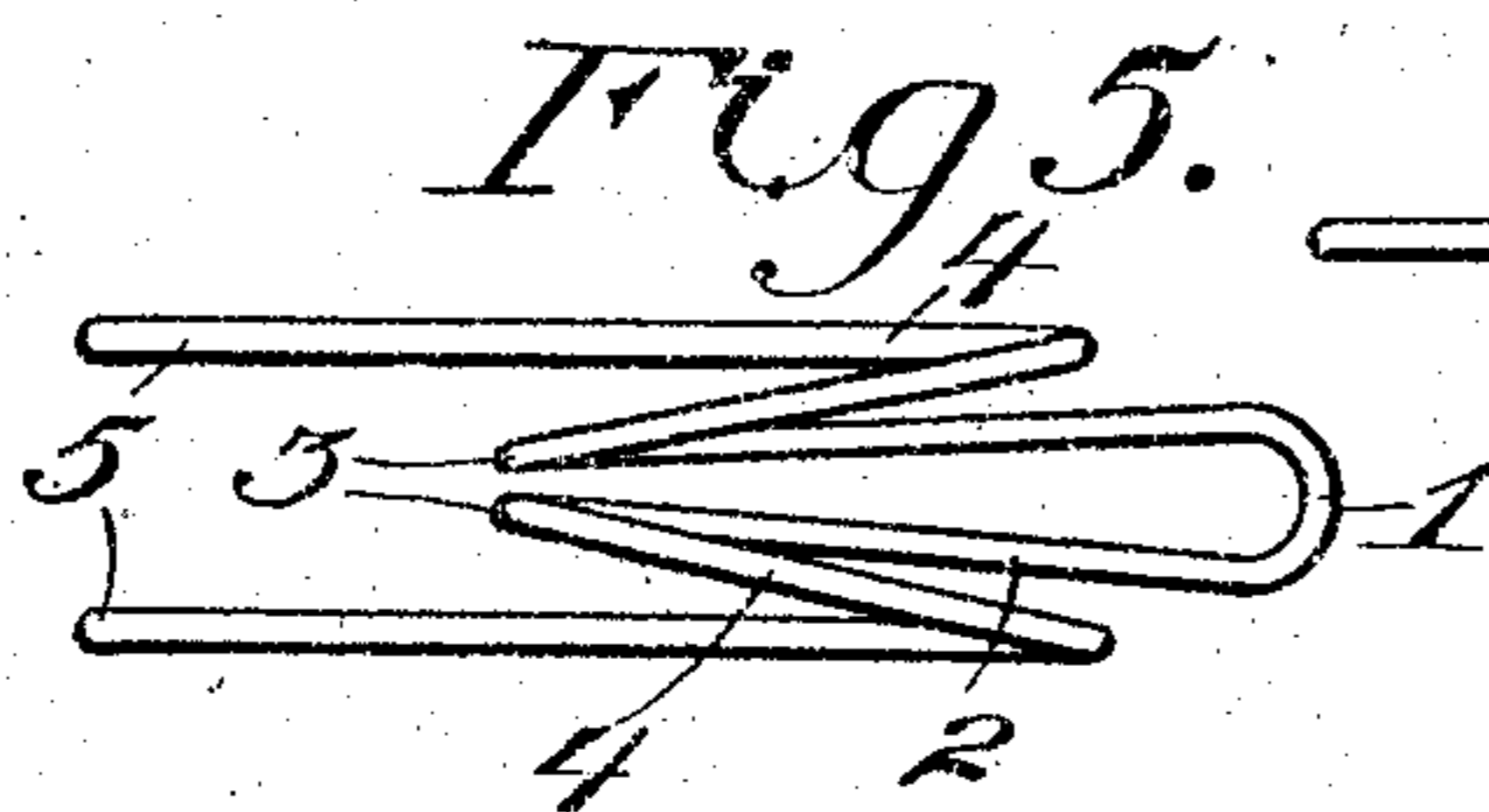
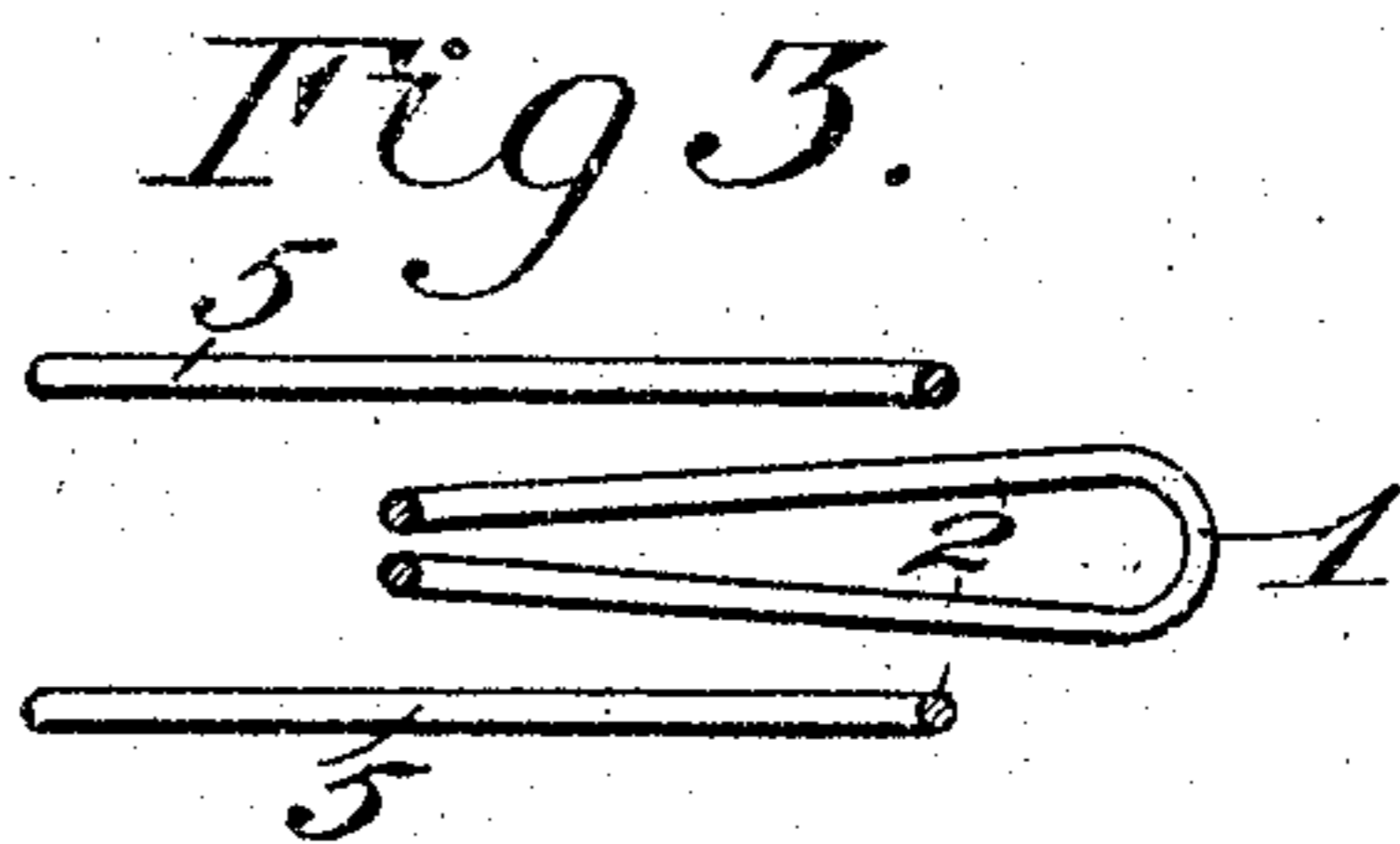
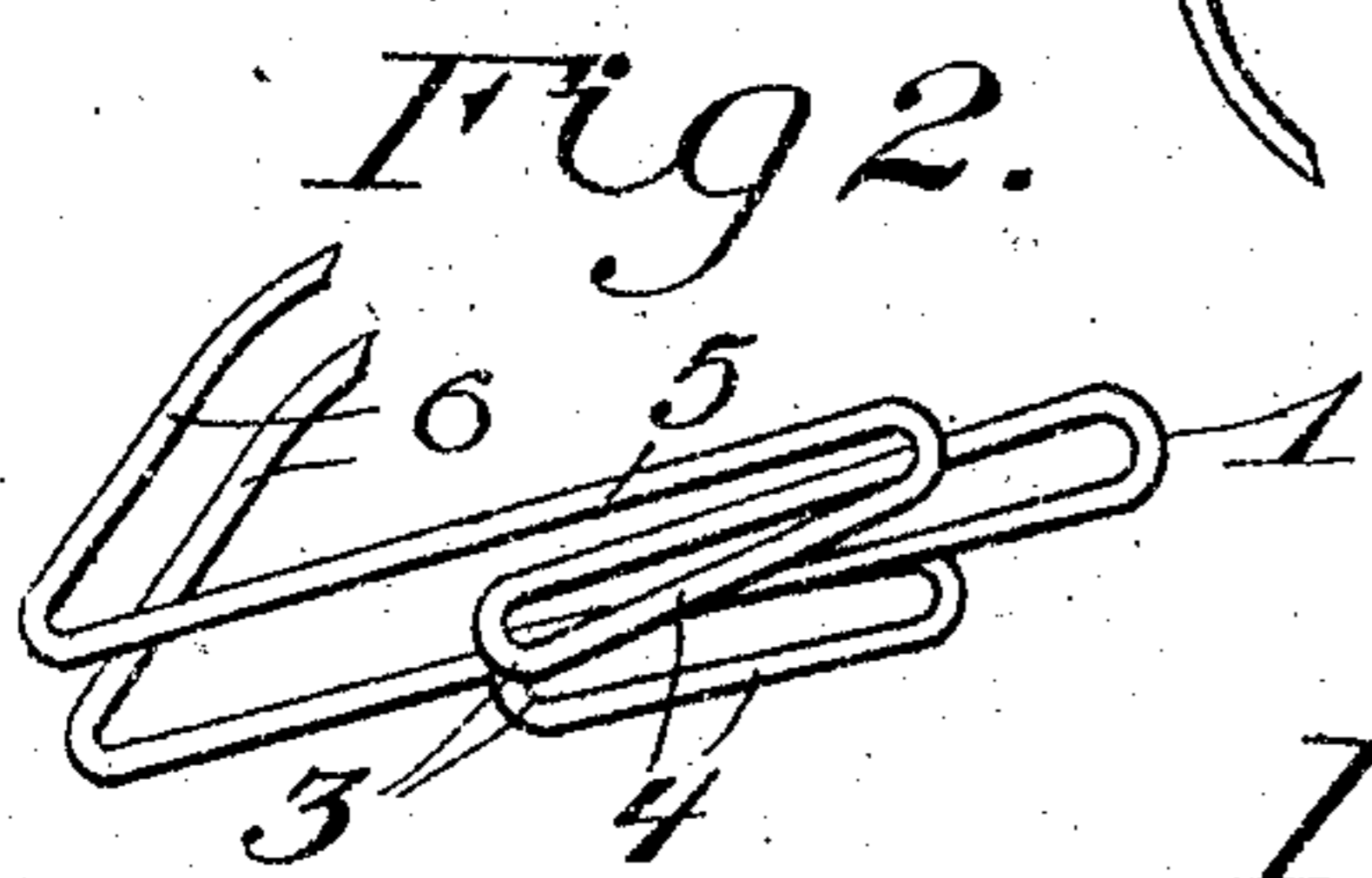
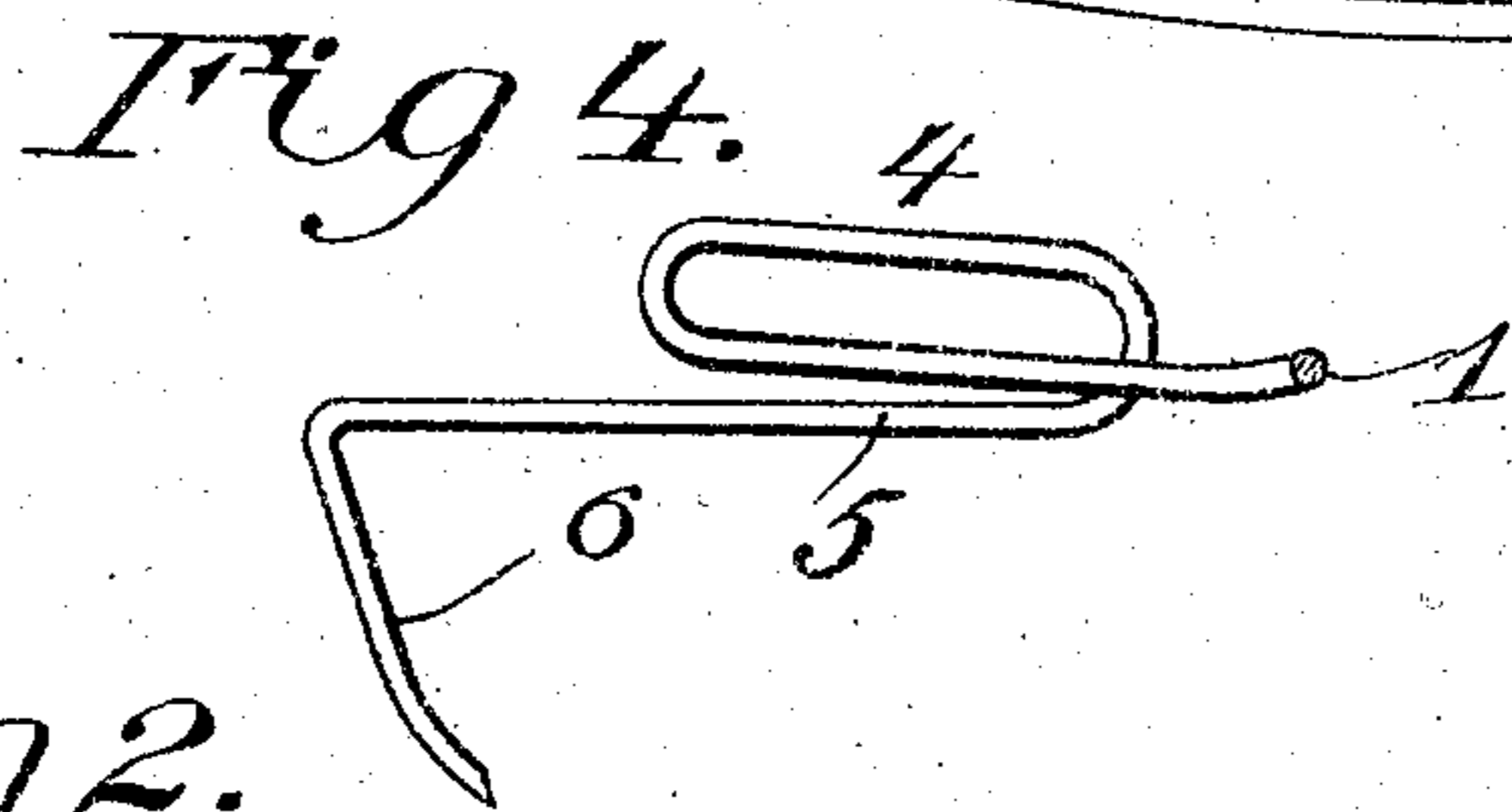
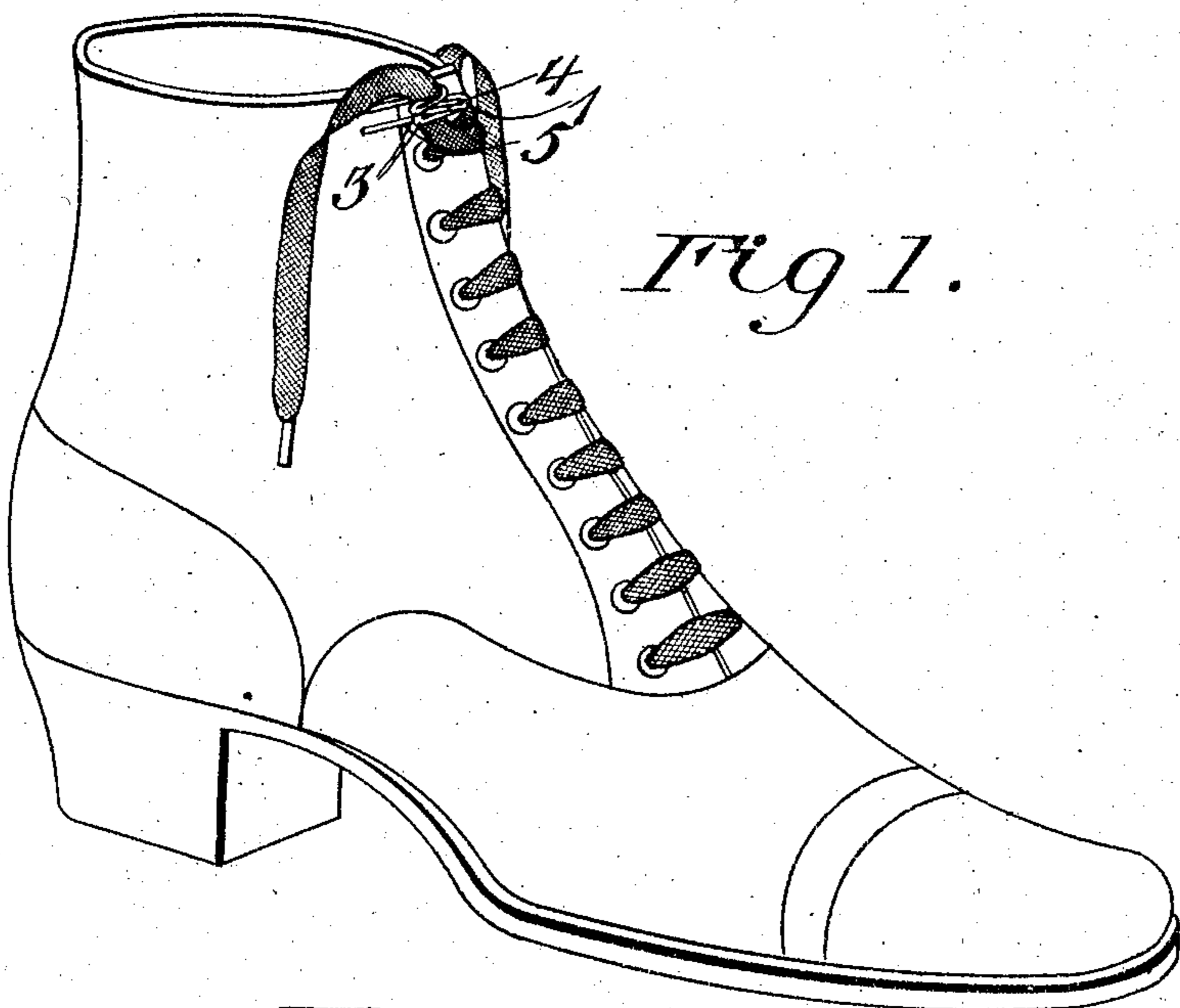


No. 772,854.

PATENTED OCT. 18, 1904.

F. WILEHART.
SHOE LACE FASTENER.
APPLICATION FILED MAR. 29, 1904.

NO MODEL.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK WILEHART, OF OREGON CITY, OREGON.

SHOE-LACE FASTENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 772,854, dated October 18, 1904.

Application filed March 29, 1904. Serial No. 200,635. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK WILEHART, a citizen of the United States, residing at Oregon City, in the county of Clackamas and State of Oregon, have invented new and useful Improvements in Shoe-Lace Fasteners, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to shoe-lace fasteners, the object of the invention being to provide a fastener or holding device for shoe-laces for securing the ends of the laces after the same have been drawn taut through the lace holes or hooks arranged along the flaps of the shoe.

While the fastening device hereinafter described is particularly designed for use in connection with ordinary shoes and adapted to be arranged at the upper corners of the flaps thereof, it will be apparent that the fastening device may be used at the back of the shoe for holding the ends of the laces and at various other points which will suggest themselves to the manufacturer and user.

With the above general object in view the invention consists in the novel construction, combination, and arrangement of parts, as herein fully described, illustrated, and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a shoe, showing one of the shoe-lace fasteners of this invention applied thereto and holding one of the lace ends. Fig. 2 is an enlarged detail perspective view of one of the fasteners. Fig. 3 is a sectional plan view of the same. Fig. 4 is a sectional side view of the fastener, and Fig. 5 is an outer or top plan view of the same.

Like reference-numerals designate corresponding parts in all the figures of the drawings.

The shoe-lace fastener contemplated in this invention is composed of a single strip of spring material, the strip being preferably composed of a suitable length of wire. The said strip or length of wire is bent about centrally of its length to form a loop 1, and from the bend of the loop the opposite portions of the wire are extended to form outwardly-converging portions 2 of a pair of spring-jaws, the same approaching each other quite closely at their free ends 3, where they are bent upward and carried divergently back toward the

loop 1 to form coils 4. The coils 4 diverge at a greater angle than the side portions 2 of the spring-jaws and terminate short of the end of the loop 1, as clearly shown in Fig. 5.

From the spring-coils 4 the end portions of the strip or wire are extended in a reverse direction to form substantially parallel base portions 5, which are adapted to lie in contact with the shoe or other surface to which the fastening device is applied. These base portions 5 extend by preference considerably beyond the free ends 3 of the spring-jaws, and their ends are bent at an angle and extended inward and preferably sharpened at their extremities to form prongs 6, which in practice are inserted through the shoe-upper or other article to which the fastening device is applied and clenched against the surface of such article opposite that surface to which the main body of the fastening device is applied, the said prongs thereby serving to secure the device as a whole to the shoe or other article.

By reference to Fig. 1 it will be observed that after the shoe has been laced and the laces drawn taut the ends of the laces are passed beneath the spring-jaws 2 and between said jaws and the base portion 5, the lace ends being forced back into the tapering spaces or angles between the spring-jaws and the base portions 5 until they are frictionally grasped and securely held thereby.

By means of the particular construction of shoe-lace fastener hereinabove described and clearly illustrated in the drawings the lace ends may be quickly engaged with and disengaged from the fasteners, and by reason of the fact that the spring-jaws are located between and out of line with the base portions 5 the said lace ends are crimped or abruptly deflected between the parts of the fasteners with which they come in contact, thus giving a thorough and effective grip to the fastening device upon the lace ends.

The relative lengths of the spring-jaws and base portions and the loop, and also the relative widths or lateral separation between the parts may be varied to suit requirements, and it will therefore be seen that changes in the form, proportion, and minor details of construction and arrangement may be resorted to

without departing from the principle or sacrificing any of the advantages of this invention.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is—

- 5 The herein-described fastener comprising a piece of wire bent about centrally of its length to form a loop, the side portions of which converge toward each other and are bent upward and carried divergently back toward the loop
10 to form coils which diverge at a greater angle than the side portions of the loop and which terminate short of the end of the loop, the

free ends of the wire after forming the coils being reversed again to form substantially parallel base portions extending beyond the 15 converging portions of the loop and terminating in attaching-prongs.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

FRANK WILEHART.

Witnesses:

G. L. HEDGES,
WM. GALLOWAY.