

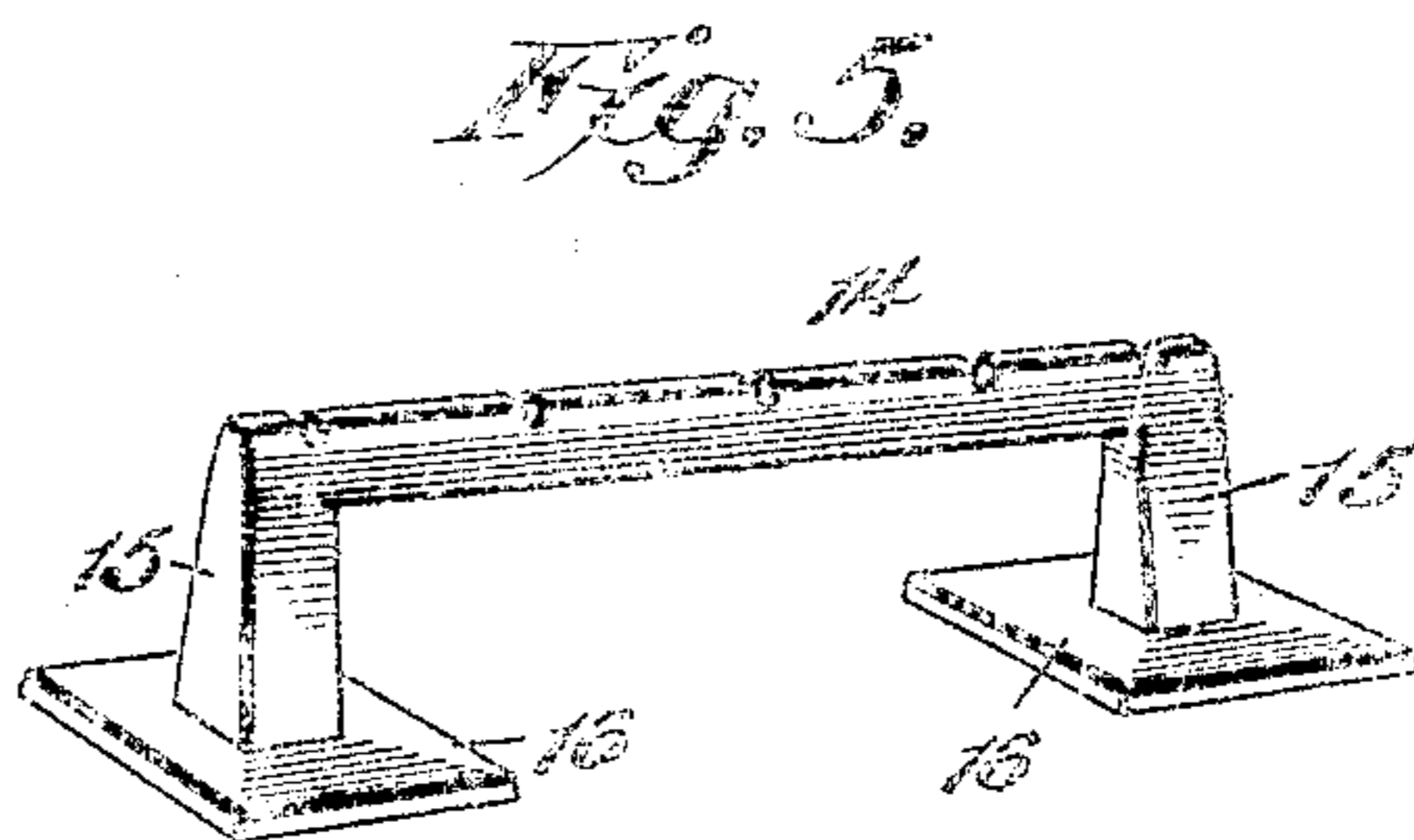
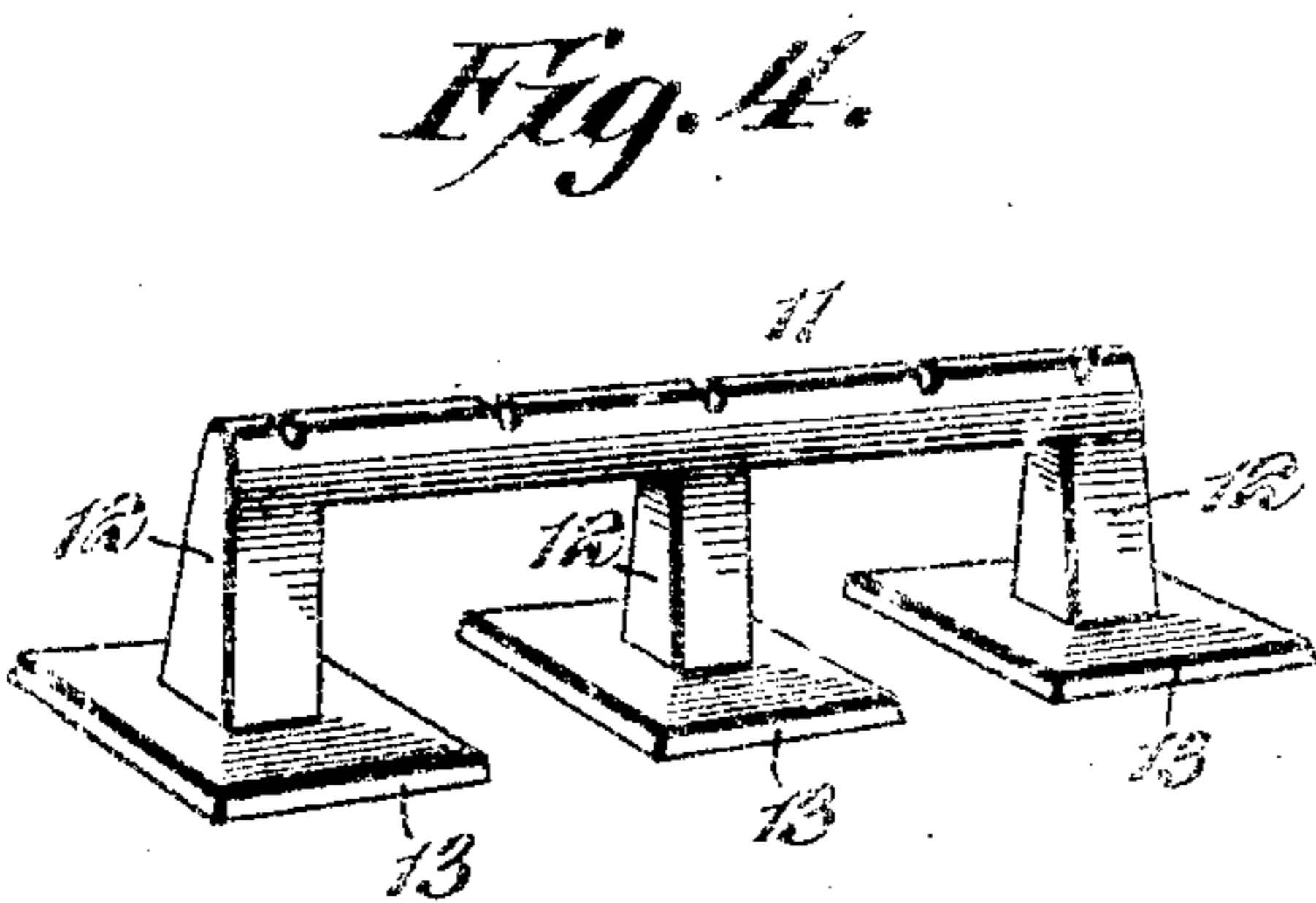
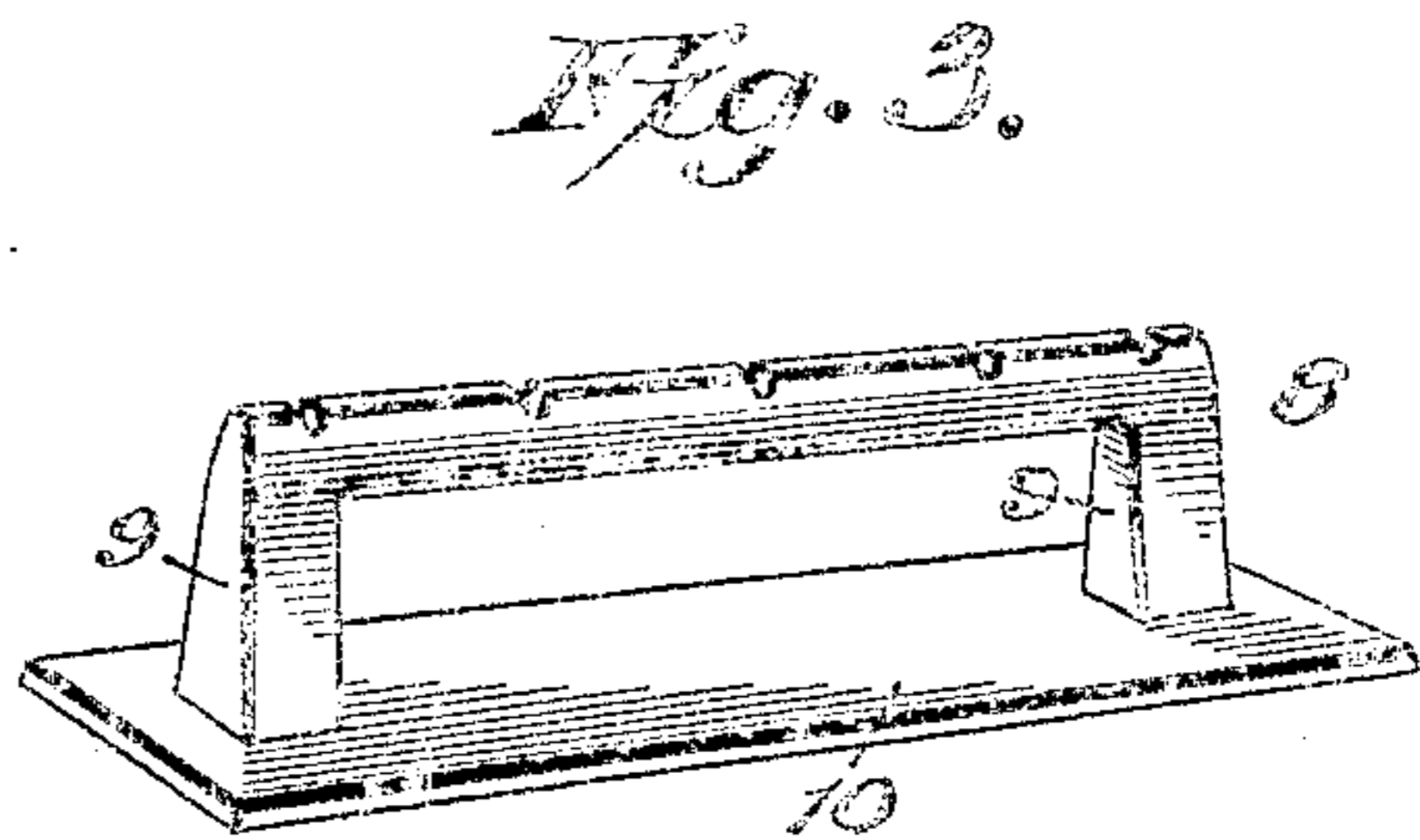
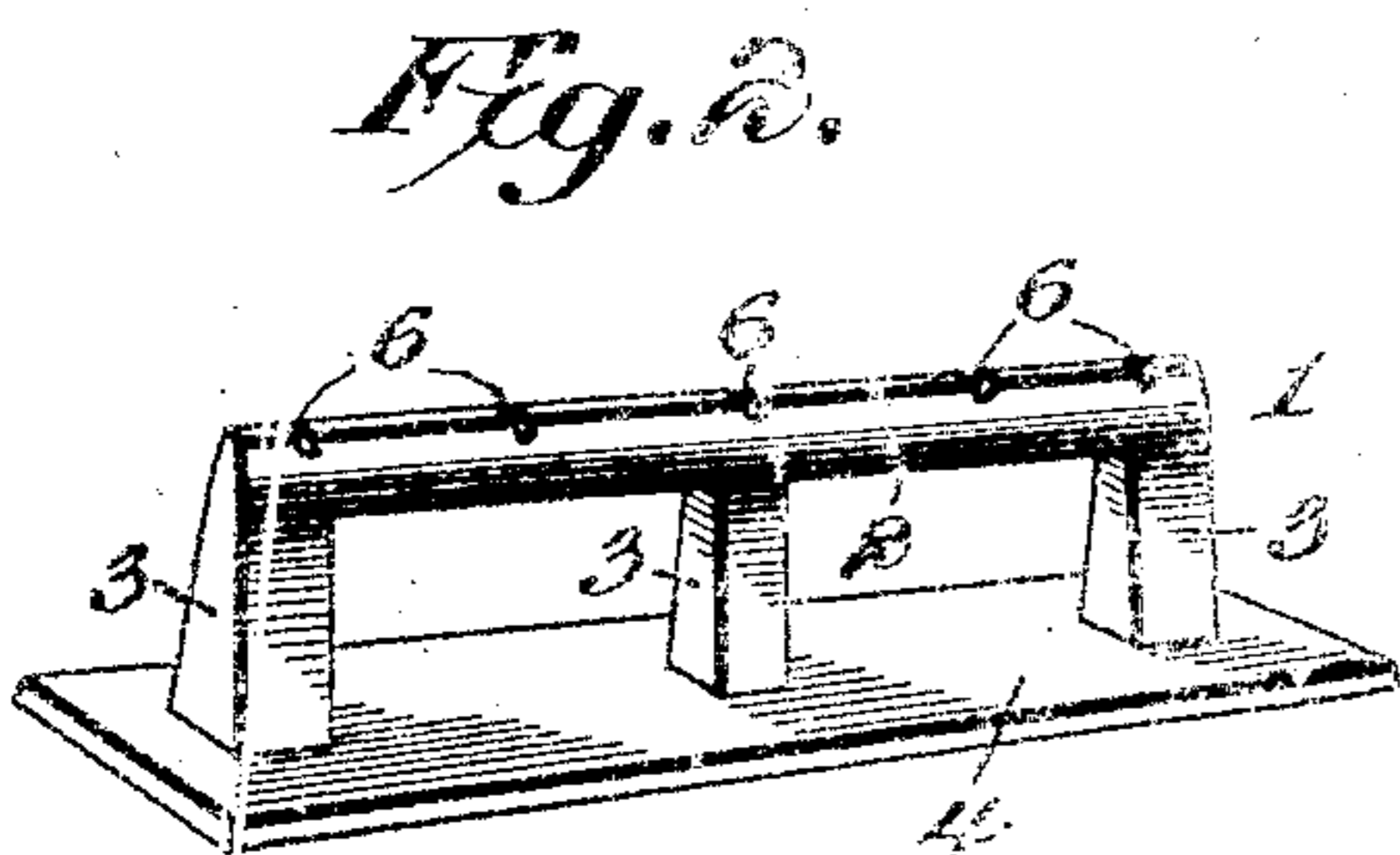
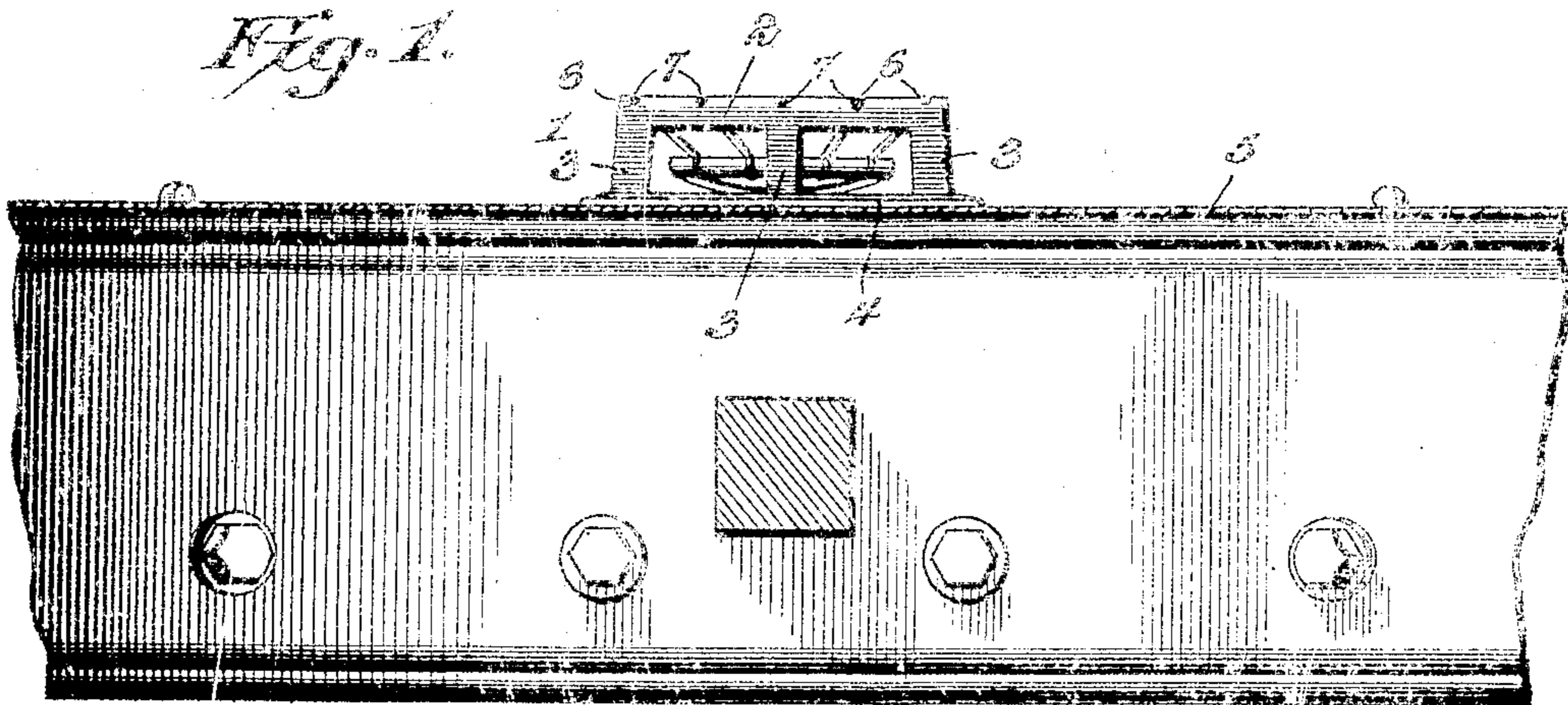
No. 786,625.

PATENTED APR. 4, 1905.

L. A. CALLAN.

BANJO BRIDGE.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 5, 1904.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LAWRENCE A. CALLAN, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

BANJO-BRIDGE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 786,625, dated April 4, 1905.

Application filed May 5, 1904. Serial No. 206,553.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LAWRENCE A. CALLAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Washington, in the District of Columbia, have invented a new and useful Banjo-Bridge, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to improvements in banjo-bridges.

The object of the present invention is to improve the construction of bridges for banjos, guitars, and similar musical instruments, and to provide a simple and comparatively inexpensive one of great strength and durability adapted to transmit to the head of the instrument all the vibrations of a string and the full tonal qualities thereof, whereby the tone is rendered more perfect and is longer sustained than heretofore.

A further object of the invention is to provide a banjo-bridge of this character adapted to eliminate the disagreeable metallic sound so prevalent in all banjos having a metallic rim, and thereby enable such an instrument to send forth a true musical sound.

Another object of the invention is to provide a banjo-bridge having an enlarged base or board adapted to transmit to the head of a banjo or other instrument the slightest vibration of a string and capable of distributing such vibrations uniformly throughout the head.

Furthermore, it is the object of the invention to provide a bridge which will be firmly supported in position on the head of an instrument and which will not injure the head or sink into the same in damp weather.

With these and other objects in view the invention consists in the construction and novel combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and pointed out in the claims hereto appended, it being understood that various changes in the form, proportion, size, and minor details of construction within the scope of the claims may be resorted to without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a sectional view of a portion of a head of a banjo provided with a bridge constructed in accordance with

this invention. Fig. 2 is a detail perspective view of a bridge. Figs. 3, 4, and 5 are similar views illustrating modifications of the invention.

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

1 designates a banjo-bridge designed to be constructed of wood or any other suitable material and comprising a body portion 2, legs 3, and a transmitting-board 4, forming an enlarged base adapted to fit against the head 5 of a banjo, as illustrated in Fig. 1 of the drawings. The body portion 2 is provided with notches 6 for the strings 7 of the banjo. As illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings, the legs 3 are preferably arranged at the center and edge of the bridge and are tapered upwardly, as shown, being formed integral with the transmitting-board.

The transmitting-board consists of a thin oblong base or portion preferably extending the entire length of the bridge, as illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings, and projecting beyond the legs both laterally and longitudinally of the bridge. The thin transmitting-board, which is adapted to fit against the head of the banjo, presents a lower flat face to the same and firmly supports the bridge in position thereon without injuring the head, and it is of sufficient size to prevent the bridge from sinking into the head when the latter becomes damp. It is adapted to transmit to the head of the banjo the slightest vibration of a string, and as all the vibrations are transmitted to the head the tone is sustained longer than heretofore and all the tonal qualities of the string are transmitted to the head and are distributed uniformly throughout the same. It eliminates the disagreeable metallic tone so prevalent in banjos having a metallic rim, and it enables such a banjo to send forth a true musical tone. The tone of the banjo is thereby rendered more mellow and musical.

In Fig. 3 of the drawings is illustrated a bridge 8, having legs 9 arranged at the ends of the bridge, and the transmitting-board 10 is continuous, like that shown in Fig. 2. The bridge 11 (illustrated in Fig. 4) is provided with central and end legs 12, and the trans-

mitting-board is composed of three independent sections 13, forming an enlarged base portion at each of the legs and spaced apart. In Fig. 5 the bridge 14 is provided with end legs 5 15 only, and the transmitting-board is composed of two end sections 16, forming an enlarged base at each of the legs. The form illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings has been found by experience to be the best 10 and to possess all of the advantages and perform all of the functions heretofore explained. The continuous bridge shown in Fig. 3 is the next preferred form, that illustrated in Fig. 4 the next, and that shown in Fig. 5 the next. 15 Each of these forms will operate as heretofore described, but the continuous transmitting-board with the central and end legs will give the best results

Although the bridge illustrated in the drawings is provided with a transmitting-board 20 having a flat lower face to fit the head of the banjo, yet it will be readily understood that when the device is applied to a violin or other musical instrument not having a flat bridge-receiving surface the transmitting-board will 25 conform to the configuration of such instrument.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by 30 Letters Patent, is—

1. A bridge of the class described, comprising a body portion arranged to receive the strings of an instrument, and a transmitting-board integral with the body portion and 35 spaced from the same and forming an enlarged

base, said transmitting-board being adapted to fit against an instrument, substantially as and for the purpose described.

2. A bridge of the class described, comprising a body portion, legs supporting the body 40 portion, and a transmitting-board having the legs mounted on it and spaced by the same from the body portion and forming an enlarged base for the bridge, said legs being formed integral with the body portion and the trans- 45 mitting-board substantially as described.

3. A bridge of the class described, comprising a body portion, legs, and a thin flat transmitting-board spaced from the body portion 50 by the legs and forming an enlarged base for the bridge and extending beyond the legs both laterally and longitudinally of the bridge, said legs being formed integral with both the body portion and the transmitting-board substantially as described. 55

4. A bridge of the class described, comprising a body portion, legs, and a thin transmitting-board spaced from the body portion by the legs and forming an enlarged base for fitting against an instrument and conforming to 60 the configuration of the same, said legs being formed integral with both the body portion and the base substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in 65 the presence of two witnesses.

LAWRENCE A. CALLAN.

Witnesses:

JOHN H. SIGGERS,
GEORGE TATE.