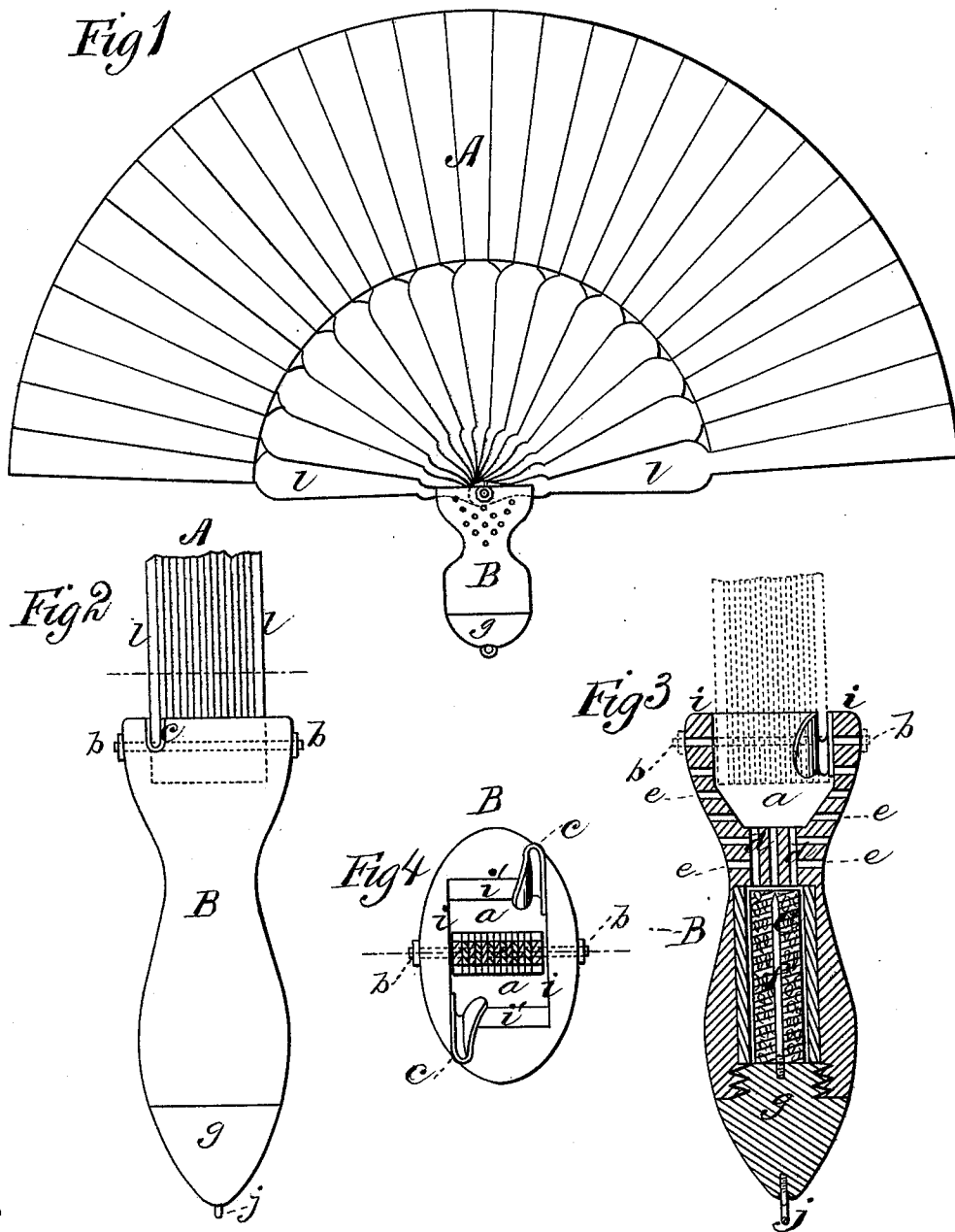


KATE ROBISON.
FAN.

No. 175,257.

Patented March 28, 1876.



WITNESSES
Villette Anderson.
F. J. Illasi

INVENTOR
Kate Robison,
E. W. Anderson,
ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

KATE ROBISON, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN FANS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **175,257**, dated March 28, 1876; application filed February 21, 1876.

To all whom it may concern :

Be it known that I, KATE ROBISON, of Washington, in the county of Washington, District of Columbia, have invented a new and valuable Improvement in Fans; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a representation of a plan view of my improved handle applied to a fan. Fig. 2 is an edge view thereof. Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view, and Fig. 4 is a top view of the handle, showing the catches *c*.

This invention has relation to improvements in fans. The object of the invention is to provide means whereby a holder may be applied to a folding fan; also, to utilize the holder as a receptacle for perfumes, the salts of ammonia, and other disinfectant or aromatic odors. To this end the nature of the invention consists in the combination, with a folding fan, of a handle having a shallow recess in its upper end with two opposite vertical walls and two opposite inclined walls and a pivot passing through the vertical walls of the said recess and the ends of the fan-sticks, whereby the fan is allowed to be open or closed, while its sticks are prevented from relative lateral displacement, and a convenient hold for the hand is obtained. It also consists in making this handle hollow for the reception of a sponge-like substance for holding the perfume, which, escaping upward through the open upper end of the handle, will be given off in gentle currents during the waving of the fan, spreading grateful odors upon the air. It also consists in combining with a folding fan and its handle a spring-catch adapted to receive the end blades of the fan, whereby the latter will be held open and prevented from casual folding when in use, as will be hereinafter more fully set forth.

In the annexed drawings, the letter A designates an ordinary folding fan, in connection with which I propose to illustrate my invention. B is the handle, having on its upper end an oblong recess, *a*, having two opposite vertical walls, *i*, and two opposite flaring or in-

clined walls, *i'*, within which is seated and confined, by means of a pivot, *b*, the lower end of the fan-blades. This pivot passes through registering perforations in the walls of the recess, and in the fan-blades, in a line at right angles to the length of the recess and at the middle thereof. By this means the fan will be allowed to unfold freely, but the sticks thereof will be held against lateral displacement, being clamped together, as it were, between the vertical walls *i* of said recess. In order to hold it unfolded the recess will be provided with spring-catches *c* arranged one at each end, engaging with which the end blades *l* of the fan will be firmly held, thus effectively accomplishing the desired result. The fan may now be used without fear of collapsing, and the handle affording a smooth even surface for the hand will permit it to be operated with ease and comfort. Recess *a* communicates with the lower tubular portion of the handle by means of perforations or ducts *d*, and the walls of the same are provided with spaced apertures *e*, through which the perfumes will have a ready escape into the air. C represents a porous material, as sponge, felt, or pumice-stone, which is arranged in the hollow of the handle upon a needle, *f*, rising out of an end piece, *g*, which is screwed or otherwise detachably secured to the open lower end of the handle, as shown in Fig. 3. This sponge is designed as a recipient of the perfume, which will be poured thereon preferably before its insertion into the handle, and during the operation of the fan will give off gentle currents of odor through ducts *d* and perforations *e* to the surrounding air. In practice the sponge will be sometimes placed in the holder without a supporting-needle, and I shall generally use a tubular core, *g*, of thin metal, where the perfume or disinfectant is of a corrosive nature or would be liable to stain or deface the material of which the handle is made. This handle may be made of wood, ivory, bone, or metal, or of any combination thereof; also, of papier-maché, rubber, or of any other suitable substance. It may also be made in any degree of ornamentation, and of any shape or dimensions which I may deem most convenient or expedient. The end of the handle B will be

provided with an eye, *j*, or other like attachment by which the fan may be suspended from the person by a chatelaine.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In combination with a folding fan, the handle B, having a recess, *a*, in its upper end, with vertical walls *i* and flaring walls *i'*, and pivot *b*, passing through the said vertical walls and the ends of the fan-sticks, substantially as specified.

2. The combination, with a folding fan and its handle, of the spring-catches *c*, for holding the said fan open, substantially as specified.

3. The handle B, having recess *a* in its upper end, with educts *e* at and below the pivoted ends of the fan, a perfume-receptacle in its lower end, and ducts or passages *d* connecting the said recess and chamber, substantially as specified.

4. A folding fan firmly pivoted within the recessed upper end of a handle, whereby the said fan is held against endwise movement relative to the said handle and rotation therein, substantially as specified.

5. The combination, with a tubular fan-handle and a perfume-sponge, of a metallic tubular shield between the sponge and handle-walls, substantially as specified.

6. In combination with the chambered handle B, the removable end piece *g*, needle *f*, and sponge C, substantially as specified.

In testimony that I claim the above I have hereunto subscribed my name in the presence of two witnesses.

KATE ROBISON.

Witnesses:

FRANCIS J. MASI,
WALTER C. MASI.