

A. M. SOUTHWORTH.
CUTTER THIMBLE FOR GRAPE AND OTHER PICKING.
APPLICATION FILED JUNE 3, 1908.

931,511.

Patented Aug. 17, 1909.

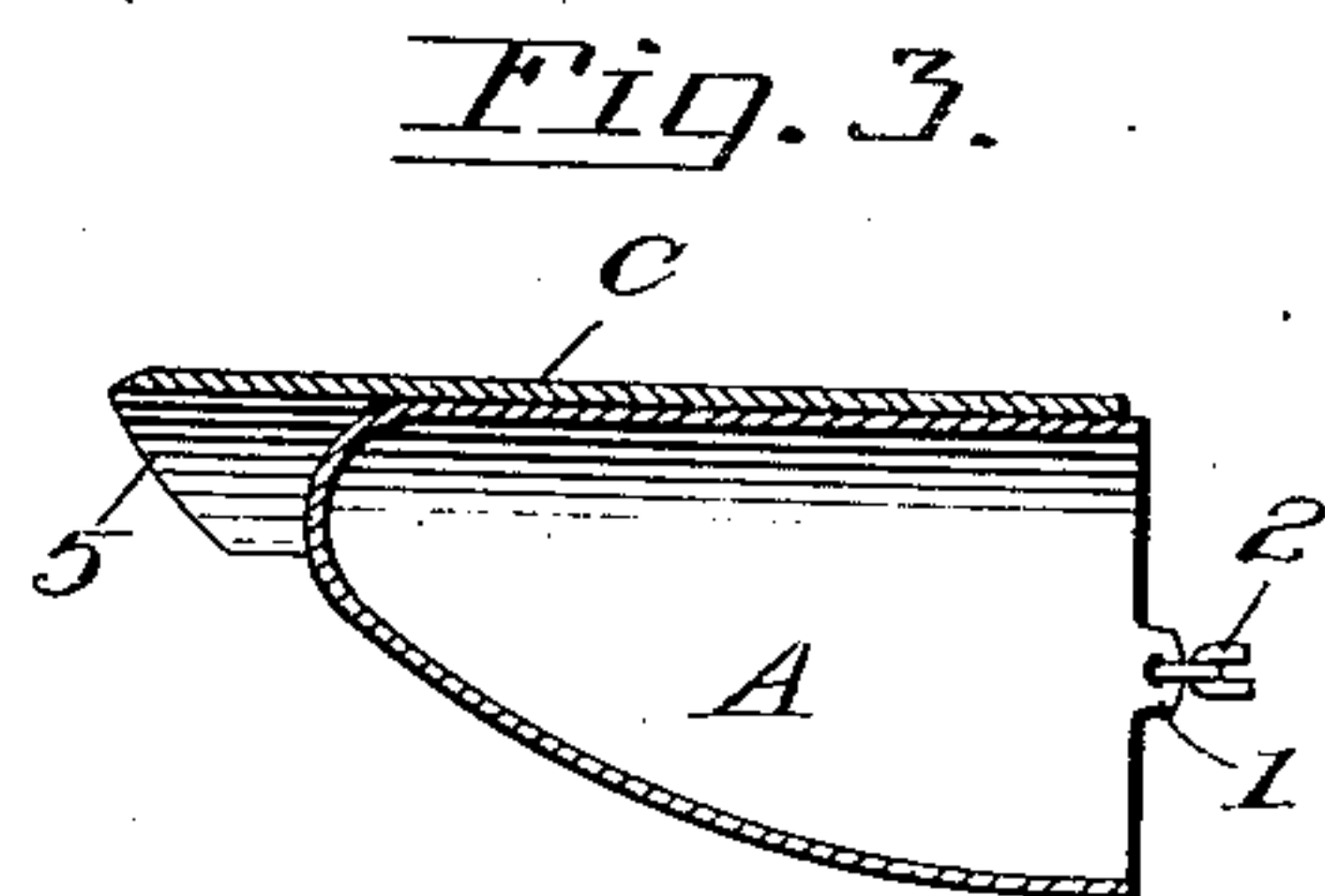
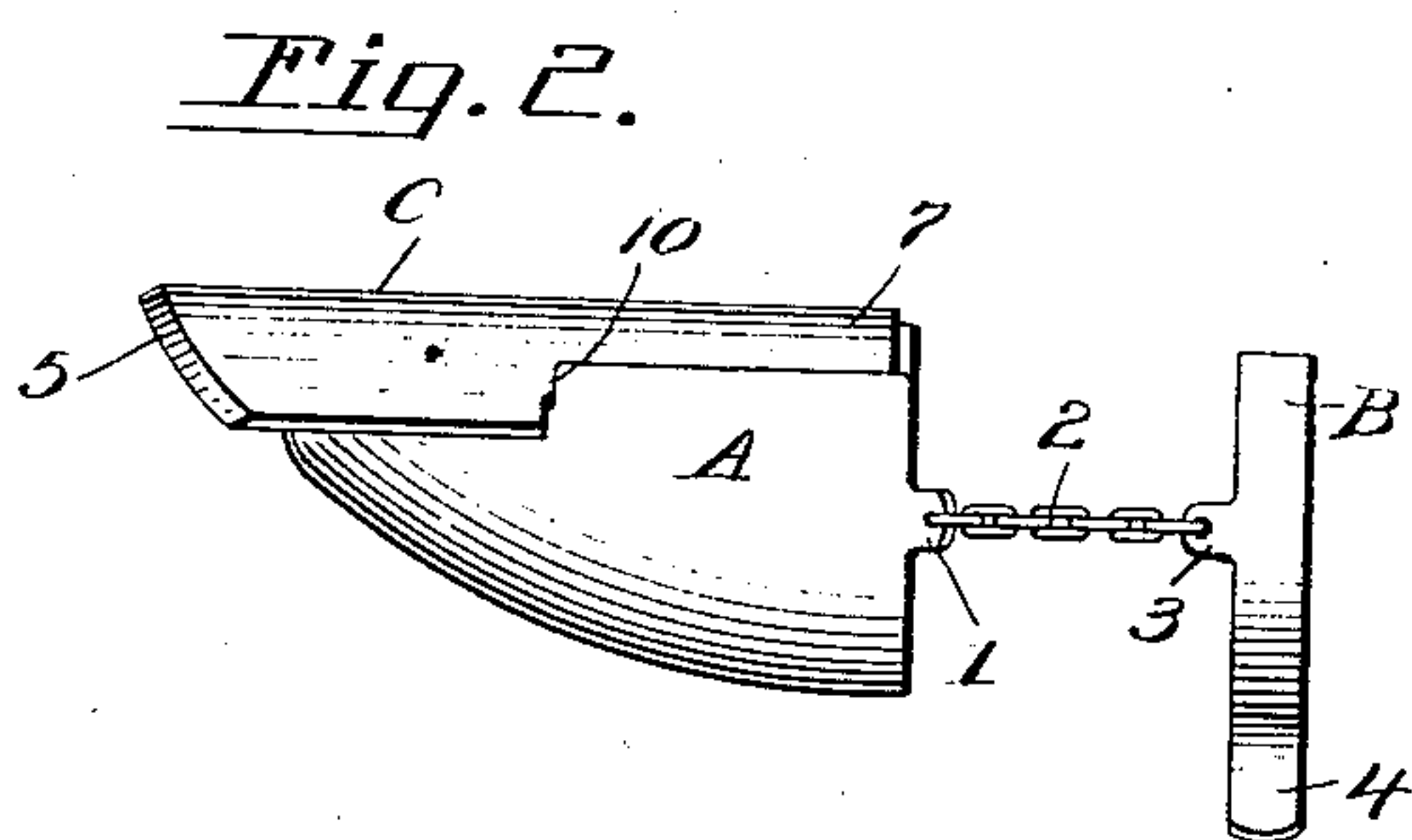
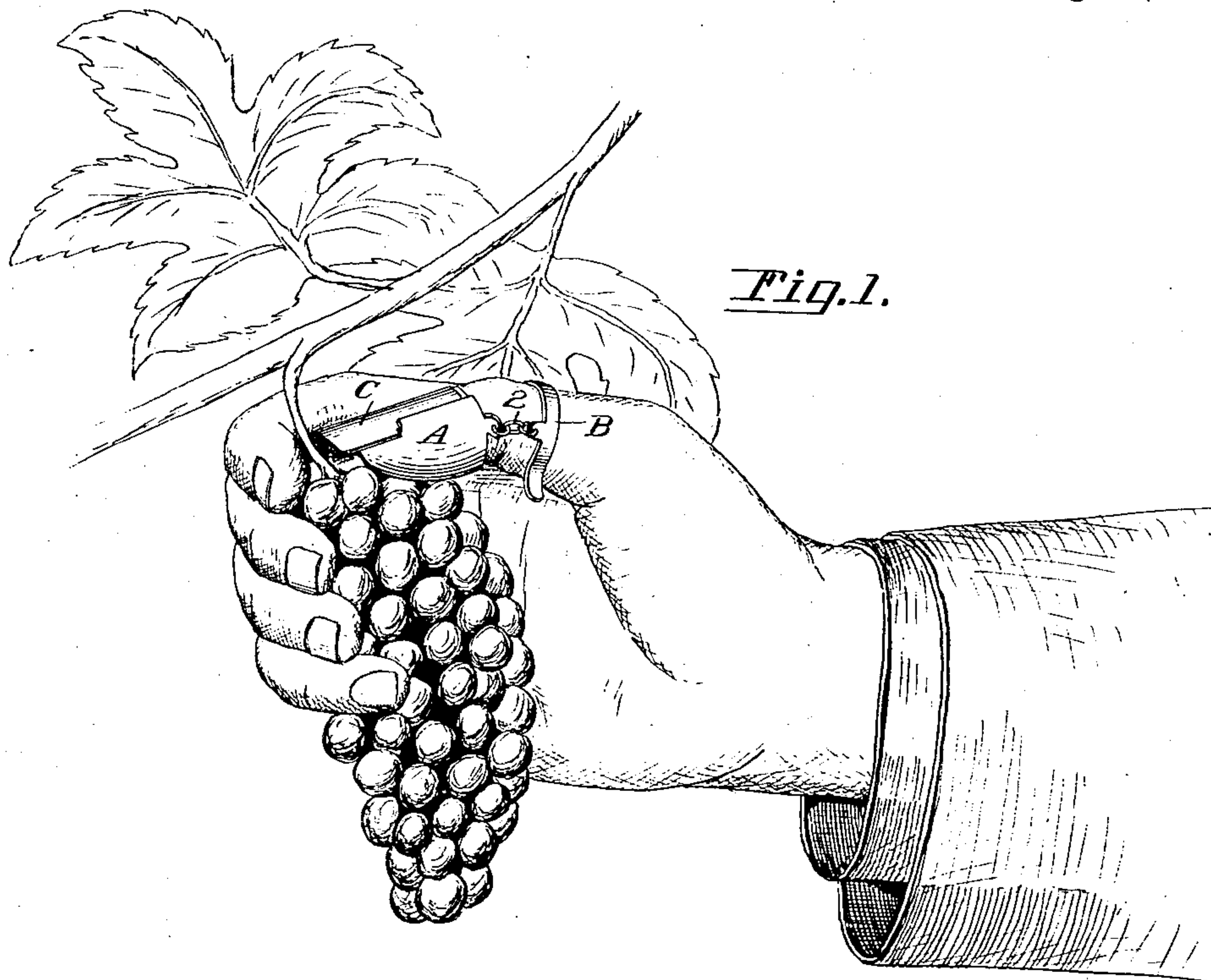


Fig. 4.

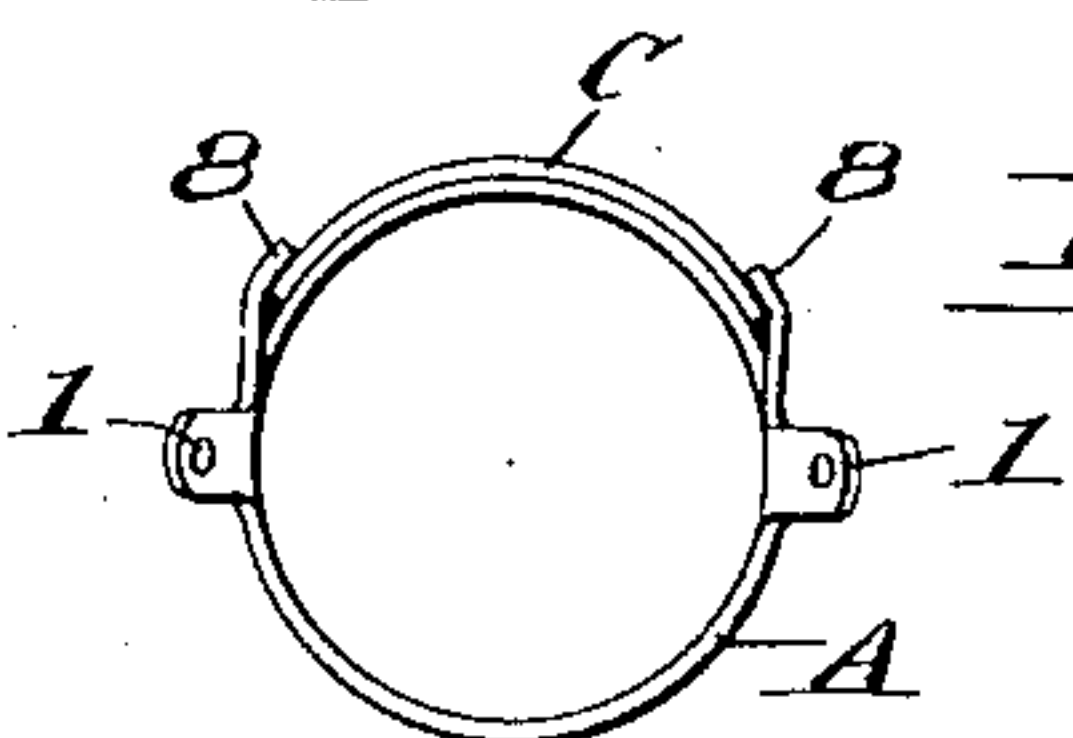
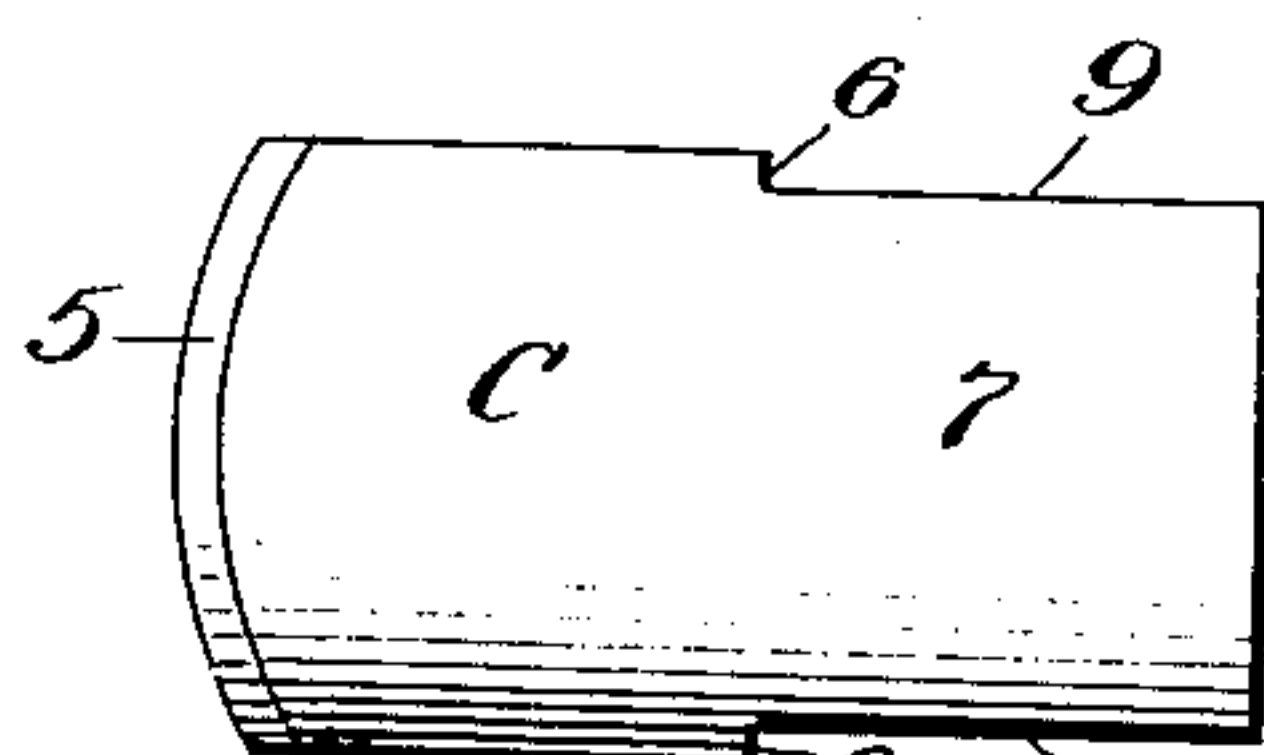
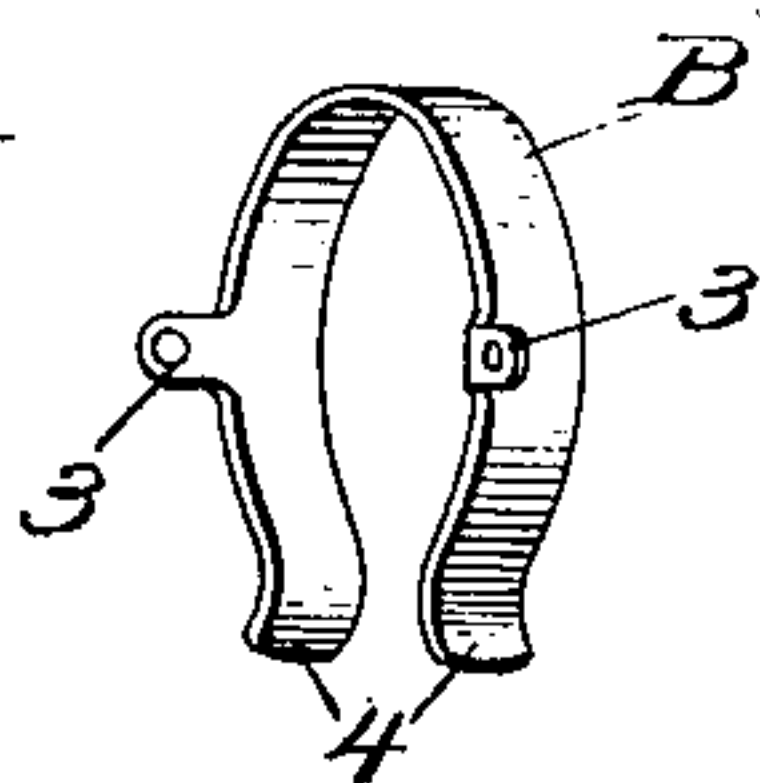


Fig. 5.



Witnesses
F. L. Gibson.
C. Bradway.



Inventor
Alva M. Southworth.

By Victor J. Evans
Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALVA M. SOUTHWORTH, OF CUCAMONGA, CALIFORNIA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO GEORGE R. THAYER, OF RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA.

CUTTER-THIMBLE FOR GRAPE AND OTHER PICKING.

No. 931,511.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Aug. 17, 1909.

Application filed June 3, 1908. Serial No. 436,504.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALVA M. SOUTHWORTH, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Cucamonga, in the county of San Bernardino and State of California, have invented new and useful Improvements in Cutter-Thimbles for Grape and other Picking, of which the following is a specification.

10 This invention relates to a thumb thimble intended for use by grape, berry and other pickers and cotton topper, whereby the stem of the fruit can be conveniently and quickly severed without marring the fruit or danger
15 of the same dropping.

The invention has for one of its objects to provide a device of this character of comparatively simple, inexpensive and durable construction and so designed as to be convenient and reliable in use.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a fruit picker's thimble having means for conveniently and detachably securing the thimble upon the thumb of the
25 user and equipped with a steel blade for severing the stems of the fruit, the blade being removable or permanently secured to the thimble, as desired.

With these objects in view and others, as
30 will appear as the description proceeds, the invention comprises the various novel features of construction and arrangement of parts which will be more fully described hereinafter and set forth with particularity
35 in the claim appended hereto.

In the accompanying drawing, which illustrates one of the embodiments of the invention, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the device applied and showing the use thereof.
40 Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the device. Fig. 3 is a central longitudinal section of the thumb piece. Fig. 4 is an elevation of the inner end of the thumb piece. Fig. 5 is a plan view of the removable blade. Fig. 6 is
45 a perspective view of the clasp for holding the thumb piece in position.

Similar reference characters are employed to designate corresponding parts throughout the several views.

50 Referring to the drawing, A designates a copper or other sheet metal thimble shaped to conveniently fit over the extremity of the thumb of the user, and projecting rearwardly

from opposite sides of this thumb piece are apertured lugs 1 to which are connected
55 flexible elements, such as chains 2, that have their rear extremities connected with the forwardly extending lugs on the U-shaped clasp B. This clasp consists of a strip of spring metal that is shaped to conveniently fit
60 around the thumb at a point between the first and second joint thereof, the extremities of the said metal strip being curved outwardly at 4 in opposite directions so as to form a
65 mouth into which the thumb can be readily inserted. The chains 2 permit the thumb joint to be worked without restriction.

Secured to the thimble piece A is a blade C positioned similarly to the thumb nail, and the outer edge 5 thereof is beveled like
70 a chisel, so that the stem of the fruit can be readily severed, the fruit being taken in the hand in such a manner as to place the stem over the index finger to form a rest for the
75 stem as the latter is severed by the cutting edge 5 of the blade, as illustrated in Fig. 1. The blade C is preferably arched or concavo-convex in a transverse plane, and the
80 opposite longitudinal edges of the blade are shouldered at 6 by reducing the rear end of the blade to form a tail piece 7. The blade
85 can be permanently secured to the thimble piece A, if desired, but in the present instance the blade is intended to be removable so that a worn one can be easily replaced or
90 the blade removed from time to time for sharpening. The thumb piece A has resilient parallel flanges 8 extending longitudinally thereof, and the edges of the blade at 9 engage under these flanges, and the forward
95 ends 10 of the flanges engage the shoulders 6 of the blade when the latter is in operative position. The flanges 8 being resilient, frictionally hold the blade against the outer surface of the thumb piece A so that accidental displacement is prevented.

From the foregoing description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, the advantages of the construction and of the method of operation will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art to which the invention appertains, and while I have described the principle of operation of the invention, together with the device which I now consider to be the best embodiment
105 thereof, I desire to have it understood that

the device shown is merely illustrative and that such changes may be made when desired as are within the scope of the claim.

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

A device of the class described comprising a thimble having a pair of parallel flanges extending toward each other and terminating adjacent the middle of the thimble, a
10 blade disposed over the top of the thimble and having its opposite edges recessed at one end whereby the recessed edges can pass between and under the flanges, the inner

ends of the recesses forming shoulders engaging the ends of the flanges, a cutting 15 edge on one end of the blade disposed beyond the tip of the thimble, and means for securing the thimble to the thumb of the user.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature 20 in presence of two witnesses.

ALVA M. SOUTHWORTH.

Witnesses:

GEO R. THAYER,
F. A. LUCAS.