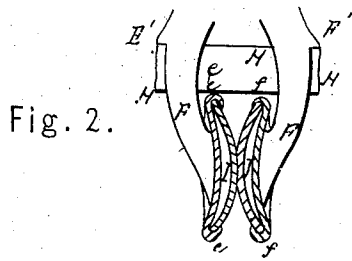
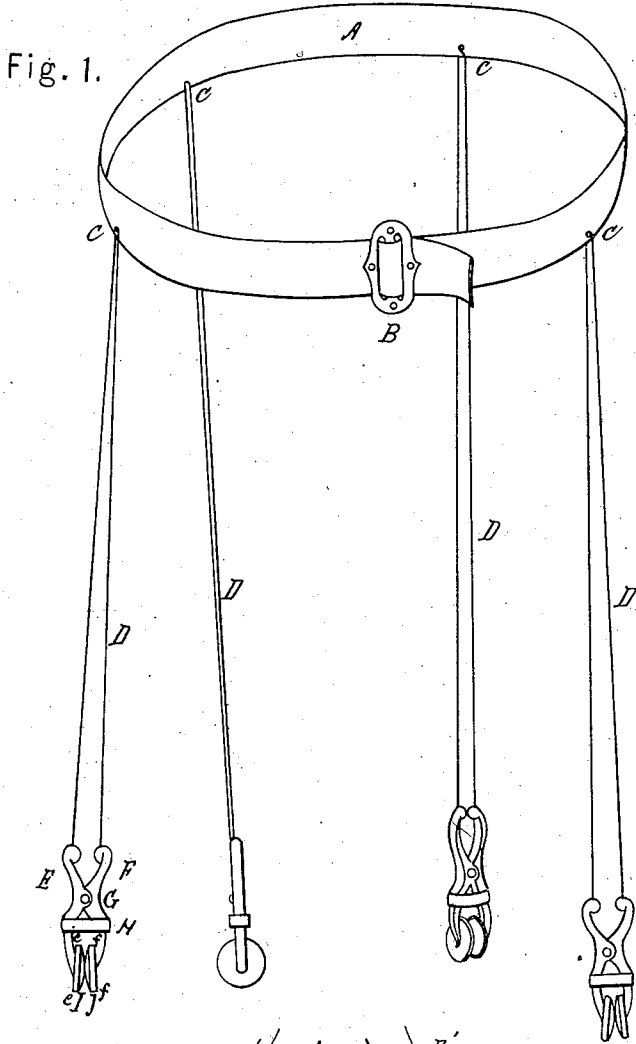


No. 38,437.

PATENTED MAY 5, 1863.

N. WIARD & H. SHLARBAUM.  
SKIRT SUPPORTER.



Witnesses.

*W. A. Hendrickson*  
*Thomas D. Stetson*

Inventor.

*Norman Wiard*  
*H. Shlarbaum*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

NORMAN WIARD AND HERRMANN SHLARBAUM, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## IMPROVEMENT IN SKIRT-SUPPORTERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 25,437, dated May 5, 1863.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, NORMAN WIARD and HERRMANN SHLARBAUM, both of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and important improvement in supporters to be used temporarily at will for holding ladies' dresses at a proper elevation in wet weather and the like. We designate the same a "Skirt-Supporter;" and we do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description of the novelty therein, and that it exhibits and explains the means whereby persons of proper skill, who are familiar with the inventions and practices most nearly allied thereto, may readily make and use the same.

The accompanying drawings form a part of this specification.

Figure 1 is a general perspective view of several of our skirt supporters attached to a suitable belt ready to be buckled upon or about the waist. This is the means by which we prefer to suspend our device, and the number to be attached to a belt for the purpose of sustaining a given-dress may vary with the dress or with the inclination or convenience of the wearer. Fig. 2 is a sectional view of a portion of the supporter.

Similar letters of reference designate like parts in all the figures.

We will proceed to describe the construction and operation of our devices by the aid of the drawings.

A represents an ordinary belt, and B an ordinary buckle. Holes C C, &c., are made in the lower edge of B, and through these are passed slender cords or braids D, which may be of any material and size, so long as they are of sufficient strength to support the weight of the pendent parts. The ends of each cord D are tied or otherwise attached to the upper ends of two levers, E F, of the form represented, which are jointed together by a screw or rivet, G, so that they may turn thereon. These parts may be of various materials, but I prefer German silver, or brass, or some of the rich alloys known as "ormolu" or the like, and may be ornamented in any manner desired. On the inner faces of each of these arms, at their lower ends, are produced lips *e e* and *f f*, as represented, and into the circular space between we insert disks or slightly-swelled domes of gum-elastic or rubber, as

shown in the figures. Around the arms E F, a little above these acting-faces, we stretch a band of rubber, in the manner represented by H, the tendency of which is to contract and press the rubber domes I J, before described, into tight contact with each other or with any portion of the clothing which may be introduced between them.

The use of our invention, as already intimated, is to seize a portion of the skirt and hold it with sufficient force to resist the weight and any additional slight forces—such as concussions and frictions due to ordinary movements—while it will release the same if subjected to any very great force. To insert the clothes properly the wearer has simply to compress together the upper ends of the arms E F with one hand, while she raises and inserts between the faces I J a proper portion of the skirt to be supported, and then releasing the ends of E F allows the faces I J to seize the skirt by the tension of the spring H, and to subsequently sustain it by the cord D in the manner which is obvious, until it shall be released by again opening the faces I J. The rubber domes in these faces, to form the effective surfaces for holding the clothes, are by their nature peculiarly adapted to resist the movement of the skirt through them, except when desired, because the friction of such material under equal pressures is far greater than that of metal or of other ordinary material. They are practically smooth, and under the gentle pressure required do not in anywise injure the fabric of the skirt, even if applied many times and for long periods in the same point, while they hold the dress with a pertinacity not equaled by any other practicable material of like smoothness. The gum we have employed with success in such of these supporters as we have experimented with has been vulcanized.

We prefer that both the domes I J and the band H shall be vulcanized rubber in a tolerably pure condition, but believe that any of the greatly-adulterated compounds usually bought and sold as vulcanized rubber may be used with success for both purposes.

We apply our band or spring H by slipping it on in an extended state from either end of the instrument, and prevent its slipping too near the joint when the jaws are open by means of the slight projections represented by

E' F'. We apply the disks or domes I J by springing them temporarily into a more dishing or dome-like form, so that they may pass within the lips *e f*.

Our levers E F, hinged together at G and banded together by the rubber belt H, sustained in its place by the projections E' F', may be made lighter, cheaper, and less liable to objection from derangement or from injurious effect upon the dress than any supporter known to us.

We propose to manufacture the hinged arms, with all the appurtenances, for sale as an article of trade or commerce, and to provide extra bands H of various degrees of stiffness, so that the tension may be made adjustable at pleasure. We may, however, produce the device as an article of trade without the rubber parts, and allow the consumers or the retail dealers to insert the disks I J and to apply the bands H for themselves. The difference in the tastes of purchasers and the

weight of dresses make this desirable, and the sometimes rapid decay of rubber, even while unused, in a store, makes it desirable not to hold the articles in a fully-prepared state for use for years, or even many months, previous to their sale for use.

Having now fully described our invention, what we claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The new article of manufacture herein described, consisting of hinged levers adapted to be operated by a simple band of elastic material, held in place on the levers, as represented, and lipped, in order to receive and hold suitable parts to seize the skirt in the manner shown.

H. SHLARBAUM.  
NORMAN WIARD.

Witnesses:  
FR. BÜTTNER,  
W. S. HENDRICKSON.