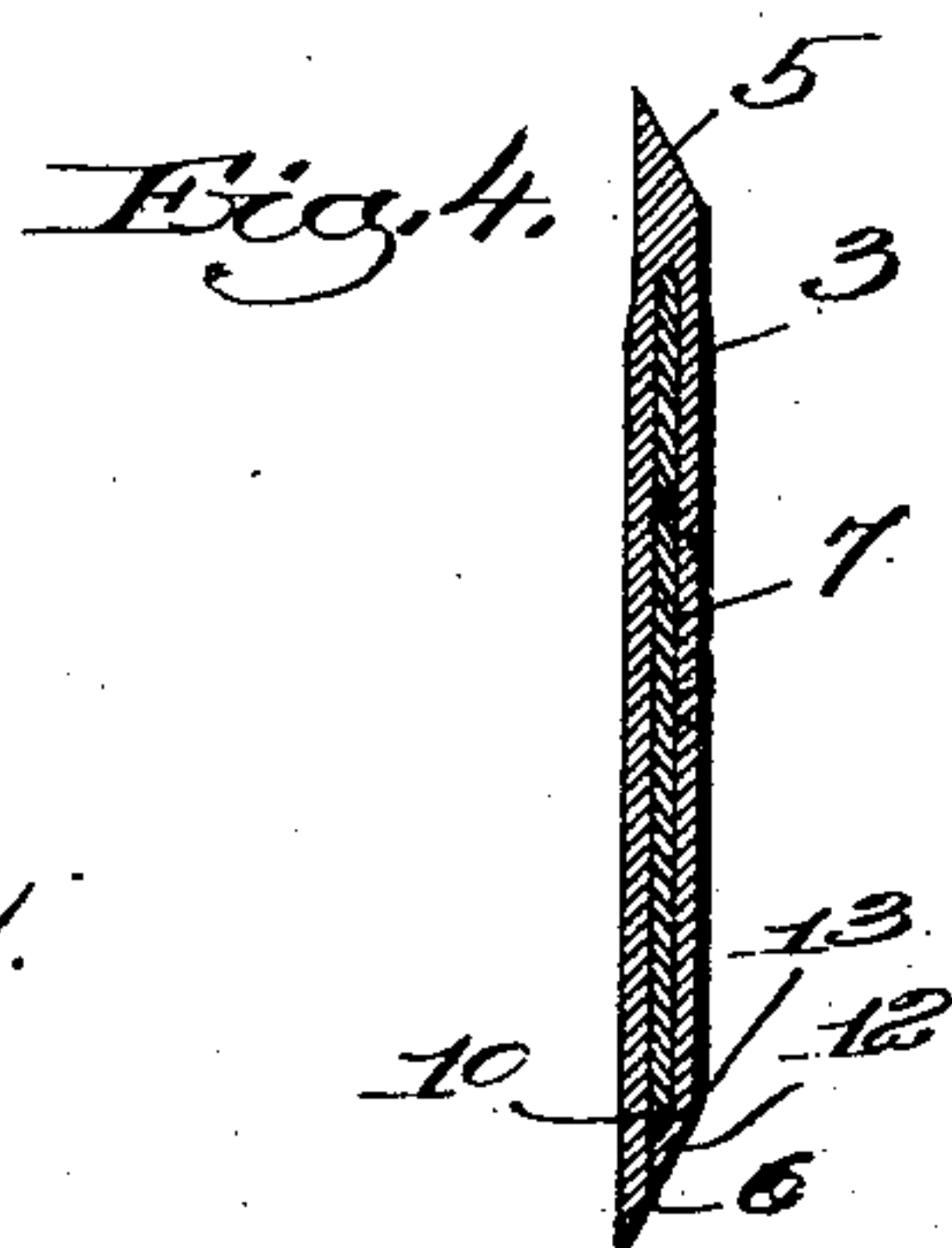
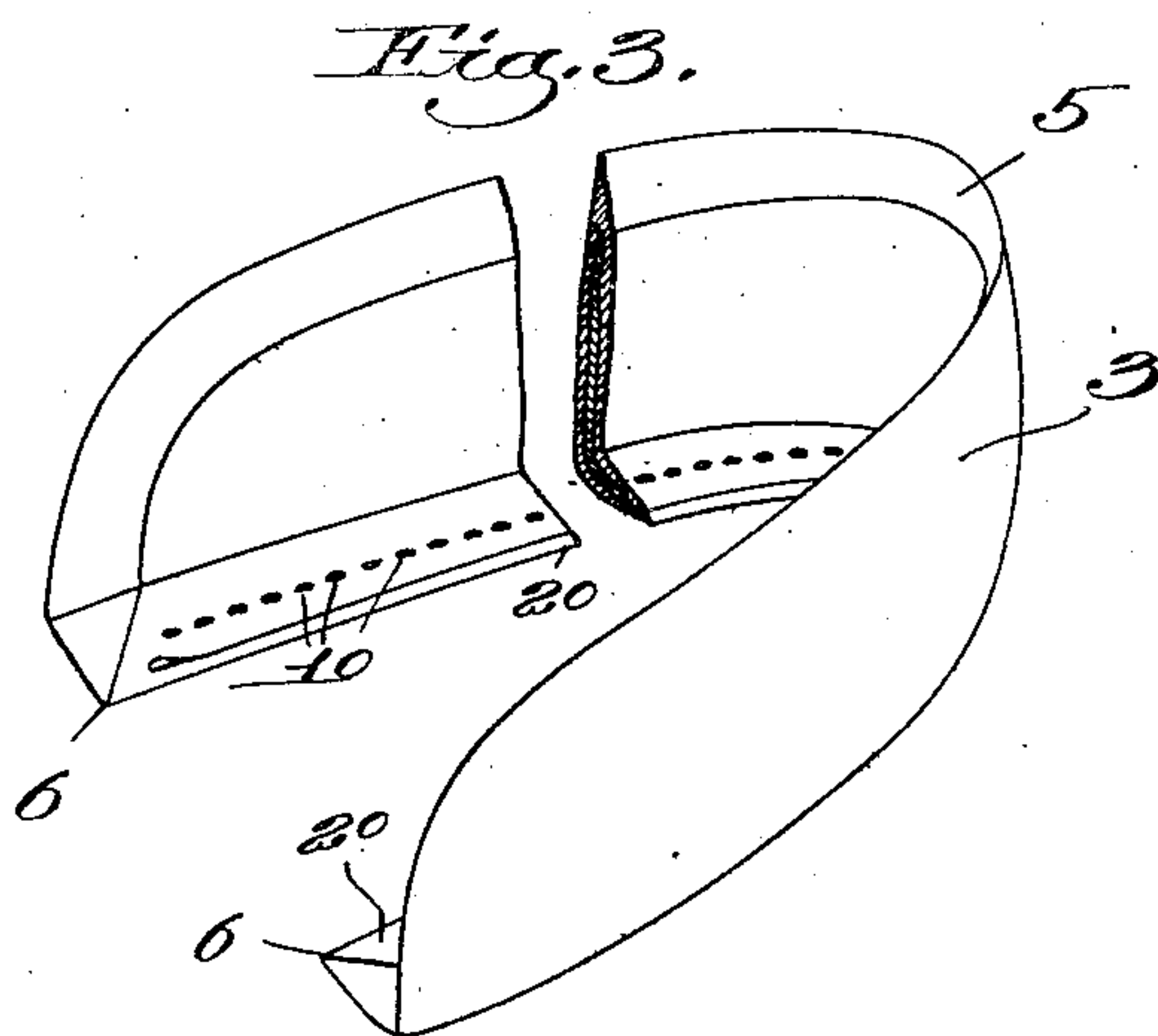
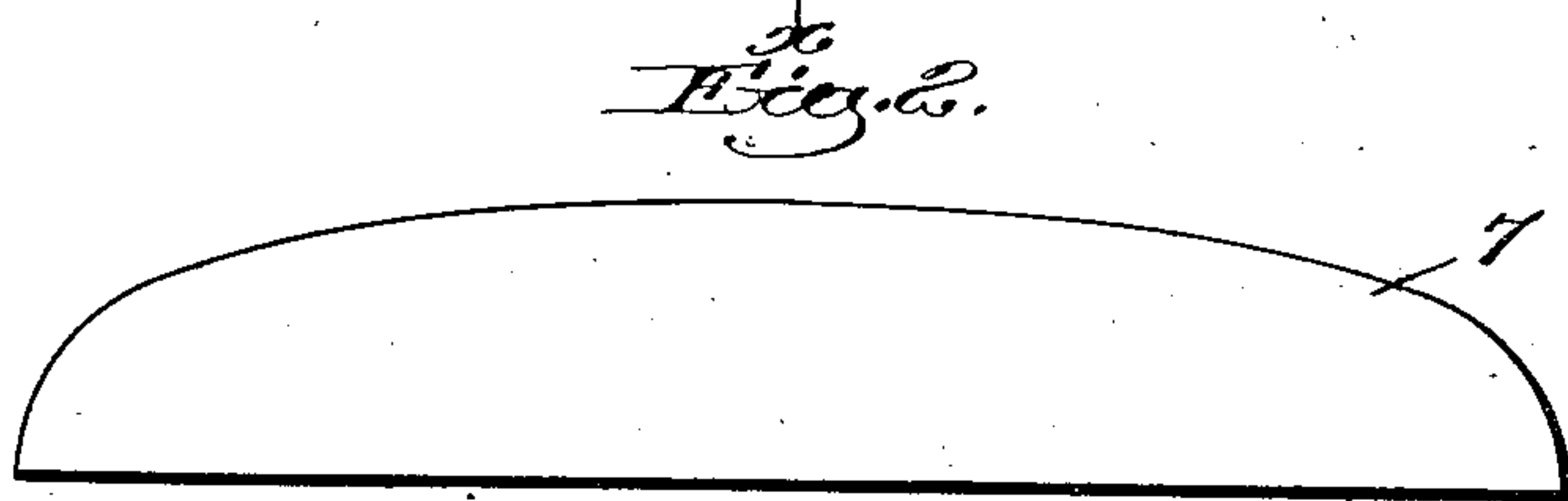
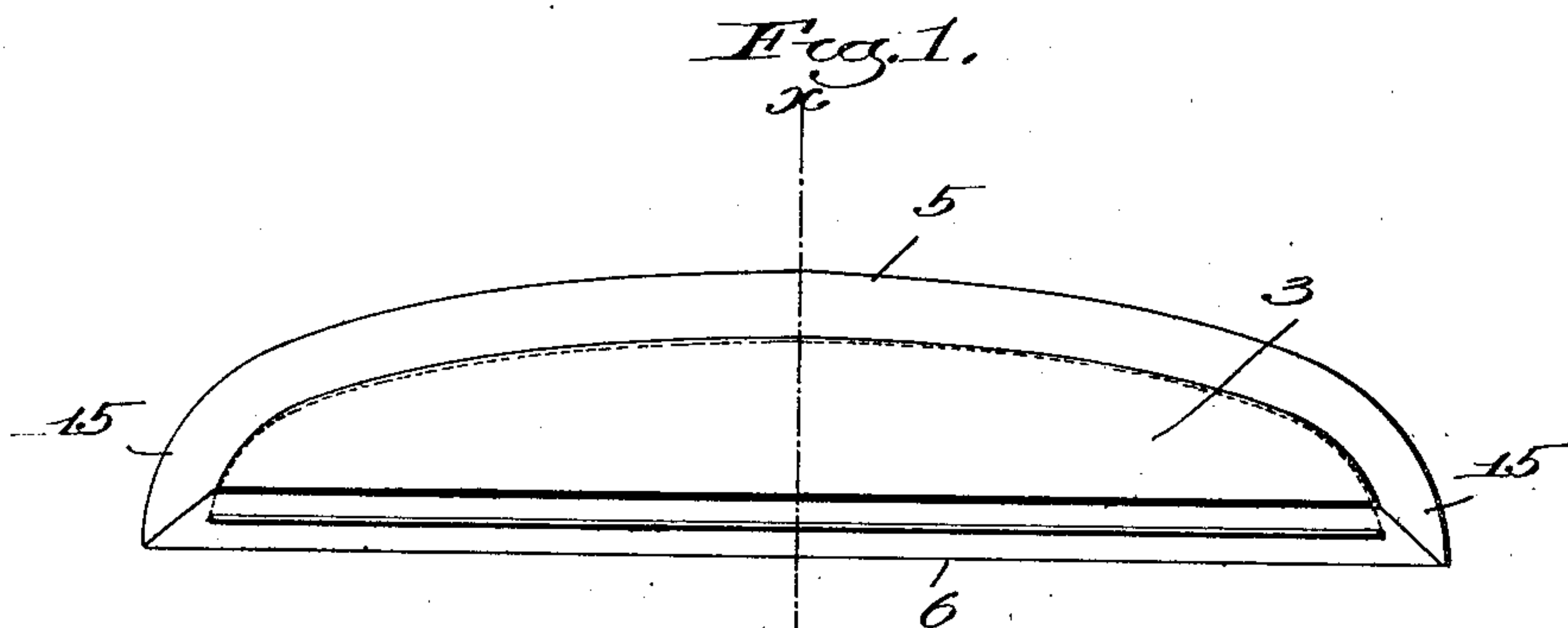


No. 886,008.

PATENTED APR. 28, 1908.

T. H. MAYO.
COUNTER.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 23, 1907.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS H. MAYO, OF MELROSE, MASSASHUSETTS.

COUNTER.

No. 886,008.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented April 28, 1908.

Application filed October 23, 1907. Serial No. 398,794.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS H. MAYO, a citizen of the United States, residing at Melrose, county of Middlesex, and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Counters, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawing, is a specification, like letters on the drawing representing like parts.

10 This invention has for its object to provide a novel counter for boots and shoes which has the appearance of an all-leather counter, and also has all the advantages of an all-leather counter, but which can be made of a poorer quality of leather than is required for an all-leather counter.

15 In accordance with my invention I cut a piece of leather from which the counter is to be made into the proper shape and then split said piece from the bottom edge nearly to the top of the counter and nearly to each end, thereby forming a pocket, into which pocket a stiffening member of leather-board or other suitable material is inserted. The split in the leather does not extend clear to the ends of the counter, and the result is that the two sides of the pocket are integrally connected at both the top and the ends of the counter. This is important because when the stiffening member is in place and the counter is put into the shoe, there is no danger that the sides of the pocket will separate at the ends of the counter. A counter thus made has all the appearance on the exterior of an all-leather counter and has as much stiffness as an all-leather counter made of a good grade of leather, but can be made very much cheaper.

20 In the drawings, Figure 1 shows the blank from which the counter is made; Fig. 2 shows the stiffening piece; Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a counter embodying my invention, a portion of the counter being broken out to better show the construction thereof; Fig. 4 is a section through the blank on the line $x-x$, Fig. 1, showing the stiffening member in place.

25 In making a counter in accordance with my invention, I provide the body portion 3, which is made into the requisite shape for forming into a counter, with an interior pocket into which is inserted a stiffening member designed to give the requisite stiffness to the counter. In my invention, this pocket, which is formed in the body portion 3, extends from a point adjacent the lower

edge 6 of said body nearly to the top or opposite edge 5, and also extends nearly to the ends of the body.

30 It is important that the pocket should not extend clear to the top or clear to the ends of the body portion because it is desirable that the pocket when constructed should have a closed top and ends. The body 3 is made of one piece of leather and the pocket may be formed therein in any suitable way, but preferably I will make the pocket by taking a piece of leather of the shape shown in Fig. 1 and splitting said piece of leather from a point adjacent the edge 6 nearly to the top edge 5 and nearly to the ends 15, as shown by the dotted lines in Fig. 1. The advantage of forming the pocket in this way is so that no evidence of the existence of the pocket is visible from the exterior of the blank or body portion 3. After the pocket has been thus formed in the body portion a stiffening member 7 of leather-board or other suitable material is inserted into the pocket from the open side thereof, said stiffening member 7 preferably being of a size to substantially fill the pocket and preferably having its edges skived slightly, as shown in Fig. 4. This stiffening member may be retained in the pocket in various ways, such as cementing or sewing it therein or securing it by both of these methods. If stitches are used for retaining the stiffening member in place, I will preferably sew the stiffening member to the body portion adjacent the edge 6 thereof, as at 10, in Figs. 3 and 4. I will also preferably make the stiffening member 7 of slightly less width than the depth of the pocket so that after the stiffening member has been placed in the pocket, the edge portion 12 of the inner side of the counter can be drawn down over the lower edge of the stiffening member, as seen clearly in Fig. 4, and the stitching 10 may be placed so as to hold this edge in this position. Where this construction is used, the lower edge of the stiffening member 7 will be entirely concealed. It will be understood, of course, that the edges of the body portion 3 will be skived as usual in the making of counters.

35 After the stiffening member has been inserted into the body portion and secured therein, said body portion is pressed into the desired shape in the counter, as shown in Fig. 3, in any suitable or usual manner. In shaping the blank or body portion into a counter, it is formed with the usual inturned flange

20, and I propose to bend the body portion to form this inturned flange along a line coinciding with or slightly above the shoulder or corner 13. When formed in this way, the stitching 10 or other fastening means will be located entirely in the inturned flange or portion 20, which, when the counter is placed in the shoe, is covered by the inner sole thereof. The vertically-extending portion of the counter, therefore, gives no evidence whatever of the presence of the stiffening member and the exterior appearance of the counter is that of an all-leather counter. However, since the stiffness of the counter does not depend on the quality of the leather, but rather on the quality of the stiffening member, it will be possible with my invention to use comparatively soft or spongy leather for the body portion of the counter and yet to obtain a counter which has all the appearance exteriorly of an all-leather counter.

I have not shown herein all embodiments of my invention, but have illustrated the preferred embodiment only.

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

A counter comprising a body portion split from the bottom nearly to the top and nearly to each end to form a pocket having two sides which are integrally connected at both the top and the ends of the counter, and a stiffening member inserted into the pocket between said sides.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

THOMAS H. MAYO.

Witnesses:

MARGARET A. DUNN,
LOUIS C. SMITH.