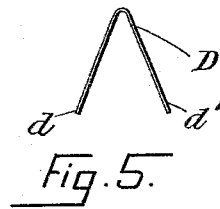
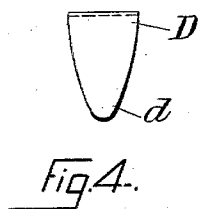
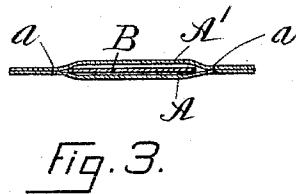
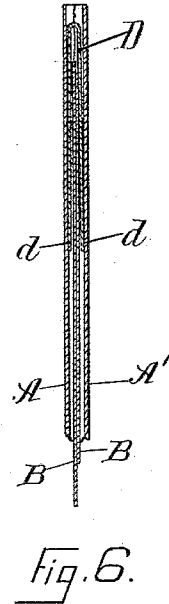
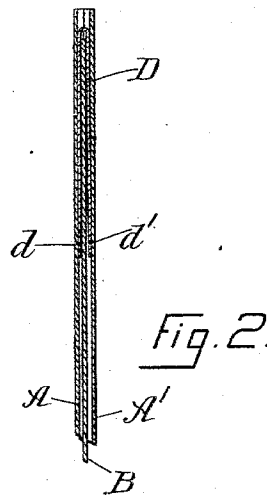
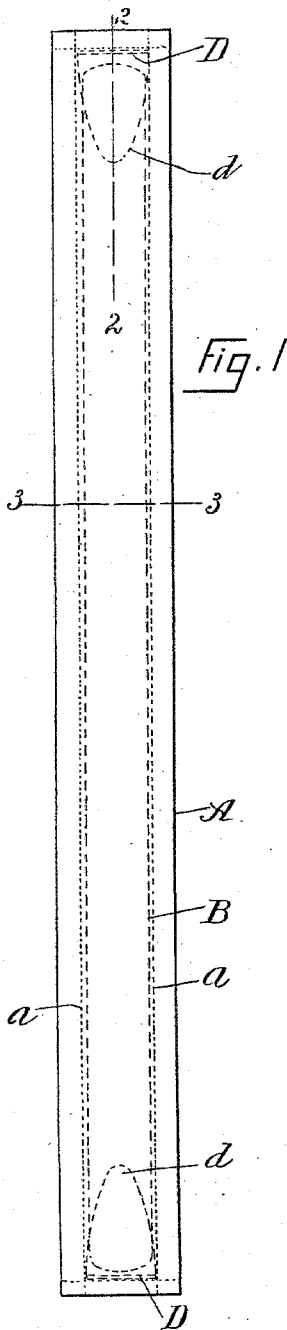


(No Model.)

N. F. T. HUNT.
DRESS STAY.

No. 556,928.

Patented Mar. 24, 1896.



WITNESSES:

H. P. Guillo.
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INVENTOR

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

NATHANIEL FREDERICK THAYER HUNT, OF BRAINTREE, MASSACHUSETTS.

DRESS-STAY.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 556,928, dated March 24, 1896.

Application filed December 18, 1895. Serial No. 572,526. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, NATHANIEL FREDERICK THAYER HUNT, of Braintree, in the county of Norfolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improved Garment-Stay, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is an elevation of one of my improved stays. Fig. 2 is a section on line 2 2, enlarged for clearness. Fig. 3 is a section on line 3 3, also enlarged; and Figs. 4 and 5 are elevations of my spring-sockets, also enlarged. Fig. 6 is like Fig. 3, showing two steels.

Garment-stays consisting of thicknesses of soft and flexible sheet material united by parallel seams to form pockets, with steels fitting loosely in the pockets and metallic sockets to prevent the ends of the steels from abrading the pockets, are known, and my invention is an improved article of that class, its main novelty being that the sockets are formed of a strip of thin sheet material rounded at the corners and bent across its middle, as clearly shown in the drawings, thereby giving the ends of the socket a tendency to separate, so that when inserted in the pocket and over the ends of the steels the ends will press outward against the inner front and rear walls of the pocket, and the socket will be thus held in proper relation with the pocket and the steel.

In the drawings, A A' are strips of soft flexible sheet material united by the seams *a* to form pockets for the steel B.

D are spring-sockets, each formed by bending a blank of sheet metal or celluloid or like stiff sheet material across its middle, as will be clear from Figs. 4 and 5. When these sockets D are inserted in the pocket formed by the strips A A' and the parallel seams *a* and over the ends of the steel B, the ends *d d'* will separate as far as the strips A A' will allow, and each end *d d'* will indent the strips A A', and thereby the socket will be held in proper relation with the other parts of the stay. Those portions of the strips A A' which project beyond the steel B and the sockets D are sewed to the garment in which the stay is to be used, as in other garment-stays of this class.

In the best quality of my stays I use two

steels, as shown in Fig. 6, and by the use of the spring-sockets D, I am enabled to dispense with the connecting rivet or eyelet heretofore used whenever two steels were used in one pocket. In this case the sockets D cover the ends of both steels B and B', with sufficient space between the ends of the steels and the bend *d d'* of the socket to allow the proper flexing of the stay without undue strain on either steel, or, what amounts to the same thing, without compelling either steel to buckle away from the other when the stay is bent. This is also one feature of my invention, and is a practical improvement, for while it is well known that a far better quality of elasticity can be obtained by two thin steels than by one thicker steel, yet it has been heretofore deemed impossible to use two steels in one pocket without riveting them together near their middle portions; but I have found that when the ends of both are confined in sockets and a space is left for one end of each steel to work by the other (depending upon which way my double-steel stay is bent,) there is no need of riveting the steels together or securing them otherwise than by end sockets.

In most garment-stays the bending in practice is wholly from one end, and in such stays with a single steel one socket is sufficient at the end which is moved in bending; but with my double-steel stays a socket is essential at each end of the two steels, as otherwise one of the steels will gradually work out of place with relation to the other and to the pocket, and the rivet heretofore used in all double-steel stays has been as much to prevent that working out of place as to prevent one steel buckling away from the other.

I do not claim, broadly, reinforcing the pocket of a garment-stay, nor do I claim broadly a garment-stay with two steels; but

What I do claim is—

1. A garment-stay comprising a pocket formed of strips of soft, flexible material united by parallel seams to form the pocket; a steel fitting loosely in that pocket and a socket formed by bending a strip of stiff sheet material with rounded corners and inserting it within the pocket over the end of the steel, the socket being retained in position at the end of the pocket solely by its resiliency, substantially as described.

2. A garment-stay comprising a pocket formed of strips of soft, flexible sheet material united by parallel seams to form the pocket; two steels each slightly less in width than the pocket within the pocket, each steel being unconnected with the other and fitting loosely within the pocket, and two sockets formed by bending strips of stiff sheet material with rounded corners and inserting them within the pocket one at each end of the pocket over the ends of the steels, substantially as described. 10

NATHANIEL FREDERICK THAYER HUNT.

Witnesses:

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