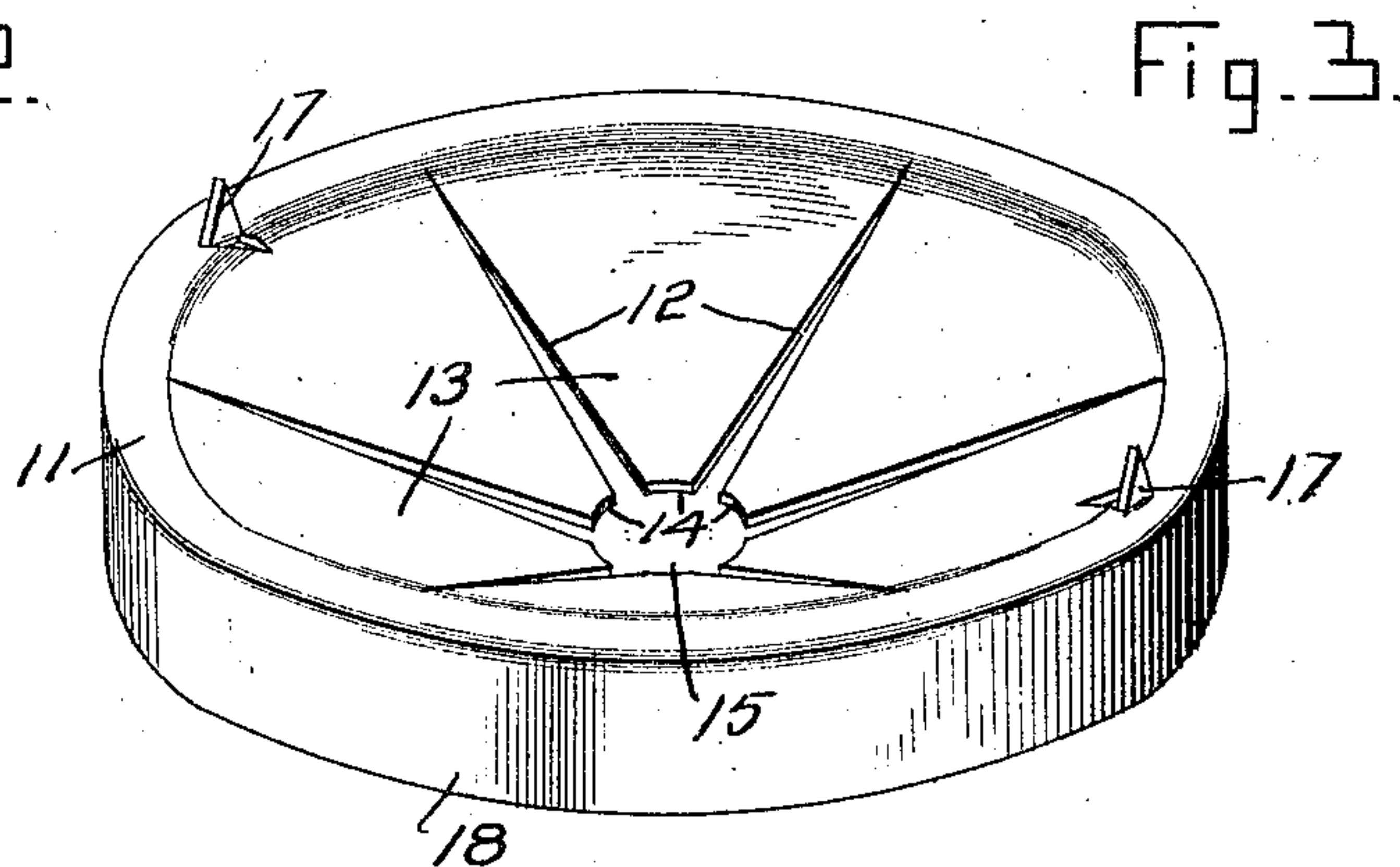
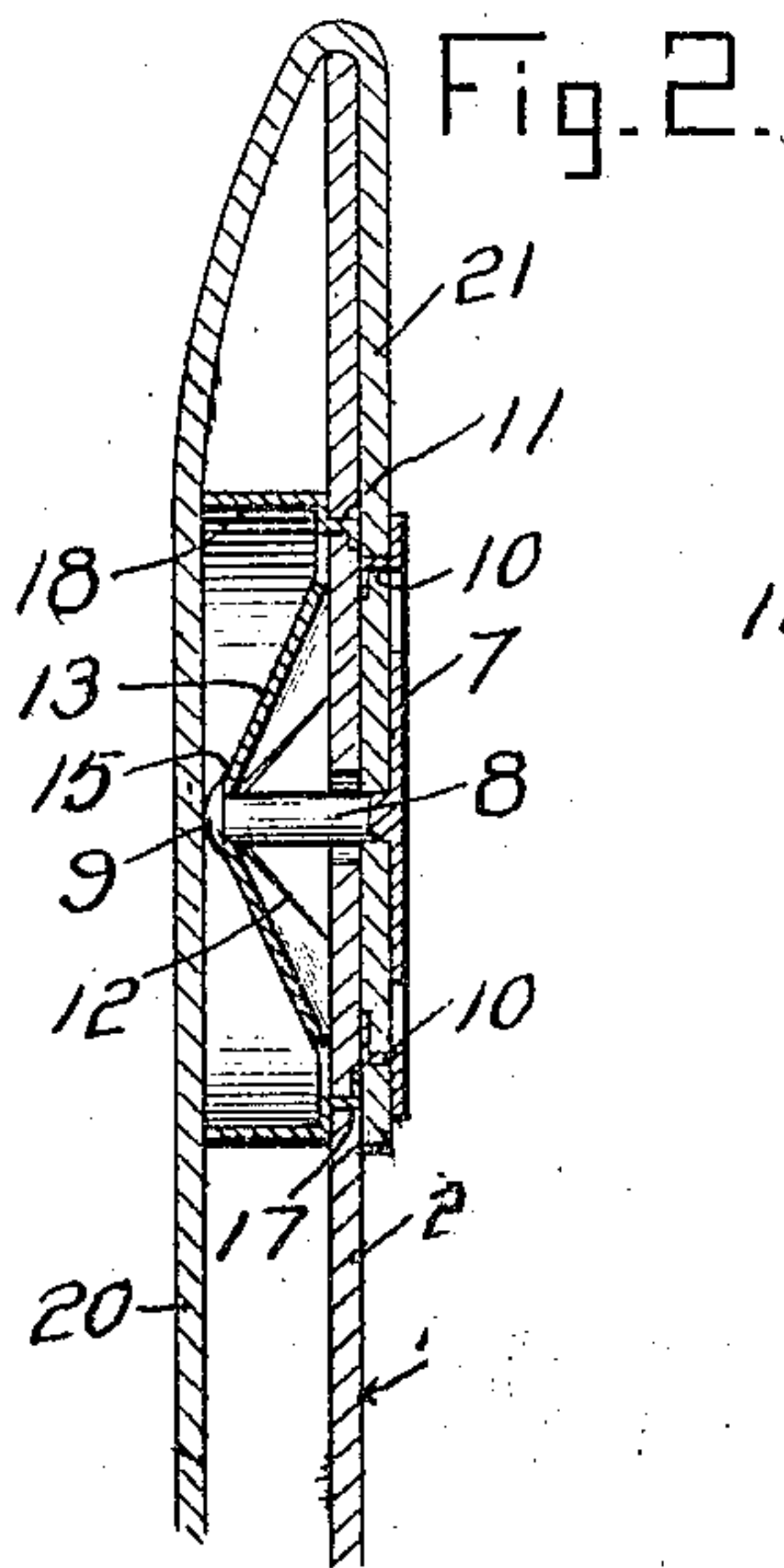
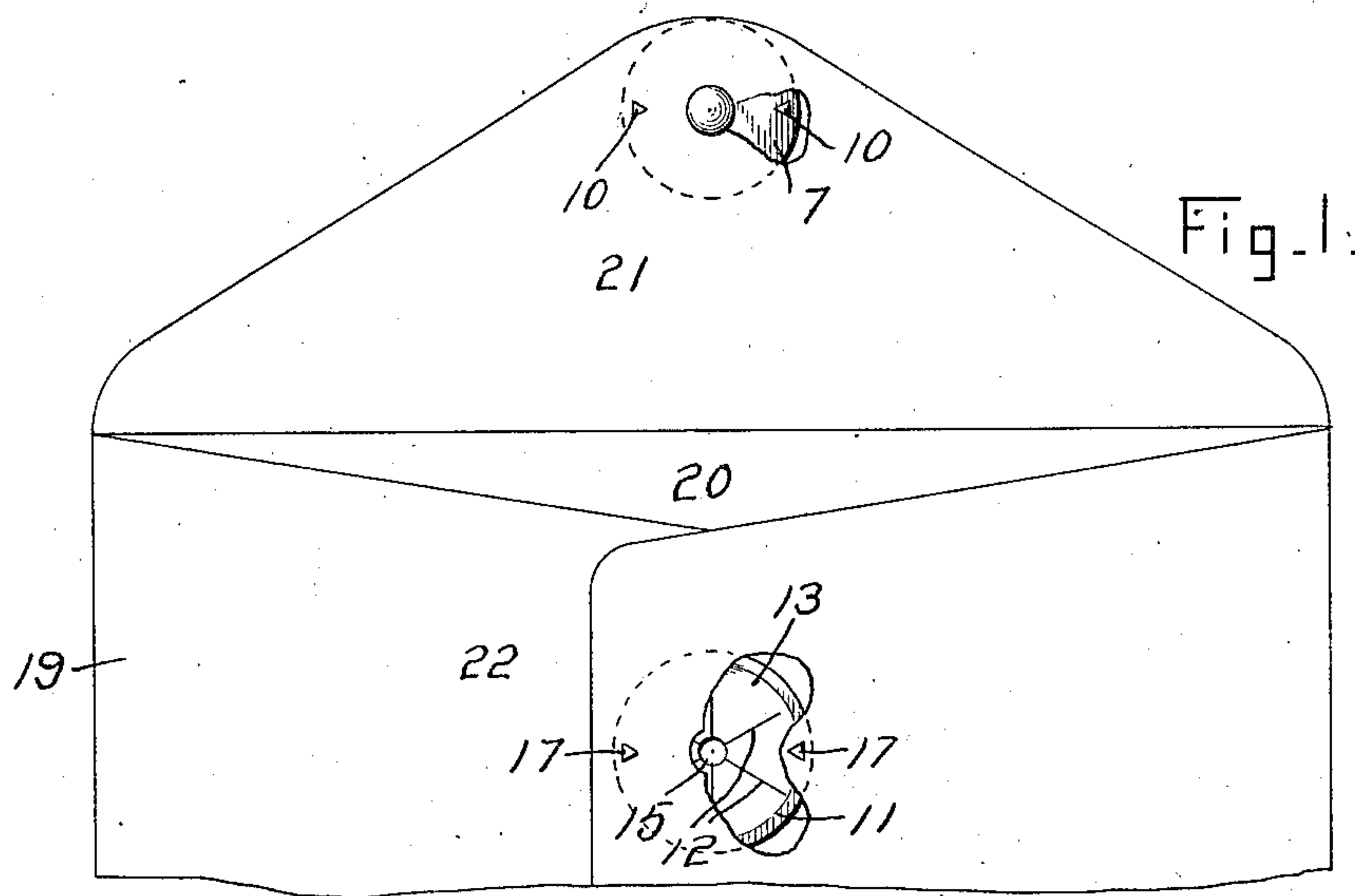


No. 889,638.

PATENTED JUNE 2, 1908.

E. E. RUNYON.
ENVELOP FASTENER.
APPLICATION FILED JAN. 9, 1907.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1



Witnesses

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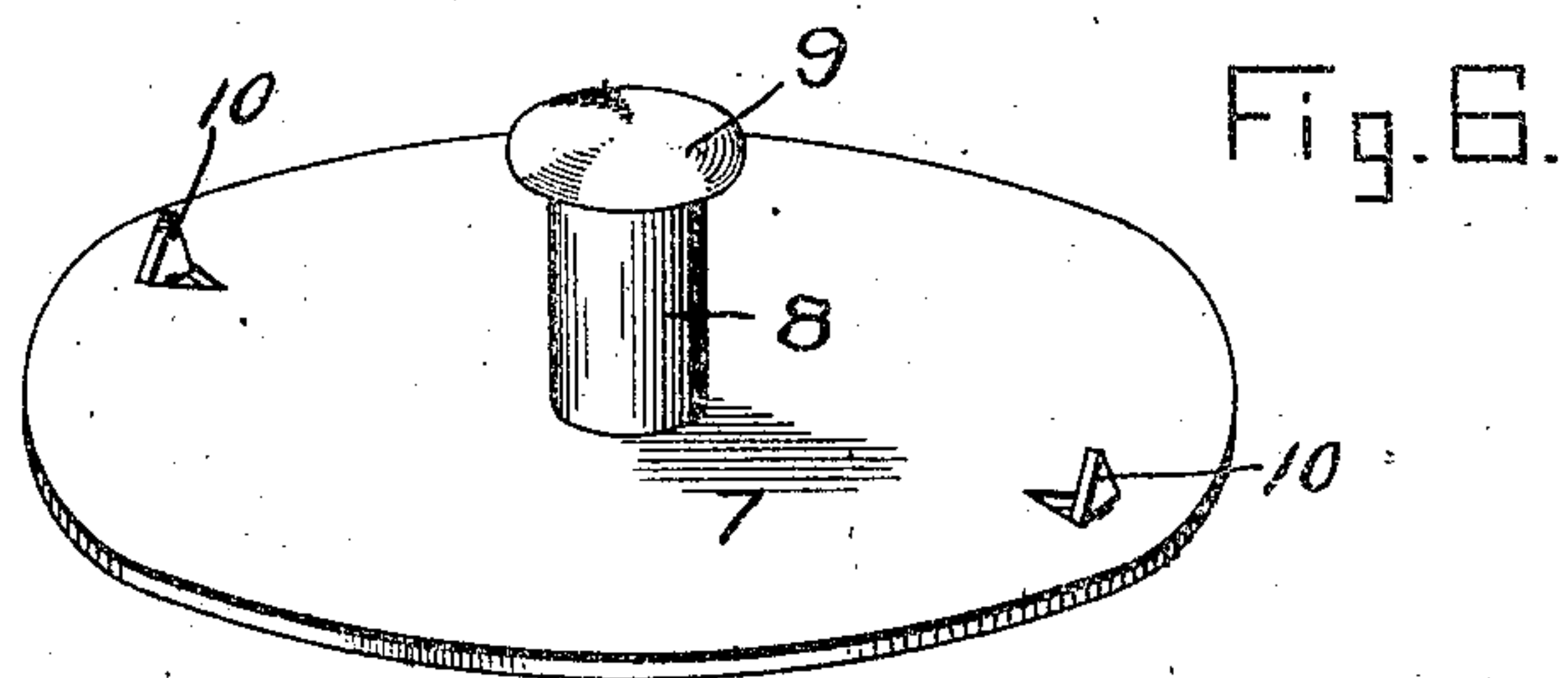
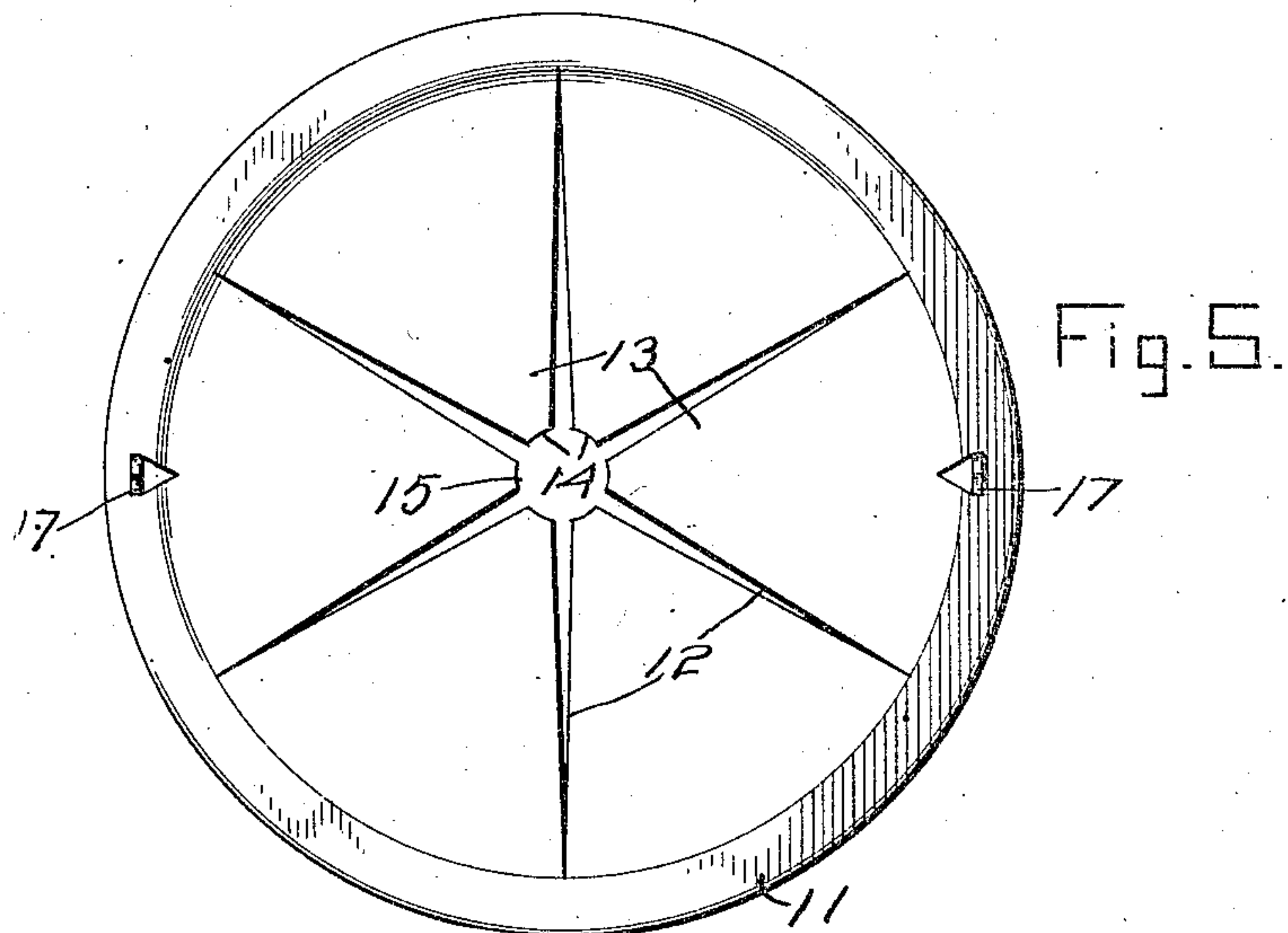
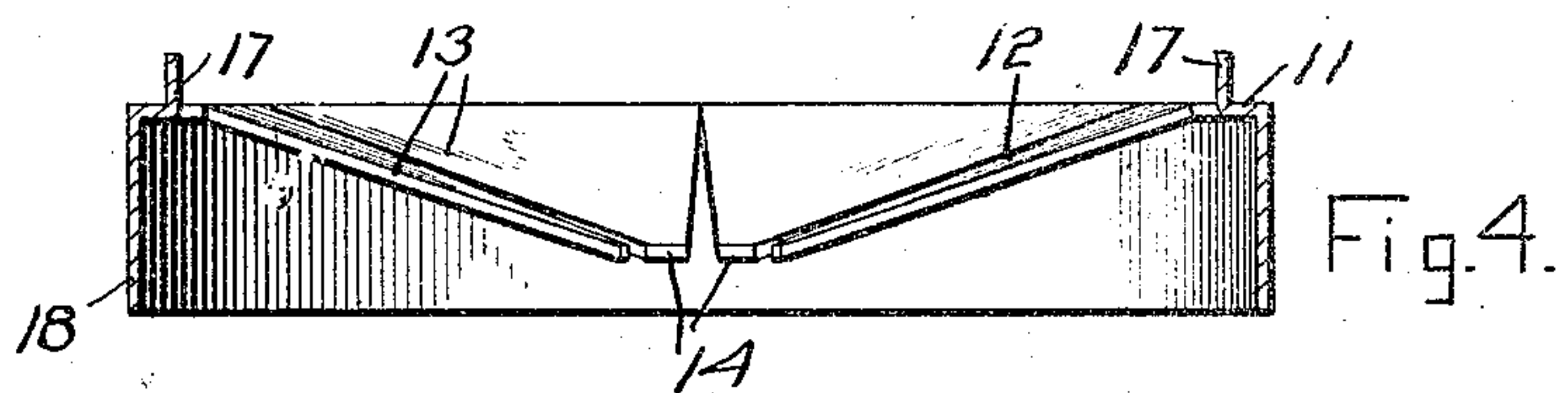
Attorneys.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWIN E. RUNYON, OF PASADENA, CALIFORNIA.

ENVELOP-FASTENER.

No. 889,638.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented June 2, 1908.

Application filed January 9, 1907. Serial No. 351,493.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWIN E. RUNYON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Pasadena, in the county of Los Angeles, State of California, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Envelop-Fasteners; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

The present invention relates to envelop fasteners, and it aims to provide a device of that class which when attached to an envelop and locked will prevent the latter from being reopened without being torn or partially destroyed to such an extent as to render evident the fact that it has been opened after having been closed or sealed.

To this end, the device comprises an outer member which is clenched to the flap of an envelop and carries a stud whose head is adapted to be forced through an opening in the opposite member which is secured to the inner face of the envelop back, and is cut diametrically to form a series of triangular spring tongues, the inner ends of which are slightly blunted or squared to form such opening. It will therefor be obvious that when the two members of the fastener are disengaged, the pressure of the tongues against the back of the envelop will tear the latter and thus render the envelop unfit for resealing.

The invention will be readily understood from the following detailed description, and its preferred embodiment is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which like parts are designated by corresponding reference numerals in the several views.

Of the said drawings—Figure 1 is a plan view of an envelop, showing the fastening device secured thereto, the flap of the envelop being open. Fig. 2 is a section through the fastening and envelop, with the flap closed. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the inner fastening member. Fig. 4 is an axial section therethrough. Fig. 5 is a top plan view of the same, showing the original position of the spring tongues. Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the outer fastening member.

As shown in the drawings, the fastening device comprises two members, an outer member and an inner member. The outer member includes a metallic disk or plate 7 provided with a central stud having a stem

8 and a plano-convex head 9. The plate is further provided with a pair of spurs 10, which are punched therefrom and bent inwardly.

The inner member of the fastener comprises a similar plate 11, which is slotted diametrically in opposite directions, as indicated by the reference numeral 12 to form the mutually adjacent sectoral tongues 13, the free ends of which are blunted, as at 14, to form a central opening 15 through which the stud of the upper member is adapted to extend when the two are interlocked, as hereinafter more fully described. The forward portion of each tongue is bent inwardly at about an angle of 30 degrees to the plane of the plate, as shown in Fig. 4. Two opposing tongues of the plate 11 are provided with spurs 17, similar to those formed on the plate 7, but bent upwardly instead of downwardly. The plate 11 is further provided with a depending peripheral flange or rim 18 of a width about equal to the height of the stud of the upper member.

The reference numeral 19 designates generally an envelop, to which the fastening device is applied, and comprising a front portion 20, flap 21, and a back 22. The upper member of the fastener is attached to the back of the envelop flap, with the stud extending through an opening formed therein and the spurs 10 pressed through the flap and clenched against the inner face thereof. The inner fastening member is attached to the inner face of the back of the envelop with the spurs 17 passed therethrough and similarly clenched, there being preferably an opening formed in the envelop back in alignment with the opening 15 in said plate. The envelop is then sealed by pressing upon the outer plate until the stud carried thereby is forced through the opening in the inner plate and the spring-tongues carried by the latter engage at their free ends the plane or inner face of the stud-head, thus locking the two members together.

The opening 15, which is formed by the flattened or blunted ends of the spring-tongues is somewhat smaller in diameter than the diameter of the stud, so that the tongues will be bent inwardly during the passage of the stud therethrough, and will be tensioned thereby. Owing to the fact, moreover, that the forward portion of each tongue is normally bent inwardly, it will be obvious that when the plates are disengaged

the stud will cause the tongues to buckle upon themselves and against the inner face of the envelop back, thus tearing the latter and rendering the envelop impossible of resealing.

5 The diametrical slots 12 in the inner member may, moreover, extend to within a very slight distance of the periphery thereof, so that when the two plates are disengaged the pressure of the stud upon the tongues will
10 frequently cause an extension of said slots, thus destroying the plate itself.

The formation of the rim or flange 18 on the inner member gives the latter sufficient strength to withstand the slight pressure
15 necessary in locking the plates together, and at the same time permits the stud and tongues to interlock without coming into contact with any obstruction within the envelop.

20 Both plates are formed from exceedingly thin metal.

Although the device has been shown and described as a fastener for envelops, it may obviously be used in larger sizes in connection
25 with parcels and packages.

I am aware that a fastening device comprising a pair of metal plates, one of which carries a stud and the other of which is provided with an opening through which said
30 stud is forced, is broadly old and I therefore do not claim any such construction, but base my invention upon an inner plate diametrically slotted to form sector-shaped spring-tongues, which are forced outwardly against
35 the substance of the envelop back by the action of the stud carried by the outer plate, so that said tongues will destroy to some extent the envelop back and will, moreover, buckle upon themselves so as to render the inner
40 plate or member unfit for further use.

What is claimed, is—

1. The combination with an envelop, of a fastener therefor comprising a metallic outer plate adapted to be attached to the envelop

and provided with a headed stud, and a metallic inner plate adapted to be attached to the inner face of the back of the envelop and provided with a series of sectoral spring
45 tongues having their inner ends blunted to form a central opening through which said stud is adapted to be forced, to lock said
50 plates together, said tongues being disposed at an angle to the inner plate, converging toward the axis of the stud and bearing against the inner face of the stud head when the
55 plates are in position, whereby said tongues will be forced to buckle outwardly against the envelop back, to tear the same when said plates are disengaged.

2. The combination with an envelop, of a
60 fastener therefor comprising a metallic outer plate adapted to be attached to the flap of the envelop and provided with a headed stud, and a metallic inner plate adapted to be attached to the inner face of the back of the
65 envelop and provided with a series of sectoral spring tongues having their inner ends blunted to form a central opening through which said stud is adapted to be forced, to lock said
70 plates together, said tongues bearing against the inner face of the stud head when the plates are in position, whereby said tongues will be forced to buckle outwardly against the envelop back, to tear the same when said
75 plates are disengaged, and a depending peripheral flange formed upon said inner plate, said flange having a width approximately equal to the length of said stud, to permit the stud and tongues to interlock without coming
80 into contact with an obstruction within the envelop.

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

EDWIN E. RUNYON.

Witnesses:

DAVID T. JONES,
W. C. STRYKER.