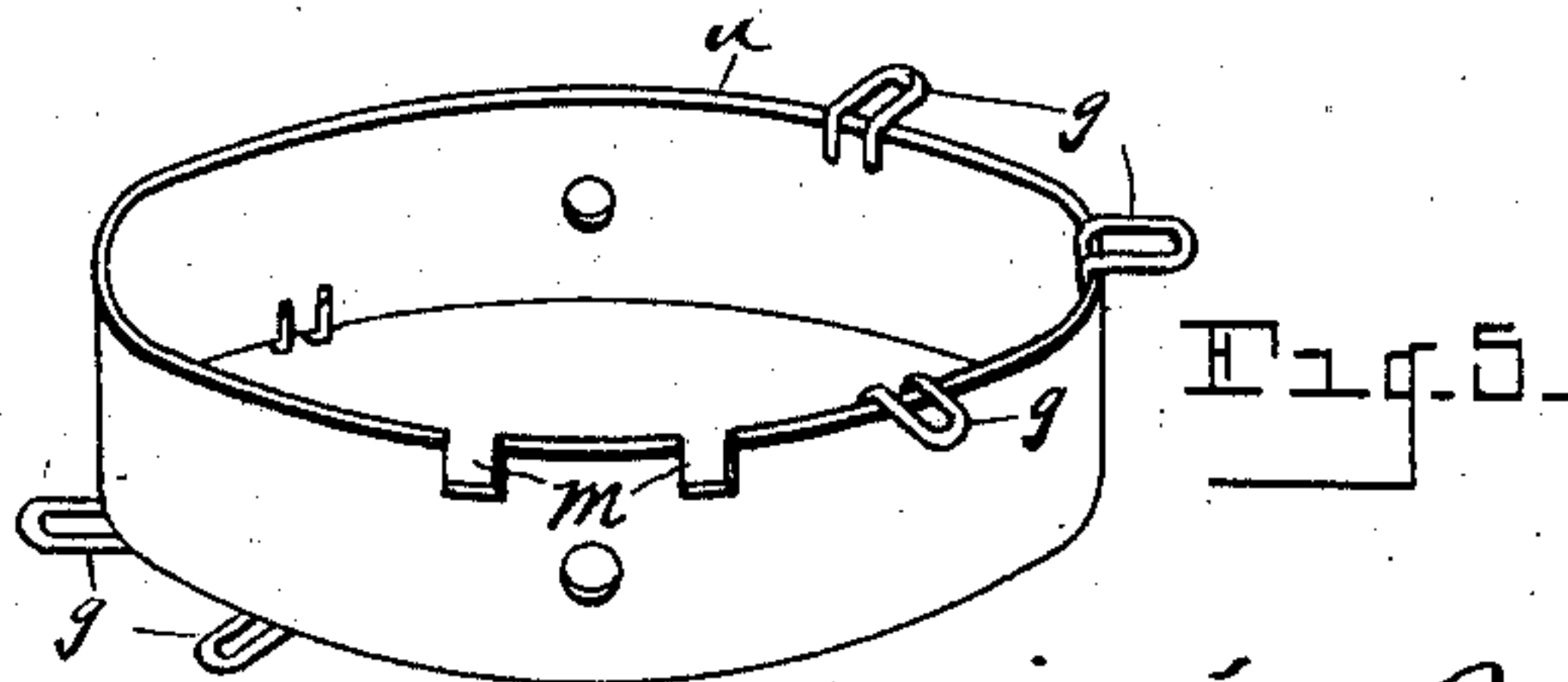
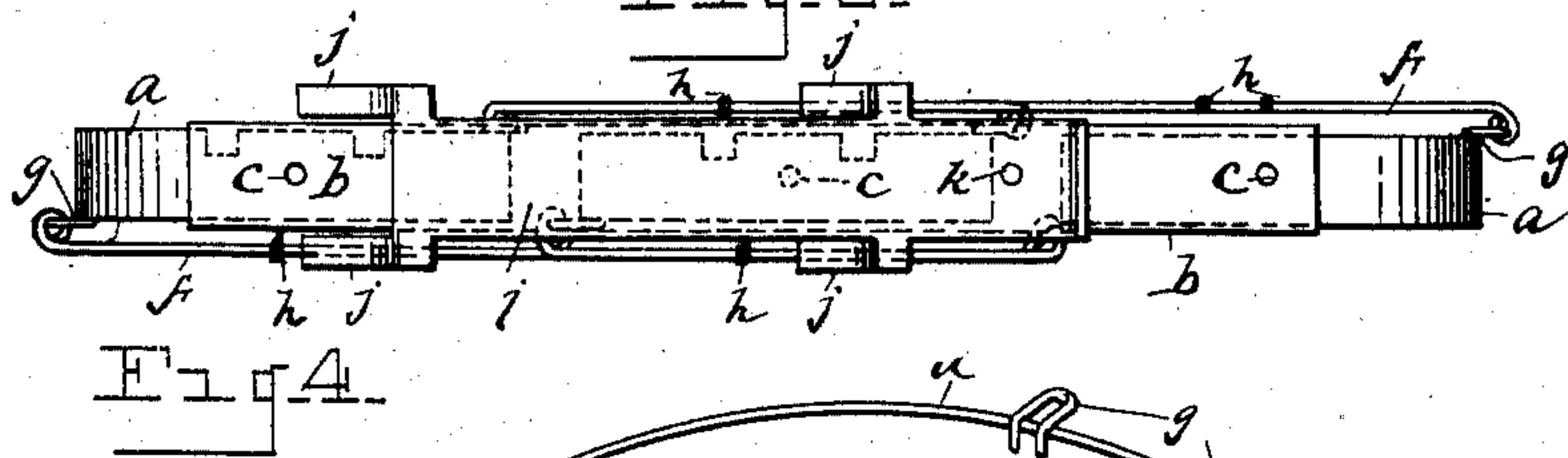
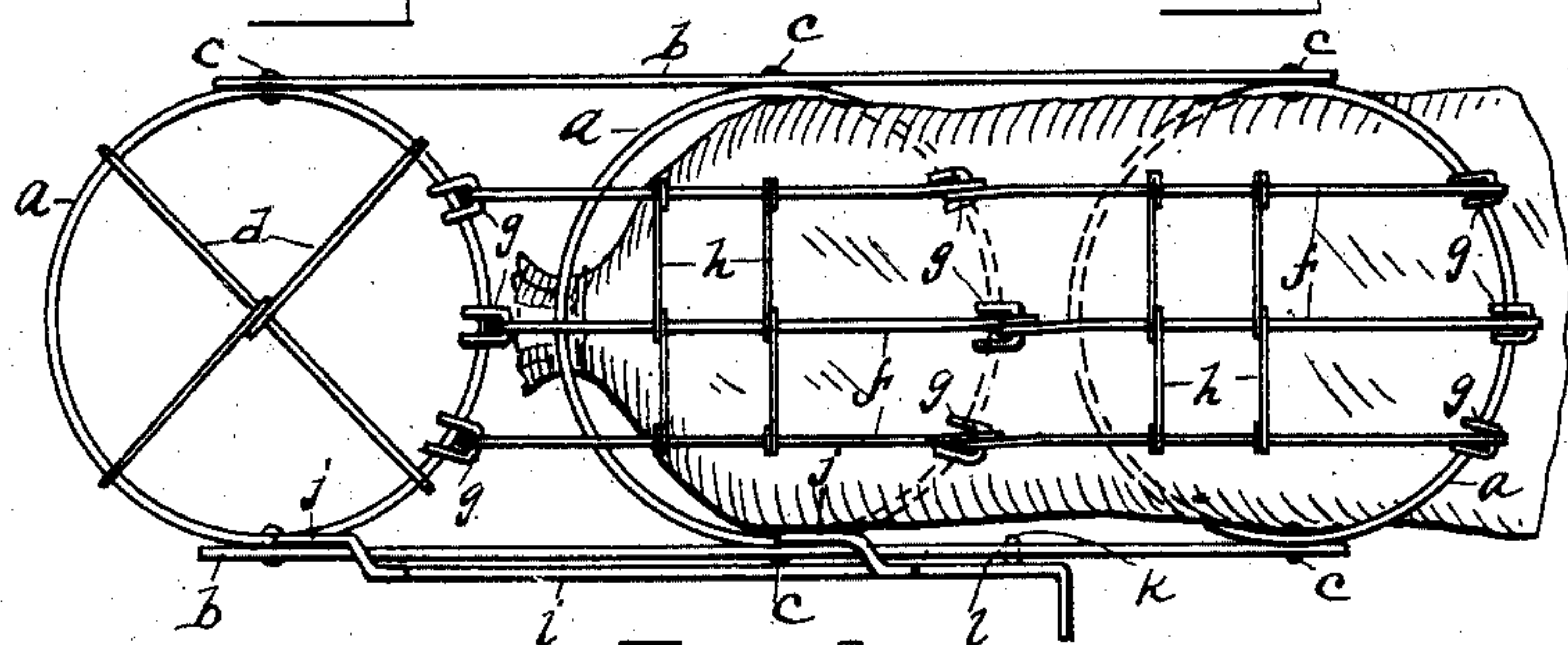
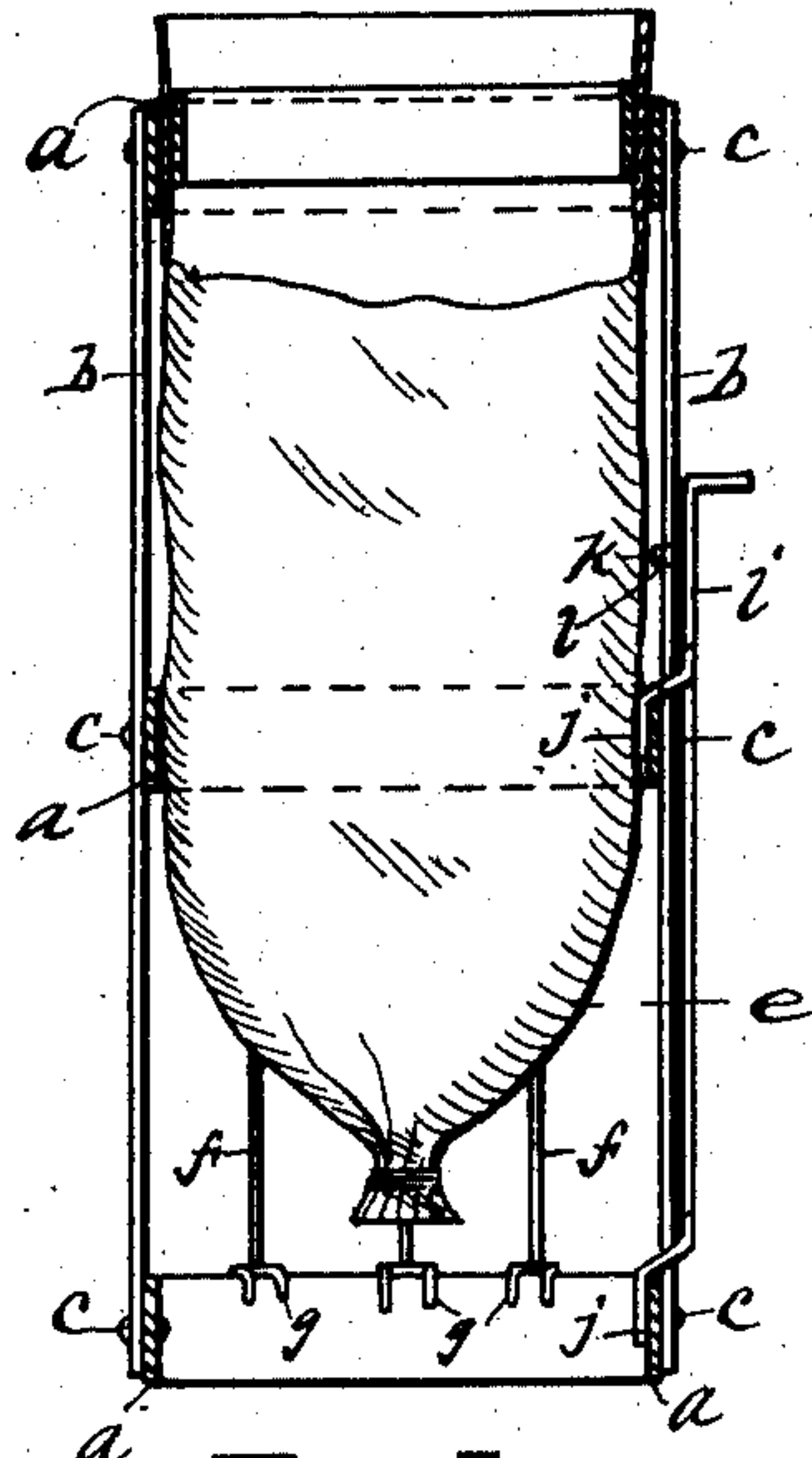
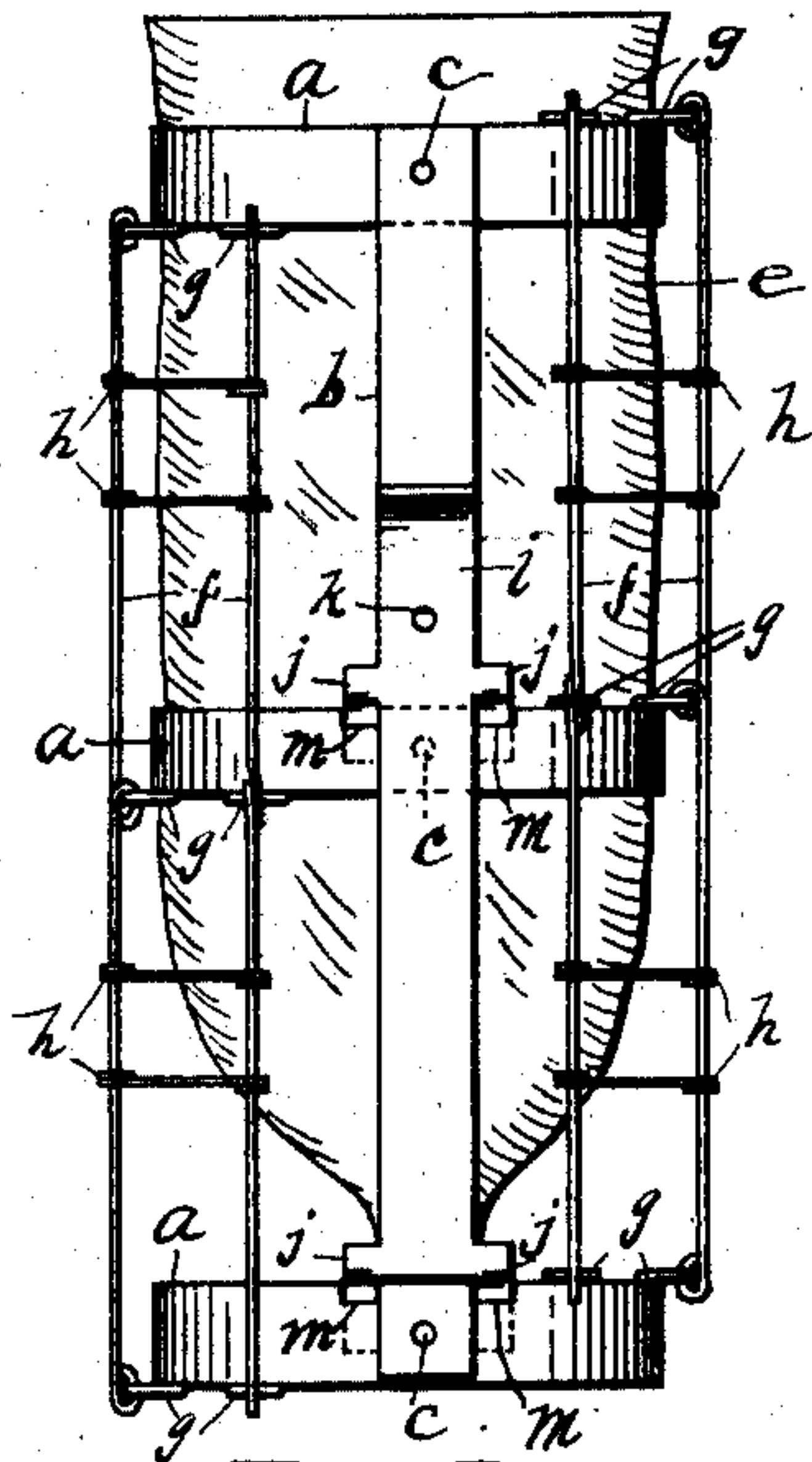


No. 883,509.

PATENTED MAR. 31, 1908.

B. BARKER.
FOLDING CRATE.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 2, 1907.



WITNESSES

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BENJAMIN BARKER, -OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN.

FOLDING CRATE.

No. 883,509.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented March 31, 1908.

Application filed March 2, 1907. Serial No. 360,196.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN BARKER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Ann Arbor, in the county of Washtenaw and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Folding Crates, of which the following is a specification.

My invention has for its object to provide a folding crate, the same being especially adapted as a folding banana crate.

It will readily be seen that in order to provide a collapsible or folding crate for a bunch of bananas a peculiar construction is required over folding crates of ordinary construction for other uses.

My invention consists of the construction, combination and arrangement of devices hereinafter described and claimed and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which,

Figure 1 is a view in side elevation showing the crate in expanded position. Fig. 2 is a view in vertical section. Fig. 3 is a view in plan of a crate in a folded position. Fig. 4 is a view in side elevation of the folded crate. Fig. 5 is a detail view in perspective of one of the hoops.

The expense of returning empty banana crates as ordinarily constructed is very considerable, and it is obviously of great advantage if a folding crate can be made for economy in shipping and storage, as well as cartage.

I carry out my invention as follows: My invention contemplates forming a crate with a series of hoops indicated at *a*, said hoops in set up position extending transversely of the longitudinal axis of the crate. On opposite sides of the hoops I provide supporting bars *b*, *b* extending longitudinally of the longitudinal axis of the crate and having a jointed connection with each of the hoops as indicated at *c*, as upon connecting pivot pins extending through the hoops and corresponding bars *b* permitting the hoops to be folded at right angles to their normal or set up position within the oppositely extended bars *b*. The lower hoop may be provided with cross bars *d* and the upper hoop with a burlap sack indicated at

e, the sack extending through the intermediate hoop. Intermediate the bars *b*, *b* the hoops are united by upright strips or guards indicated at *f*, these guards or strips *f* may be jointly connected with the corresponding hoops in any suitable manner. Thus, for example, the hoops may be provided with a series of eyes indicated at *g* with which the guards *f* are engaged. The guards *f* may also be connected by transverse guards *h* intermediate the hoops.

Upon one of the bars *b* I mount a slide movable longitudinally of the axis of the set up crate indicated at *i* to support the hoops in set up position and hold the crate from collapsing. The slide *i* may be formed with forked extremities indicated at *j*, the forks extending over the opposite edges of the hoops when in folded position to hold the device in collapsed condition, the slide being formed at one end with the pin indicated at *k* toward the upper end thereof to engage in an orifice *l* in the adjacent bar to hold the crate in locked position when set up, the lower forks *j*, when the crate is in set up position, passing inside of the lower hoop as shown more particularly in Fig. 2, the upper forks also extending within the intermediate hoop. When the crate is collapsed the canvas covering or bag *e* will obviously fold in between the bars *b* and guards *f*. I prefer that the hoops and bars, as well as the intermediate guards or braces should be made of metal. A crate so constructed is obviously simple and economical, as well as of superior efficiency.

The lower hoop and intermediate hoop, in order to be properly engaged by the extremities *j* of the slide, are preferably recessed as indicated at *m*. The guards *f* extend to the upper edges of the hoops on one side of the device and to the lower edges of the hoops on the opposite side of the device, as shown.

I would have it understood that I do not limit myself to any particular material from which to manufacture the crate.

What I claim as my invention is:

A folding crate comprising a series of supporting bars, hoops arranged transversely to

the supporting axis when in set up position
jointedly connected with said bars on oppo-
site sides of the hoops, guards intermediate
the supporting bars jointedly connected with
5 the hoops, and a slide mounted upon one of
said bars and movable longitudinally of the
crate to engage a plurality of the hoops to
support the hoops in set up position and hold

the crate from collapsing, substantially as
and for the purpose described. 10

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

BENJAMIN BARKER.

Witnesses:

E. B. NORRIS,
J. W. DWYER.