

No. 756,023.

PATENTED MAR. 29, 1904.

C. W. JOHNSON & J. K. OLAISSON.
HAT RACK.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 23, 1903.

NO MODEL.

Fig. 1.

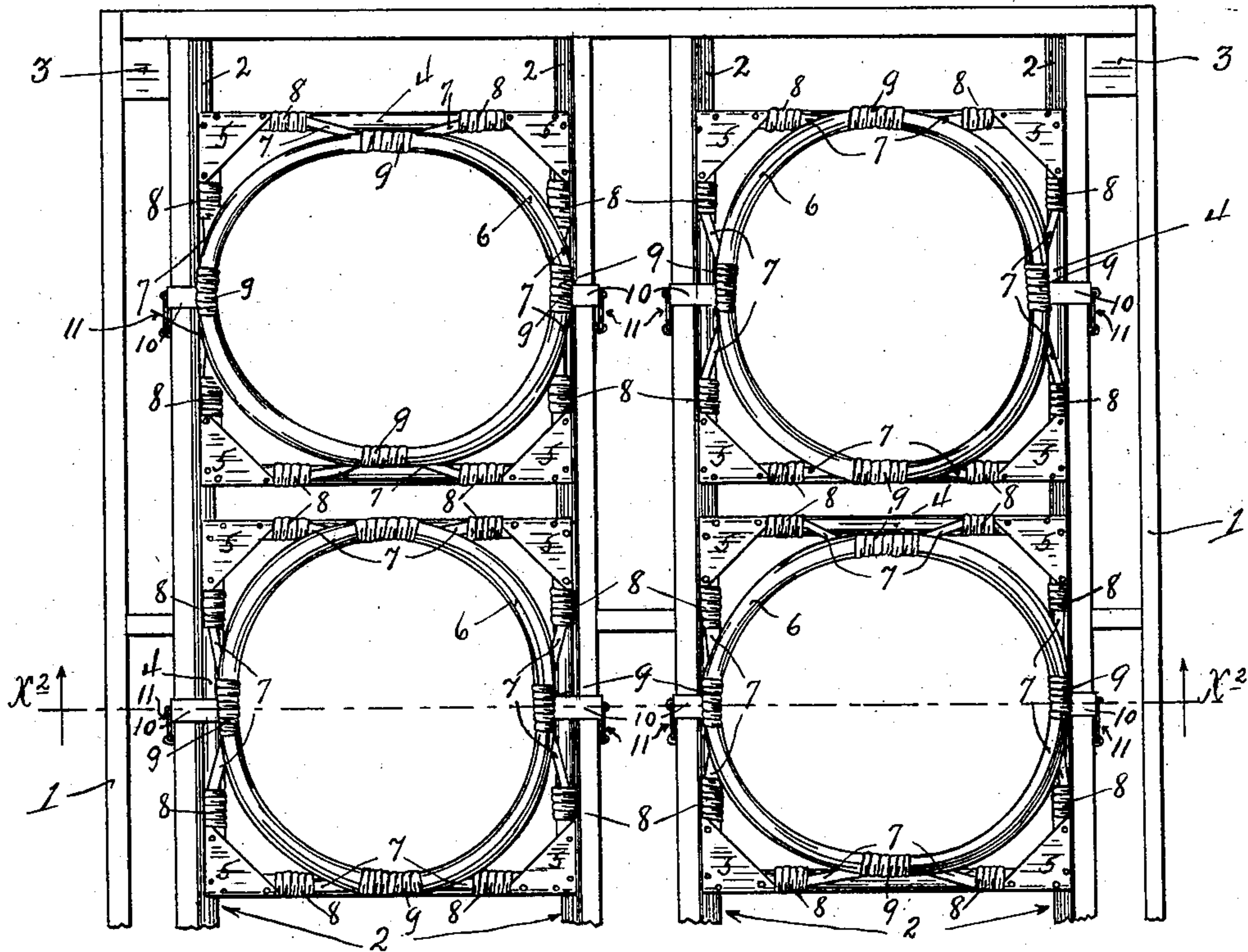


Fig. 2.

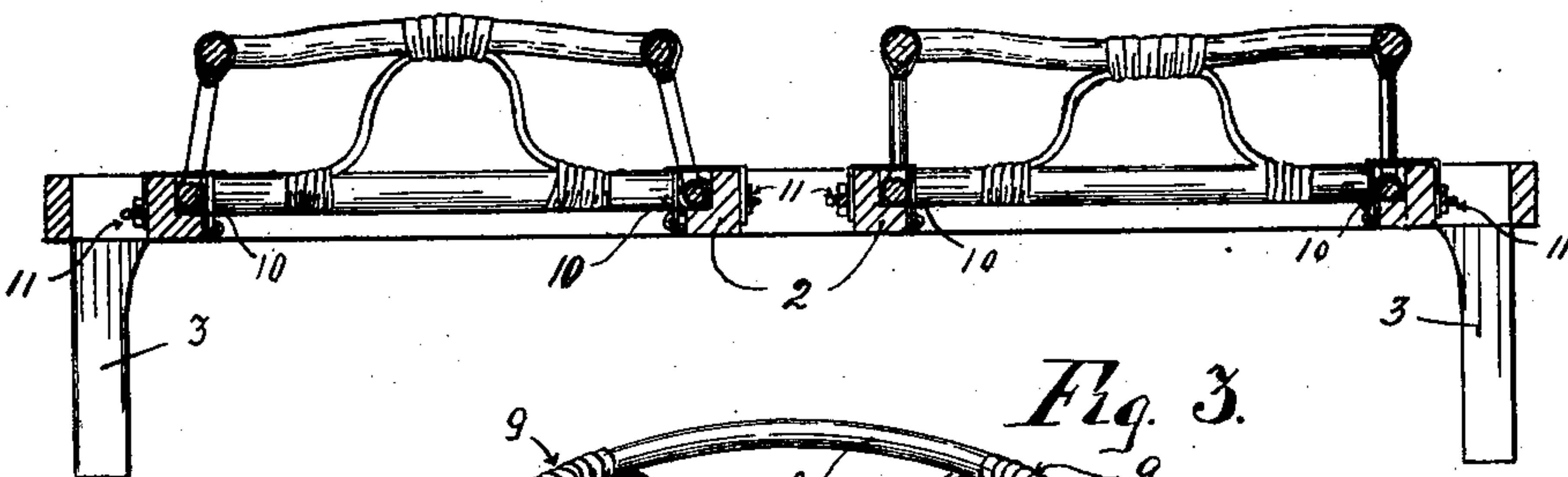
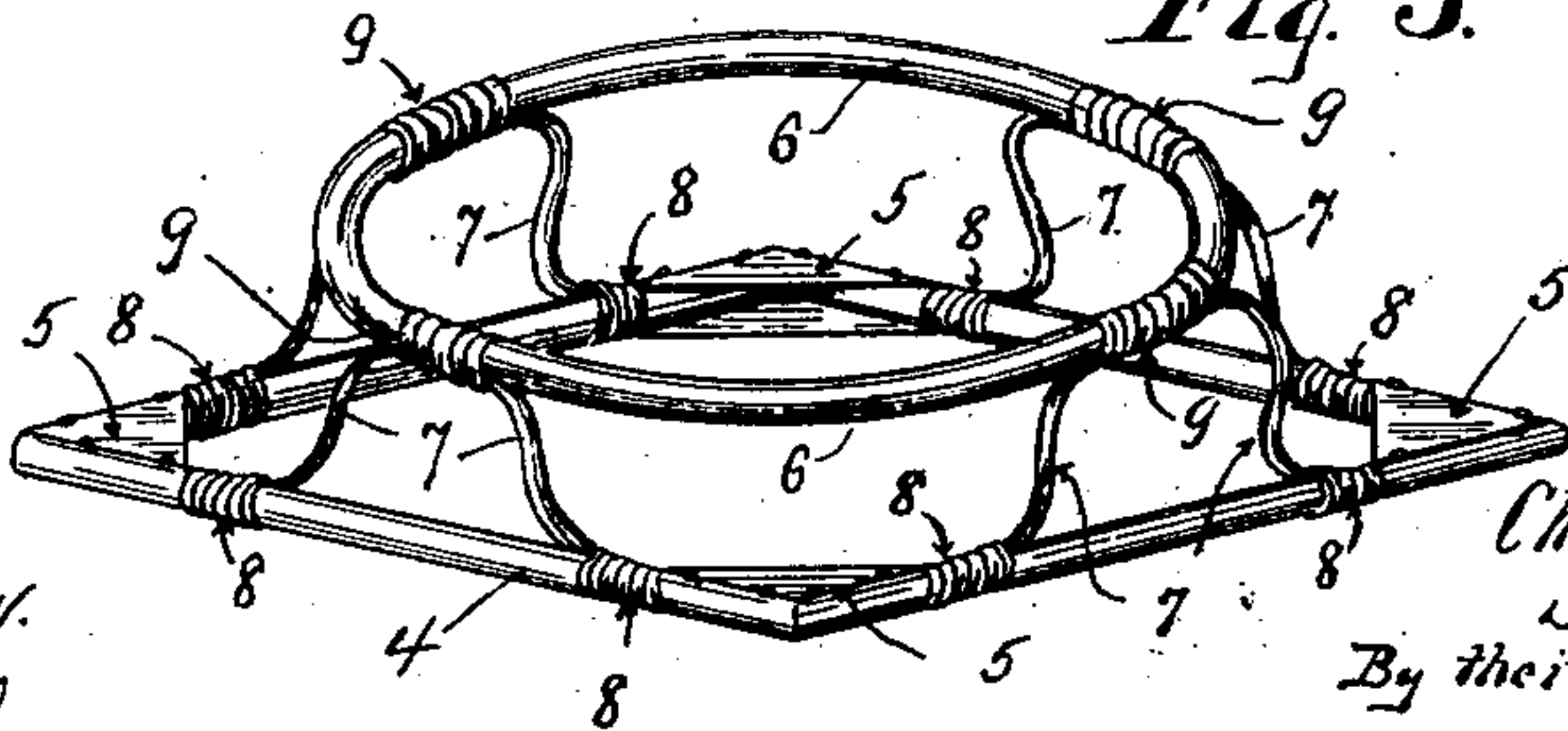


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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HAT-RACK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 756,023, dated March 29, 1904.

Application filed October 23, 1903. Serial No. 178,193. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, CHARLES W. JOHNSON and JOHN K. OLAISON, citizens of the United States, residing at Minneapolis, in the county of Hennepin and State of Minnesota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Hat-Racks; and we do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to hat racks or crates of the character used by traveling salesmen and others for holding a large number of hats within a trunk, and has for its object to provide a light, cheap, and efficient device for the above purpose.

To the above ends the invention consists of the novel devices and combinations of devices hereinafter described, and defined in the claims.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein like characters indicate like parts throughout the several views.

Figure 1 is a plan view, with parts broken away, showing a rack or crate designed in accordance with our invention. Fig. 2 is a transverse section on the line $x^2 x^2$ of Fig. 1, and Fig. 3 is a perspective view of one of the detachable sections of the rack.

The numeral 1 indicates a rectangular supporting-frame, which is formed with longitudinally-extended pairs of rabbetted bars 2 and, as shown, also with supporting-legs 3 at its four corners.

For supporting each hat an adjustable, detachable, and reversible section is provided. Each section has a rectangular base 4, preferably constructed of ratan and braced at its corners by triangular corner-plates 5. This base 4 in both directions is of such dimensions that it will fit within the seat afforded by the rabbets or grooves of either pair of bars 2. In other words, the said base is square and may be set within the seats afforded by the said bars 2 in either of two positions and, furthermore, may be slid along to the proper position upon the said bars, all as will herein-

after more fully appear. For direct engagement with the rim of the hat, with the crown of the hat depending therethrough, there is provided a slightly-flexible ring 6, constructed of ratan. One of these rings 6 is secured to each rectangular base 4 by four upwardly-bowed standards 7, that are also constructed of ratan, so that while sufficiently rigid to afford the proper supports are nevertheless capable of being bent for a purpose which will presently appear. The end portions of these standards 7 are adjustably but firmly secured to the rectangular frame 4, preferably by wrappings 8, of split ratan, and the intermediate upper portions of said standards are in a similar manner secured to the ring 6 by wrappings 9. Other devices than the wrappings 8 and 9 may, however, be used for the purposes stated. The rectangular frames 4 may be held in their properly-adjusted positions on the bars 2 by a suitable fastening, such as the hinged clamps 10 and coöperating hooks 11.

Racks of the character above described are used to carry sample hats, and it is of course highly important that such hats be kept always in perfect form. It is further evident that the form of most hats is such that the supporting-rings 6 if bent so as to lie in a given plane would not properly fit the rim, and hence would tend to force the rim of the hat out of proper shape. Furthermore, different hats require different curvature of the rim 6 out of a true plane. Hence it becomes important that means be provided for varying the form of the said rings in the above-noted particular. This may be readily done by sliding the ends of the standards 7 on the sides or rods of the base-frame 4 so as to vary the height at which they will support the connected portions of the supporting-ring. For instance, those portions of the ring which engage the front and rear portions of the hat-crown may be drawn downward with respect to the side portions of the ring, or vice versa, according to the form of the rim of the hat. The rings 6, it will be noted, are not true circles, but are slightly oval, so as to correspond

to the form of the hat-crown. Adjustments of the detachable hat-holders with respect to the supporting-frame 1 are necessary with hats having rims of different size and form in order to get the largest number of hats which is possible in view of such form and size into a given space. Hence the sliding adjustments of the independent or individual hat-holders is required. Furthermore, space will sometimes be gained by placing the holders with the major axes of the rings 6 longitudinally of the guide-rails 2, while at other times space will be gained by setting the said holders in a position at ninety degrees to the position indicated. Both of these positions are indicated in Fig. 1. It will thus be seen that the holders are capable of independent sliding angular adjustments to adapt the rack to hold hats of different forms and sizes.

It is of course very desirable to arrange the rack to hold the largest possible number of hats. A rack of given dimensions will, as is evident, hold a larger number of small-rimmed hats than it will hats of very large rims. Hence it frequently happens that a greater or less number of holders may be applied to the rack or support according to the size of the hat-rims. The adjustments above noted, as is evident, make it possible to rearrange the hat-holders so that the largest possible number may always be used. Hence we desire to claim, broadly, a hat rack or crate having hat-holders which are capable of rearrangement with respect to each other, so that the maximum number thereof in view of the size of the hat may always be rendered serviceable.

In practice the supporting-ring 6 would usually be wrapped or covered with cloth or similar material. The entire device while extremely light is nevertheless strong and durable.

From what has above been said it will be understood that the hat rack or crate above described is capable of many modifications within the scope of our invention as herein set forth and claimed.

What we claim, and desire to secure by Let-

ters Patent of the United States, is as follows:

1. In a hat rack or crate, the combination with a base-support having longitudinal supporting-guides, of independently-removable hat-holders having rectangular bases adapting them to be slid upon and set in different angular positions with respect to said supporting-guides, substantially as described.

2. The combination with a rectangular base-support having the grooved longitudinal supporting-bars 2, of a plurality of independently-removable hat-holders having rectangular bases fitting the grooves of said supporting-bars 2, in either of two angular positions, and adapted to be slid in different relative positions, substantially as described.

3. A hat-holder comprising a rectangular base, a rim-engaging ring adapted to be sprung, and bowed standards, said standards being attached to said ring at their intermediate portions and having their ends adjustably secured to said rectangular base, whereby the said ring may be bent to the outline of a hat-rim, by adjustments of the said standards, substantially as described.

4. A hat-holder comprising a supporting-base, a rim-engaging ring and devices connecting the said base and rim-engaging ring, the said devices being adjustable to vary the curvature of said ring from a horizontal plane, substantially as described.

5. In a hat rack or crate, the combination with a base-support adapted to support a plurality of hat-holders in the same horizontal plane, of a plurality of annular hat-holders having bases resting on said base-support, and adapted to be variably spaced and to be adjusted rotatively in the same horizontal plane, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures in presence of two witnesses.

CHARLES W. JOHNSON
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Witnesses:

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