F. J. RUPPEL.

LEATHER STRETCHER.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 19, 1908.

909,123.

Patented Jan. 5, 1909.

Fig. 1.

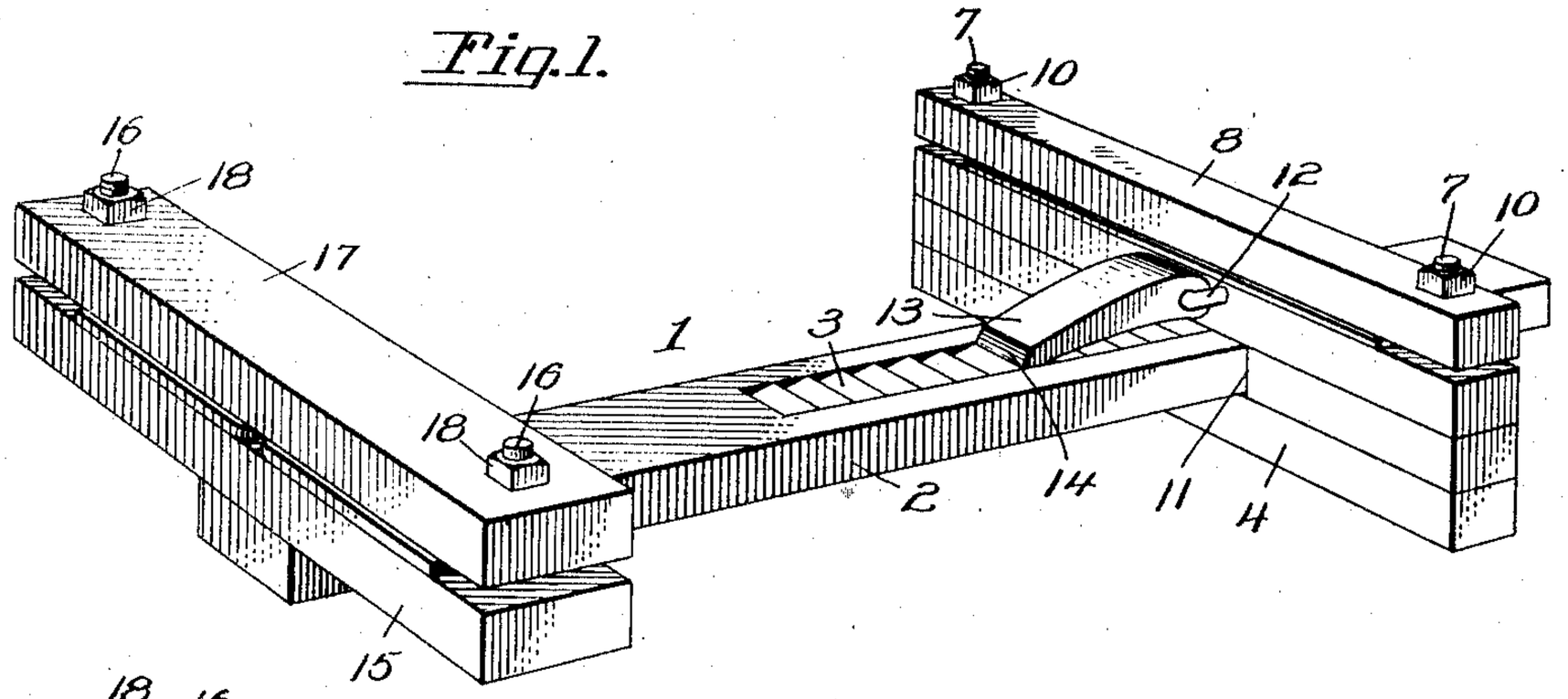

Fig. 2.

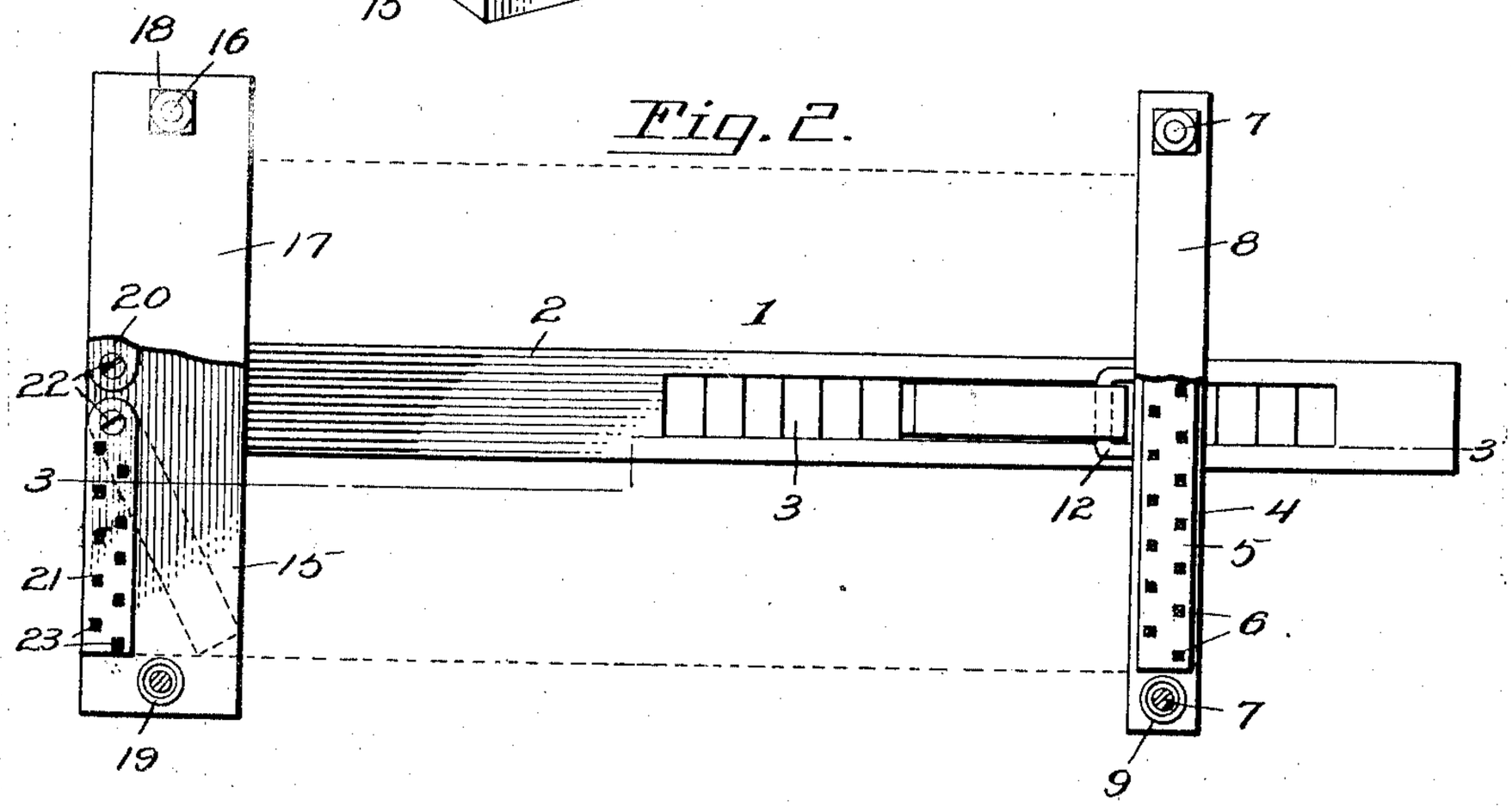

Fig. 3.

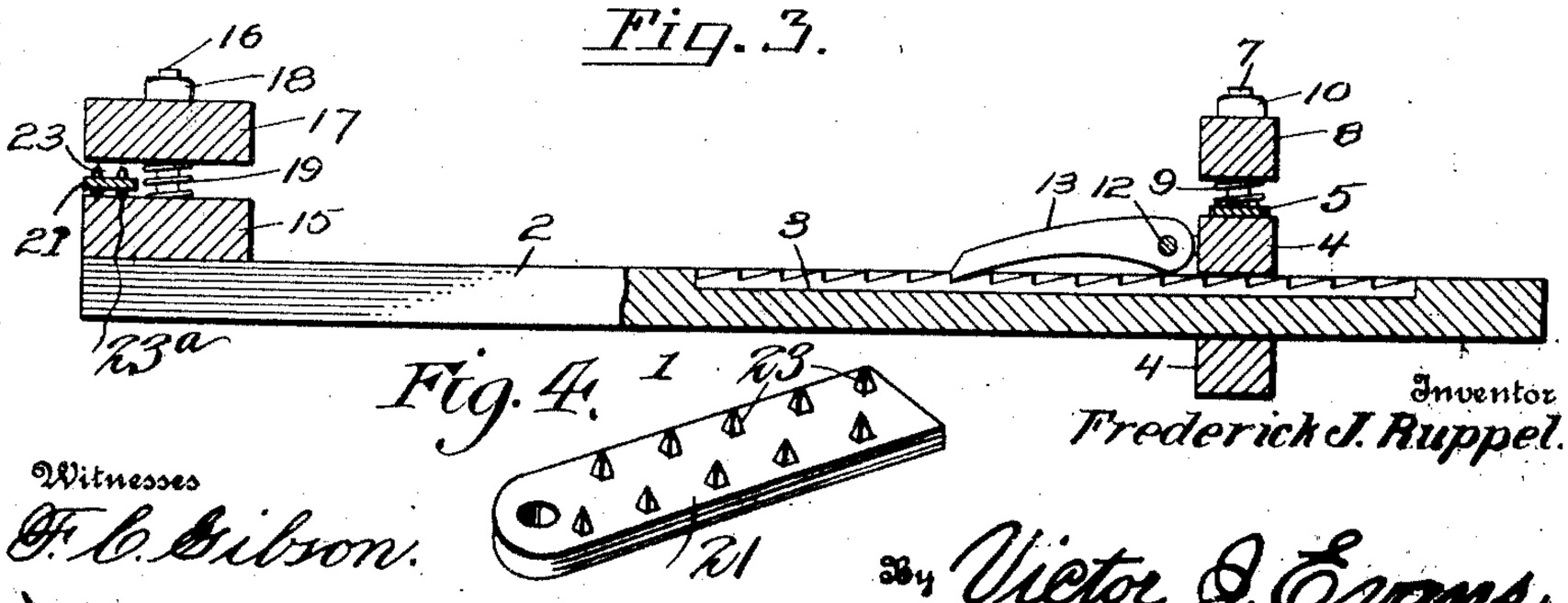

Fig. 4.

Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FREDERICK J. RUPPEL, OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

LEATHER-STRETCHER.

No. 909,123. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Jan. 5, 1909.

Application filed September 19, 1908. Serial No. 453,764.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FREDERICK J. RUPPEL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Baltimore, in the county of Baltimore City and State of Maryland, have invented new and useful Improvements in Leather-Stretchers, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to leather stretchers, and has for an object to provide a device of this character which will be effective in the stretching of leather to be used particularly as belting, and to provide means adapted to conform to irregularities of the leather at the corners thereof and to construct the said means whereby the leather may be engaged at the flesh side without destroying the same.

Other objects and advantages will be apparent as the nature of the invention is better disclosed, and it will be understood that changes within the scope of the claims may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention.

In the drawings forming a portion of this specification, and in which like numerals of reference indicate similar parts in the several views, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the leather stretcher, Fig. 2 is a top plan view with parts broken away, Fig. 3 is a longitudinal sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1, Fig. 4 is a perspective view of one of the pivoted plates.

Referring now more particularly to the drawings, there is shown a leather stretcher 1 comprising a longitudinally disposed bar 2 having a series of transversely extending rack teeth 3 formed upon its upper face. The bar is provided with a transversely extending head 4 having a portion disposed above the bar 2, and this head is provided upon the upper surface thereof with a transversely disposed plate 5 which carries a plurality of vertically extending pins 6. The head has projecting therefrom adjacent to its ends and outwardly of the ends of the plate 5 bolts 7 which loosely receive a transversely disposed clamping element 8. Springs 9 are coiled about the bolt 7 and are adapted to yieldingly support the element 8. Clamping nuts of suitable construction are engaged with the bolts as shown at 10 and are thus provided for operation to move the element 8 toward the pin 6 upon the plate 5. The springs 9 are such that they serve to move the element 8 away from the pins 6 when the nuts are unscrewed as will be readily understood. The head 4 is preferably provided with a rectangular passage 11 adapted to receive the bar 2 whereby said head is mounted for sliding movement. The head 4 has projecting therefrom a staple 12 upon which is pivotally mounted a dog 13 having a lower pointed end 14 to engage the teeth 3 upon the bar 2.

The bar 2 has fixed thereto a transversely extending head 15, and adjacent to the end and projecting upwardly from the upper surface of the head there are shown bolts 16 similar to the bolts 7, and these bolts have loosely mounted thereon a clamping element 17 similar to the element 8 and adjustably held upon the bolts by means of nuts 18. Springs 19 are disposed between the head 15 and the element 17 respectively, and are coiled around the bolts 16, and serve to force the element 17 away from the head 15 when the nuts 18 are unscrewed. Plates 20 and 21 respectively, are pivotally mounted by means of screws or the like at their inner ends to the head 15 as shown at 22. The just described plates are adapted to lie normally adjacent to the outer edge of the head 15 as shown in Fig. 2 of the drawing. The plates 20 and 21 are each provided on their upper faces with a plurality of vertically disposed teeth or spurs 23, and from the under faces of said plates depend a plurality of similar teeth or spurs 23^a. The teeth 23 and 23^a may be of any suitable shape, but are preferably of pyramid form as shown.

When it is desired to stretch the leather, the head 4 is moved upon the bar 2 toward the head 15 and leather is inserted between the respective heads and their clamping elements, and by manipulating the nuts 10 and 18 respectively, it is obvious that the elements 8 and 17 will be effectively brought into coöperation with the heads 4 and 15 to securely hold the leather, and after the just described operation it will be understood that the head 4 is moved away from the head 15 until the proper tension upon the leather is obtained, whereupon, the dog 13 will engage the teeth of the bar 2 to hold the head 4 in proper spaced relation to the head 15. Leather is inserted between the head 17 and the teeth or spurs 23 carried by the plates 21, so that the said teeth or spurs are brought into engagement with the flesh side of the leather and thereby saves the whole grain and obviates destruction or waste as is apparent and the teeth or spurs

23ª are securely engaged with the head 15. By means of the pivotal movement of the plates 21 they may be moved to conform to an irregular end of the leather, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 2 of the drawings.

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

1. In a leather stretcher, the combination with a stationary head and a movable head, of pivotally mounted toothed plates upon the stationary head.

2. In a stretcher of the class described, the combination with stretching heads, of pivotally mounted toothed plates mounted adjacent to the edge of one of said heads.

3. A leather stretcher comprising a stationary stretching head and an adjustable stretching head, a plurality of pivoted plates upon the stationary head, a plurality of upwardly projecting teeth upon the upper faces of said plates and a plurality of downwardly directed teeth upon the under side of said plates adapted to engage portions of the said head.

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

FREDERICK J. RUPPEL.

Witnesses:

BERNARD J. LEE,

RAYMOND G. MORGAN.