

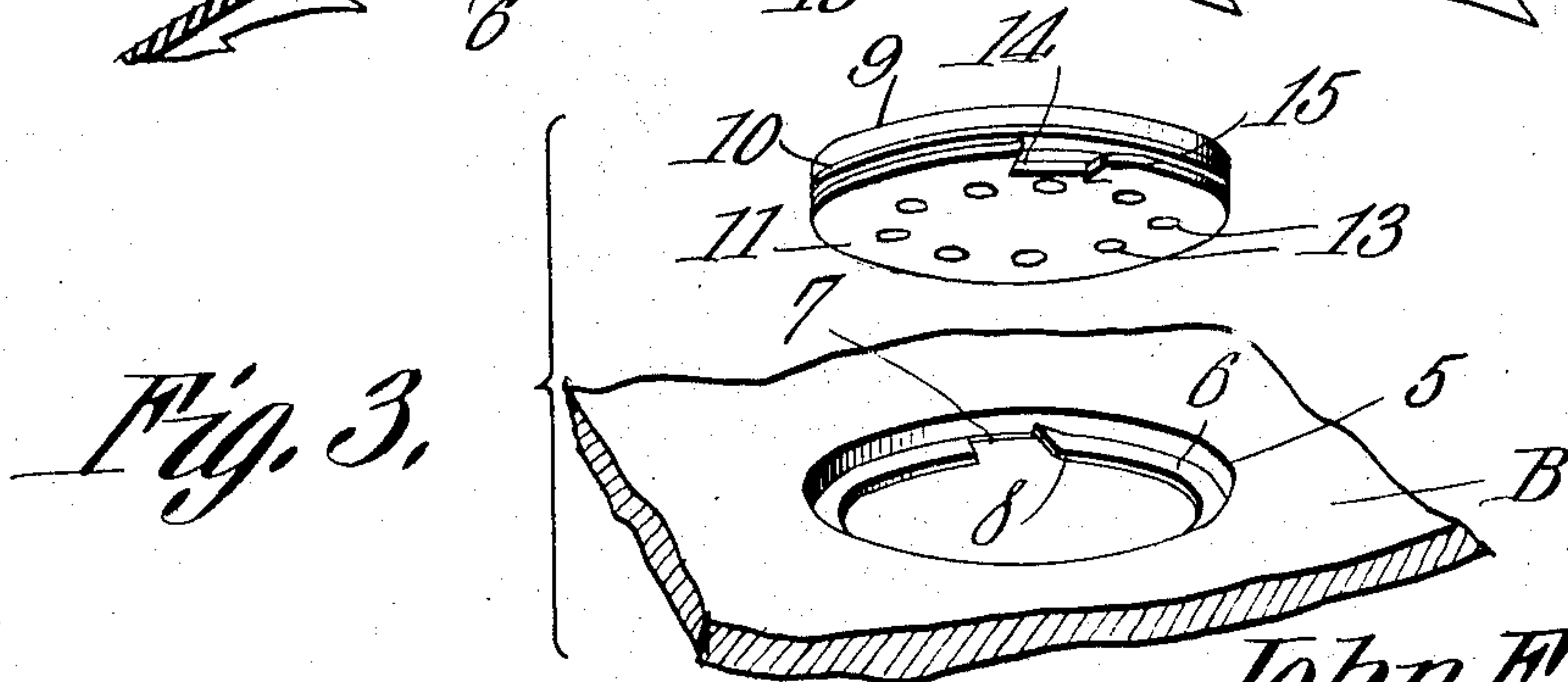
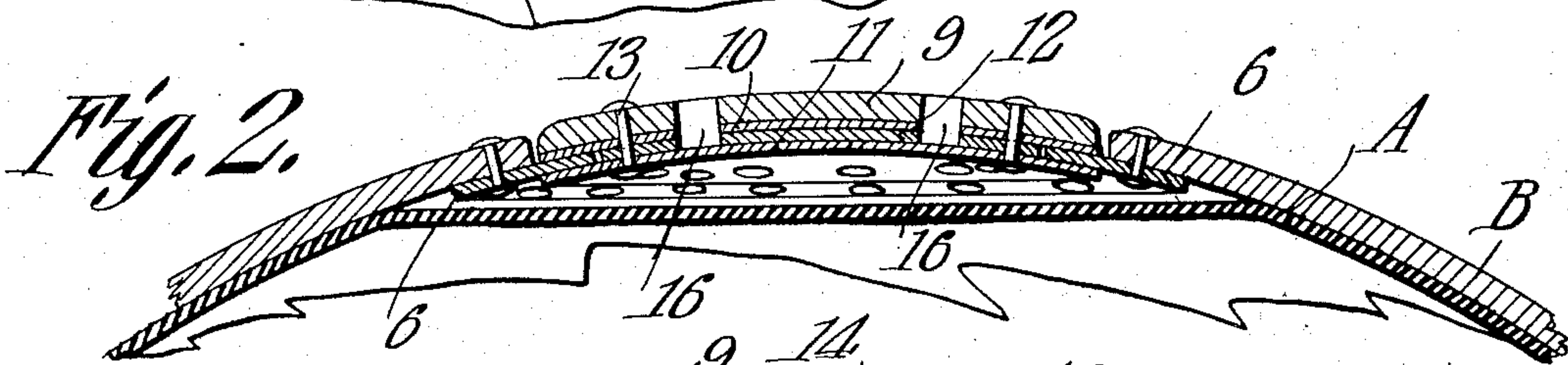
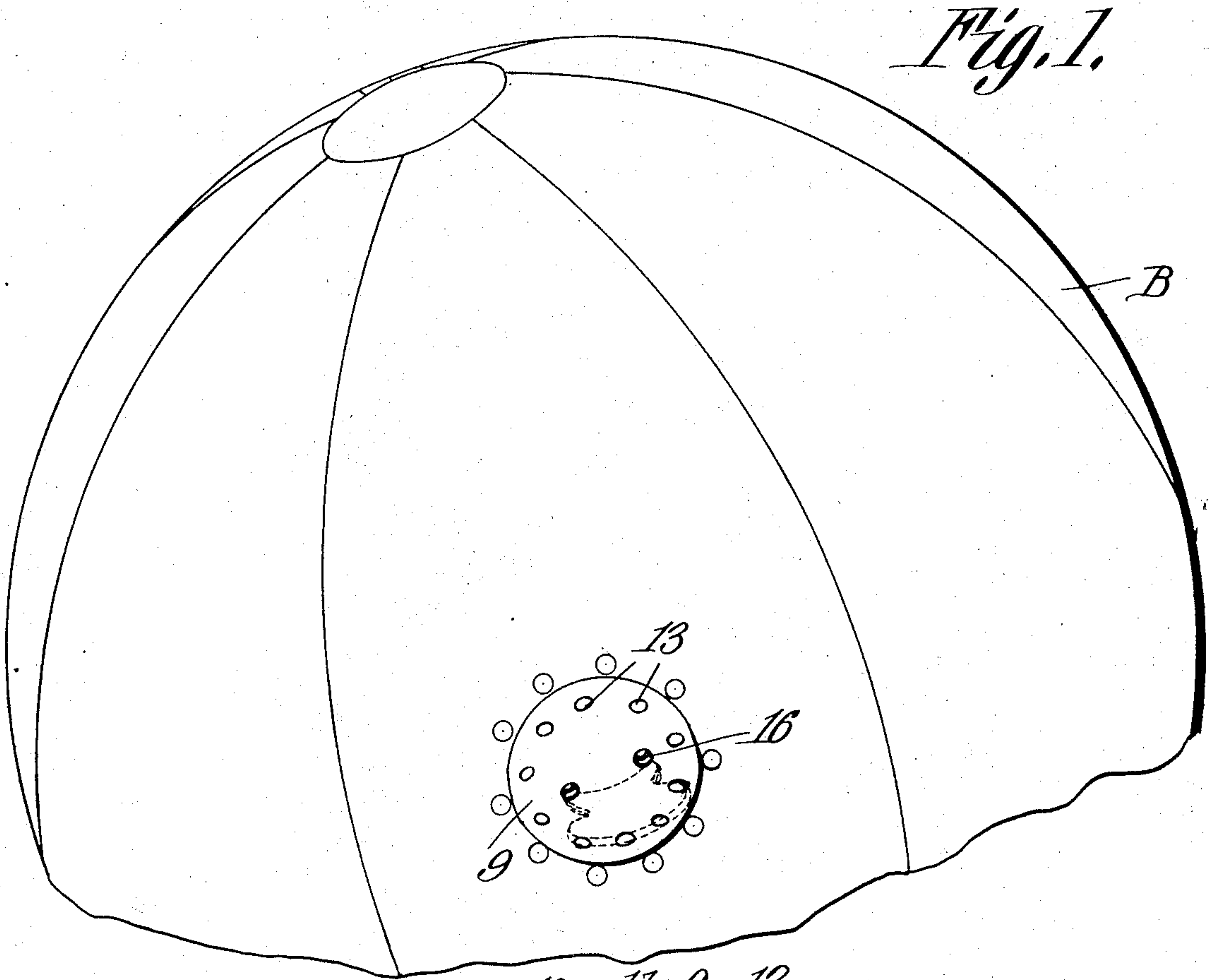
J. E. WHISTLER.

INFLATED BALL.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 15, 1909.

992,832.

Patented May 23, 1911.



Witnesses

*E. J. Stewart*  
*G. G. Smith*

Inventor

*John E. Whistler.*

By

*C. A. Snow & Co.*  
Attorneys



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN E. WHISTLER, OF SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA.

## INFLATED BALL.

992,832.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented May 23, 1911.

Application filed January 15, 1909. Serial No. 472,508.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHN E. WHISTLER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Santa Barbara, in the county of Santa Barbara and State of California, have invented a new and useful Inflated Ball, of which the following is a specification.

It is the object of the present invention to improve the construction of foot balls, punching bags, basket balls, and all similar devices in which an inner inflatable bag or the like is inclosed in an outer protective bag. In the present construction of such devices, the inner bag is usually introduced into the covering therefor through a slit cut in the said covering and the slit is then tightly laced so as to close the covering around the said inflatable bag, the bag being of course first inflated. Such construction is however undesirable in many respects, chiefly for the reason that the lacing strings are liable to become broken while the ball is in use and furthermore, considerable time is required in the operation of lacing up the slit in the covering bag.

It is the object of the present invention, therefore, to provide a game device of this class in which the disadvantages incident to lacing up the outer bag or covering will be overcome and the complete closing of the said covering or bag may be had in a few seconds of time and without the annoyance due to arranging and manipulating the strings.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a portion of a game ball embodying the present invention, Fig. 2 is a sectional view taken transversely across the closure for the outer bag or covering for the ball, and Fig. 3 is a group showing the plug member of the closure device in position to be applied or inserted in the opening in the said cover bag.

In the drawings, the inner or inflatable bag or similar element of the game device is indicated in general by the reference character A, and the outer or covering bag by the reference character B. The inflatable bag A is of the ordinary construction and is either to be initially placed within the covering bag B and the said bag then stitched to completely embrace and close the same or may be inserted through an opening which is formed in the cover bag to permit of access to the inner bag.

The opening in the cover bag, referred to

above, is indicated by the numeral 5 and riveted or otherwise secured to the inner side of the material of the bag and surrounding this opening 5 is an annulus 6, a portion of the same projecting inwardly beyond the edge of said opening 5 as is clearly shown in Figs. 2 and 3 of the drawings. This annulus is preferably formed from sheet metal and at a point in its circumference, has its inner edge cut away as indicated by the numeral 7 and has a tongue 8 formed at one side of the cut-away portion and bent outwardly to a slight degree as clearly shown in Fig. 3.

The opening in the cover bag above described is designed to be closed, when the device is in use, by means of a plug embodying the invention and this plug is illustrated in Fig. 2 of the drawings, in which figure it is shown in section, as comprised of an outer disk 9, preferably of leather of the same thickness and quality as that employed in the manufacture of the cover bag B of the device. The said plug is comprised further of disks 10 and 11, the former of which is disposed next to the disk 9 or more specifically speaking against its inner face, and the latter of which is held spaced at its edge from the disk 10, by means of a disk which is disposed between the disks 10 and 11 and is of less diameter than the said disks. The disks 10, 11 and 12 are preferably formed of stout sheet metal and the three disks 9, 10 and 11 are all of the same diameter and all of the disks are secured together by means of rivets or of suitable fastening devices 13 fast therethrough in a circular series adjacent the edges of the said disks, there being a space left between the edge portions of the disks 10 and 11 as will be observed from an inspection of Fig. 2 of the drawings. Between the said spaced edge portions of the disks 10 and 11, the inner edge portion of the annulus 6 is to be received, then the plug is properly inserted into the opening, and to permit of such insertion of the plug into the opening, the disk 11 of the plug is provided, at one point in its edge, with a cut-away portion which is similar to the cut-away portion 7 of the annulus 6 and also, at one side of the said cut-away portion 14, the disk 11 is formed with an inwardly bent tongue 15 which, when the plug is properly placed in the opening, will upon rotation of the plug, engage beneath the tongue 8 and cause the



edge portion of the annulus 6 to thread into position between the edge portions of the disks 10 and 11.

It will be understood from the foregoing description that in placing the inflatable bag A in the cover bag B, the valve of the inflatable bag (not shown) is positioned directly opposite the opening 5 in the cover bag B so that when the plug is removed, access may be readily had to the valve of the said inflatable bag A. After the inner or inflatable bag A has been inflated or deflated, as the case may be, the plug is of course replaced in the opening the cover bag B and in order that it may be readily turned into position to close the said opening, it is formed, with diametrically opposed key receiving openings 16, a two-pronged key such as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1 of the drawings being engaged with the plug and turned to rotate the same to position.

What is claimed is:—

In a device of the class described, a bag formed with an opening, an annulus secured within the bag and projecting inwardly be-

yond the edge of the opening, and a closure for the opening comprising two disks each of a diameter to fit within the opening and close the same, and a disk of less diameter than the said two disks and secured between the same and spacing their edge portions, the edge portion of one of the disks being formed with a single notch and at one side of the notch with a bent tongue, the projecting edge portion of the annulus being formed with a notch and at one side of the notch with a bent tongue, the closure being rotatable into the opening with the said projecting edge portion of the annulus received between the spaced edge portions of the disks of the closure, the said bent tongues coöperating at the beginning of such rotative movement.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

JOHN E. WHISTLER.

Witnesses:

H. W. ELDER,

C. A. EDWARDS.