

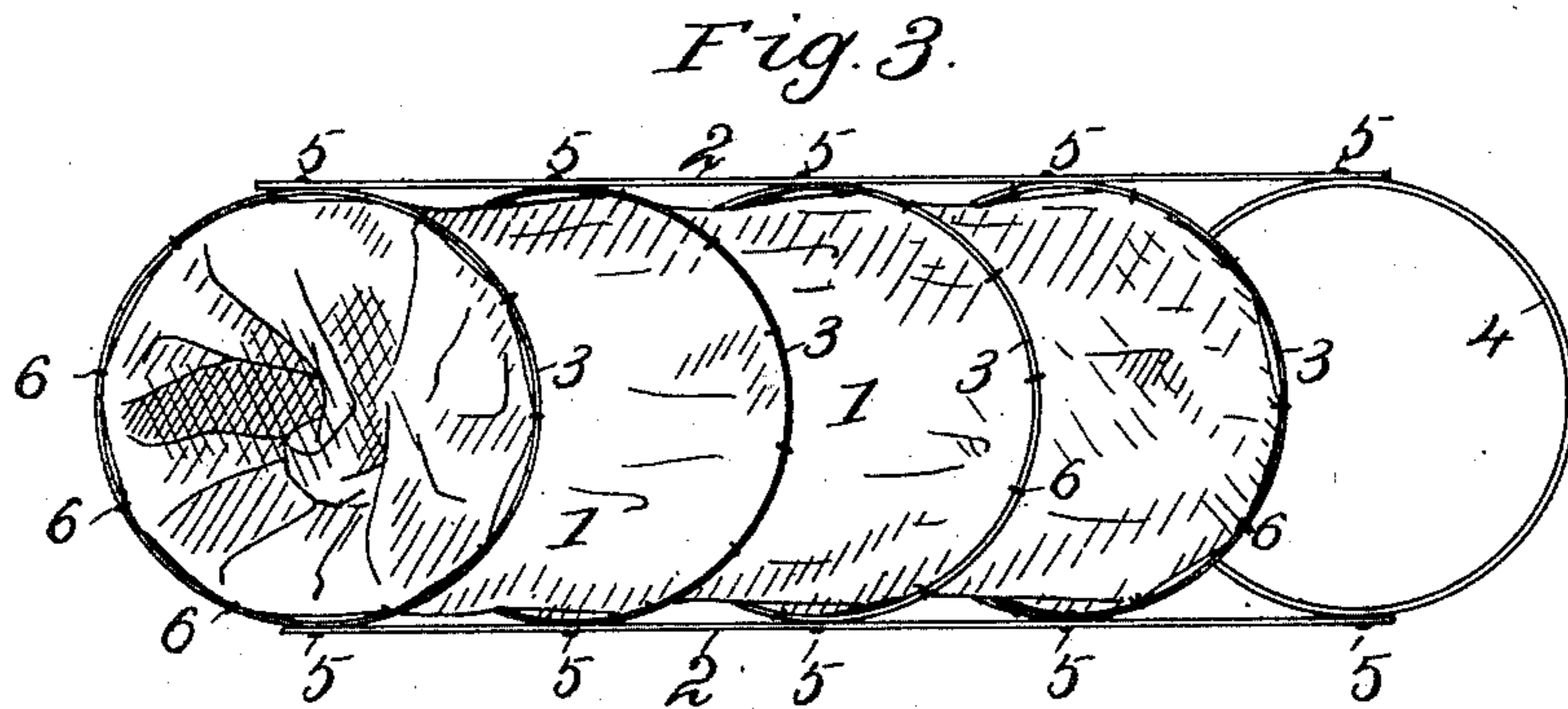
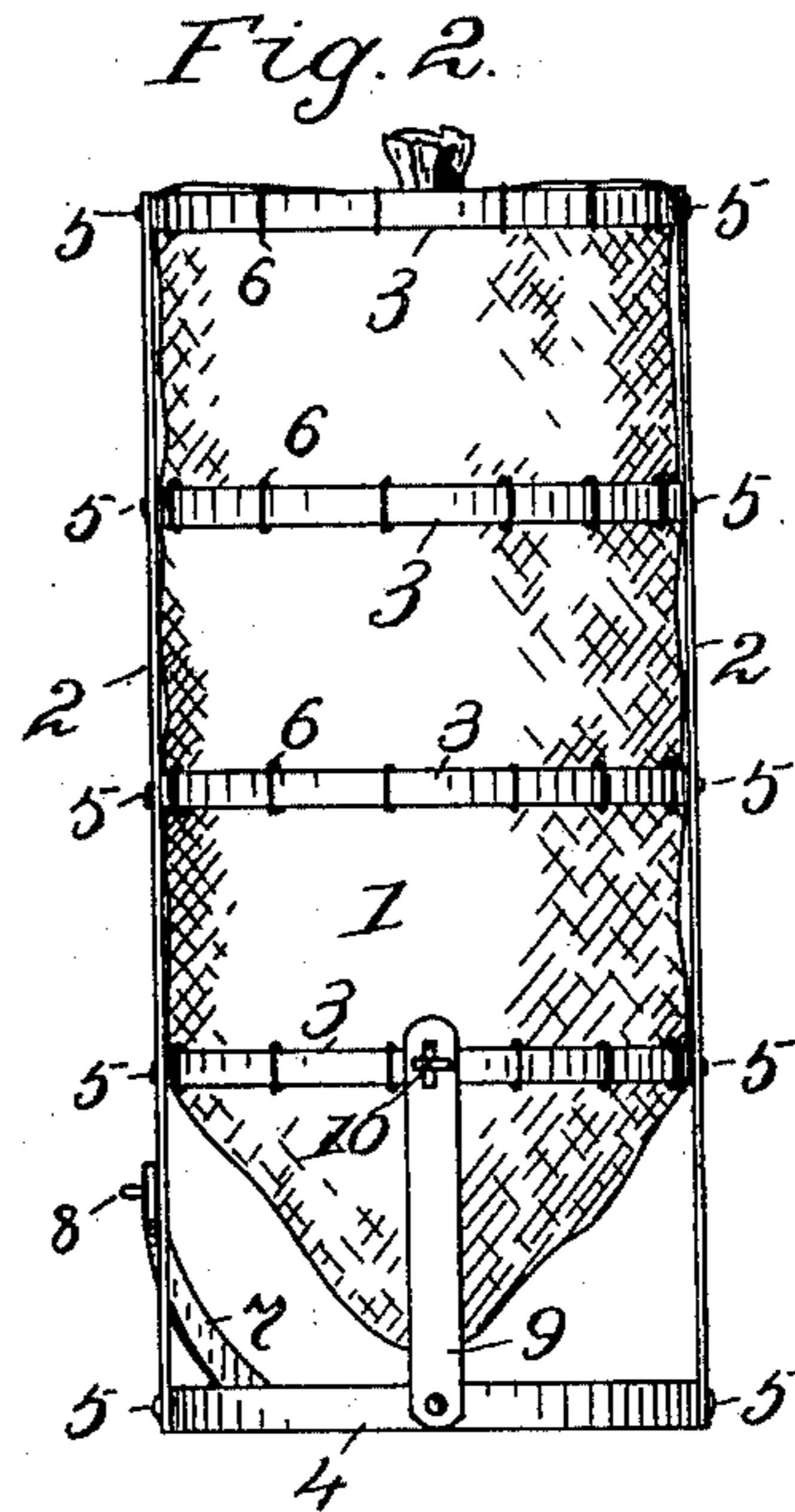
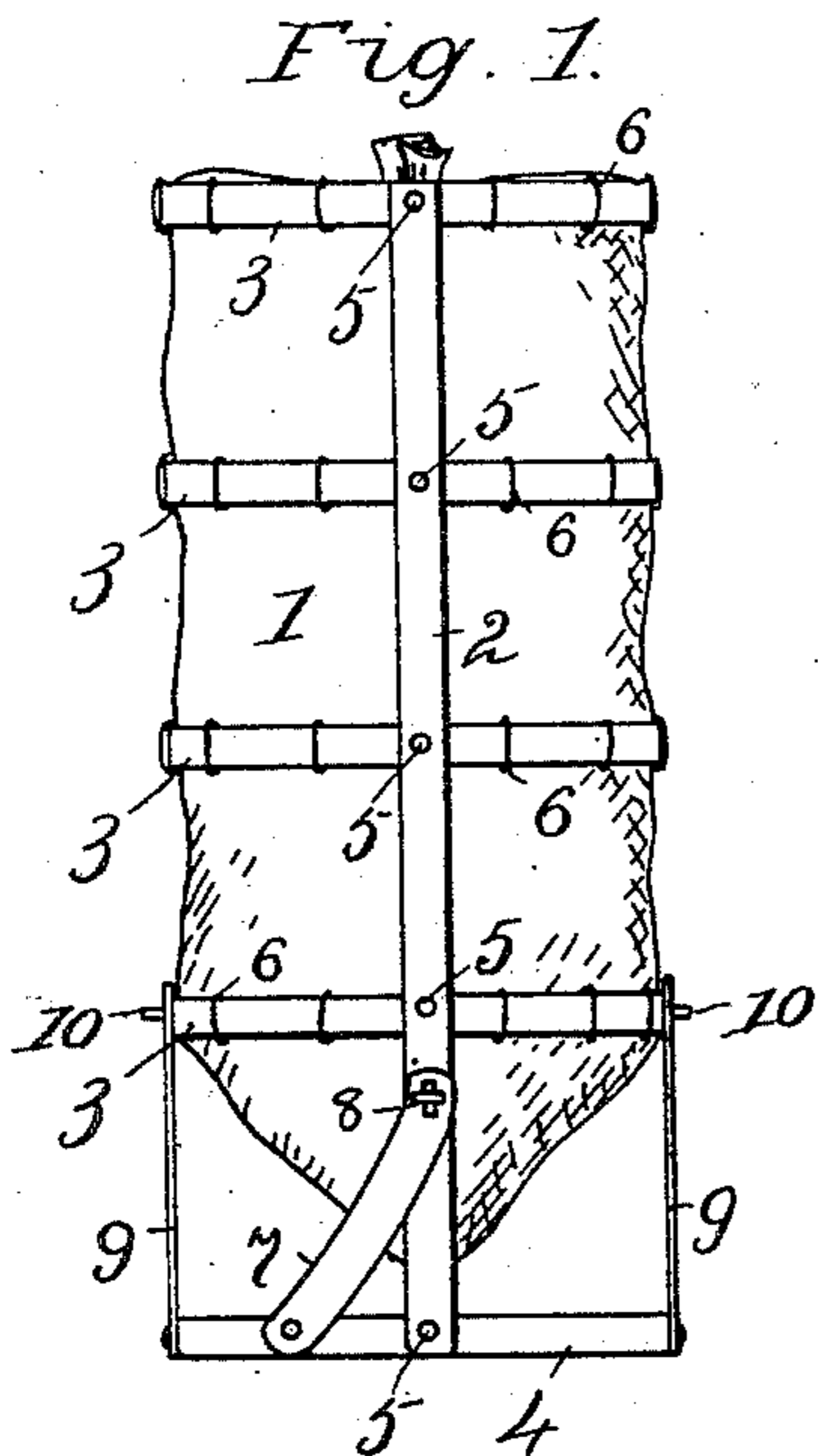
No. 703,336.

Patented June 24, 1902.

J. A. DAVIDSON.
BANANA CRATE.

(Application filed Sept. 20, 1901.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN ALBERT DAVIDSON, OF DECATUR, ILLINOIS.

BANANA-CRATE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 703,336, dated June 24, 1902.

Application filed September 20, 1901. Serial No. 75,964. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN ALBERT DAVIDSON, of the city of Decatur, county of Macon, and State of Illinois, have invented certain
5 new and useful Improvements in Banana-Crates, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to crates used for shipping bananas in bunches, and it provides
10 a collapsible crate that may be made to occupy much less space when empty than when filled.

The invention is exemplified in the structure hereinafter described, and it is defined
15 in the appended claims.

In the drawings forming part of this specification, Figure 1 is an elevation of a crate constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is also an elevation showing the crate
20 turned one-fourth around from the position it occupies in Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a plan of the crate collapsed or folded and laid down.

A sack adapted to contain a bunch of bananas is shown at 1. At 2 is represented a
25 pair of parallel strips that form the uprights for the crate, and at 3 is a set of hoops pivotally connected at opposite points of their perimeters to the strips 2. At 4 is shown a base-hoop similar in size and shape to the hoops
30 3. At 7 is shown a brace to hold the base-hoop at right angles with the upright strips, and at 9 is shown a pair of braces to connect the lower hoop 3 with the base.

The sack 1 is closed at its bottom and preferably contracted or pointed to properly center the stalk of the banana-bunch. It is secured to the hoops 3 inside the same, and its upper end is open to receive the bananas. The connection between the sack and the
40 hoops may be made in any desirable manner, and in this instance short pieces of string are shown at 6 to tie the sack to the hoops. The supporting-strips 2 are pivotally connected at 5 with each of the hoops, and the lowest
45 of the sack-sustaining hoops is high enough above the base-hoop to hold the pointed end of the sack clear of the floor when the crate is in its normal upright position. The braces are in this instance pivotally joined to the
50 base-hoop, slotted at their opposite ends, and

held in place by turn-buttons 8 and 10; but they may be made in any way consistent with their function. They need to be strong enough to hold the crate rigid while it is in use. They need to be readily detached when
55 it is desired to fold the crate, and their construction may be varied without departing from these requirements. The entire frame is preferably made of steel in order that strength and lightness may be suitably combined.

The bunch of bananas is placed in the sack in the customary way, the mouth of the sack is closed, and the crate is stood on end while packed and while in transit. When the crate
65 reaches the retailer, the bananas are removed, the braces are disconnected, and the crate is folded into the position shown in Fig. 3 to be returned, with other similar crates, to the wholesaler. In their flattened condition the
70 crates may be easily stored away until it is desired to return them to the wholesaler, and their reduced bulk makes it much easier to ship them.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure
75 by Letters Patent, is—

1. A banana-crate composed of a pair of supporting-strips, a set of hoops placed one above another between the hoops and pivotally connected with the strips at opposite
80 points of their perimeters by radially-disposed pivot-pins, a sack fastened to the hoops inside the same, and a detachable brace to hold the base-hoop at right angles with the supporting-strips.

2. A banana-crate composed of a set of hoops, a pair of supporting-strips pivotally conjoined to opposite sides of the hoops, a sack fastened to the upper hoops of the set and held therein above the lower or base
90 hoop, a brace to hold the lower hoop at right angles with the supporting-strips and other braces connecting the lower hoop with the hoop next above.

In testimony whereof I sign my name in
95 the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOHN ALBERT DAVIDSON.

Witnesses:

JAMES O'MARA,
L. R. GRAHAM.