

W. T. LEE.
MAILING ENVELOP.

(Application filed Jan. 14, 1902.)

(No Model.)

3 Sheets—Sheet 1.

Fig. 1.

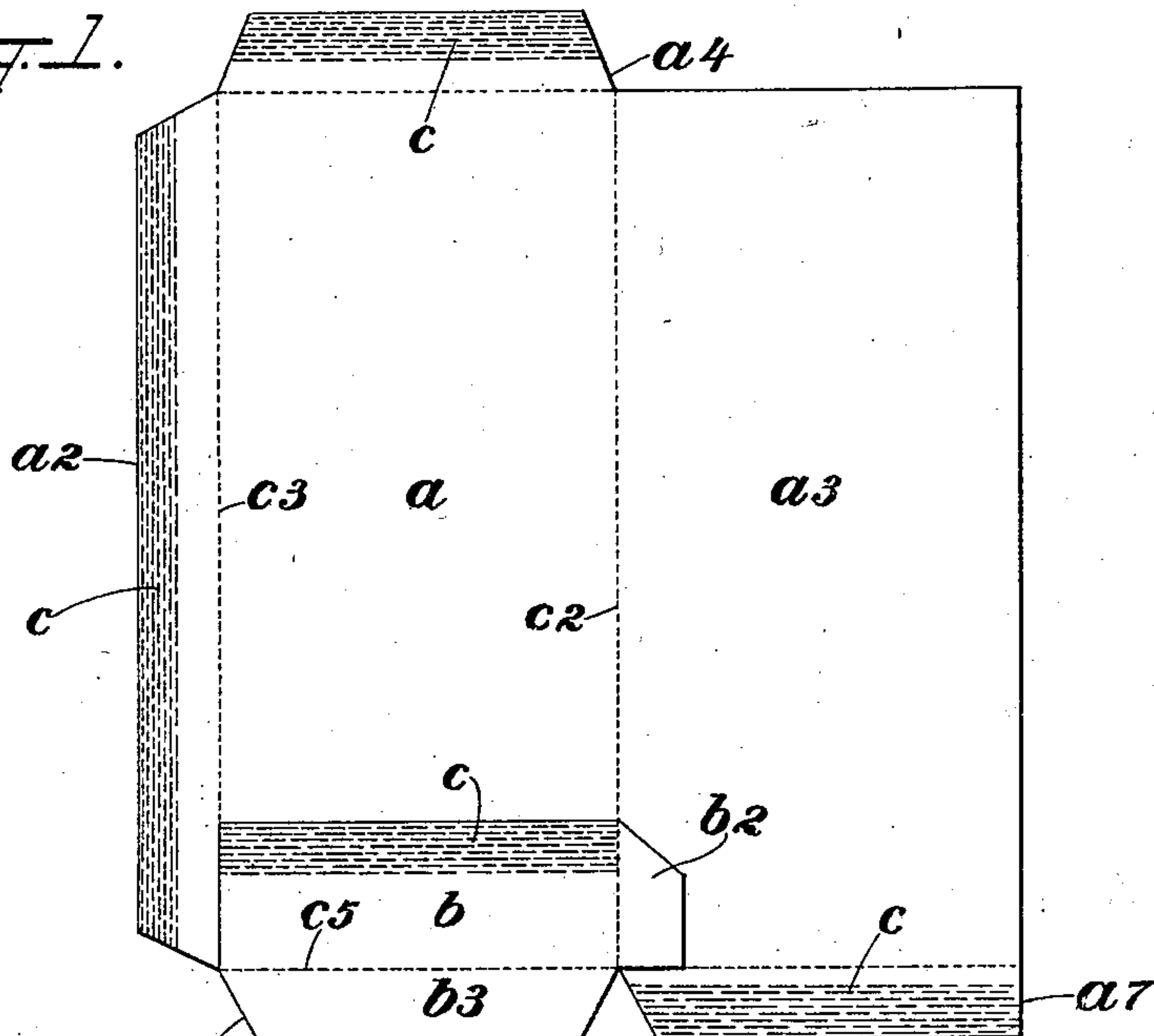


Fig. 2.

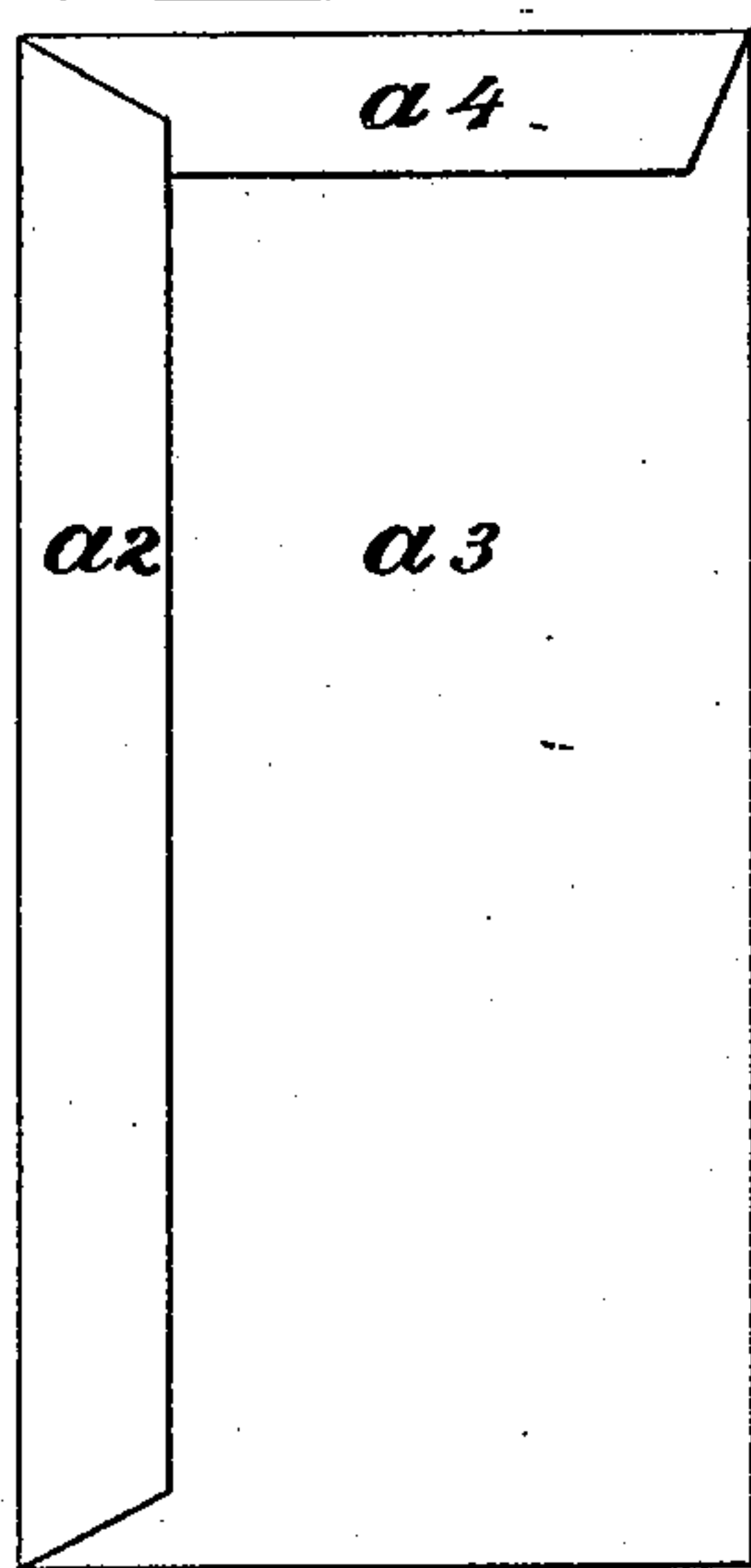


Fig. 3.

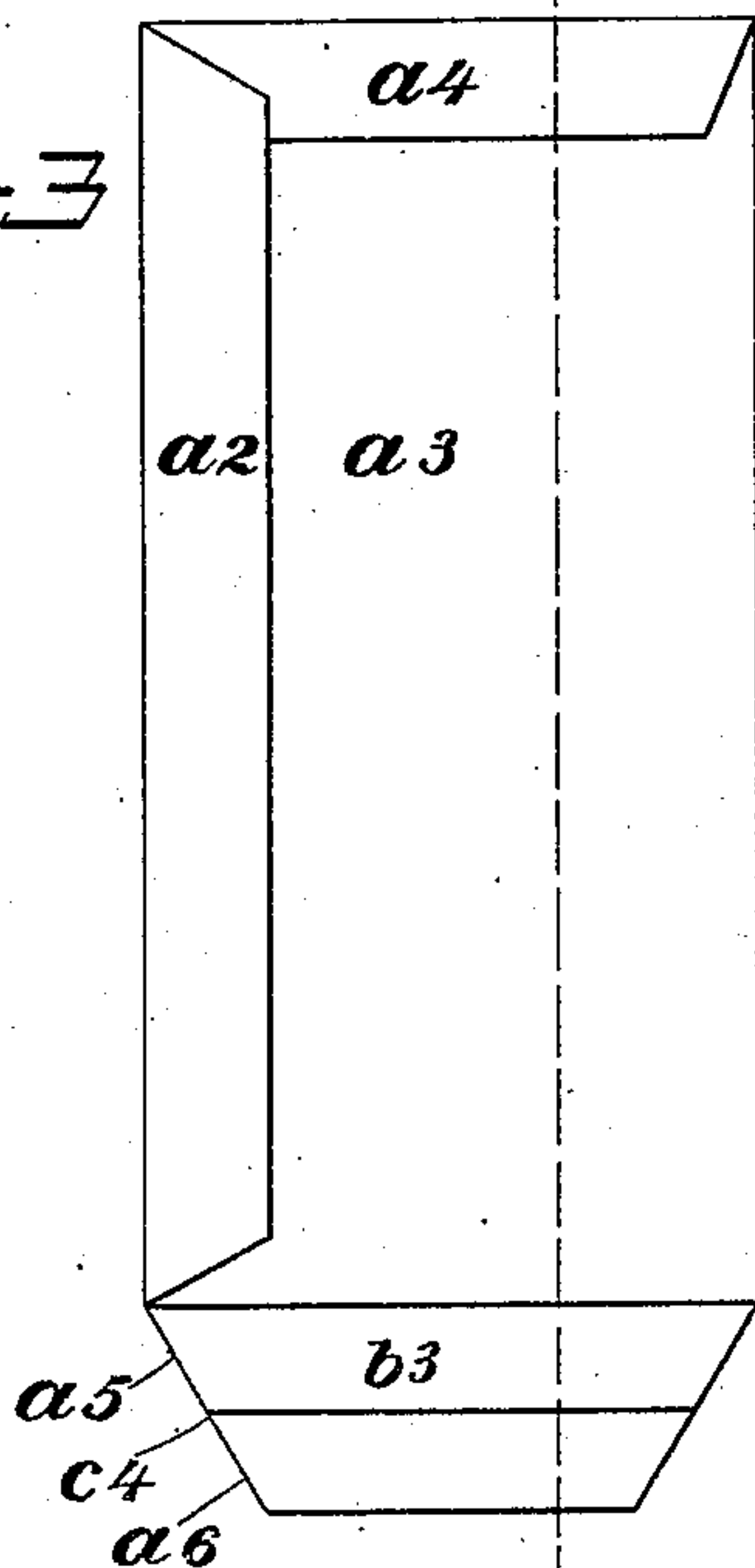
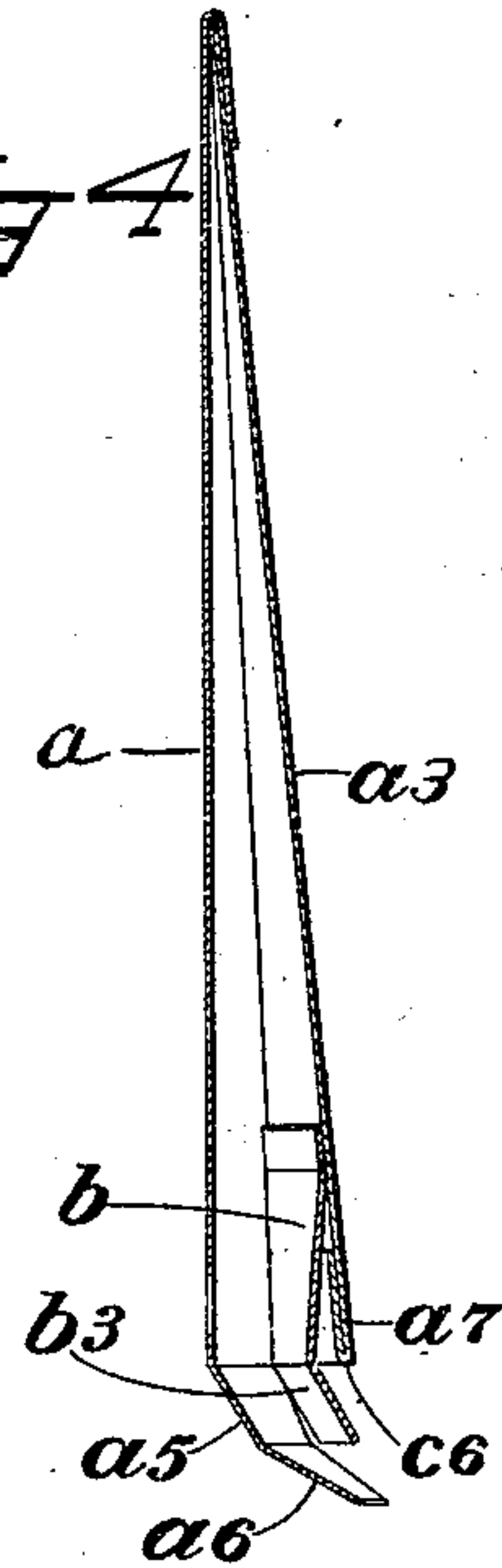


Fig. 4.



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Fig. 5.

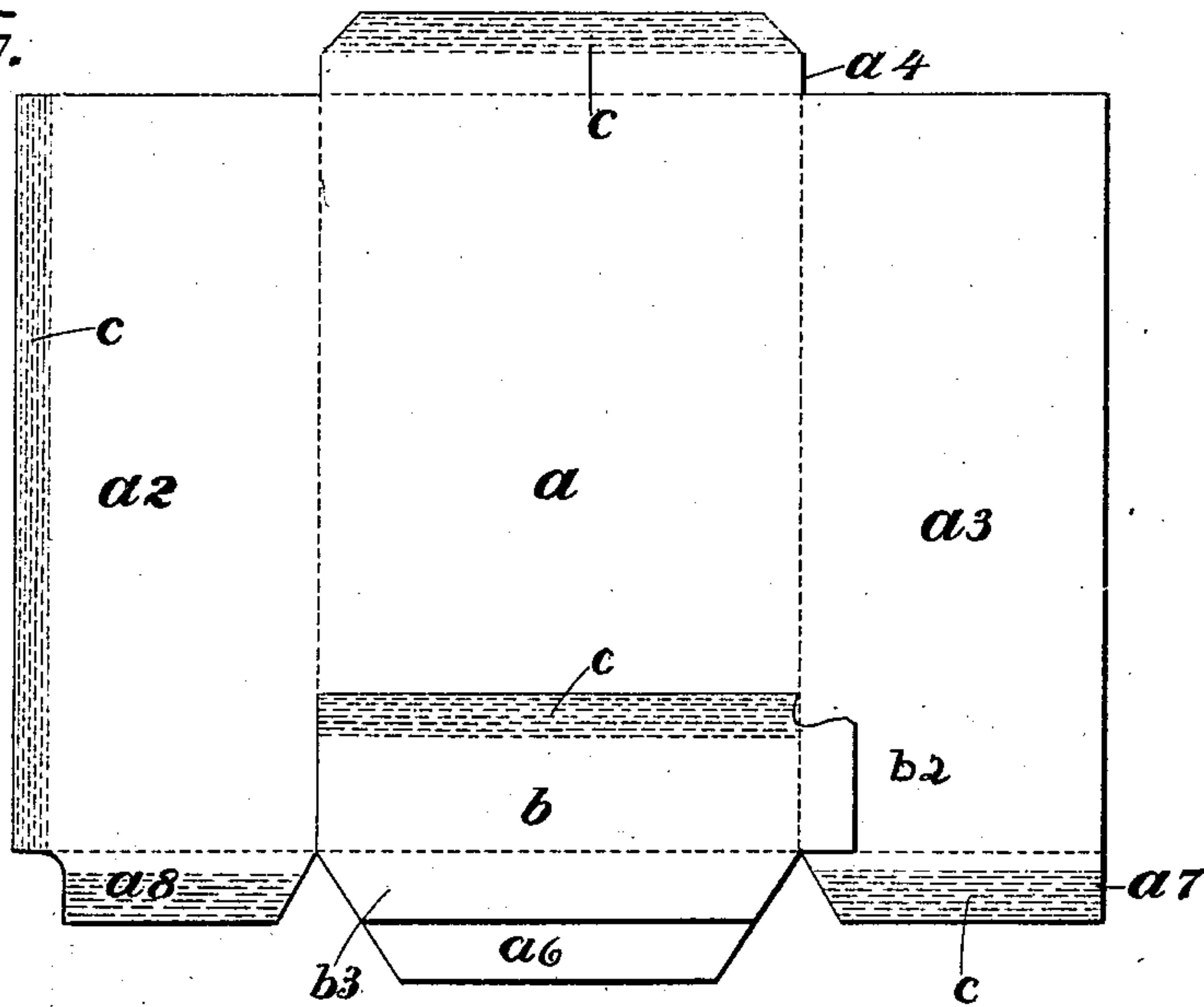


Fig. 6.

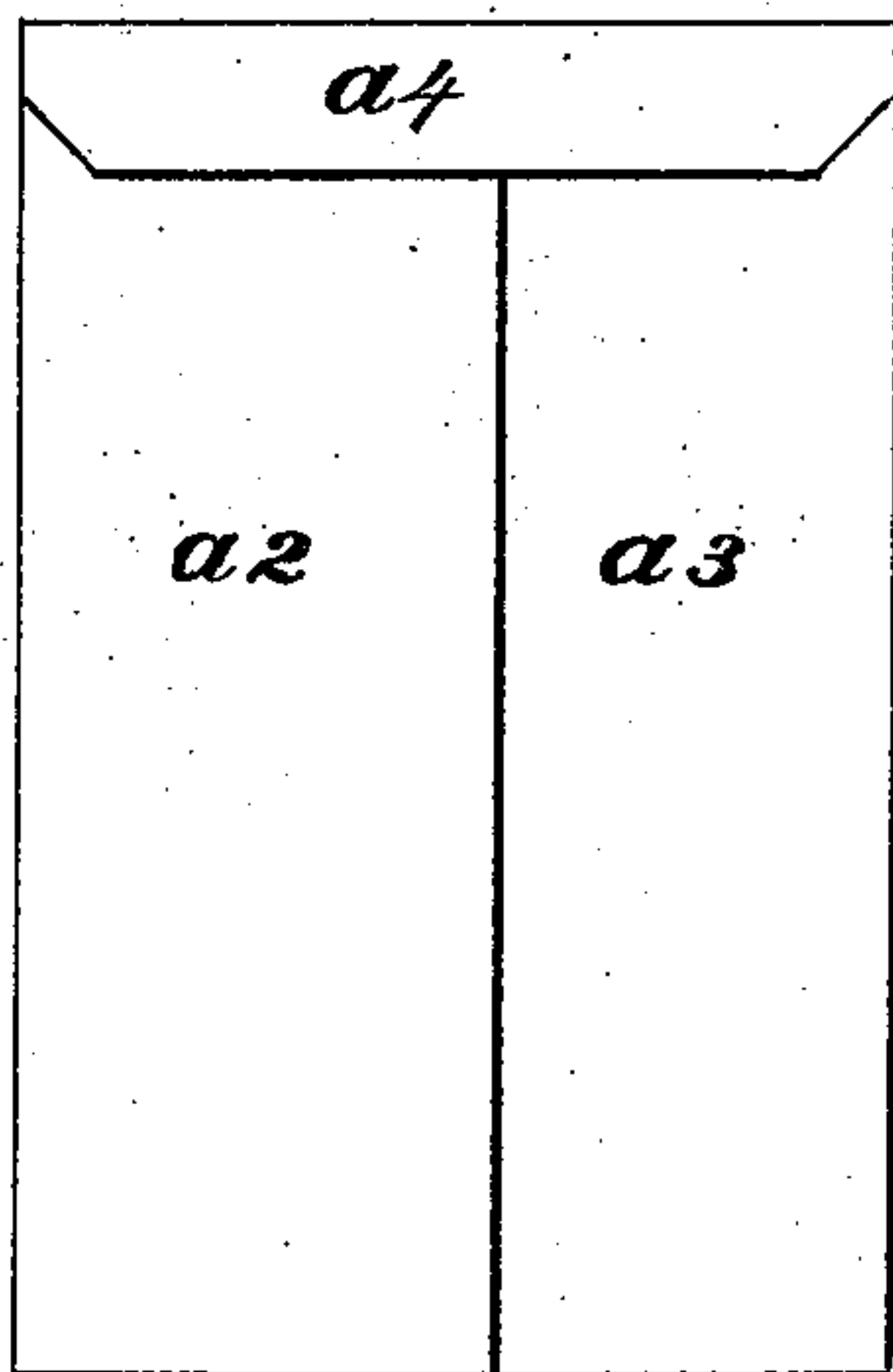


Fig. 7.

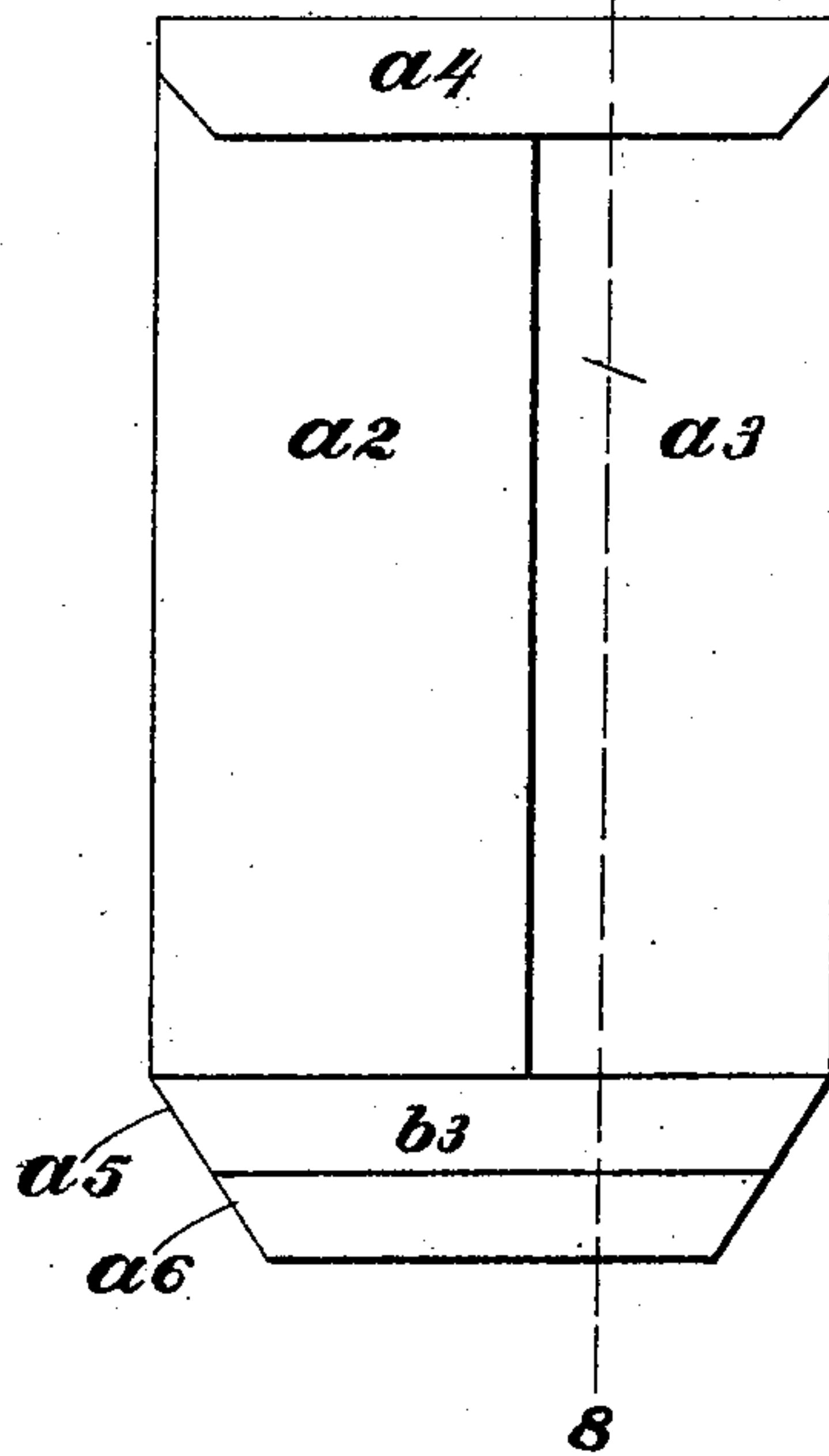
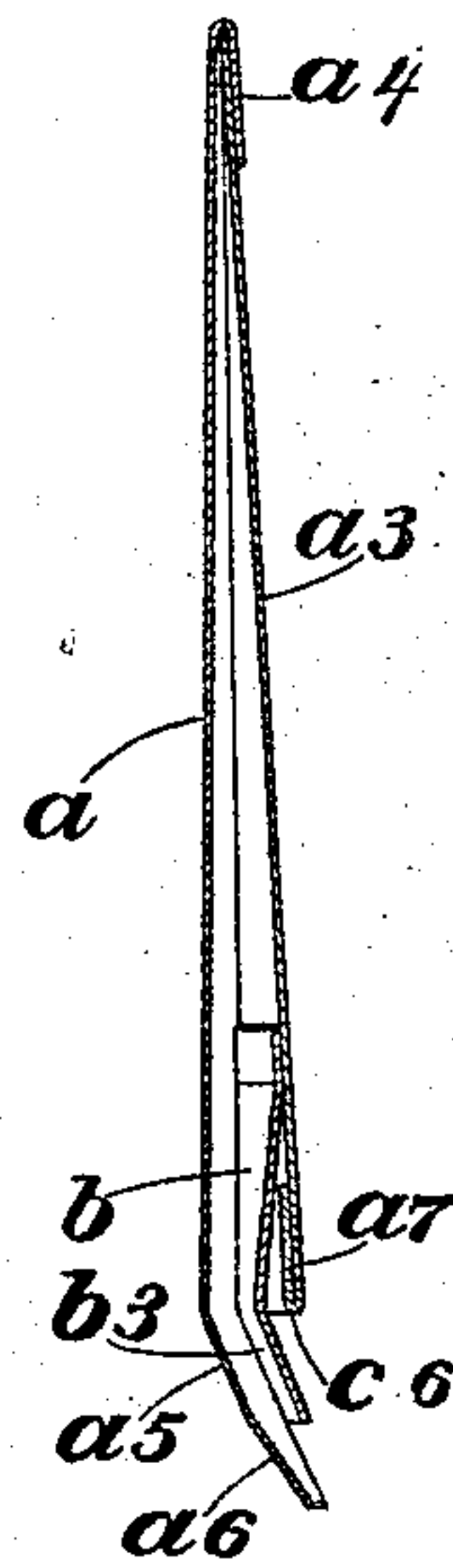


Fig. 8.



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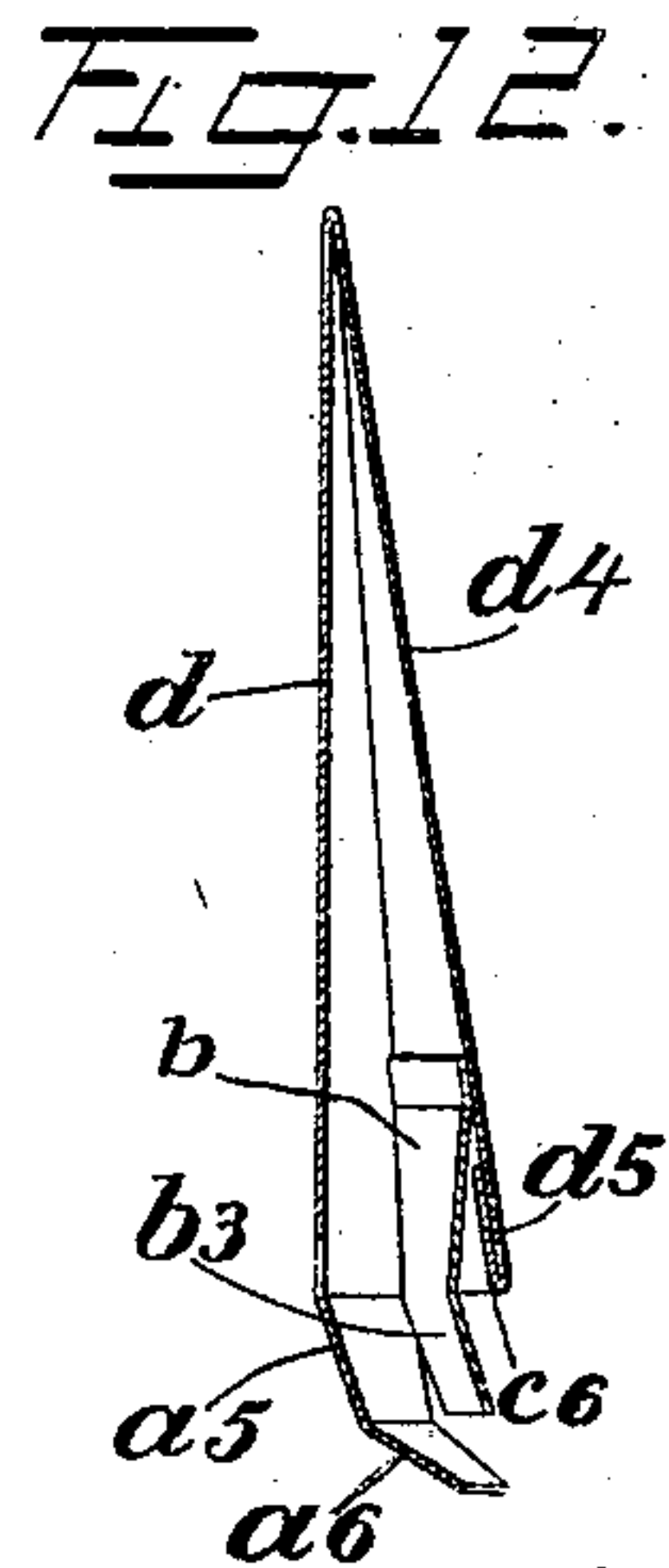
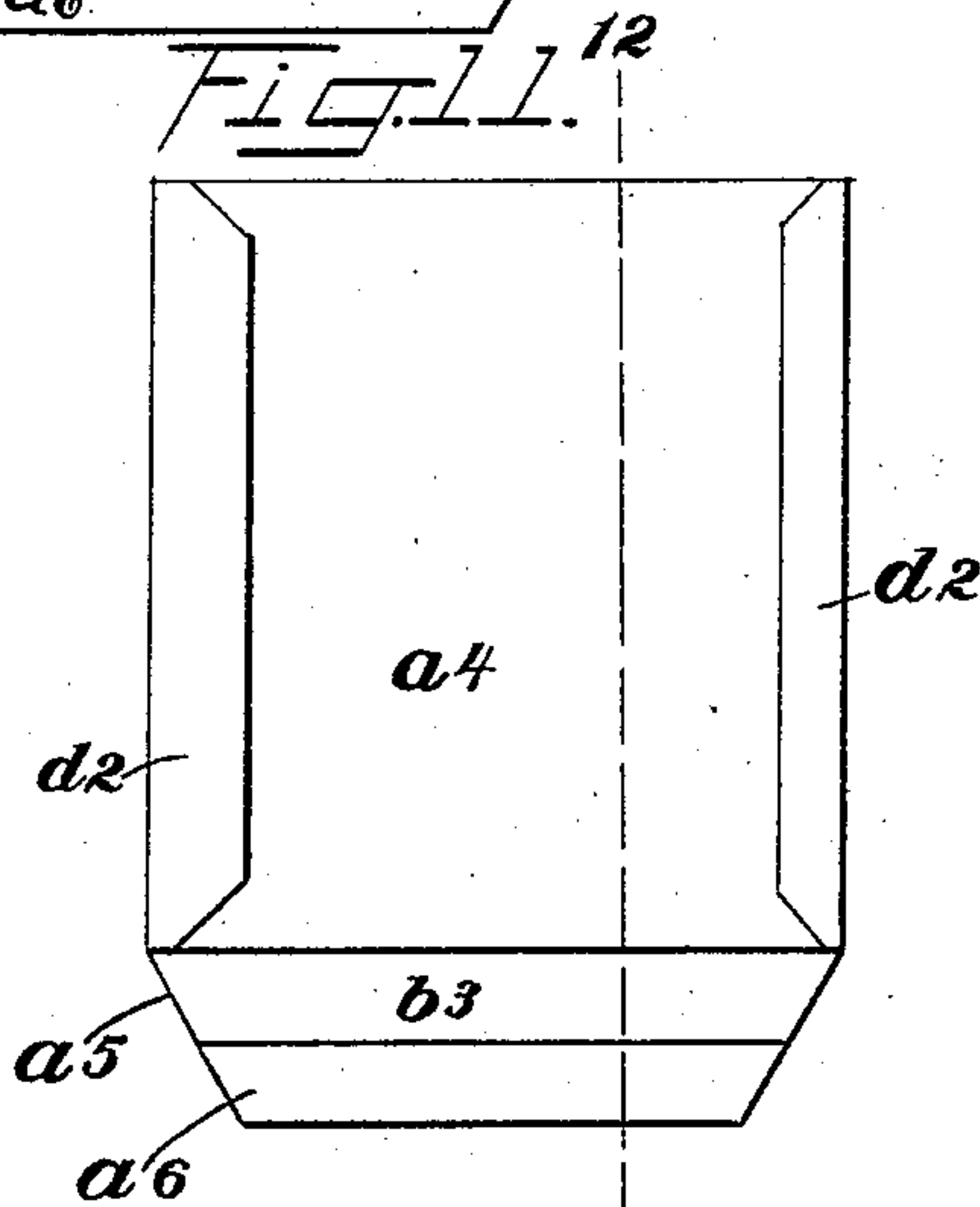
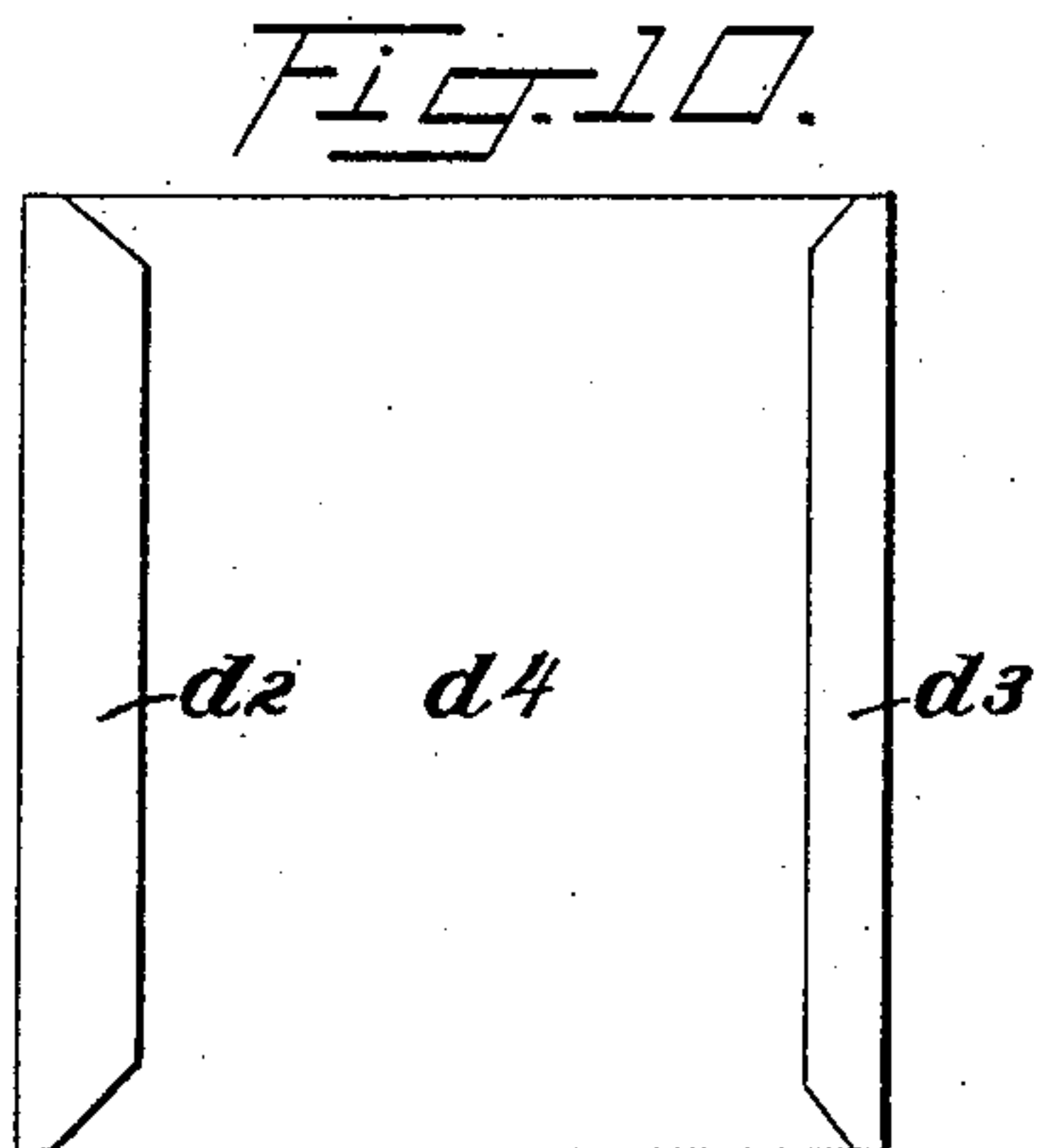
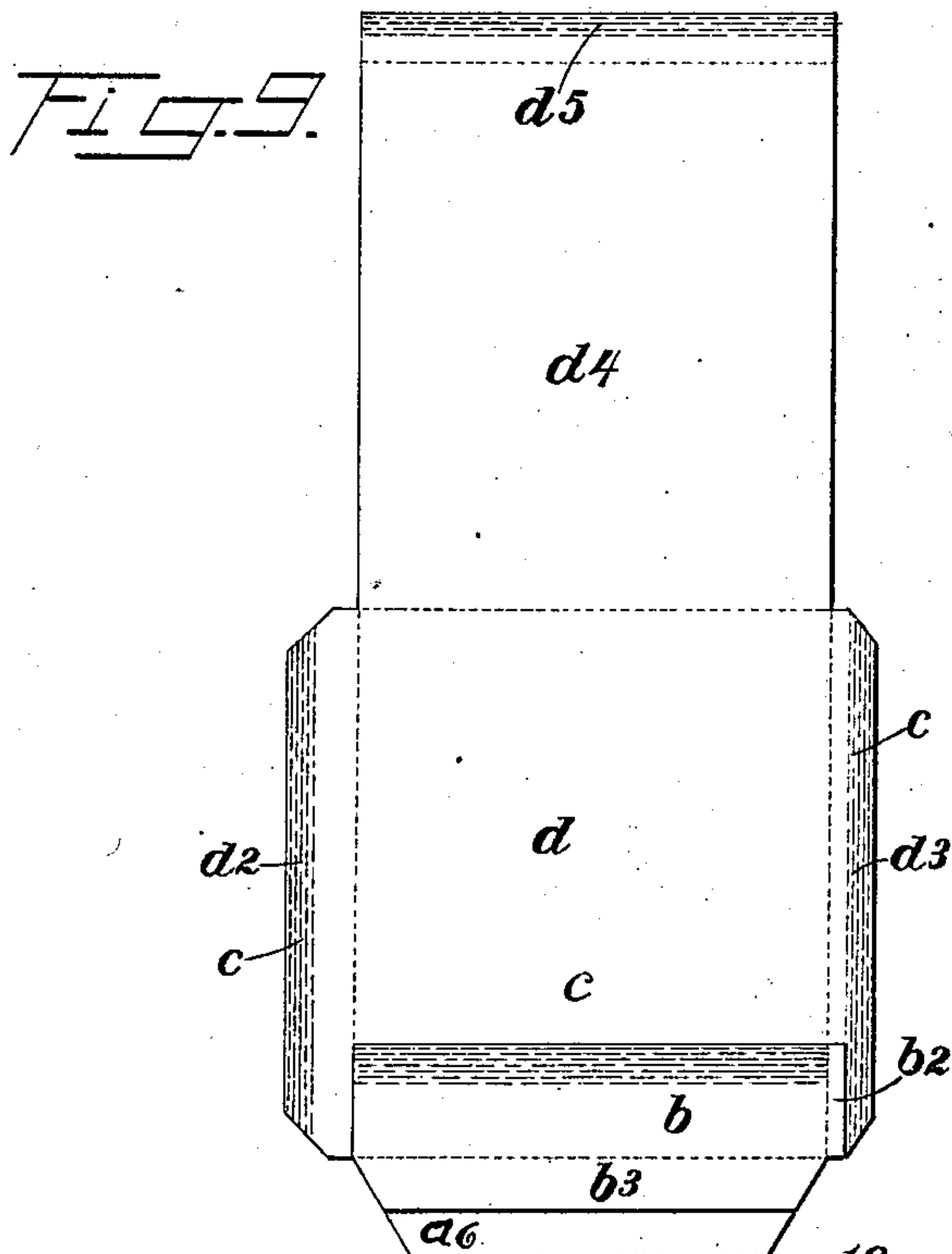
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM THOMAS LEE, OF ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA.

MAILING-ENVELOP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 710,200, dated September 30, 1902.

Application filed January 14, 1902. Serial No. 89,641. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM THOMAS LEE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Altoona, in the county of Blair and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mailing-Envelops, of which the following is a full and complete specification, such as will enable those skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

The object of this invention is to provide an improved envelop for mailing articles which are carried by the mails as third and fourth class matter or other matter which the postmaster has a right to examine in order to determine whether or not the proper postage has been paid thereon, a further object being to provide an envelop of this class which will securely retain all such matter in position therein and which may at the same time be opened whenever necessary for the purpose specified.

In the drawings forming part of this specification, in which the separate parts of my improvement are designated by the same reference characters in each of the views, Figure 1 is a plan view of a main envelop-blank and a supplemental sealing-blank from which my improved envelop is made, the supplemental sealing-blank being secured to the main blank; Fig. 2, a back view of an envelop made according to my invention; Fig. 3, a view similar to Fig. 2, showing the envelop open for inspection; Fig. 4, a section on the line 4 4 of Fig. 3; Fig. 5, a view similar to Fig. 1, showing a modification; Fig. 6, a back view of an envelop made from the blanks shown in Fig. 5 and showing the envelop sealed; Fig. 7, a view similar to Fig. 6, showing the envelop open for inspection; Fig. 8, a section on the line 8 8 of Fig. 7; Fig. 9, a view similar to Fig. 1, showing another modification; Fig. 10, a view of an envelop made from the blanks shown in Fig. 9 and showing the envelop sealed; Fig. 11, a view similar to Fig. 10, showing the envelop open for inspection; and Fig. 12, a section on the line 12 12 of Fig. 11.

In the drawings forming part of this specification, reference being made to Figs. 1 to 4, inclusive, I provide a main blank comprising a body portion a , having two foldable side

members a^2 and a^3 , said blank being also provided at one end with a folding flap a^4 and at the opposite end with a similar folding flap a^5 , said flap a^5 being provided with an extension a^6 . Secured to one of the folding side members a^3 , as shown in the drawings, is a supplemental sealing-blank b , the connection of this blank b with the side member a^3 being by means of an end extension b^2 of said blank b , which is sealed to the member a^3 , and said blank b is also provided with a side flap b^3 , which overlaps the flap a^5 at the end of the body portion a of the main blank. The side member a^3 is also preferably provided at the end thereof adjacent to the sealing-flap b with a flap a^7 , and in the operation of preparing the envelop for use or forming said envelop this flap a^7 is folded inwardly and sealed to the body portion of the member a^3 , so as to give strength to said end of said member, and said flap a^7 is gummed for this purpose, as shown at c . The parts a^2 , a^4 , and b are also provided with gummed surfaces c , whereby they may be sealed together, and in forming an envelop from these blanks the flap a^6 is first folded over the flap b^3 of the sealing blank or strip b along the line c^4 , and the flaps b^3 and a^5 are then folded together over the sealing blank or strip b along the line c^5 . The member or flap a^3 is then folded over the body portion of the blank a along the line c^2 and is sealed to the member b , and the end flap a^4 is then folded over and sealed to the member or flap a^3 . This completes the envelop or renders it ready for use, and the contents or matter to be mailed is placed therein through the open sides, and the flap or member a^2 is then folded over and sealed, as shown in Fig. 2, and in this form of construction it will be seen that the flap or member a^2 constitutes the ordinary sealing-flap. If the postmaster or any one having authority desires to inspect the contents of the envelop, the flaps a^5 , a^6 , and b^3 are turned outwardly, as shown in Figs. 3 and 4, and this opens this end of the envelop, as shown in Fig. 4, and the contents of the envelop may be inspected and removed, if desired, through the opening thus formed between the parts b^3 of the blank or sealing member b and the front or body portion of the envelop, after which the flap a^6 is folded over the flap b^3 , and the flaps a^5 , a^6 , and b^3 are in-

serted between the parts b and a^7 at c^6 in Fig. 4.

In Figs. 5 to 8, inclusive, I have shown another form of the construction, in which the operation is similar to that hereinbefore described, the difference being that the side members a^2 and a^3 are of substantially the same width, whereas in Fig. 1 the side member a^3 is as wide as the body portion of the blank, and the side member a^2 constitutes merely a flap. In all other respects this construction is the same as that shown in Figs. 1 to 4, inclusive, and as hereinbefore described, with the exception that the side member a^2 is provided at the end thereof adjacent to the part b with a gummed flap a^8 , which is adapted to be folded inwardly, so as to strengthen said side member, and with this form of construction the side members a^2 and a^3 are folded and sealed, and the flap or member a^4 constitutes the ordinary sealing-flap and the matter to be mailed is inserted at the end of the envelop which is closed by the flap a^4 .

In Figs. 9 to 12 I have shown another form of construction, in which the main blank comprises a body portion d , having two side members d^2 and d^3 , which consist of narrow gummed strips, the gum being shown at c , and said body of the blank is provided also with the sealing strip or blank b , which is secured to the part d^3 at b^2 , the same as in Fig. 1. In this form of construction, however, instead of employing a small sealing-flap a^4 I provide the body d of the main blank with an extended or enlarged end member d^4 . In this form of construction the body d of the main blank is provided with the flaps a^5 and a^6 , as in Figs. 1 to 4, inclusive, and Figs. 5 to 6, inclusive, and the sealing blank or strip b is also provided with the flap b^3 , and the end member d^4 is provided at its outer end with a small folding flap or strip d^5 , having a gummed inner surface, and in practice this flap d^5 is folded inwardly, so as to strengthen the end of the part d^4 , and the flaps a^5 and a^6 of the main blank and the flaps b^3 of the strip or blank b are then folded, after which the part d^4 is folded over and sealed to the strip or member b , and the strip or member d^3 is then folded over and sealed to the part d^4 , and the part d^2 constitutes the ordinary sealing-flap of the envelop ready for use, and after the contents have been put therein the sealing-flap d^2 is folded over and sealed to the back of the envelop or to the part d^4 , as shown in Fig. 10. The inspection of the contents of this envelop is done in the same manner as hereinbefore described with reference to Figs. 1 to 4, inclusive, it being understood that the flaps a^6 , a^5 , and b^3 are folded together and then folded inwardly and passed between the parts b and d^5 at c^6 .

Although the parts a^2 and a^3 , as shown in Figs. 1 and 5, and the parts d^2 and d^3 , as shown in Fig. 9, are described as folding side flaps or members, and the part a^4 , as shown

in Figs. 1 and 5, and the part d^4 , as shown in Fig. 9, as a folding end member or flap, it will be apparent that these terms are only relative and depend upon the shape of the body portion of the blank.

My improved envelop is simple in construction and operation and perfectly adapted to accomplish the result for which it is intended, and the same may be made of any desired material, ordinary envelop paper or stiffer or stronger paper being employed.

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

1. An envelop composed of a main blank and a sealing-strip, the body portion of the main blank being provided at its opposite side with folding flaps or members, and at one end with a folding flap or member and said sealing-strip being sealed or secured at one end thereof to the end of the main blank opposite the last-named folding flap or member, the end of the body portion of the main blank with which the sealing-strip is connected being also provided with a flap which is adapted to be folded transversely and centrally thereof and also at the end of said body portion of the main blank, and said sealing-strip being also provided with a flap which is adapted to be folded at the end of the body portion of the main blank and which is adapted to overlap part of the last-named flap of the body of the main blank, substantially as shown and described.

2. An envelop composed of a main blank and a sealing-strip, the body portion of the main blank being provided at its opposite side with folding flaps or members and at one end with a folding flap or member and said sealing-strip being sealed or secured at one end thereof to the end of the main blank opposite the last-named folding flap or member, the end of the body portion of the main blank and with which the sealing-strip is connected being also provided with a flap which is adapted to be folded transversely and centrally thereof and also at the end of said body portion of the main blank, and said sealing-strip being also provided with a flap which is adapted to be folded at the end of the body portion of the main blank and which is adapted to overlap part of the last-named flap of the body of the main blank, the folding flaps or members at the opposite sides of the main blank being also provided at the ends thereof adjacent to the sealing-strip with flaps, substantially as shown and described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention I have signed my name, in presence of the subscribing witnesses, this 8th day of January, 1902.

WILLIAM THOMAS LEE.

Witnesses:

JOHN LEE,

ROBERT E. LEE.