

E. L. WOODMAN.  
INITIATION STEP.  
APPLICATION FILED MAY 4, 1909.

934,122.

Patented Sept. 14, 1909.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1

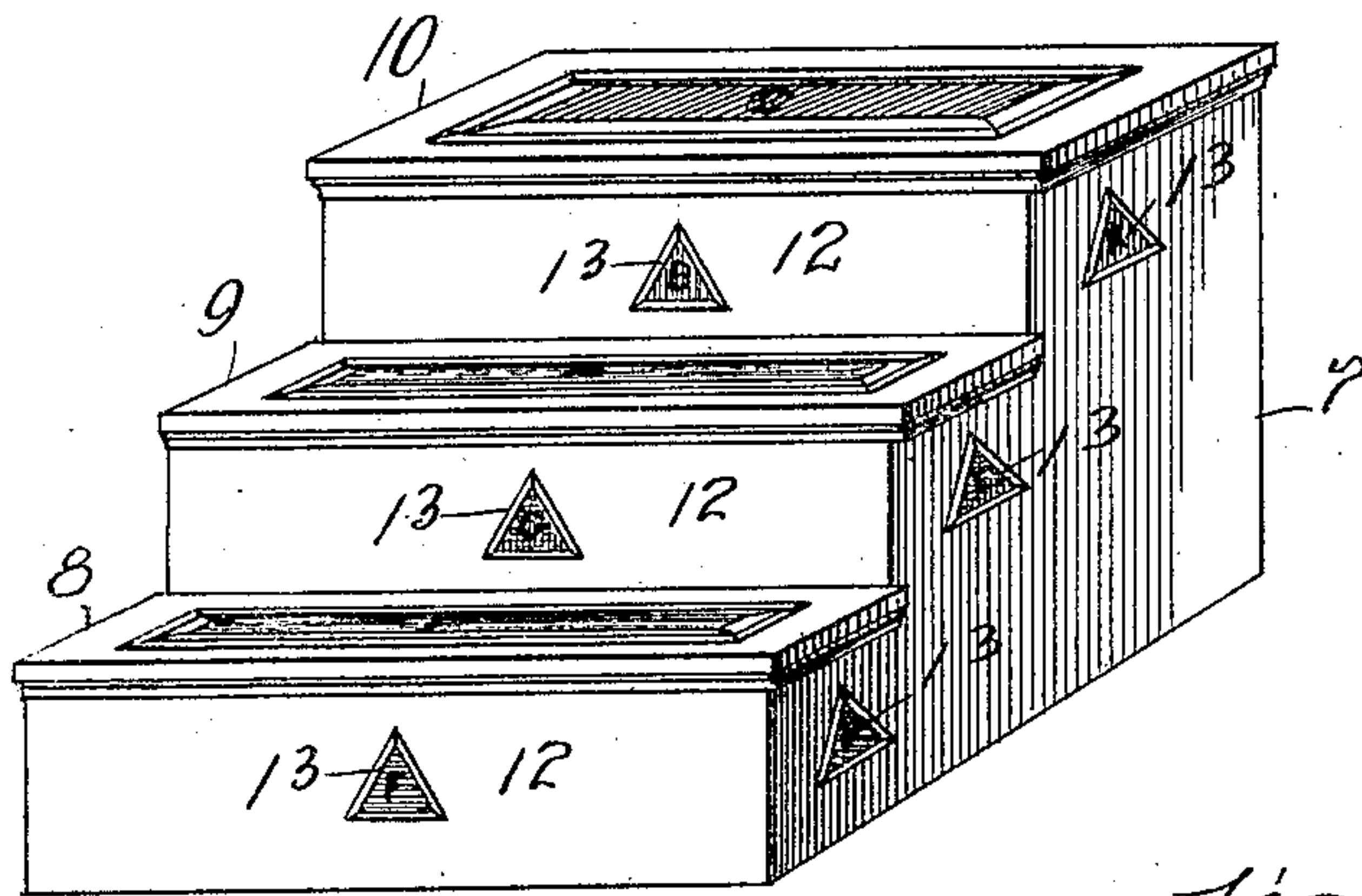


Fig. 2

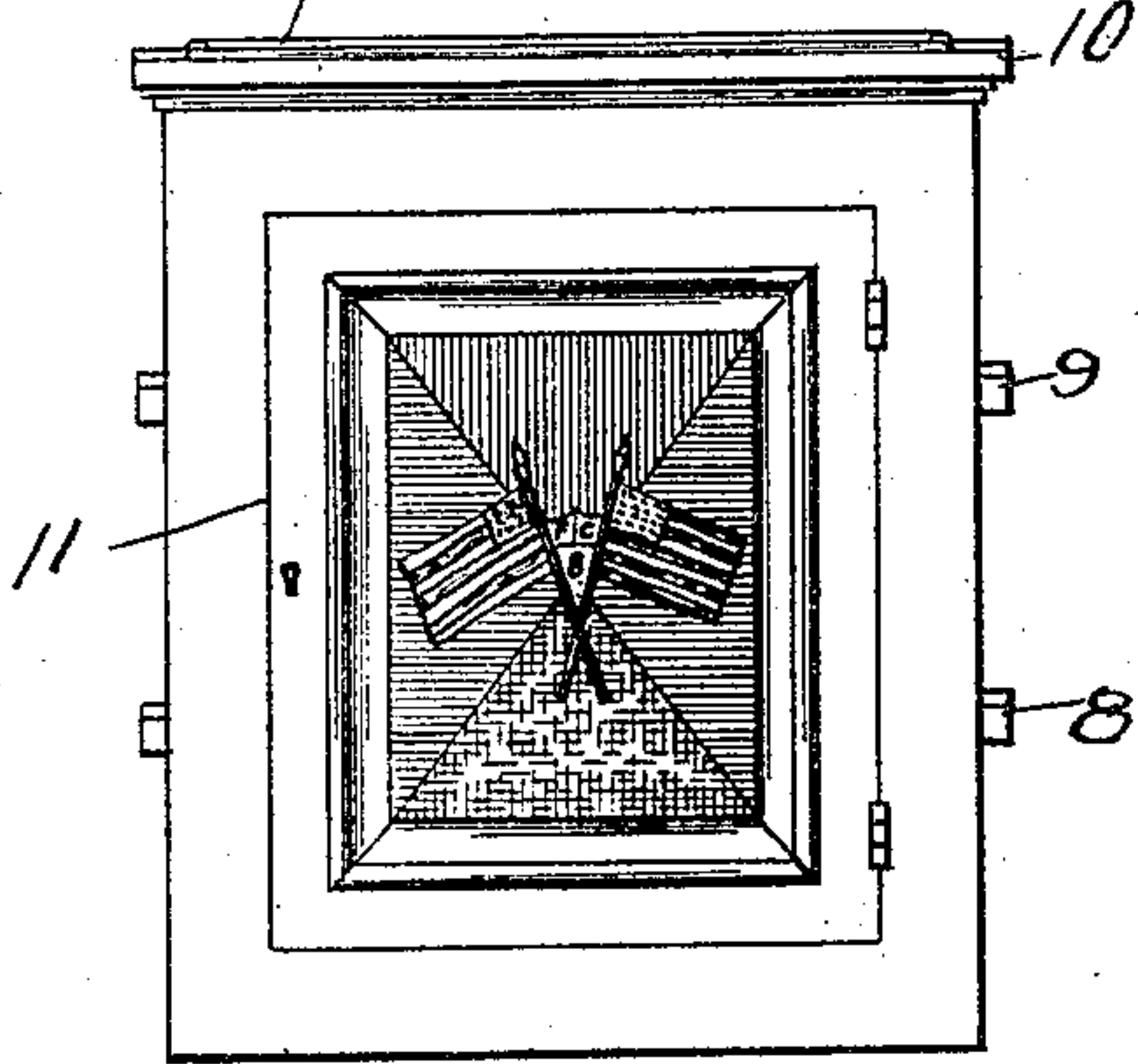


Fig. 3

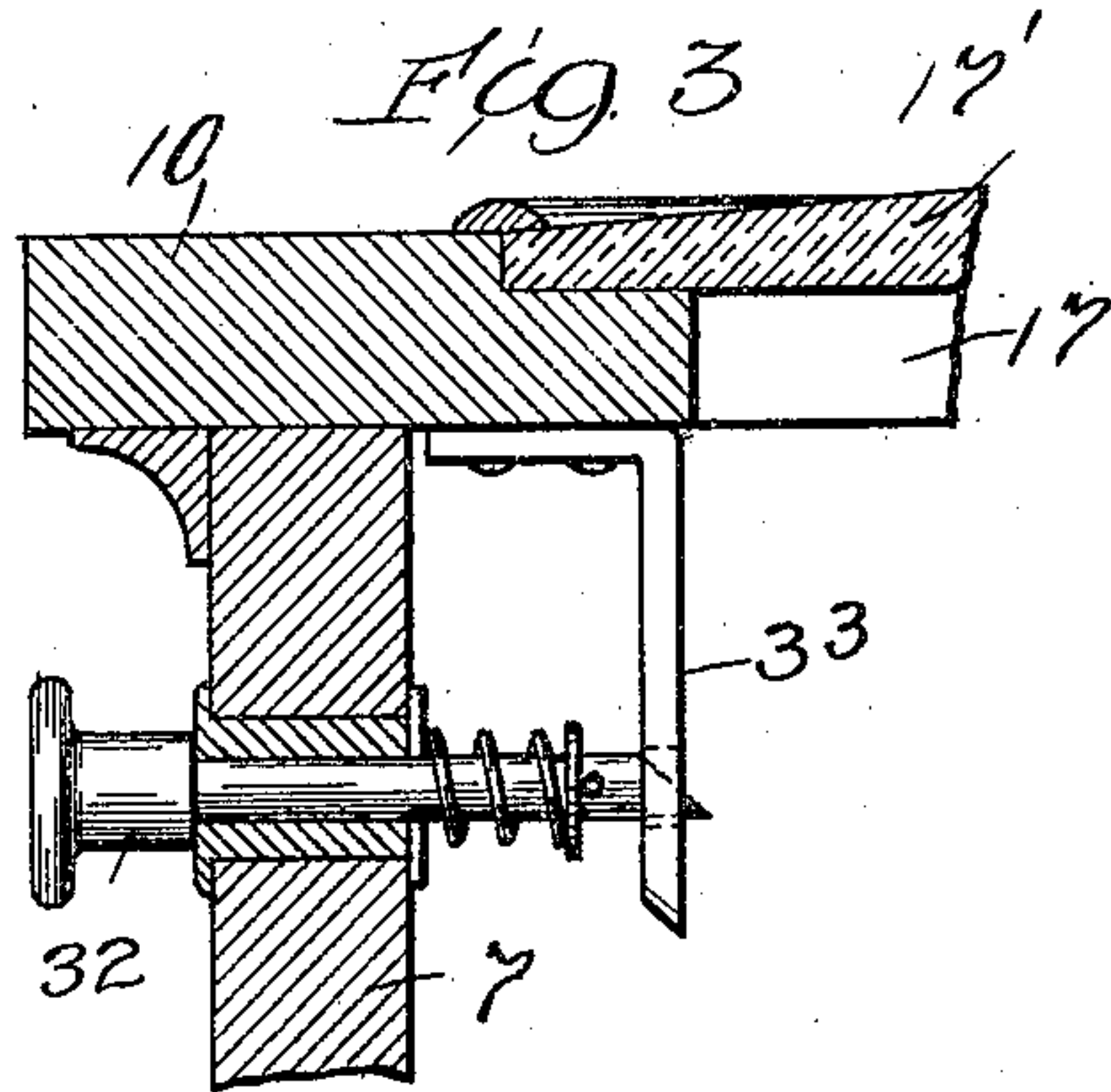
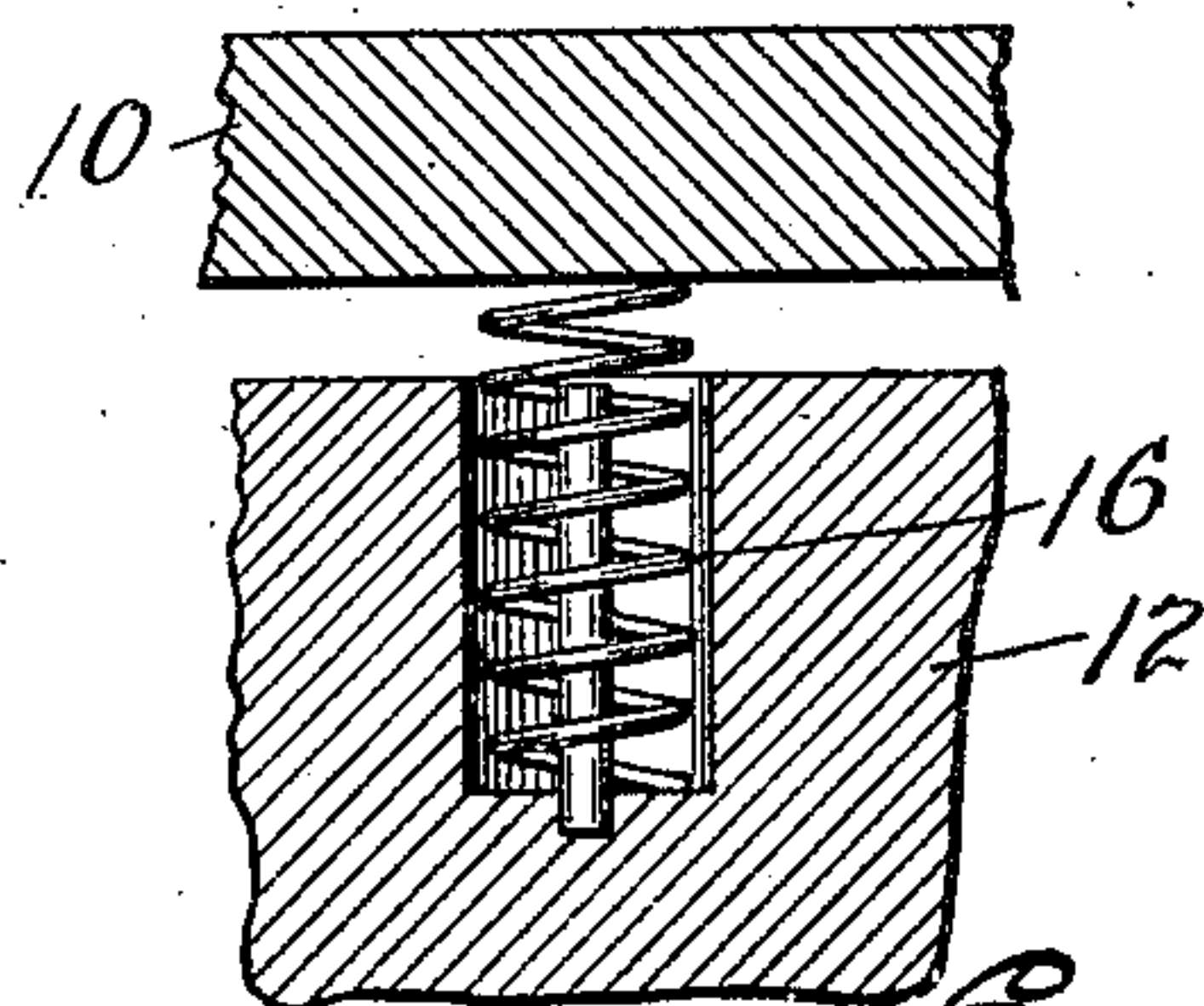


Fig. 4



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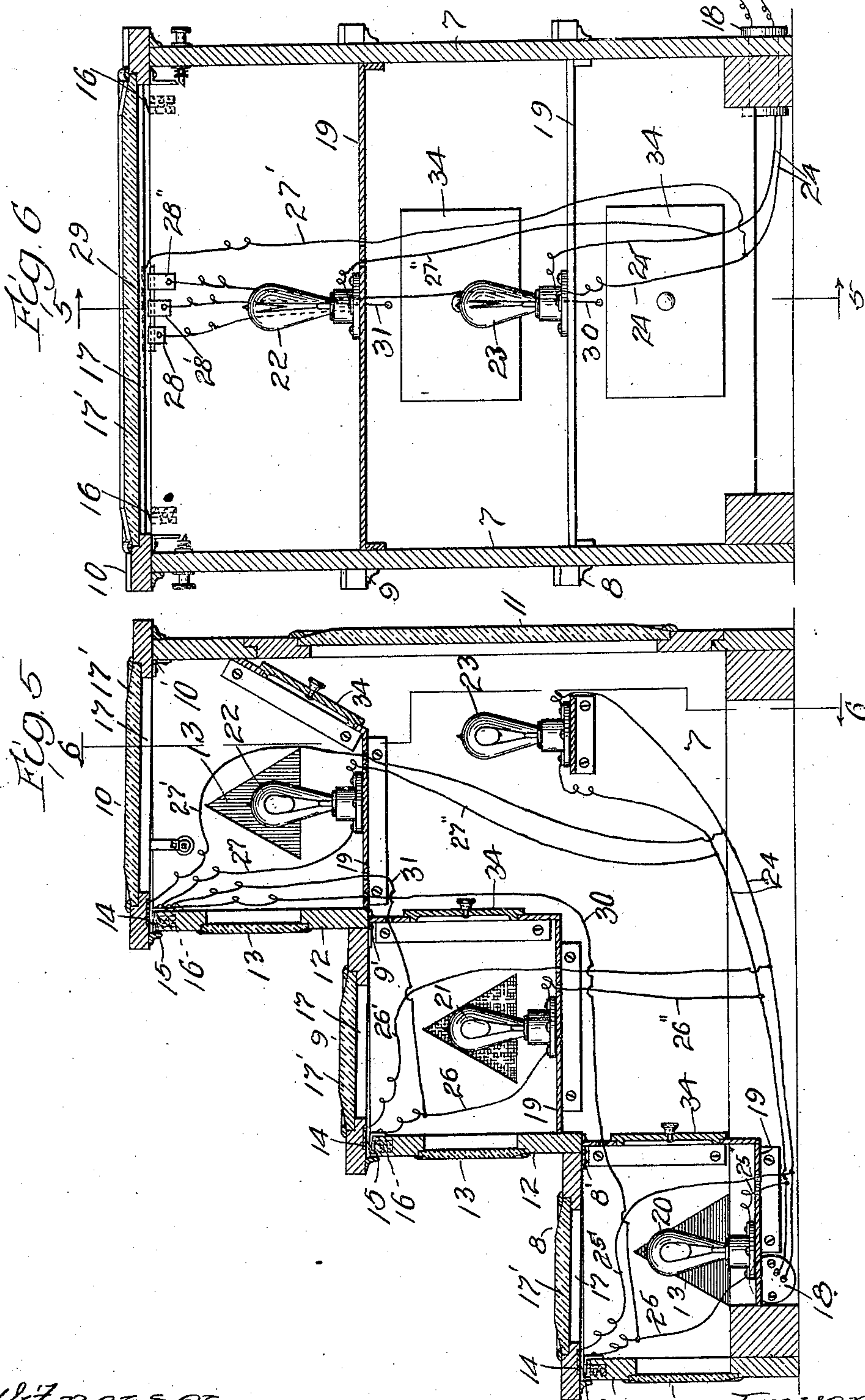
Inventor:  
Ernest L. Woodman  
By Wm. F. Belk Atty.

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



Witnesses  
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M. A. Kiddell

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ERNEST L. WOODMAN, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

## INITIATION-STEP.

934,122.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Sept. 14, 1909.

Application filed May 4, 1909. Serial No. 493,951.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ERNEST L. WOODMAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented new and useful Improvements in Initiation-Steps, of which the following is a specification.

The object of this invention is, broadly, to provide a set of initiation steps of novel construction and attractive appearance for lodge and society work, and more specifically to provide a set of steps with openings covered with colored glass and made emblematic of an order and a plurality of electric lights within the steps adapted to be automatically turned on and off as the initiate walks thereon.

In the accompanying drawings illustrating one embodiment of the invention Figure 1 is a perspective view of the steps. Fig. 2 is a front view. Fig. 3 is a detail enlarged sectional view showing the spring latch for locking the third or top step. Fig. 4 is a detail enlarged sectional view showing one of the springs for elevating the steps to break the contact. Fig. 5 is a sectional view on the line 5—5 of Fig. 6. Fig. 6 is a sectional view on the line 6—6 of Fig. 5.

Referring to the drawings, 7 designates the frame, and the treads 8, 9 and 10 of the three steps have their rear edges hinged to the frame at 8', 9' and 10' respectively. The front of the frame is provided with a glass door 11 and the risers 12 and ends of the steps have glass windows 13. These windows are preferably made in an emblematic shape and they and the glass door are colored and provided with symbols or are otherwise ornamented in a manner emblematic of an order or society. The riser of each step is provided at its upper edge with a contact 14 which is arranged to be engaged by a contact 15 on the underside of the tread of each step and the free edge of each tread is normally held in elevated position with the contacts out of engagement by the springs 16 which are seated in the risers and bear upward against the treads (Figs. 4, 5). Each tread has an opening 17 covered by a glass plate 17' which may be emblematically colored and ornamented.

An electric socket 18 is fastened to the frame in any suitable position to receive an electric plug 18' which may be connected to an ordinary electric light circuit. One or more electric light lamps 20, 21 and 22 are

suitably supported on shelves 19 in the steps and another electric light lamp 23 is suitably supported within the frame behind the door 11. The lamp 23 is connected in a main circuit by wires 24 with the socket 18; the lamp 20 is connected in a circuit by wires 25, 25' and 25'' with the contacts of the first step and the main circuit wires 24; the lamp 21 is connected by wires 26, 26' and 26'' with the contacts of the second step and the main circuit wires 24; the lamp 22 is connected by wires 27, 27' and 27'' with the contacts of the third step and the main circuit wires 24. The contacts on the second step are made like the contacts on the first step but on the third step the riser is provided with three separate contacts 28, 28' and 28'' and the tread has a single contact 29 to engage all of these three contacts. The wires 27 and 27' are connected to the contacts 28 and 29, respectively. A wire 30 is connected to the contact 28' and to the wire 25 and a wire 31 is connected to the contact 28'' and to the wire 26.

In practice when the steps are in use and the current is turned on the lamp 23 will remain lighted constantly, the lamp 20 will be lighted when the contacts of the first step are engaged, the lamp 21 will be lighted when the contacts of the second step are engaged, and the lamps 20, 21 and 22 will all be lighted when the contacts of the third step are engaged. The contacts are engaged when the initiate walks up the steps, his weight overcoming the pressure of springs 16 to depress the tread. When the top step is thus depressed a spring actuated bolt 32 on the riser of the third step is engaged with a latch plate 33 on the tread of the third step to lock the tread of the third step in lowered position, thus holding the contacts of the third step in engagement to keep all the lamps lighted. Removable cover plates 34 are provided within the steps to permit access to the lamps.

My invention provides an attractive and instructive device for lodge or society work and it is automatically operated by the initiate in walking up the steps. Variations can be made in the construction and arrangement of parts to adapt the steps for different lodge work.

What I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. Initiation steps comprising a frame, a plurality of movable steps on the frame,

110



glass covered openings in the frame and steps, electric lights within the steps, and means connected with the steps to be automatically operated when the initiate walks up the steps for turning on the electric current to the steps consecutively.

2. Initiation steps comprising a frame, a plurality of movable steps on the frame, glass covered openings in the frame and steps, electric lights within the steps, and means connected with the steps to be automatically operated by the initiate for completing the electric circuit for the light in each step when he steps thereon.

3. Initiation steps comprising a frame, a plurality of movable steps on the frame, glass covered openings in the frame and steps, electric lights within the steps, means connected with the steps to be automatically operated by the initiate for completing the electric circuit for the lights of each step below the top when he steps thereon and for all the steps when he steps on the top step.

4. Initiation steps comprising a frame, a plurality of steps on the frame, glass covered openings in the frame and steps, electric lights within the steps, the treads of the steps being hinged at their rear edges to the frame, an electric circuit for the lights of each step, contacts in said circuit and located opposite each other in the treads and risers, and springs normally holding the treads elevated.

5. Initiation steps comprising a frame, a plurality of steps on the frame, glass covered openings in the frame and steps, electric lights within the steps, the treads of the

steps being hinged at their rear edges to the frame, an electric circuit for the lights of each step, another electric circuit for the lights of all the steps, contacts in said circuits and located opposite each other in the treads and risers, and springs normally holding the treads elevated.

6. Initiation steps comprising a frame, a plurality of steps on the frame, glass covered openings in the frame and steps, electric lights within the steps, the treads of the steps being hinged at their rear edges to the frame, an electric circuit for the lights of each step, another electric circuit for the lights of all the steps, contacts in said circuits and located opposite each other in the treads and risers, springs normally holding the treads elevated, and a latch for holding the top step depressed with the contacts thereon in engagement.

7. Initiation steps comprising a frame, a plurality of steps on the frame, glass covered openings in the frame and steps, electric lights within the steps, the treads of the steps being hinged at their rear edges to the frame, an electric circuit for the lights of each step, another electric circuit for the lights of all the steps, contacts in said circuits and located opposite each other in the treads and risers, springs normally holding the treads elevated, and a constantly operated light in the frame.

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Witnesses:

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