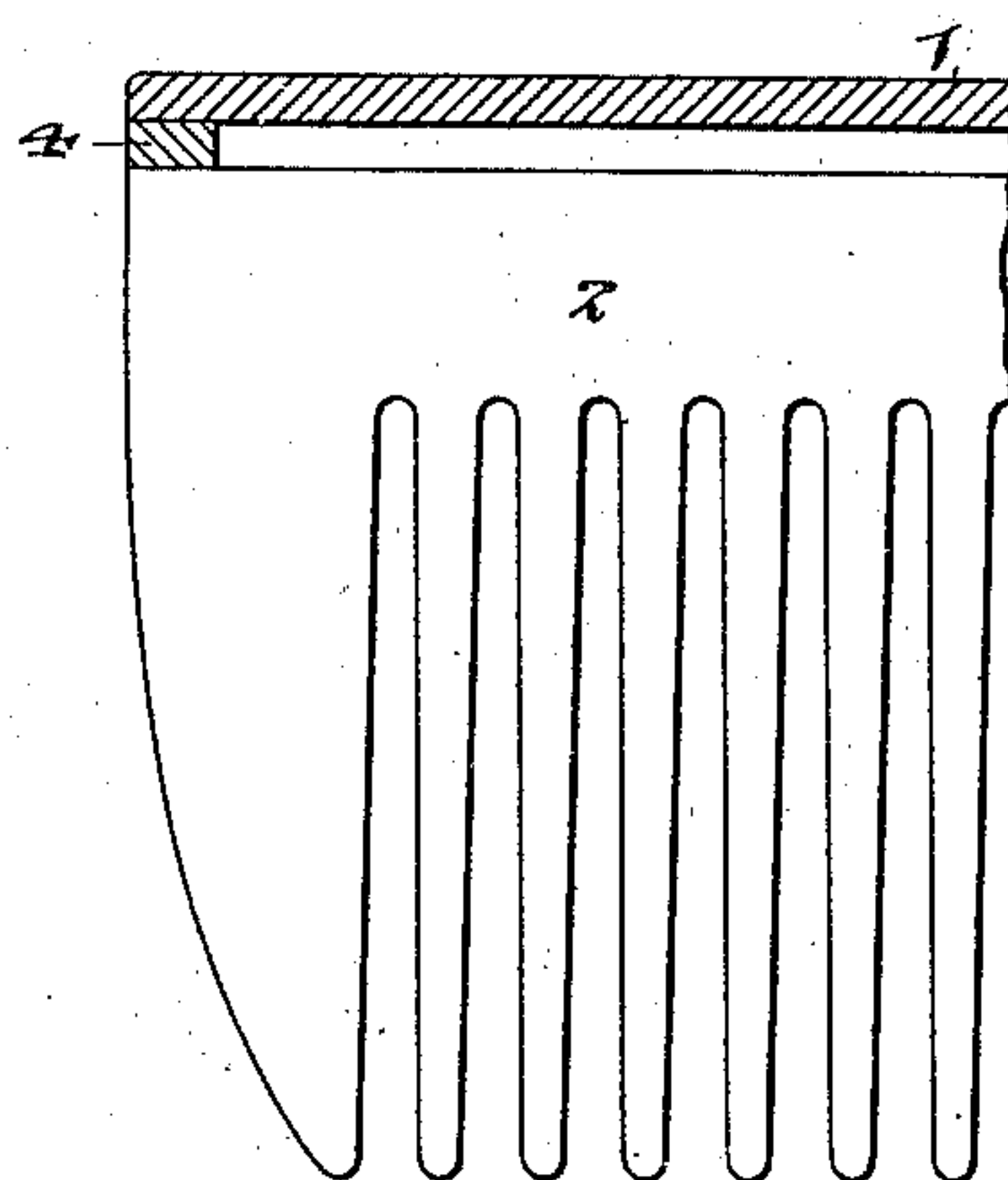


Fig. 4.



Witnesses:-

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN L. GILLUM, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

## COMB.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 686,050, dated November 5, 1901.

Application filed June 5, 1901. Serial No. 63,224. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHN L. GILLUM, a citizen of the United States, residing in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, have invented certain  
5 Improvements in Combs, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my invention is to so construct a comb of celluloid, rubber, or other like composition as to provide a strong and  
10 extremely elastic back for the toothed bar of the comb, the structure presenting all the appearance of a solid-backed comb and being as cleanly as a comb having such solid back.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is  
15 a perspective view of a comb made in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is an enlarged transverse section of the same. Fig. 3 is an enlarged view, partly in section, of one end of the comb; and Fig. 4 is a similar  
20 view illustrating another embodiment of my invention.

Ordinary combs of rubber, celluloid, or other plastic compositions are thickened at the back for the purpose of increasing the  
25 strength and improving the appearance of this part of the comb; but this method of manufacture is objectionable, because of the amount of expensive material required in forming the solid back and because the latter  
30 detracts from the elasticity of the comb.

In carrying out my invention, therefore, I form a hollow back on the comb by bending a strip 1 of the rubber, celluloid, or other plastic composition around the back of the  
35 toothed bar 2 of the comb in such a manner that it is by preference free from contact with said bar except at the edges, where it is welded to and practically made integral with said toothed bar, as shown in Fig. 2, while in a  
40 plastic state, so that when completed the comb is practically without joint or seam at the junction of the hollow back and toothed bar. The ends of the hollow back are closed in the same way by a strip 3 of the composition welded  
45 or similarly united to the back strip 1 and bar 2 of the comb, so that the latter presents externally no joint or crevice for the lodgment of dirt, and hence is hygienically as good as a comb having a solid back, while it is much

preferable to such solid-backed comb in re- 50 spect of its elasticity, the freedom from contact of the strip 1 and toothed bar 2, except at the point where they are united, rendering the back of the comb extremely elastic, so that it cannot be broken, distorted, or injured  
55 by any strain likely to be put upon it in use. The comb will, moreover, act more effectively upon the hair by failing to oppose rigid resistance to the latter when it is tangled, and hence interferes with the free passage of the  
60 comb through it.

Although I prefer in all cases to effect a weld or integral union of the toothed bar of the comb and the hollow back and ends of the same, I may in some cases effect the union  
65 of these parts by means of a cement of the same material as the parts themselves or of other material which will provide a close and firmly adherent union of the parts, and the ends of the hollow back may be closed by plugs  
70 instead of by external stops, if desired, as shown, for instance, at 4 in Fig. 4.

I am aware that combs of various material have been provided with hollow metallic  
75 backs; but in this case there can be no such union of the back with the toothed bar of the comb as constitutes one of the features of my invention. Hence such metallic-backed combs lack the elastic element, which is a prominent characteristic of my improved  
80 comb.

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

1. A comb of rubber, celluloid, or the like 85 having a toothed bar and a hollow back surrounding the rear edge of said toothed bar but free from contact therewith except at the edges, where it is united to the bar, substantially as specified. 90

2. A comb of rubber, celluloid, or like material, having a toothed bar, a hollow back surrounding the rear edge of the bar but free from contact therewith except at the edges, where it is united to said bar, and closures  
95 at the ends of the hollow back, substantially as specified.

3. A comb of rubber, celluloid, or like ma-



terial, having a toothed bar and a back com-  
posed of an independent strip lapped around  
the rear edge of the toothed bar and having  
throughout its length a close and firmly ad-  
5 herent union with the sides of said toothed  
bar, substantially as specified.

In testimony whereof I have signed my

name to this specification in the presence of  
two subscribing witnesses.

JOHN L. GILLUM.

Witnesses:

F. E. BECHTOLD,

JOS. H. KLEIN.