

A. SCHUSTER.
Life-Preservers.

No. 158,132.

Patented Dec. 22, 1874.

Fig. 1.

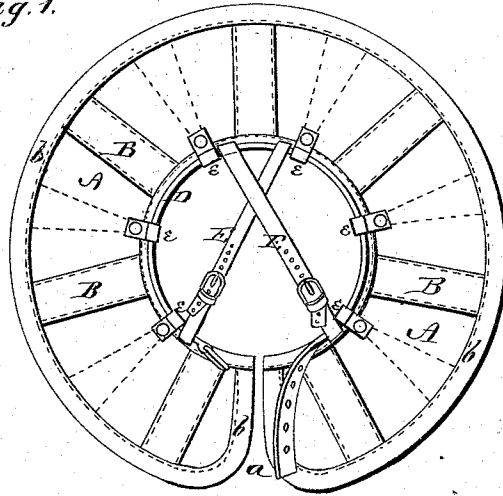


Fig. 2.

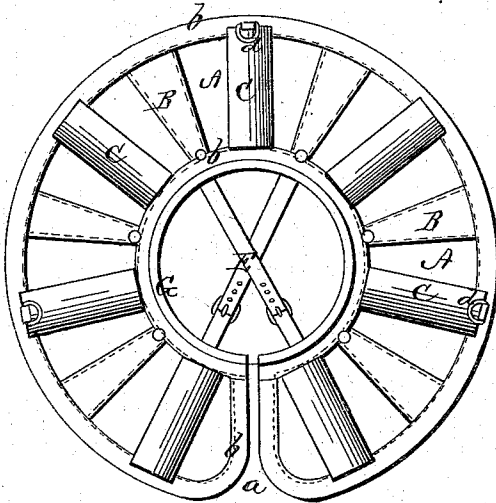
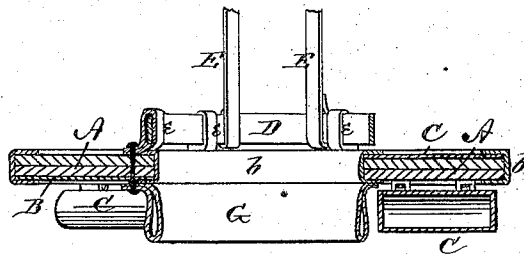


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

AUGUSTA SCHUSTER, OF BRATTLEBOROUGH, VERMONT.

IMPROVEMENT IN LIFE-PRESERVERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **158,132**, dated December 22, 1874; application filed November 21, 1874.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, AUGUSTA SCHUSTER, of Brattleborough, in the county of Windham and in the State of Vermont, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Life-Preservers; and do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, making a part of this specification.

The nature of my invention consists in the construction and arrangement of a life-preserver, as will be hereinafter more fully set forth.

In order to enable others skilled in the art to which my invention appertains to make and use the same, I will now proceed to describe its construction and operation, referring to the annexed drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan view of my life-preserver. Fig. 2 is a bottom view, and Fig. 3 a longitudinal section, of the same.

A represents an annular disk, of any suitable dimensions, made of white-birch bark, in two or more layers, the grain of the various layers crossing each other, so as to make it stronger. The pieces of which each layer is composed should lap joints with those of the adjoining layer, and the joints on top and bottom of the disk be strapped with leather, as shown at B. The disk A is cut open at *a*, and the entire edge, both around the inner and outer circumference and in the cut, bound with leather, as shown at *b b*. On the under side of the annular disk thus formed are secured a series of closed cylinders, C C, made

of tin, or other suitable material, and shel-laced on the outside to prevent them from rusting. One or more of these cylinders are provided with rings *d* to hang the life-preserver to the ceiling of the cabin. The bark disk A is first covered with a solution of soluble glass to make it fire-proof for a short time, and it is then covered with shellac varnish. D is a belt passed through loops *e*, attached around the inner circumference of the disk for fastening the life-preserver around the body, and it is held at proper height by means of shoulder-straps E E. G is a cushion, of chamois-skin, or other suitable material, projecting downward around the inner circumference of the disk to protect the body from being injured by the inner ends of the metal cylinders C C.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A life-preserver consisting of an annular disk made of two or more layers of bark, with a series of air-tight metal cylinders attached thereto, as herein set forth.

2. The open flexible disk, provided with the cylinder C, in combination with the belt D, cushion G, and shoulder-straps E, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 7th day of November, 1874.

MRS. AUGUSTA SCHUSTER.

Witnesses:

GEORGE P. COOK,
WILLIAM S. NEWTON.