I. RIVES.

PRESERVATION OF FLAGS.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 8, 1914.

1,275,603.

Patented Aug. 13, 1918.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

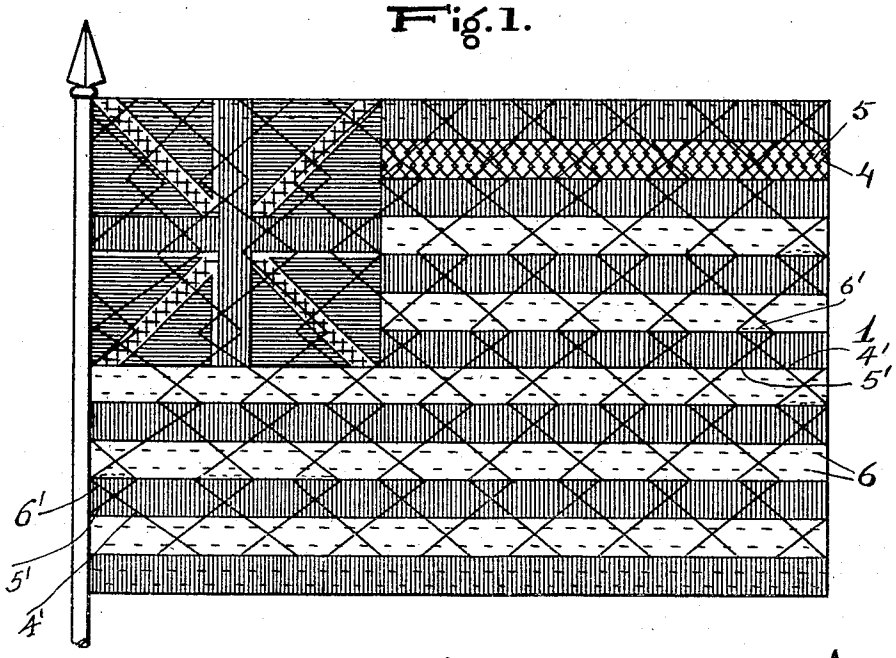
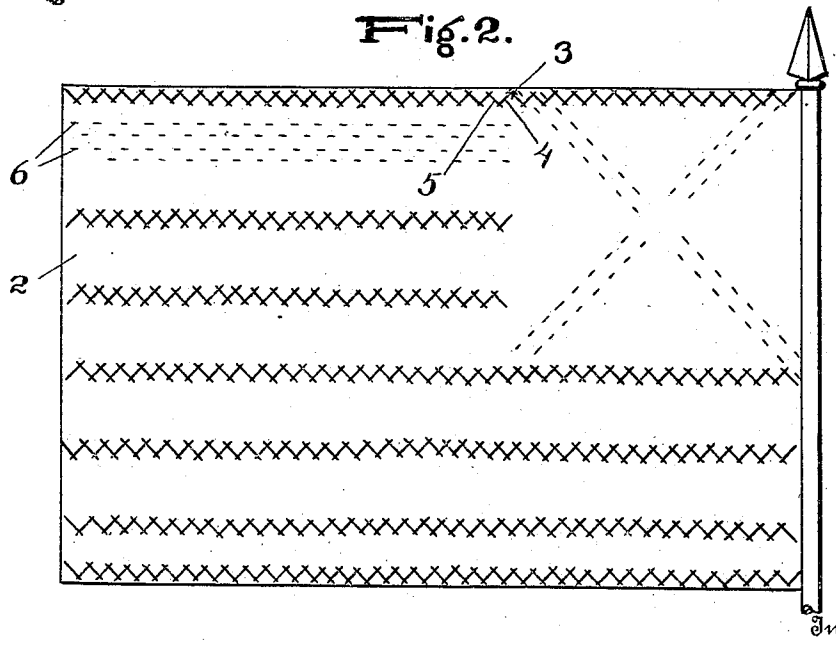


Fig. 2.



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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 4.

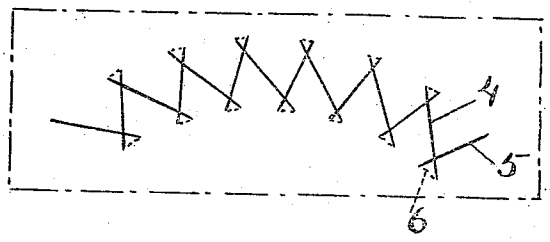
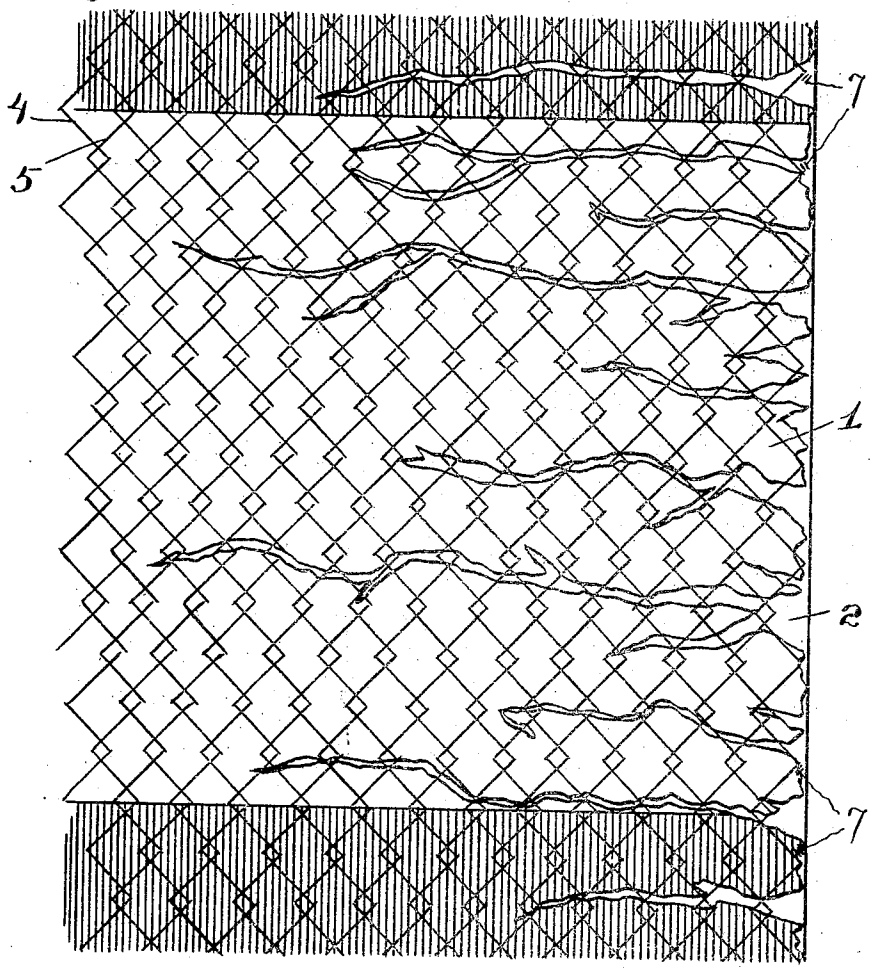


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ISABEL RIVES, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

PRESERVATION OF FLAGS.

1,275,603. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Aug. 13, 1918.

Application filed July 8, 1914. Serial No. 849,797.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ISABEL RIVES, a citizen of the United States, resident of Washington in the District of Columbia, have made a certain new and useful Invention in the Preservation of Flags; and I declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the invention, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters or figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

The invention has relation mainly to the preservation of tattered and torn battle flags or other old flags, pennants and the like, and is particularly designed for use with filmy flags of delicate material, such as silk, and the invention consists in the novel construction, combinations of parts and method of procedure, as hereinafter set forth.

In the accompanying drawings, illustrating the invention as applied to the first national ensign of the United States, Figure 1 is a front or face view of a flag having the invention applied thereto; Fig. 2 is a reverse view of the same, showing the backing; Fig. 3 is a front or face view of a portion of a flag much worn and showing the longer stitches overlapping to hold the worn parts to the backing, and Fig. 4 is a rear fragmentary view, showing the longer stitches appearing upon the backing in curved line formation.

In these drawings the numeral 1 designates a flag, wherein appear stripes in red and white, and a blue field.

As the first step in the procedure the flag is basted to a backing 2 of suitable material, such as unbleached linen or the like, usually of the same size as the flag. In this basting it is aimed to flatten out all folds, torn portion and creases, and a long stitch, known as a cat stitch, is used, wherein, the thread being knotted at one end 3, a long stitch 4′ is first taken in one direction to flatten out folds in that direction, and then a long stitch 5′ in another direction at an acute angle with the first stitch, to flatten out the material in such direction, these long stitches running in zig-zag manner along the flag, each two stitches crossing at their ends and having between and connecting the same a short catch stitch 6′, located upon the reverse face of the flag, said short stitch serving to tie or hold the material flat at the end of each long stitch, which binds the material of the flag down in usual or normal position. And inasmuch as in this basting a long stitch is used, the lines of stitches covering substantially the entire face of the flag, the material thereof is effectually flattened to original or normal position and is held in this position to the backing.

It is found in practice that it is necessary, to attain good or the best results, to work from the bottom edge of the flag upwardly, in order to properly flatten out the folds or creases, which are of more marked character near the lower edge of the flag and near the pole edge thereof.

The basting of the flag to the backing being completed, the permanent stitches are now taken, said permanent stitches being of the same character or type but shorter or smaller than the basting stitches, and in many cases spaced apart from each other, line for line, depending upon the condition of the flag, which varies according to age, material and exposure. These permanent stitches have the same reference characters applied thereto as have the basting stitches, but without exponents.

If the flag is in fairly good condition the basting may be confined to parts, or omitted, and the stitches are run along or across the flag in lines two or three inches apart, the diagonal or zig-zag longer stitches being on the backing of the flag and the short catch stitches only upon the front face of the flag, so that the figures or stripes, or whatever design the flag may consist of, shall not be hidden nor changed to any visible extent. And inasmuch as it is designed that the color of the thread used shall vary according to the color of the stripe, figure or field, it will be readily apparent that the result attained is such that the flag will bear close inspection before any stitches can be seen. The cat stitch allows the line of stitches to be worked either transversely or longitudinally of the flag, or obliquely or angularly, or in arcuate or circular manner, according to the requirements. At the end of each line of stitches in one color a few short button-hole stitches 7 are taken, to fix or tie the end of the thread of the color to be discontinued, and the thread of the new color to be used knotted and started at the end of the discontinued line or color. This stitch

admits also of being made different lengths, to accord with requirements of particular cases.

In flags that are very old or much worn, it is found desirable to use the longer stitches 4 and 5 upon the front face of the flag, and to follow the first line of stitches with another line or lines immediately adjacent to the same, to hold all parts of the worn material to the backing and prevent any part being blown away. But inasmuch as the thread used is of the same color as that of the stripe, figure or design being worked upon, the stitches are not visible except upon close inspection.

What I claim is:

1. A method of preserving old flags, consisting in first basting all parts of the flag to a backing sheet by alternating long stitches running first in one direction and then in another direction in staggered manner to flatten and spread all parts of the flag to original or normal position, and between each two adjacent long stitches making a short catch stitch to tie and hold all parts of the flag so flattened in original or normal position, said alternating long stitches being made from the lower edge of the flag toward the upper edge thereof, and secondly, securing all parts of the flag to said backing sheet by alternating permanent stitches made first in one direction and then in another direction in staggered manner, and a short catch stitch between and connecting each two adjacent longer stitches.

2. A method of preserving old flags, consisting in first basting all parts of the flag to a backing sheet by alternating long stitches made first in one direction and then in another direction in staggered manner to flatten and spread all parts of the flag to original or normal position, and between each two adjacent of said stitches making a short catch stitch to tie and hold all parts of the flag so flattened in original or normal position, secondly, securing all parts of the flag to the backing sheet by alternating permanent stitches made first in one direction and then in another direction in staggered relation, and a short catch stitch between and connecting each two adjacent longer stitches, the permanent stitches being made of different colored threads according to the color of the figure, design or field.

3. A method of preserving old flags, consisting in first basting all parts of the flag to a backing sheet by alternating long stitches made first in one direction and then in another direction in staggered manner to flatten and spread all parts of the flag to original or normal position, and between each two adjacent of said stitches making a short catch stitch to tie and hold all parts of the flag so flattened, secondly, securing all parts of the flag so flattened by alternating permanent stitches made first in one direction and then in another direction in staggered manner, and a short catch stitch between and connecting each two adjacent longer stitches, the permanent stitches being made of different colored threads, according to the color of the underlying design or field, the thread of different color being started at the precise termination of the thread of discontinued color.

4. A restored flag, having a backing sheet of about the same size as the flag, and alternating long stitches made first in one direction and then in another direction in staggered relation, and a short catch stitch between each two adjacent longer stitches to connect the flag to the backing sheet, the stitches being made of different colored threads according to the color of the underlying design or field, the short stitches appearing mainly upon the front face of the flag and the longer stitches upon the backing, the more delicate or worn parts of the flag having the longer stitches upon the front face thereof in lines close together and overlapping to hold the worn material to the backing sheet.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature, in presence of two witnesses.

ISABEL RIVES.

Witnesses:

ALICE M. READING,

R. W. READING.

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