

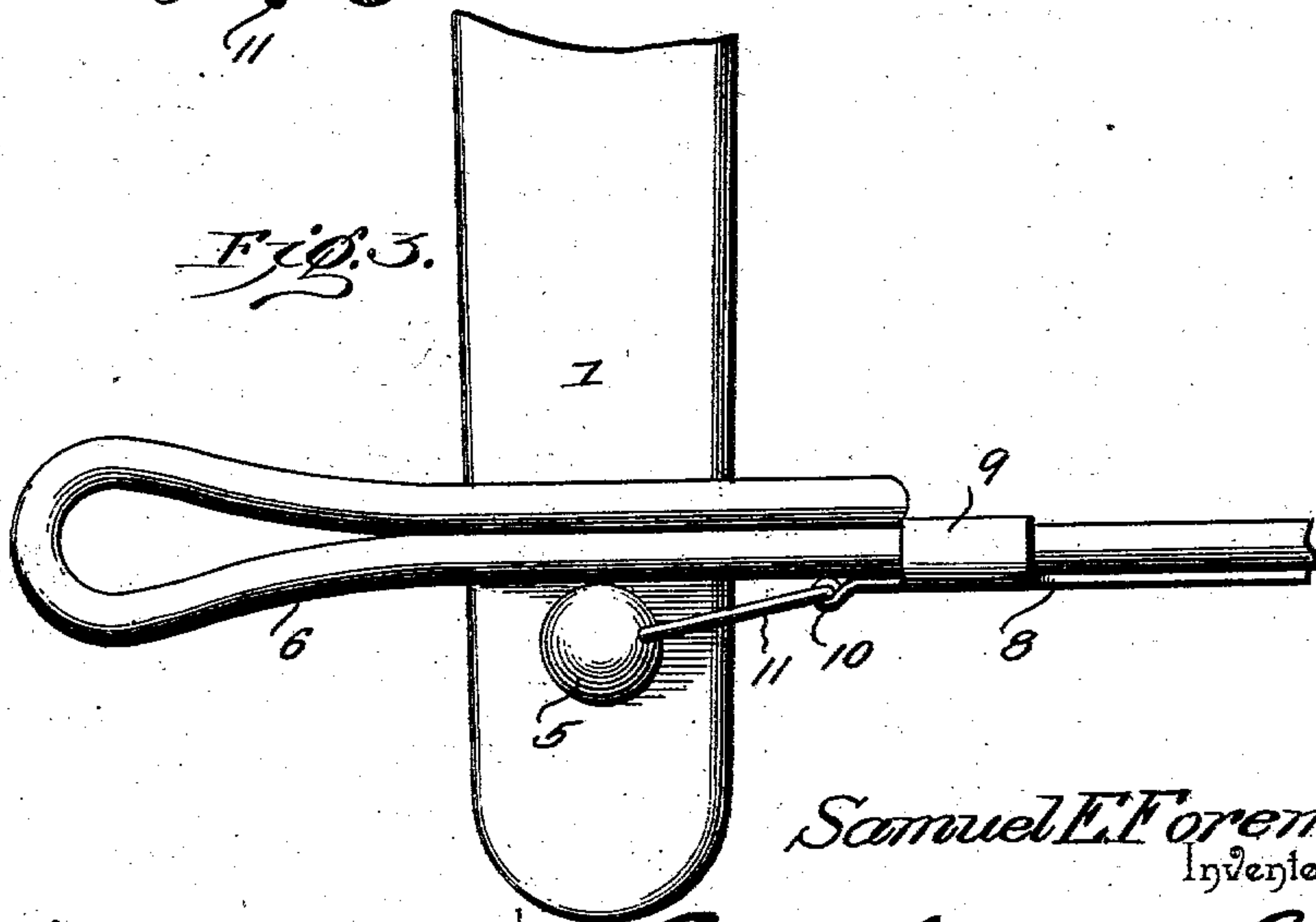
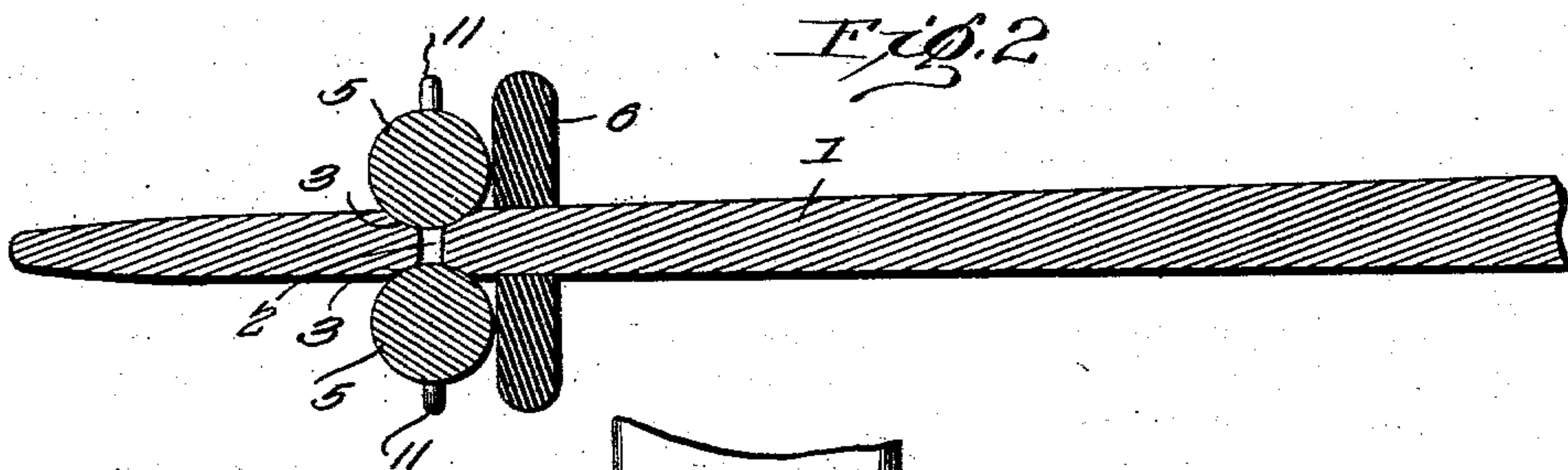
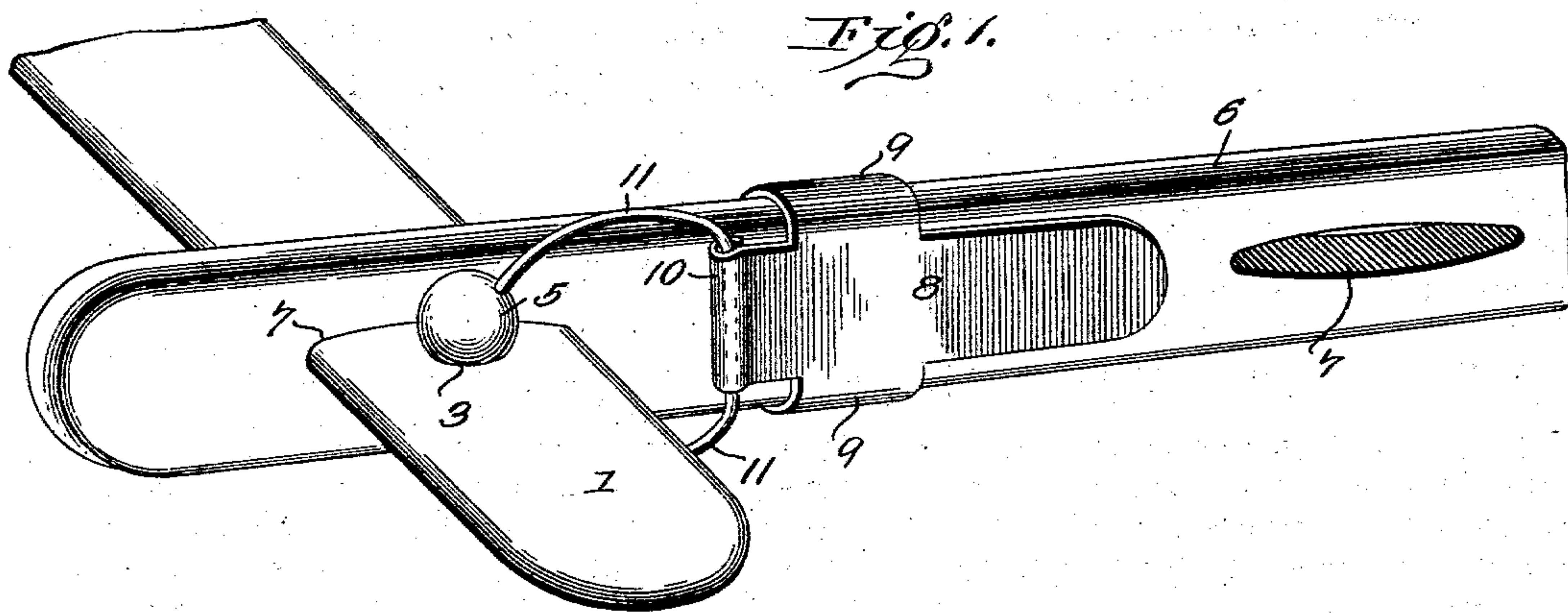
No. 704,741.

Patented July 15, 1902.

S. E. FOREMAN.  
TRACE FASTENER.

(Application filed Nov. 22, 1901.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL E. FOREMAN, OF PADUCAH, KENTUCKY.

## TRACE-FASTENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 704,741, dated July 15, 1902.

Application filed November 22, 1901. Serial No. 83,291. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, SAMUEL E. FOREMAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Paducah, in the county of McCracken and State of Kentucky, have invented a new and useful Trace-Fastener, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in trace-fasteners, and particularly to that class of fastening devices carried by the trace and adapted for locking engagement with the singletree.

The principal object of the invention is to provide a simple and effective holding device which may be made and sold as an article of manufacture and applied to any trace ordinarily in use.

With this and other objects in view the invention consists in the novel construction and arrangement of parts hereinafter described, shown in the accompanying drawings, and particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a portion of a singletree and trace, illustrating the construction and arrangement of a trace-fastener made in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a transverse sectional elevation of the same. Fig. 3 is a plan view illustrating the employment of the device in securing a doubled trace in position.

Similar numerals of reference are employed to designate corresponding parts throughout the various views.

1 designates the end of a singletree of ordinary construction. At points near the end of the singletree the latter is usually provided with a transverse opening 2 for the passage of a leather thong, serving to hold the trace in place. In carrying out my invention the opposite portions of the singletree are countersunk at this opening to form seating-recesses 3 for a pair of balls 5.

The trace 6 is provided with one or more openings 7, through which the end of the singletree may be passed, and in some cases where the horse is hooked up short the trace may be doubled, as shown in Fig. 3. On the trace is placed a slide 8, having wings 9 bent over the opposite edges of the trace and adapted to hold said slide in position. The slide

is formed of sheet metal and is stamped out flat, the wings being bent over the trace and being made of a length sufficient to permit of ready application to a trace of any width or thickness. At the rear end of the slide is formed an eye 10 for the reception of the central portion of a spring-wire bail 11, to the opposite ends of which are secured the balls 5.

In using the fastener the trace is first placed in position on the singletree, and the balls 5 are then engaged in the seats 3, the spring 11 being made of sufficient strength to hold the balls in position in the seats against any ordinary strain. The slide 8 is mounted loosely on the trace, and as the latter moves from side to side the balls will turn in their seating-recesses and move the slide to and fro on the trace. The easy movement of the slide is particularly advantageous where the trace is doubled, as in Fig. 3, the slide being moved along the trace for a sufficient distance to permit of the engagement of two of the trace-eyes 7 with the singletree and then being shifted to the proper position to permit of the engagement of the balls 5 in the seating-recesses.

The device may be employed in connection with that class of singletrees in which the usual trace eye or catch is employed or may be used with the solid wooden bar, as shown in the drawings.

Although the construction herein described and illustrated in the accompanying drawings is the preferred form of the device, it is obvious that changes in the form, size, proportions, and minor details may be made within the scope of the claims without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is—

1. A trace-fastener comprising a slide adapted to the trace, a vertically-disposed eye formed at the rear end of said slide, a spring-wire bail pivotally mounted in said eye, and balls arranged at the ends of said wire bail and adapted for engagement with seating-recesses in the singletree.

2. A trace-fastener comprising a slide adapted to be mounted on the trace and having side wings 9 adapted to embrace the edges

of said trace, a vertically-disposed eye 10  
formed at the rear of said slide, a spring-wire  
bail 11 centrally mounted in said eye, and balls  
arranged at the ends of said wire bail and  
5 adapted for engagement with seating-re-  
cesses formed in the opposite sides of the  
singletree, substantially as specified.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as  
my own I have hereto affixed my signature in  
the presence of two witnesses.

SAMUEL E. FOREMAN.

Witnesses:

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