

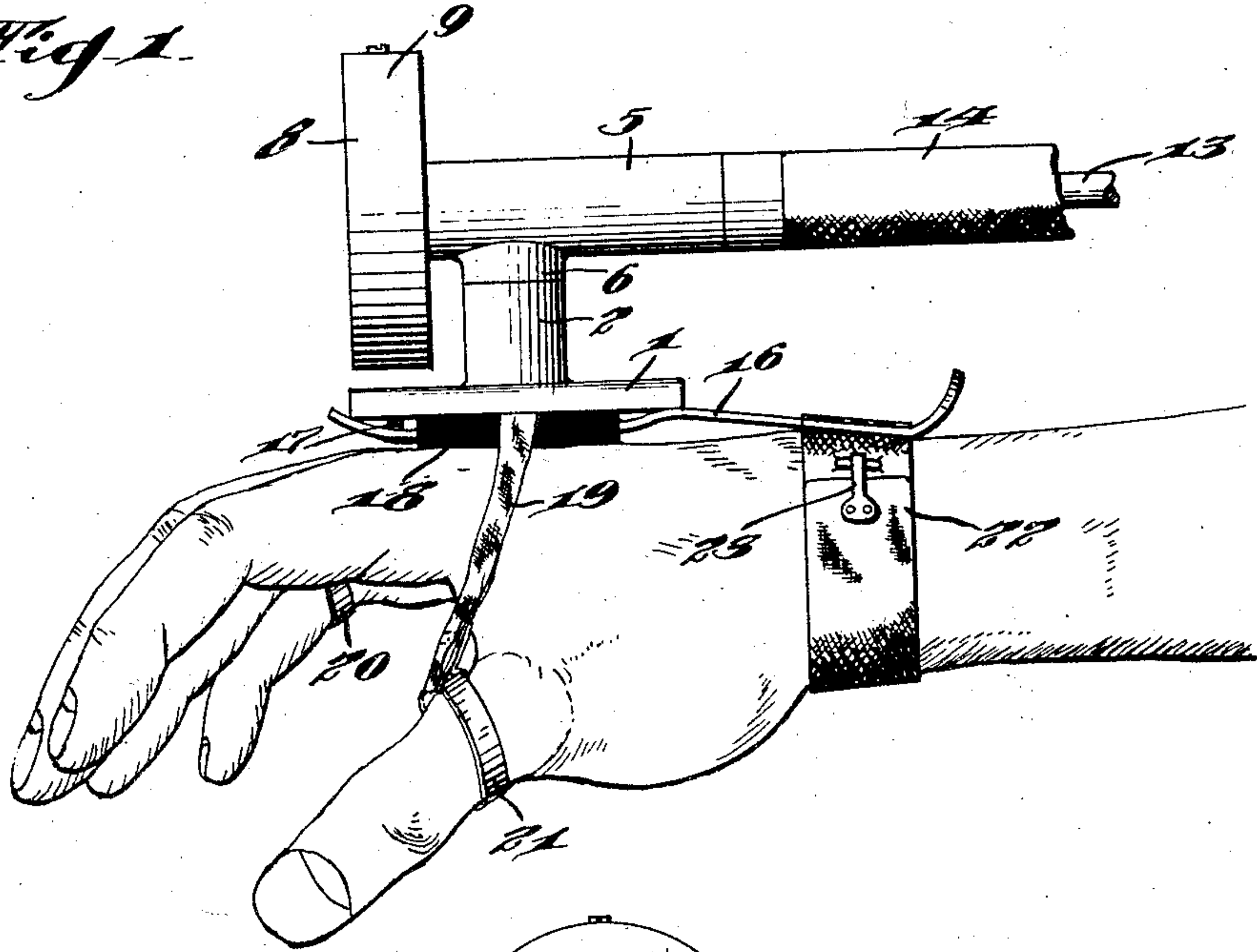
J. P. O'BRIEN & H. STODDARD.  
 MASSAGE APPARATUS.  
 APPLICATION FILED JUNE 18, 1910.

Patented June 6, 1911

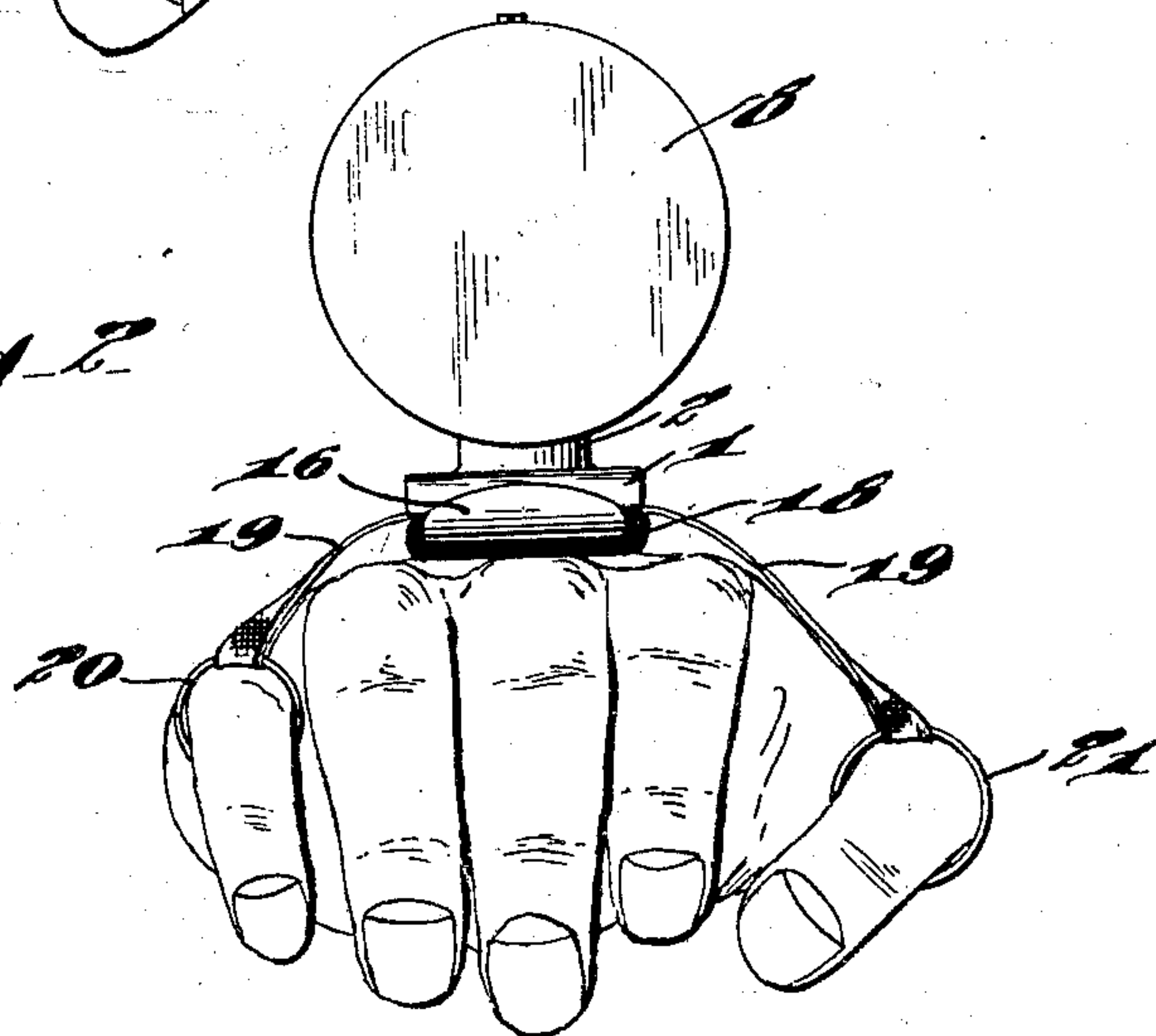
2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

994,270.

*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*



Inventors

*John P. O'Brien  
 Hart Stoddard,*

Witnesses

*Thos. Freeman  
 R. H. Krenkel*

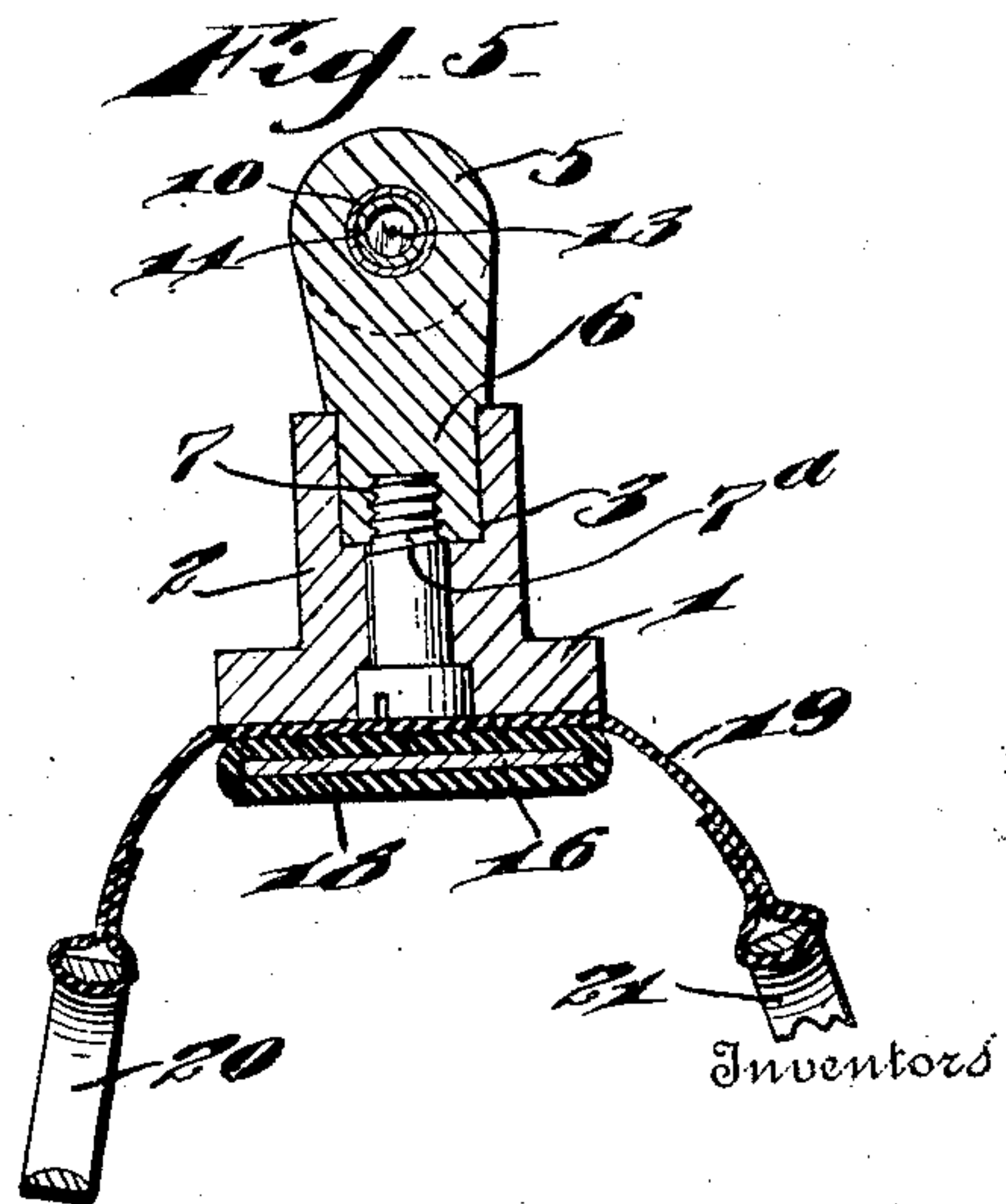
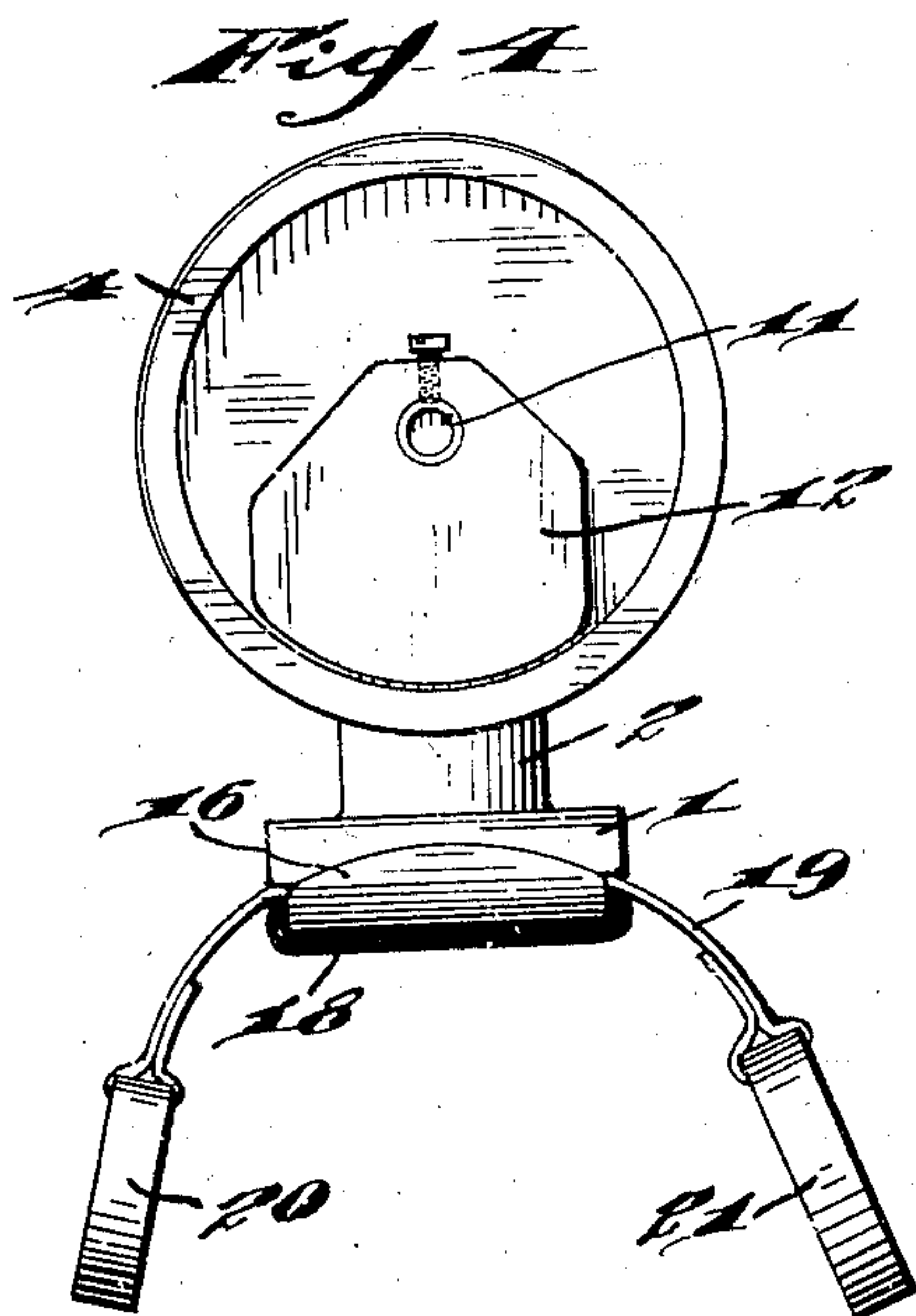
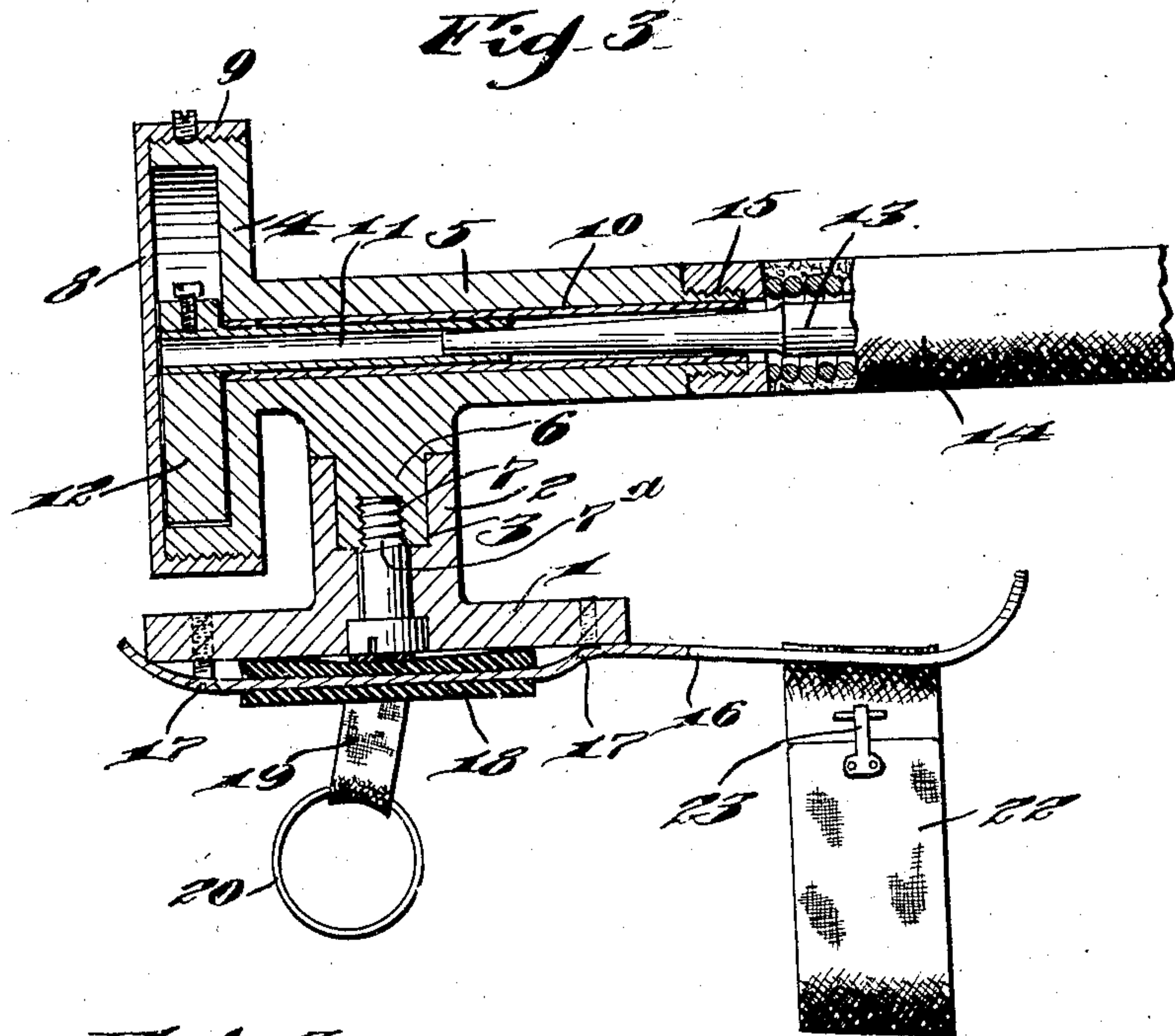
By

*Joshua R. Hottel*  
 Attorney

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Witnesses  
*Geo. Therman*  
*R. H. Krenkel*

Inventors  
*John P. O'Brien,*  
*and Hart Stoddard,*  
 By *Joshua R. Potts*



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN P. O'BRIEN AND HART STODDARD, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA; SAID STODDARD ASSIGNOR TO SAID O'BRIEN.

## MASSAGE APPARATUS.

994,270.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented June 6, 1911.

Application filed June 18, 1910. Serial No. 567,570.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, JOHN P. O'BRIEN and HART STODDARD, citizens of the United States, residing at Philadelphia, county of Philadelphia, and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Massage Apparatus, of which the following is a specification.

Our invention relates to improvements in massage apparatus, the object of the invention being to provide an improved electrically operated vibrator, with improved mechanism for clamping the same onto the hand, whereby vibrations will be imparted to the thumb and all of the fingers and the operator may, with perfect freedom of all of his fingers, massage the face or body of the patient without any part of the apparatus or its holding means coming in contact with the flesh of the patient, thereby rendering the apparatus a sanitary one, which is the primary object of our invention.

A further object is to provide improved means for clamping the vibrator on the back of the hand, which enables the same to be easily and quickly attached and detached, and which when in position exerts an approximately equal vibrating action on each of the fingers and thumb.

Heretofore, many devices have been devised for imparting to the hand vibrations, so that the hand may be effectually used in massaging. These devices have been defective, either for the reason that they do not impart to all of the fingers and thumb the necessary vibrations, or that they are so connected with the hand that they quickly become unsanitary and unfit for use. Our invention was devised with a view to overcoming these defects, and will now be described in detail.

With these and other objects in view, the invention consists in certain novel features of construction and combinations and arrangements of parts, as will be more fully hereinafter described and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings: Figure 1, is a view in side elevation illustrating our improvements in position on a hand. Fig. 2, is an end view of Fig. 1. Fig. 3, is a view in longitudinal section of the device removed. Fig. 4, is a view in end elevation with the cap of the vibrator removed, and Fig. 5, is a view in vertical cross section through the

pivotal connection between the vibrator and its mount.

Our improved vibrator comprises a base 1, having a tubular standard 2 thereon in the center of which an opening 3 is provided. The vibrator proper comprises a circular casing 4, integral with a tubular extension 5, and the latter is provided with a stud 6, secured within the tubular standard 2 by means of a screw 7<sup>a</sup> located in the opening 3 and screwed into a threaded socket 7 in the lower end of stud 6.

The circular casing 4 is externally screw-threaded and is closed by cap 8, having an internally screw-threaded annular flange 9 screwed onto the casing 4. The tubular extension 5 has a tubular bushing 10, in which a tubular shaft 11 is mounted to turn, and on this tubular shaft 11, within the casing 4, a segmental weight 12 is provided, so that when the shaft is rapidly revolved, the weight will cause a vibration of the mechanism, as is well understood.

While, of course, our improved mechanism is in no wise limited to the particular means for driving the same, we preferably employ a flexible shaft 13 inclosed in a casing 14, screwed onto a threaded extension 15 on the end of tube 5, with the shaft 13 projecting into and tightly engaging the tubular shaft 11. This shaft 13 is preferably driven by an electric motor, but may of course, be driven by any means.

To the lower face of base 1, an elongated metal plate 16 is secured by screws 17, and lies longitudinally of the back of the hand and extends from a point adjacent the knuckles to the wrist, as illustrated more clearly in Fig. 1.

A cushion 18, preferably of rubber, is positioned around the plate 16 below base 1, and is adapted to cushion the device on the back of the hand. Between this cushion 18, and the base 1, a strip of elastic 19 is positioned and is provided at its ends with rings 20, and 21, respectively, ring 20 being preferably smaller than ring 21 and adapted to receive the little finger of the hand, while the larger ring 21 receives the thumb. The rear end of plate 16 is slotted to receive a band of elastic 22, which is provided with a suitable catch 23, so as to secure the same around the wrist of the user.

It will be noted that, with our improved attachment, the cushion 18 will engage the



three central tendons in the back of the hand, while the thumb and little finger are directly connected with the attachment by means of the elastic 19. Therefore, the vibrations of the attachment are transmitted to the thumb and all of the fingers alike, so that the operator may manipulate his hand over the flesh of the patient, and from each and every one of his fingers the vibrations will be imparted to the flesh. Furthermore, it will be noted that in doing so, no part of the attachment comes into contact with the flesh of the patient, for in massaging of this character, especially where greases and creams are used, it is very essential that no part of the apparatus should contact with the flesh of the patient, for if it should, it would soon become impregnated with dirt and grease, and the device would be absolutely unsanitary and unfit for use.

The rings 20, and 21, are preferably of metal, hard rubber, or some other material, which will not absorb any moisture, and as they are the only parts of the attachment which could by any possibility contact with the flesh, they can be maintained perfectly clean, however, in ordinary massage these rings would never touch the patient, and our attachment may be used over and over again without becoming soiled by any sort of grease or cream that may be used.

Various slight changes might be made in the general form and arrangement of parts described without departing from our invention, and hence we do not limit ourselves to the precise details set forth, but consider ourselves at liberty to make such changes and alterations as fairly fall within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A device of the character described, comprising a base, a vibrator on the base, said base adapted to be positioned on the back of the hand, a wrist strap at one end of said base, transversely projecting elastic connected with said base and rings on the free ends of said elastic, one ring adapted to be positioned on the little finger and the other on the thumb of the operator, said vibrator solely secured to the back of the hand by said wrist strap and said thumb and little finger rings, substantially as described.

2. A device of the character described, comprising a base, a vibrator having rotary

mounting on the base, a plate secured to the under face of the base and adapted to extend longitudinally of the back of a hand, a cushion below said plate, an elastic band connected to said base, rings on the free ends of said elastic band adapted to be positioned on the little finger and thumb of the operator, and an elastic wrist band connected to said plate and secured around the wrist of the operator, said vibrator solely secured to the back of the hand by said elastic wrist band and said thumb and little finger rings, substantially as described.

3. A device of the character described, comprising a base, a tubular standard on the base, a circular vibrator casing, a removable cap on said casing, a tubular extension on said casing, a stud on said tubular extension secured in said standard, a tubular shaft in said extension, a segmental weight on the end of said shaft in the casing, means for transmitting motion to said shaft, and means for securing said standard on the back of the hand of the operator, said means comprising a wrist band and an elastic strap provided with rings to receive the thumb and little finger, said vibrator solely secured to the back of the hand by said wrist strap and said thumb and little finger rings, substantially as described.

4. A device of the character described, comprising a base, a tubular standard on the base, a circular vibrator casing, a removable cap on said casing, a tubular extension on said casing, a stud on said tubular extension, secured in said standard, a tubular shaft in said extension, a segmental weight on the end of said shaft in the casing, means for transmitting motion to said shaft, a plate secured to the bottom of said base, a cushion on said plate adapted to be positioned on the back of the hand, an elastic band positioned between said plate and said base, rings on the free ends of said elastic band adapted to engage over the little finger and thumb of the operator, and an elastic band connected to said plate and adapted to be positioned around the wrist of the operator, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof we have signed our names to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOHN P. O'BRIEN,  
HART STODDARD.

Witnesses:

R. H. KRENKEL,  
C. E. POTTIS.