

W. D. & M. MOORE.
METHOD OF FACING BUILDING BLOCKS.
APPLICATION FILED AUG. 12, 1910.

989,921.

Patented Apr. 18, 1911.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

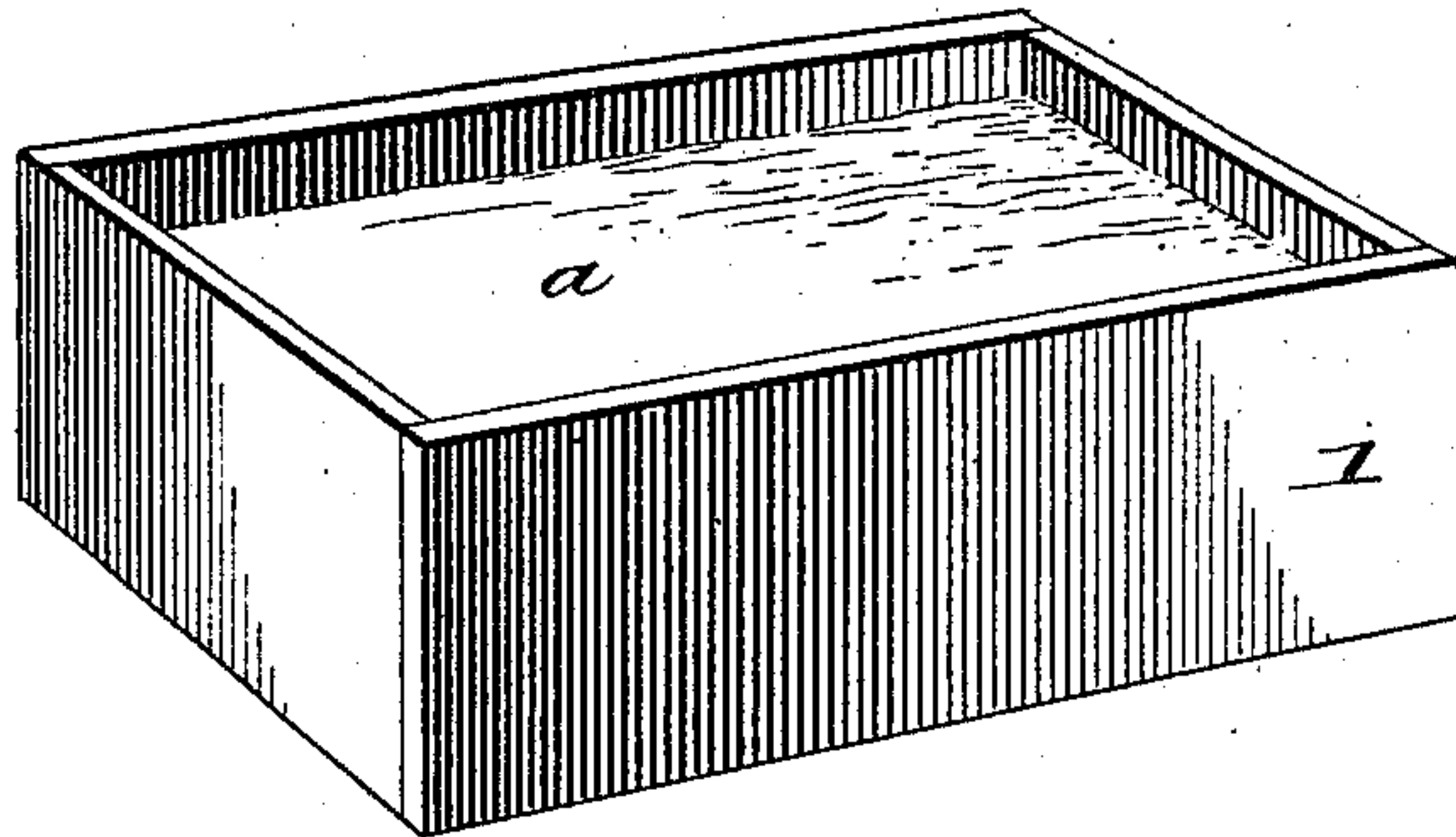


Fig. 2.

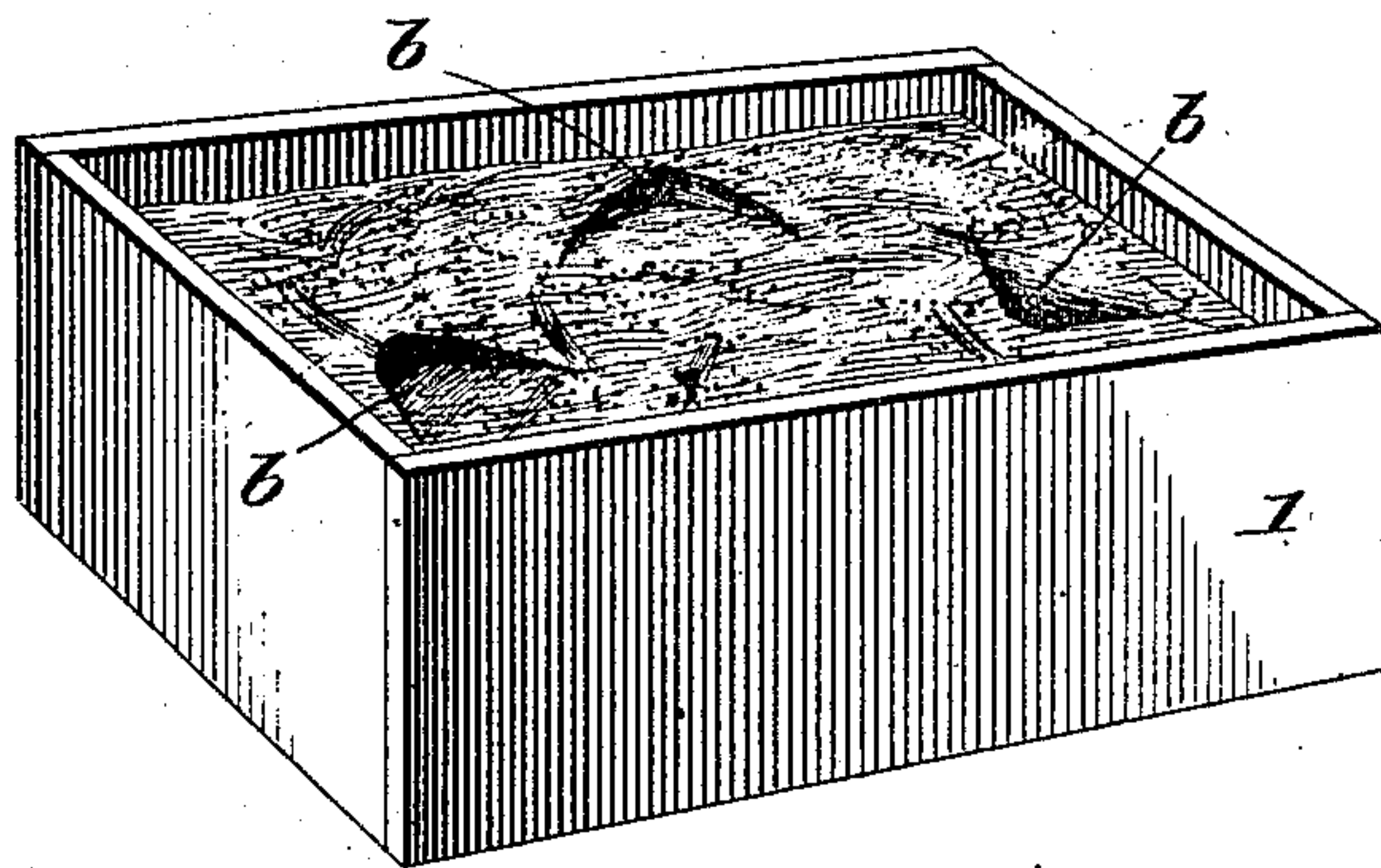
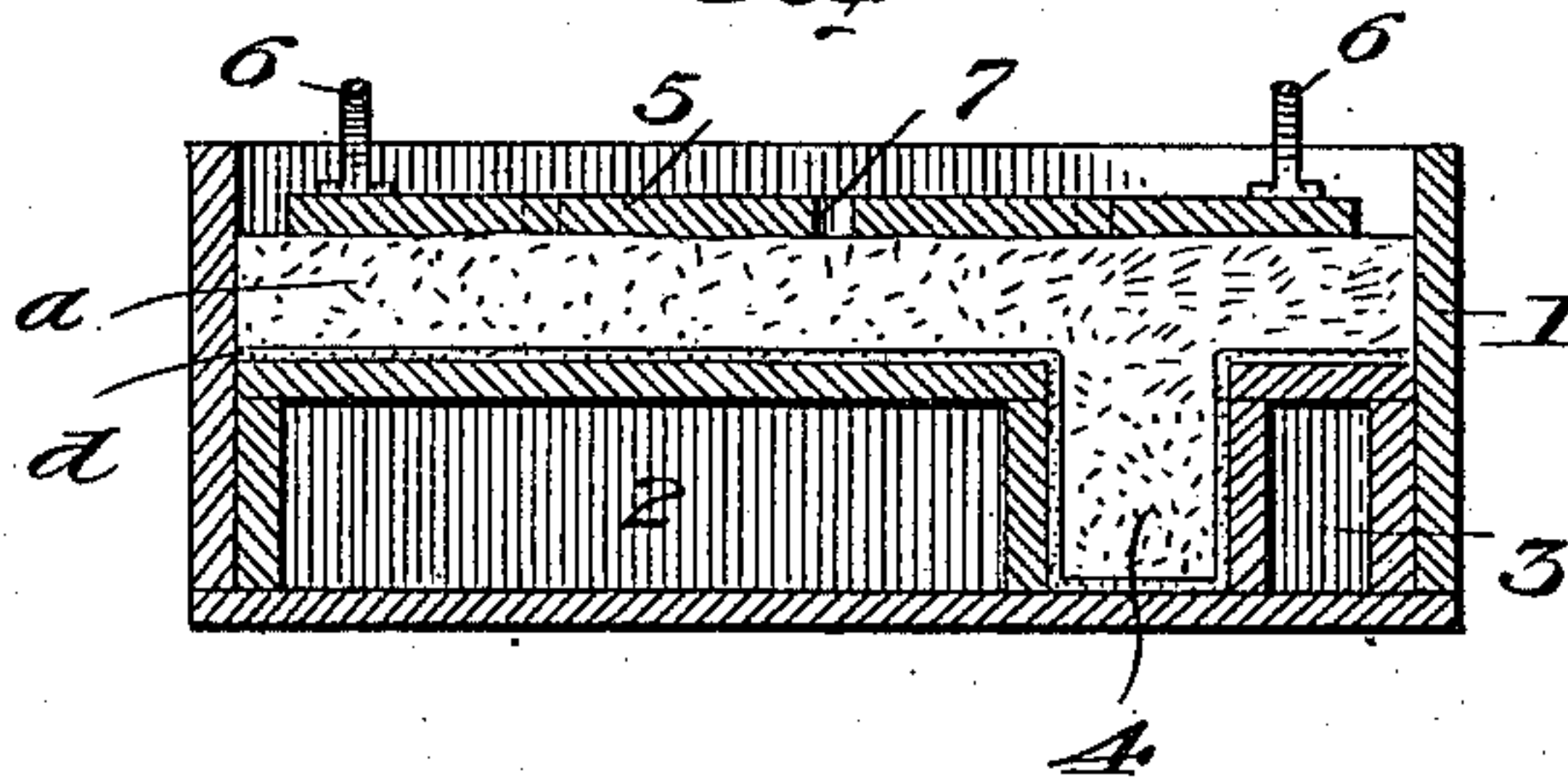


Fig. 3.



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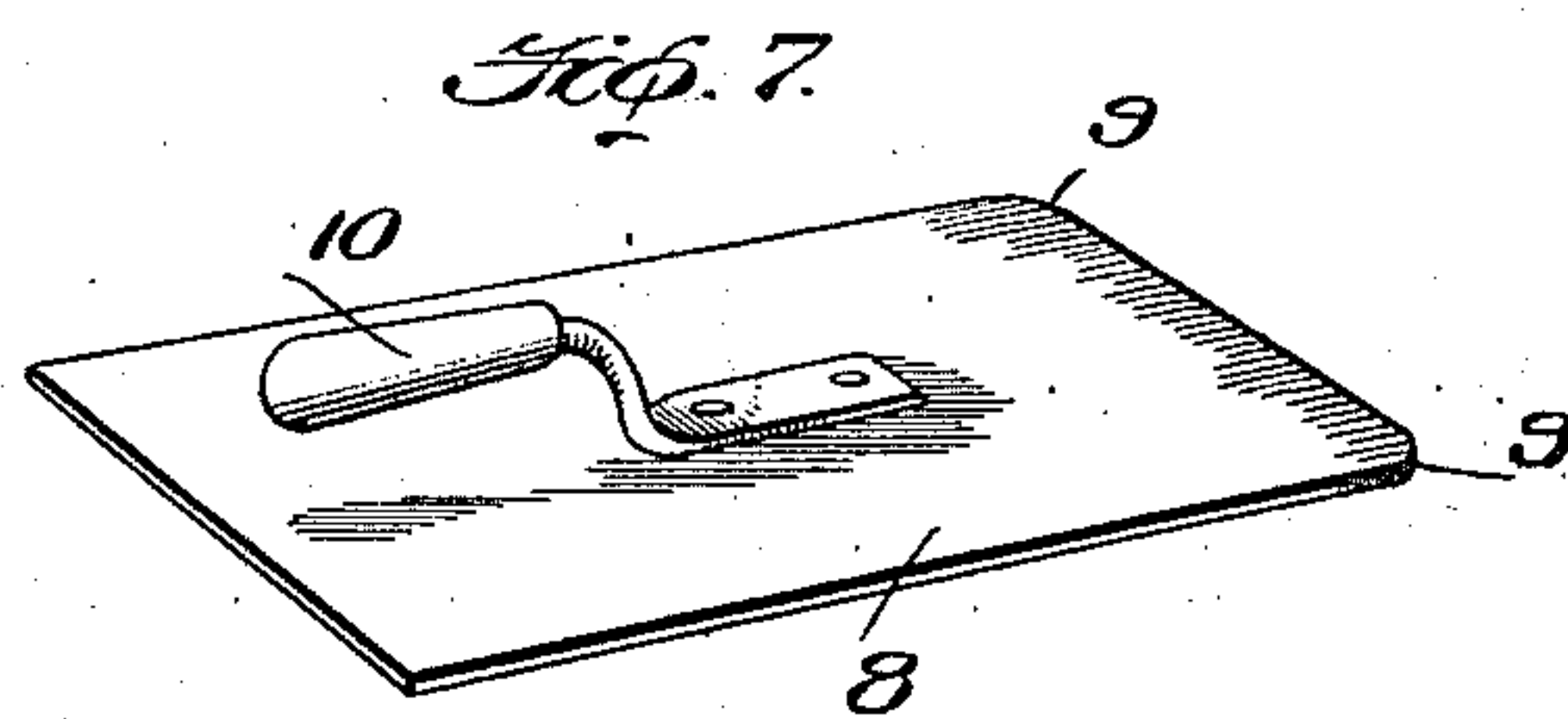
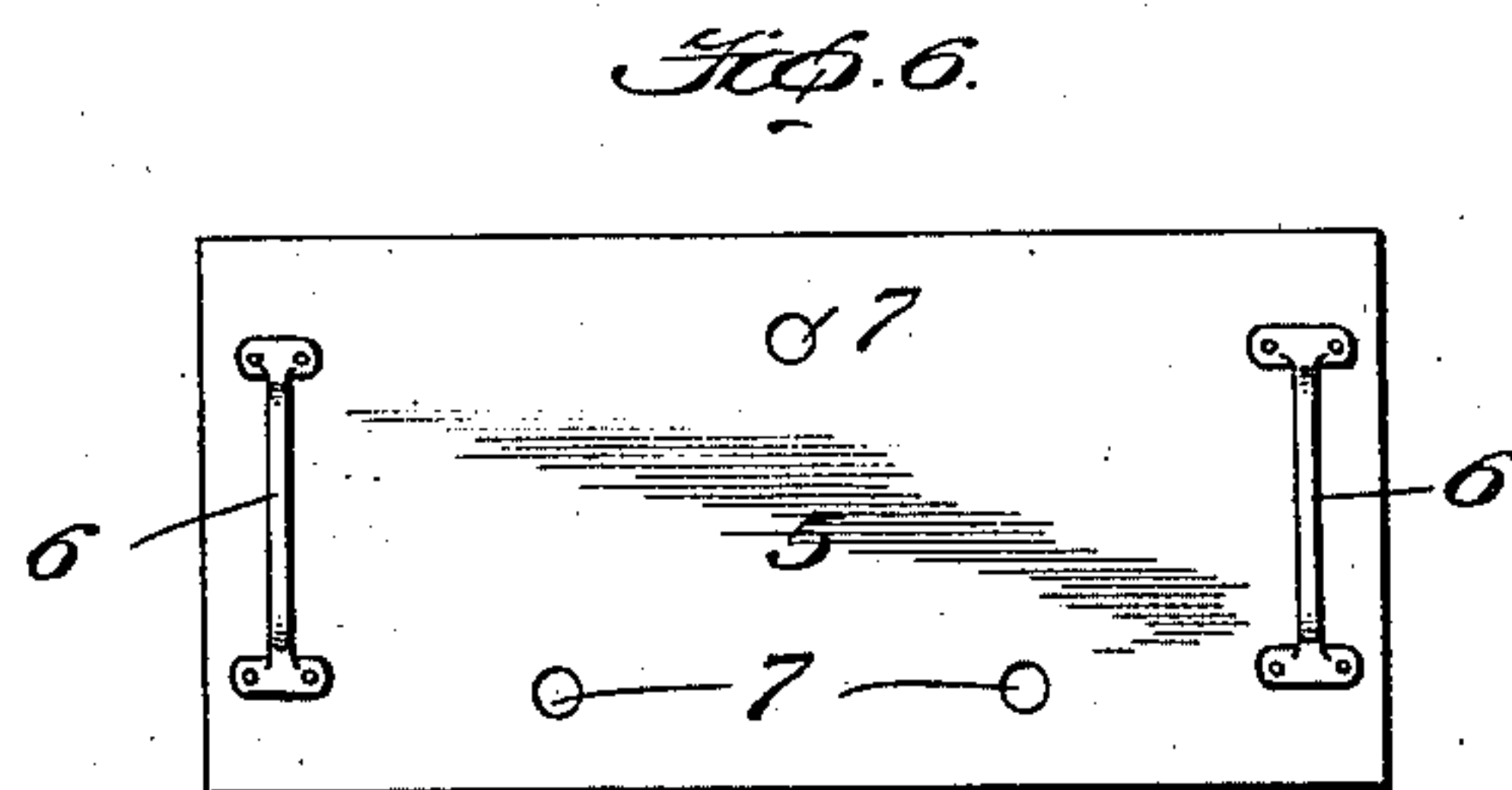
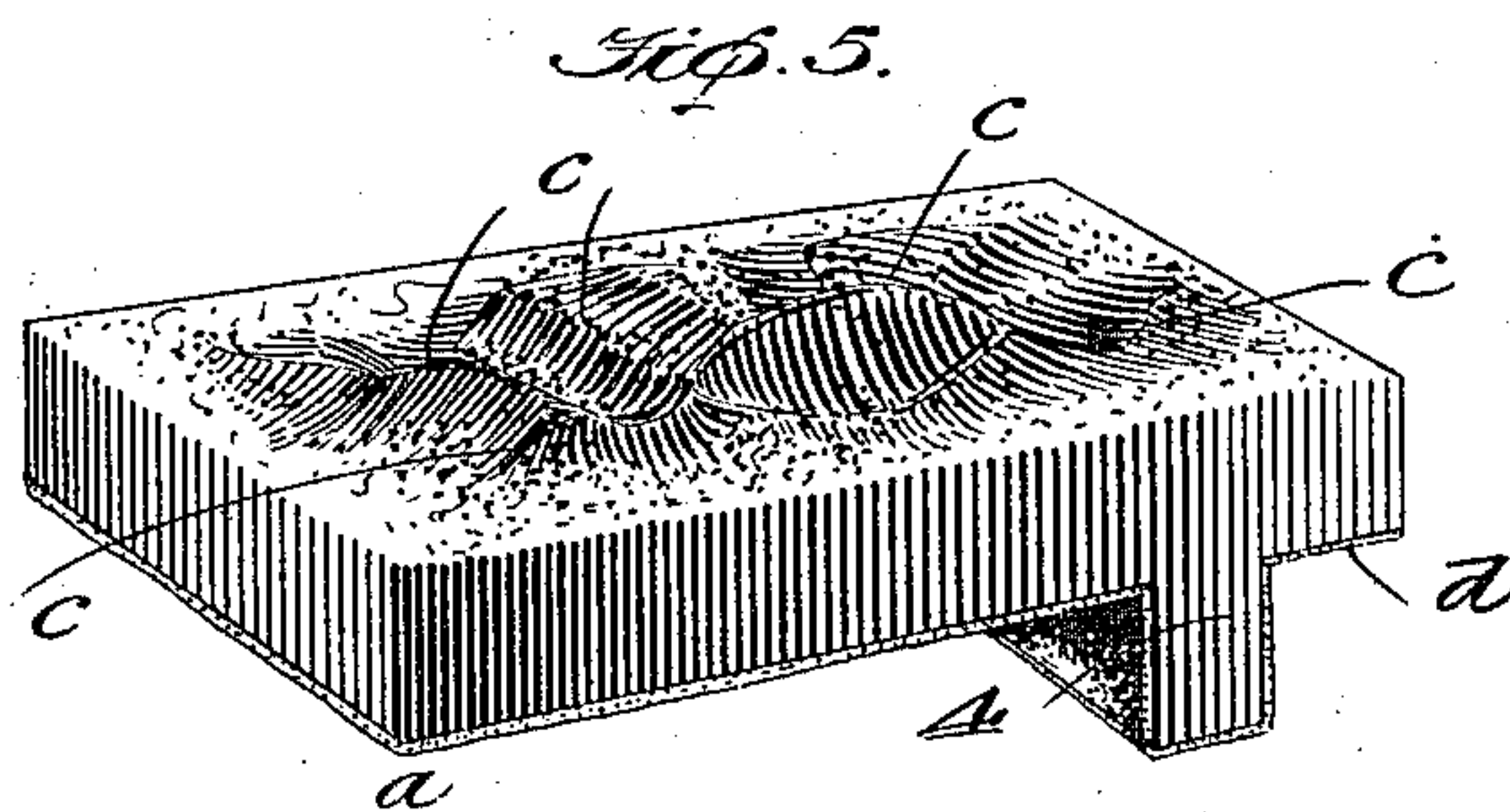
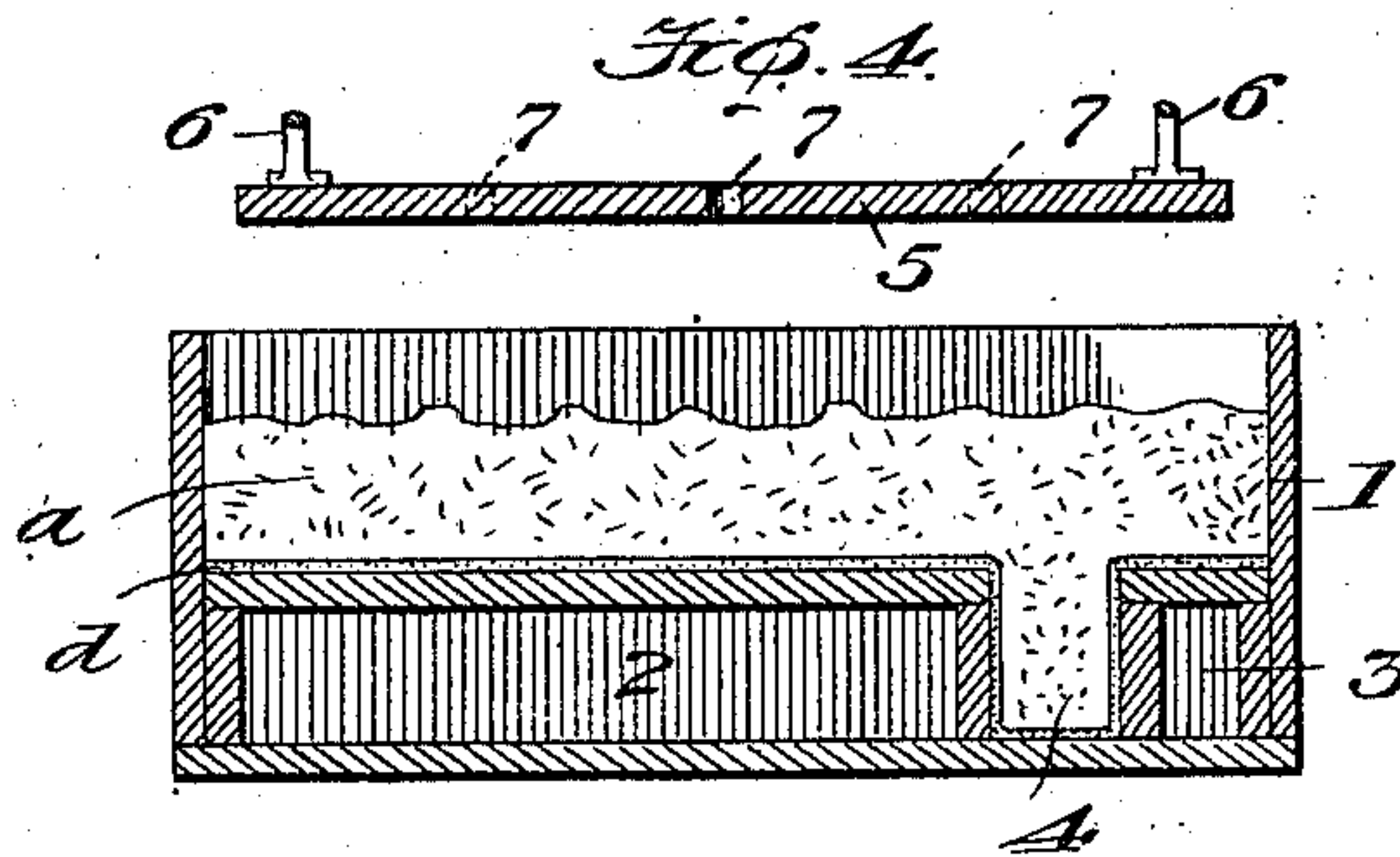
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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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METHOD OF FACING BUILDING-BLOCKS.

989,921.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Apr. 18, 1911.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, WILLIAM D. MOORE and MERRILL MOORE, citizens of the United States, residing at Creston, in the county of Union and State of Iowa, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Methods of Facing Building-Blocks, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to methods of facing molded building blocks, and one of the principal objects of the same is to provide a method which can be carried out quickly by an unskilled person for forming roughened surfaces upon building blocks made of concrete or other plastic material.

Another object of the invention is to provide a method of surfacing concrete building blocks which will require very simple accessories or devices for carrying out the method, and which will produce a building block having a roughened ornamental facing.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a method for forming facings upon concrete building blocks, said method serving to produce a surface of a roughened character of different contours and undulations in each block produced.

These and other objects may be attained by means of the devices shown in the accompanying drawings when utilized in the manner hereinafter fully disclosed.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a mold box partially filled with concrete for forming a building block; Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the surface of the building block having depressions made irregularly by means of a trowel of special construction; Fig. 3 is a longitudinal sectional view of the mold box having the face-plate applied thereto; Fig. 4 is a similar sectional view showing the face-plate removed from the face of the block in a mold for producing the undulated or roughened surface to the block; Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a building block produced by our improved method; Fig. 6 is a top plan view of the face plate; Fig. 7 is a perspective view of the trowel for forming depressions irregularly upon the face of the block during the process of molding the same.

Referring to the drawings, in which the views are given in the serial order of the steps of the method for facing the blocks, the nu-

meral 1 designates the mold box, which may be of the required size and contour for producing blocks for different purposes. This mold box may be provided with housings, 2-3, secured to the bottom of the mold box and spaced apart for forming a block having a projecting bar or lug, 4. However, it will be understood that the general formation of the block may be modified depending upon the purpose for which the blocks are intended, our invention relating wholly to the method of producing irregular faces upon the blocks.

The face-plate, 5, is of rectangular form, having a smooth contact surface and provided with handles, 6, upon the upper side thereof, for operating the same. As shown, the face-plate, 5, is smaller than the mold box, that is to say, the mold box is an inch, more or less, longer than the face-plate, and said mold box is also an inch, more or less, wider than the face-plate, for the purposes which will presently be explained. The face-plate, 5, is provided with a series of air holes, 7, said air holes being disposed as shown more clearly in Fig. 6, one of the said holes being formed near one edge of the face-plate and the other two holes being formed near the opposite edge of the face-plate in different transverse planes.

A trowel, 8, having rounded corners, 9, and a suitable handle, 10, is provided for assisting in carrying out our improved methods.

In producing blocks in accordance with our invention, the mold box, 1, is partially filled with a concrete material *a* of suitable character in a plastic condition. As shown, the upper edges of the mold box, 1, project about an inch, more or less, above the surface of the concrete material.

With the trowel, 8, the surface of the unfinished block in the mold box is smoothed or slicked, and with one of the rounded corners, 9, depressions or indentations *b* are formed in the surface of the material. The face-plate, 5, is then dipped in water and is firmly pressed upon the scored surface of the material, as shown in Fig. 3, and immediately pulled upward or removed from the surface, as shown in Fig. 4 of the drawing, thus producing by suction undulations or irregularities in the surface of the block, as shown in Fig. 5.

In order that the face of the block shall

dry or set uniformly, a quantity of water is poured on top of the block within the mold box. When the block has become properly set or dried it may be removed from the box, and to assist in this operation a piece of suitable textile fabric *d* is placed in the bottom of the mold, thus serving to prevent the block from sticking in the mold and to give additional strength to the partially dried block.

From the foregoing it will be obvious that our method may be readily carried out by an unskilled person, and that the blocks will all have different facial contours owing to the fact that the depressions *b* made by the trowel are irregular and that the suction of the face-plate will vary for this reason, depending upon the admission of air through the air holes, 7. It is very desirable, in forming blocks of this character, to have the faces different in each block in order that they may simulate the natural stone blocks having roughened surfaces of different contours.

We claim:

1. The method of facing concrete blocks which consists in creating suction on the face of the block while plastic at the same time that certain detached areas on the face of said block are relieved from the suction, thereby producing irregular depressions and ridges on the face of the block.

2. The method of facing concrete blocks which consists in forming irregular depressions in the face of the block while plastic and then creating suction on the face of the block at the same time that certain detached areas on the face of said block are relieved from the suction, thereby producing irregular depressions and ridges on the face of the block.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures in presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM D. MOORE.
MERRILL MOORE.

Witnesses:

FRANK W. WICK,
A. B. BAMFORD.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."
