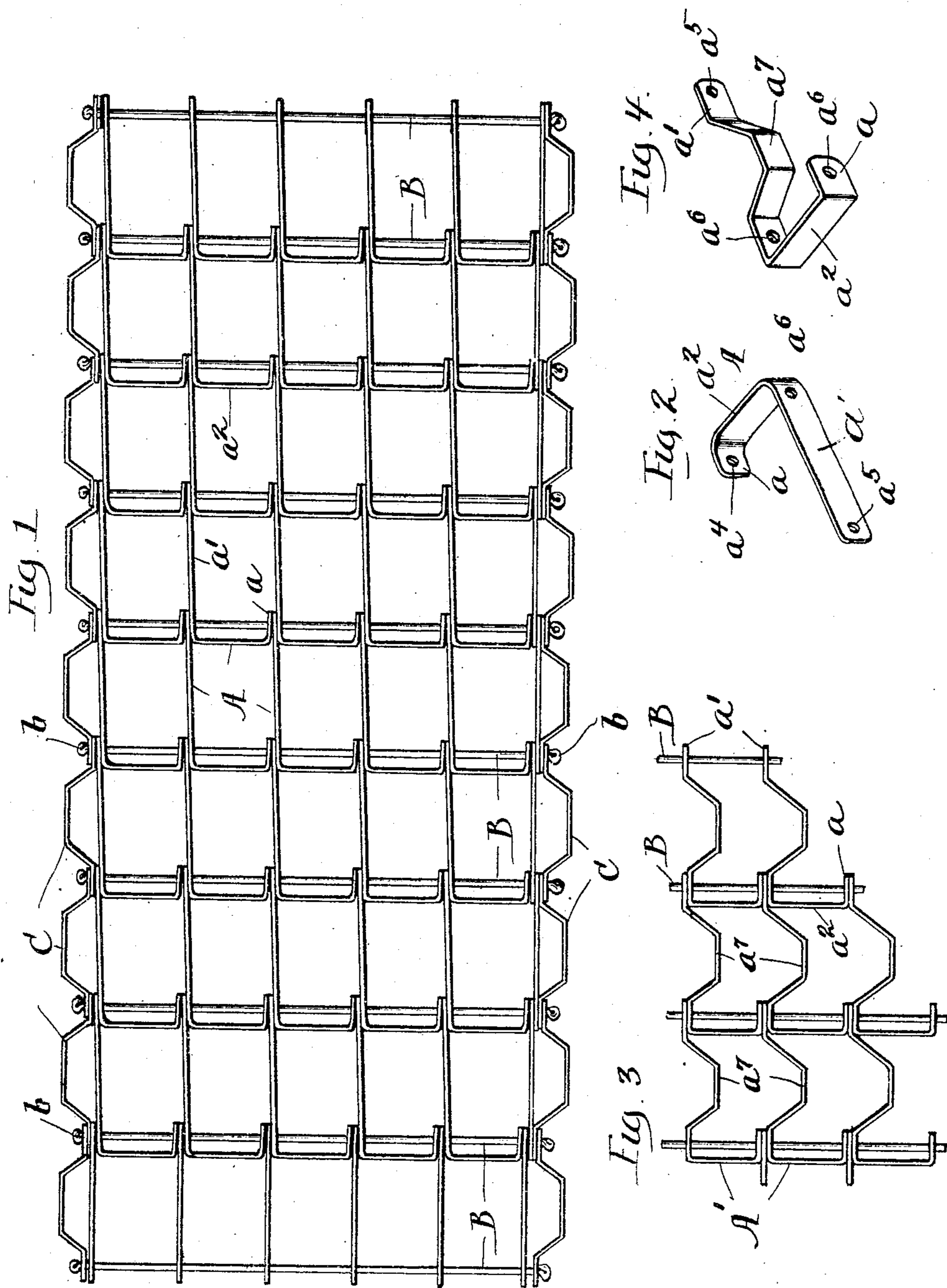


No. 786,544.

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A. S. BURNELL.  
FLEXIBLE MATTING OR FABRIC.  
APPLICATION FILED DEC. 20, 1902.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## FLEXIBLE MATTING OR FABRIC.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 786,544, dated April 4, 1905.

Application filed December 20, 1902. Serial No. 136,058.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ARTHUR S. BURNELL, a resident of the city of Marshalltown, in the county of Marshall and State of Iowa, have  
5 invented certain new and useful Improvements in Flexible Matting or Fabric, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

The invention designs to provide an improved flexible fabric or matting formed of flat strips of metal which can be readily bent into shape and quickly and easily assembled and which when assembled provide a fabric or matting which is durable, flexible, and in-  
15 expensive.

The invention consists in the several novel features hereinafter described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and more particularly defined by claims at the conclusion  
20 hereof.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a plan view of a floor-mat embodying the invention. Fig. 2 is a detail perspective of one of the metal strips. Fig. 3 is a plan of a modified form  
25 of the invention. Fig. 4 is a perspective of the modified form of strip shown in Fig. 3.

The fabric or matting is composed of flat strips of metal A, bent to form two longitudinally-extending terminals  $a$  and  $a'$  and a  
30 laterally-extending connecting portion  $a^2$ , which secures the terminals against relative displacement transversely and serves as a transversely-extending scraping-surface. The strips are arranged in longitudinal and transverse series, and the several transverse series are flexibly connected with the adjacent series by transverse rods B, which extend through the terminals of adjacent strips. Terminal  $a'$  of each strip is extended longitudinally and  
40 formed with a perforation  $a^6$  near the connecting portion and a perforation  $a^5$  near its free end, and terminal  $a$  is shorter and provided with a perforation  $a^4$ , transversely aligned with perforation  $a^6$  of the longer terminal  $a'$ .  
45 Rods B pass alternately through perforations  $a^4$  and  $a^6$  of the terminals of one transverse series of strips and through perforations  $a^5$  of the free ends of each of the long terminals of

the adjacent series. When assembled, the strips position each other laterally, and the  
50 connecting portions fit between the free ends of long terminals of the strips of the adjacent series. A border consisting of short strips C, having a portion thereof bent laterally and outwardly and having perforations where-  
55 through rods B pass, may be used, if desired. Heads  $b$  retain the strips on the rods. Strips of this shape can be readily formed and assembled, are stout, and when assembled form a matting which is inexpensive, durable, simple, flexible, and which can withstand severe  
60 lateral strain without breakage.

If desired, straight links  $c$  may be employed at one side and one end of the fabric to form a mat of symmetrical appearance.  
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In the form of the invention shown in Figs. 3 and 4 one terminal of each strip A has that portion between the connecting portion and its free end bent laterally, as at  $a^7$ , and these bent portions are advantageous in some in-  
70 stances because they form oppositely-inclined surfaces, which remove matter from shoes, and because they form an irregular mesh whereinto the heel of a shoe cannot enter and which permits a somewhat larger mesh to be em-  
75 ployed.

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

1. Fabric or matting comprising a plurality  
80 of flat metal strips each having a short longitudinally-extending terminal and a long longitudinally-extending terminal, the short terminal being connected to adjacent strips, and the long terminal having both of its ends con-  
85 nected to adjacent strips.

2. Fabric or matting comprising a plurality of sections, and pivots connecting the sections, each section comprising a plurality of flat strips of metal each bent to form a transverse  
90 bar, a short longitudinally-extending terminal through which one of the pivots between adjacent sections passes, and a long terminal extending longitudinally from end to end of a section and pivotally connected at each end  
95 with the adjacent sections.

3. Fabric or matting comprising a plurality of sections each comprising a plurality of flat strips of metal, each bent to form a transverse bar at one end of the section, a short longitudinally-extending terminal, and a long terminal, and pivots connecting the sections, the long terminals of the strips being held between

the ends of adjacent strips at which the transverse bars are located and thereby secured against lateral movement.

ARTHUR S. BURNELL.

In presence of—

FRED GERLACH,  
EMMA GERLACH.