

No. 874,026.

PATENTED DEC. 17, 1907.

A. NECKER.
LIFE PRESERVER.

APPLICATION FILED AUG. 27, 1907.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

FIG. 1.

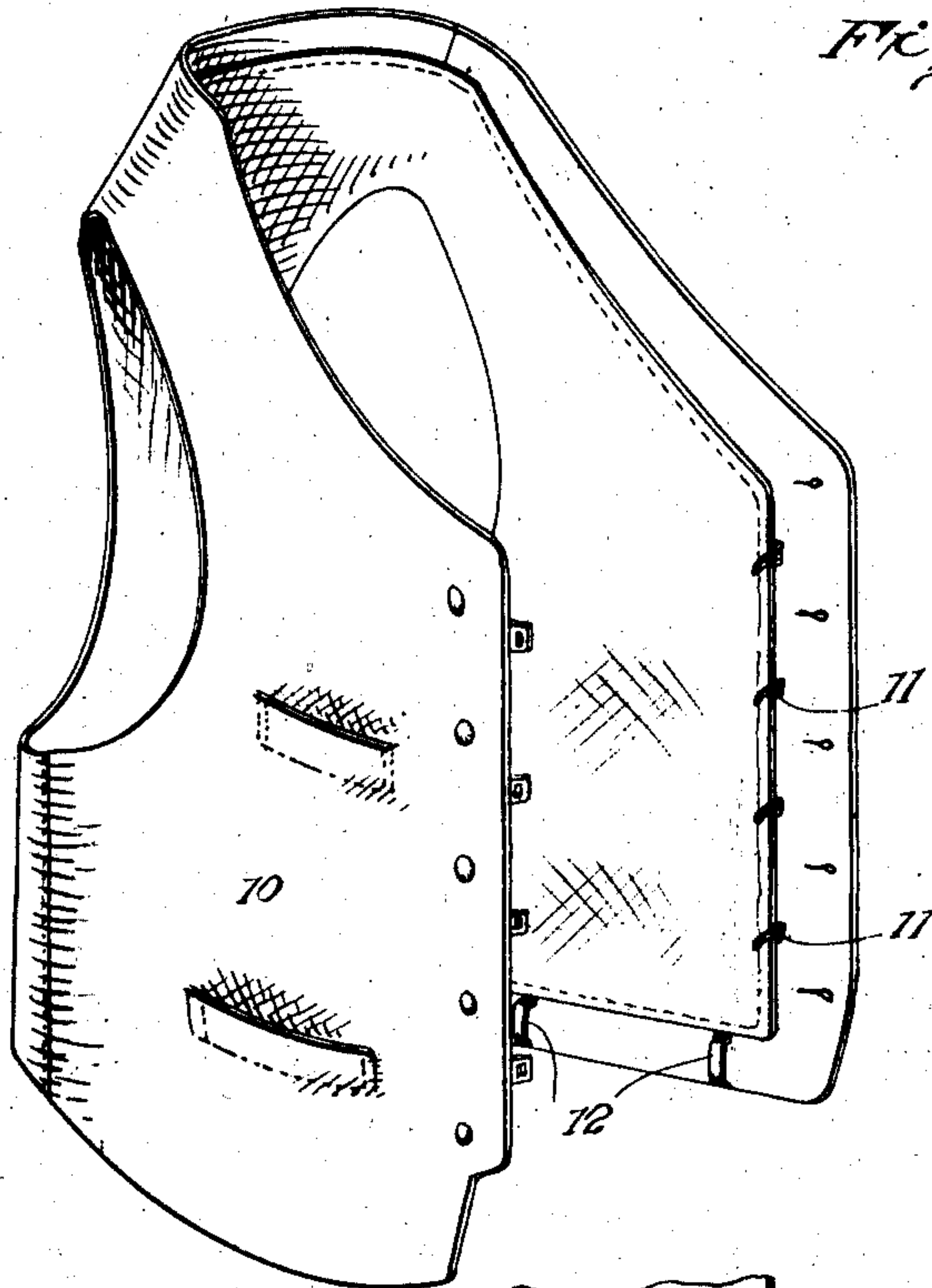


FIG. 2.

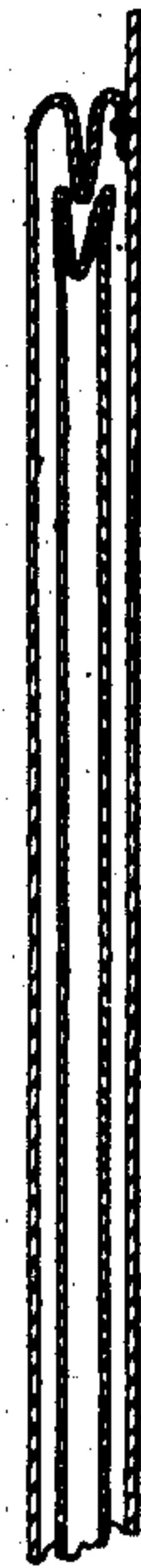
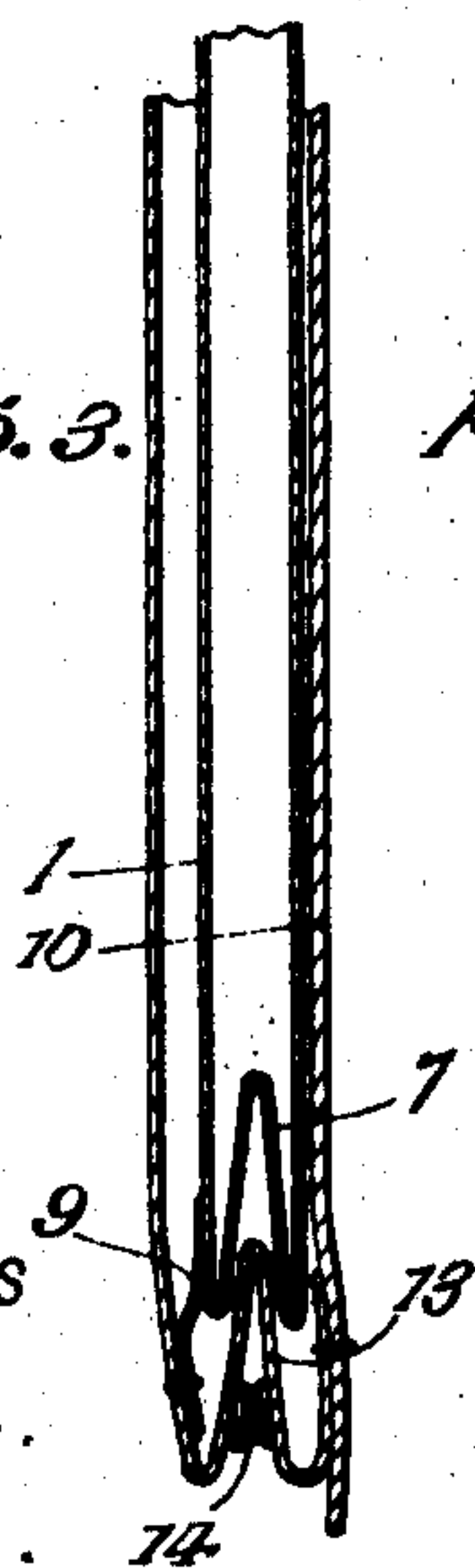
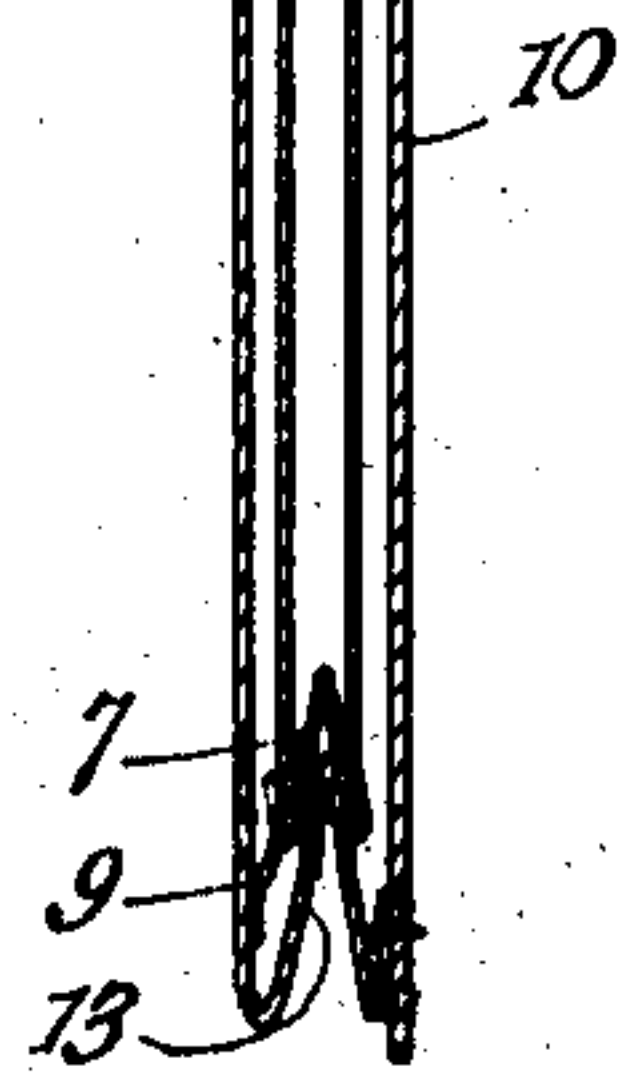
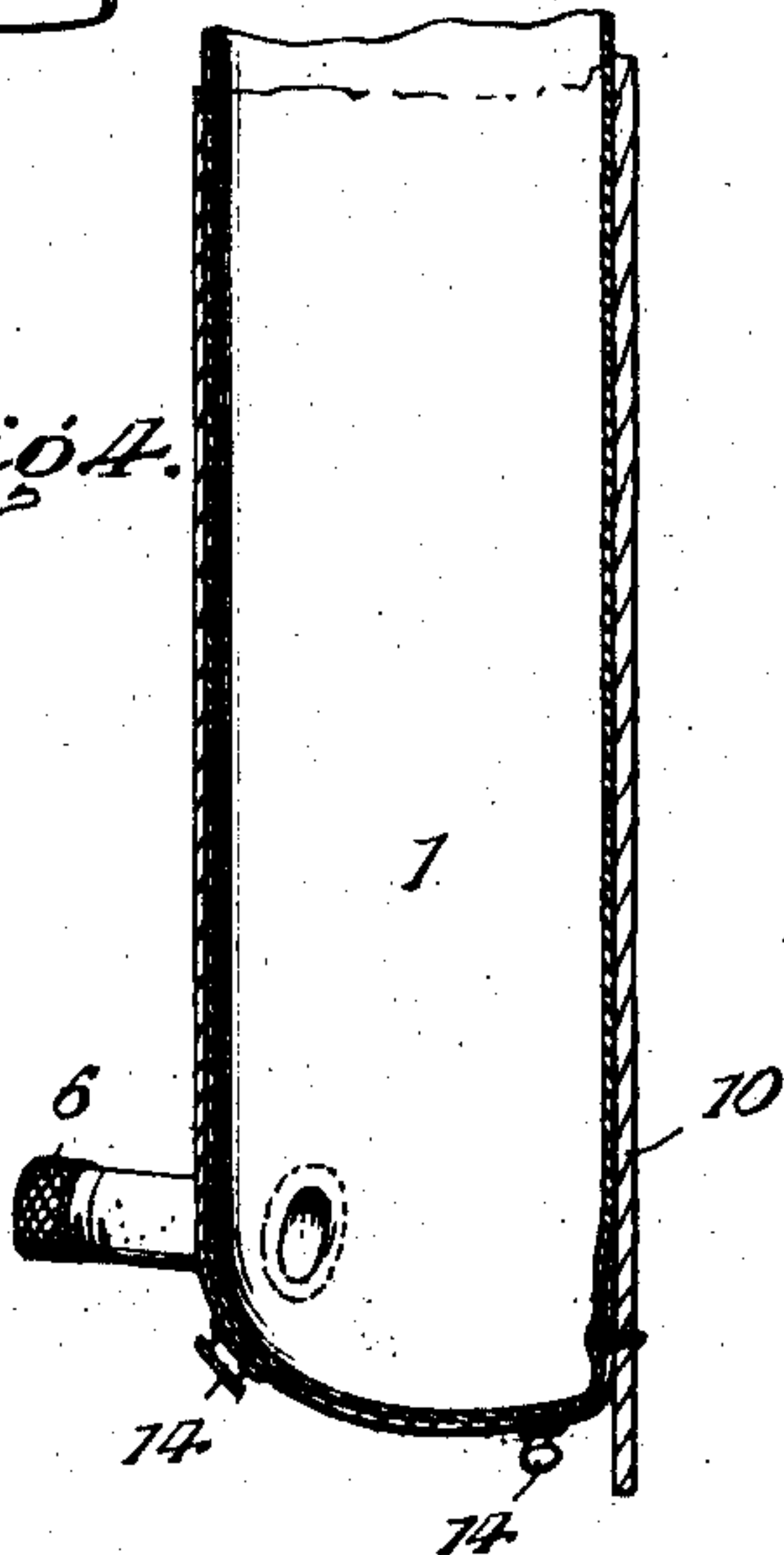


FIG. 3.



WITNESSES
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FIG. 4.



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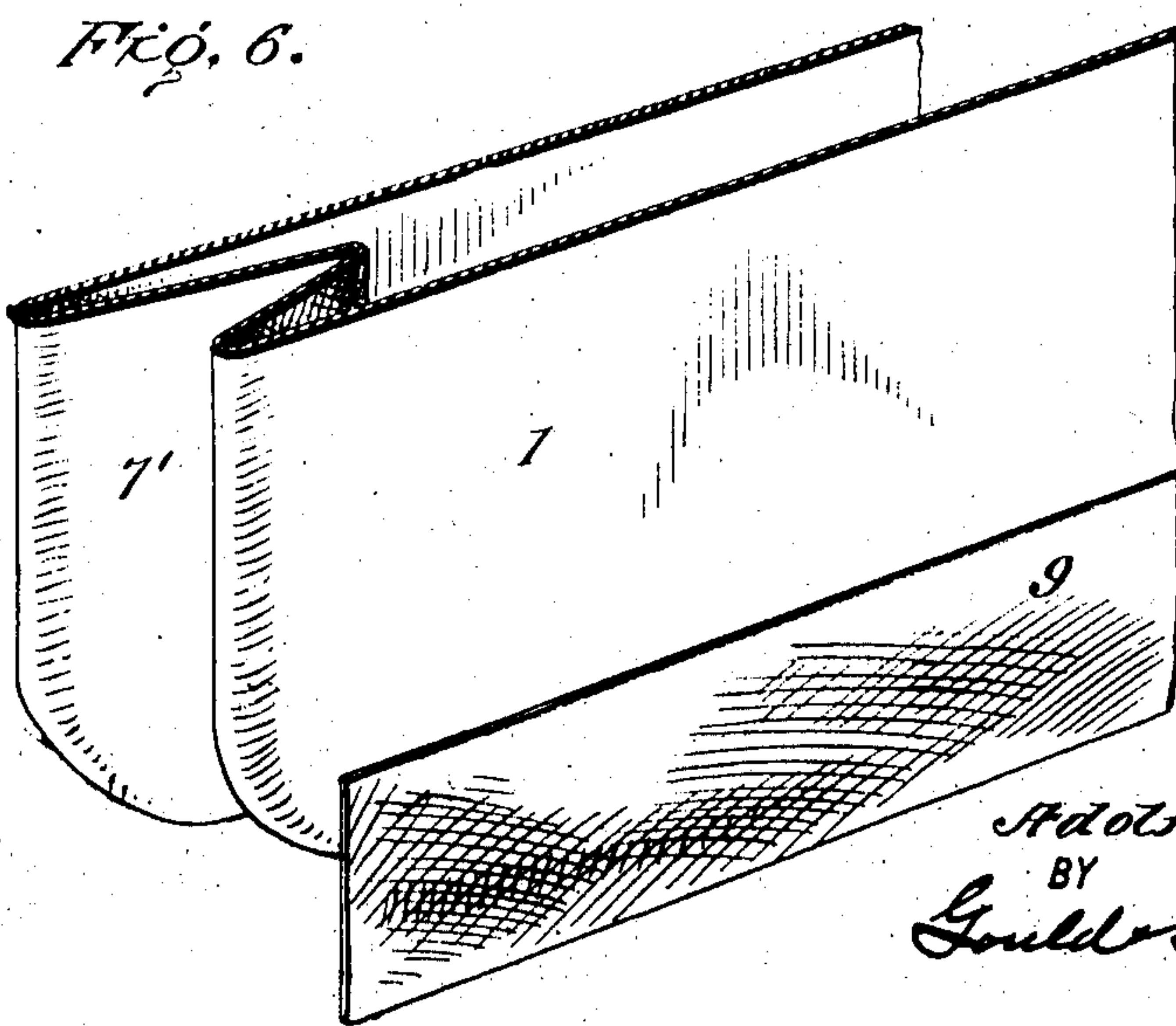
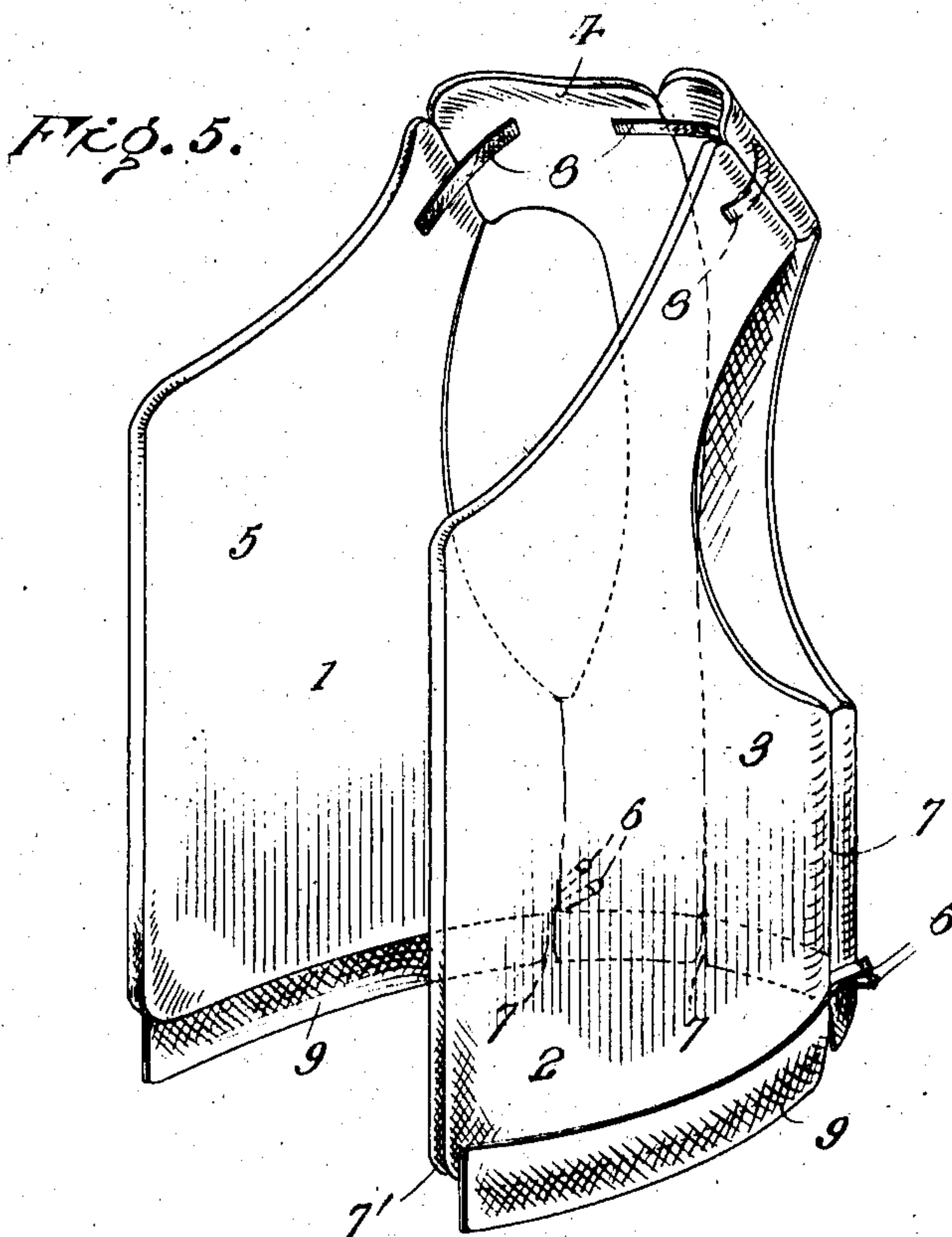
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WITNESSES

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ADOLF NECKER, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

LIFE-PRESERVER.

No. 874,026.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Dec. 17, 1907.

Application filed August 27, 1907. Serial No. 390,281.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ADOLF NECKER, a citizen of United States, residing at Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Life-Preservers, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to an improvement in life preservers of the garment type, comprehending specifically an article having the appearance of and adapted to be worn as a garment for usual occasions and constructed to be quickly and conveniently converted into a life preserver when necessary.

The main object of the present invention is the production of a life preserver made up to represent and having all the appearances and functions of a vest, the inflatable portion when in collapsed condition being unnoticeable, the specific location and construction of the inflatable portion providing for its ready and convenient inflation whereby to impart the maximum and buoyant effect to the garment and still permitting its usual application.

The invention will be described in the following specification, reference being had particularly to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a life preserver constructed in accordance with my invention, Fig. 2 is an enlarged vertical section of the same, Fig. 3 is a broken vertical section illustrating particularly the means for securing the folds of a vest lining in position when the vest is designed for ordinary use, Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the inflatable portion of the garment, Fig. 5 is an enlarged sectional view of the same, illustrating particularly the edge folds of the inflatable portion. Fig. 6 is an enlarged perspective view, partly in section, of the lower portion of the walls of the inflation member, showing an attaching band.

Referring particularly to the drawings, my improved garment is similar in all respects to an ordinary vest except for the details hereinafter noted, it being understood that aside from such details the vest may be of any desired style or size without affecting its function as a life preserver.

The buoyant section or member 1 of the garment, hereinafter termed the inflation member, is made up of a number of sections 2, 3, 4, and 5, which sections are in effect separate and distinct compartments formed

of two layers of the material and adapted for inflation upon the admission thereto of air under pressure. The inflation member is preferably constructed of soft sheet rubber, involving a single sheet or strip to which, at appropriate intervals, is secured a section or overlying layer to provide the separate compartments 2, 3, 4, and 5, each compartment is arranged for inflation through the medium of a flexible tube 6, which may be closed by an ordinary screw cap or contain any ordinary form of valve for permitting insertion of the air and preventing its escape, as for instance such valves as are used in the ordinary bicycle tires. The rear and front walls of each section are joined by a fold 7, of such size and shape as will permit separation of the walls under inflation and also permit their close relation or contact when deflated.

The lower edge walls 7' of the inflation member are provided with an attaching band or strip 9, preferably of cloth or other textile fabric designed to extend throughout the length of the lower edge walls and preferably secured against the outer wall. The strip 9 serves as a means for securing the inflation member in place in the garment, either by directly stitching the same thereto or by other preferred means. Reinforcing bands 8 are provided at appropriate points for connecting the respective sections, preferably adjacent the upper edges of the latter so as to maintain the inflation member as a single body.

The vest 10, with which the inflation member is to be used, comprises the ordinary cloth or other outer layer and the inner layer or lining. As previously stated the vest is of the ordinary form except that the lining adjacent its connection with the cloth or outer layer of the garment is formed with a fold 13, corresponding approximately with the folds 7 of the inflation member, and adapted to permit separation of the lining of the vest from the cloth layer during the inflation of the member 1. The adjacent faces of the folds 13 of the lining are respectively provided with cooperating members of a two-part connector 14, preferably in the form of the ordinary glove clasp. This construction permits the securing of the lining in close relation to the outer layer of the garment when the member 1 is deflated, at the same time permitting proper movement of the lining 1 through disconnection of the clasp 14. Below the lining the cloth of the vest is provided on the inner side with a series of belt

eyes or rings 12, designed to receive a belt and secure the garment firmly about the waist of the wearer when said garment is in use as a life preserver, it being understood that in the ordinary uses of the vest the belt supports 12 are concealed from view. The inner surface of the cloth portion of the vest adjacent the forward vertical edges of the lining are formed with cooperating catch members 11, which are adapted when connected to firmly secure the garment about the person of the wearer when said garment is in use as a life preserver.

By virtue of the folds in the vest lining and in the inflation member both of said parts are adapted for collapsing when the member is inflated to permit the garment to be worn as an ordinary vest, while at the same time sufficient material is provided to permit a complete and effective inflation of the member 1 without affecting the connection between the lining and cloth of the material, so that the inflation member is always maintained in most-effective relation to the person of the wearer when in use as a life preserver.

By the use of the several inflation sections, which are wholly distinct and independent one from the other, I avoid deflation of the entire member 1 upon puncture or rupture of any one section. This is important as it insures a buoyant power in the life preserver notwithstanding the fact that one or more sections may be punctured. Furthermore, the securing of the member 1 in place by means of the fabric strip 9 enables me to detach the entire inflation member from the face when necessary for the renewal or repair of said member, while the position of the member between the cloth of the vest and the lining thereof serves to protect the material of which the inflation member is constructed, thereby dispensing with such protecting medium formed as a part of said member, as has been necessary heretofore.

In use the wearer, having the vest applied in the usual manner, will remove the vest, release the clasps 14 and inflate one or all of the sections through the medium of the tubes 6. The vest is then put on in the usual manner, the clasps 11 connected and the belt previously inserted through the belt supports 12 tightened about the waist of the wearer. An effective life preserver is thus provided which when its use as such is no

longer necessary may be deflated in any usual manner, the clasps 14 connected and the vest worn as usual.

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

1. A garment including a vest section and a lining, an inflatable member disposed between the lining and vest section, a strip secured to said member and arranged to be secured to the lining, said lining at its point of connection with the face section being formed in folds to provide an excess of material at such point, and means for securing the lining folds in collapsed condition.

2. A garment including a vest section and a lining, an inflatable member disposed between the lining and vest section, a strip secured to said member and arranged to be secured to the lining, the edges of the inflatable member being formed with a series of folds, and the edges of the lining being formed with similar folds, whereby to permit a spreading of the lining and member in inflating the latter.

3. A garment including a vest section and a lining, an inflatable member disposed between the lining and vest section, a strip secured to said member and arranged to be secured to the lining, the edges of the inflatable member being formed with a series of folds, the edges of the lining being formed with similar folds, whereby to permit a spreading of the lining and member in inflating the latter, and catches secured to the front flaps of the garment to hold the latter in applied position when in use as a life preserver.

4. A garment including a vest section and a lining, an inflatable member disposed between the lining and vest section, a strip secured to said member and arranged to be secured to the lining, the edges of the inflatable member being formed with a series of folds, the edges of the lining being formed with similar folds, whereby to permit a spreading of the lining and member in inflating the latter, catches secured to the front flaps of the garment to hold the latter in applied position when in use as a life preserver, and belt supports arranged below the catches.

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

ADOLF NECKER.

Witnesses:

H. MEIER,
R. FROST.