

(No Model.)

J. BOWERS.
BUSTLE SPRING.

No. 360,136.

Patented Mar. 29, 1887.

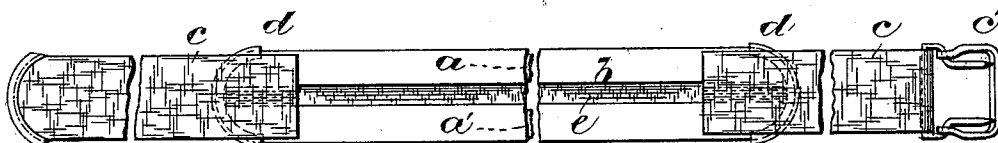


Fig. 1.

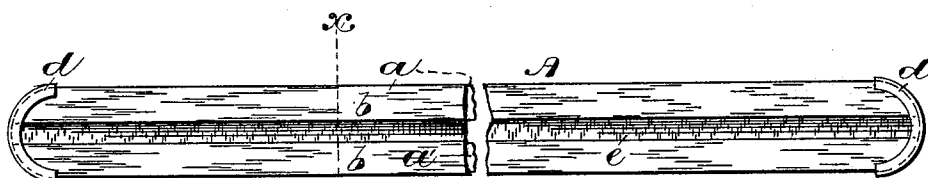


Fig. 2.

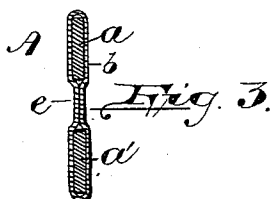


Fig. 3.

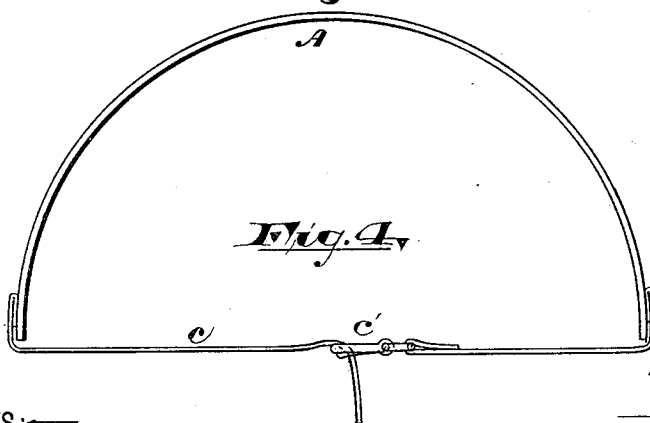


Fig. 4.

WITNESSES:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES BOWERS, OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY.

BUSTLE-SPRING.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 360,136, dated March 29, 1887.

Application filed October 15, 1886. Serial No. 216,311. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES BOWERS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Newark, in the county of Essex and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Bustle-Springs; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

The object of this invention is to provide an improved spring-bow for the bustle of ladies' dresses that may be sewed at any desired point in its length to the dress, to provide a more durable and effective spring of less weight than those heretofore in use, and to reduce the cost of manufacture.

The invention consists in an improved spring-bow, and in the arrangements and combination of parts, substantially as will be hereinafter set forth, and finally embodied in the claim.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, in which like letters represent corresponding parts in each of the several figures, Figure 1 is a plan of a portion of a spring-bow with pieces of elastic sewed to the ends thereof. Fig. 2 is a plan of the spring, showing one way of finishing the ends thereof. Fig. 3 is a section taken through line *x* in Fig. 2; and Fig. 4 is a plan of the spring in a bowed position, as found in the dress.

In said drawings, *a a'* are two springs, (preferably of steel,) which are arranged parallel with one another, and are held apart by a covering, *b*. Said covering incloses said springs, and is preferably of muslin, with paper introduced into its texture, which serves to give stiffness thereto, so that said springs are held in their parted relation more perfectly. The ends of the united springs are finished by end caps, *d*, which also serve to hold the springs in their parted relation more securely. The covering *b* bridges or extends across the space between the springs, producing a web, *e*, through which a needle may be inserted, which extends the entire length of the spring A, so that the spring can be sewed to the dress

at any desired point. To the opposite ends of the duplex spring A thus provided are sewed or otherwise secured elastic straps *c*, one of which is provided with a buckle, *c'*, which serves to draw the ends of the spring together and hold said spring at any desired curve, as will be understood upon reference to Fig. 4.

The advantages of forming the spring A of two narrow strips separated in the manner described are that a spring is provided in which there is no weak places, such as are produced in forming eyelet-holes, by means of which the springs have heretofore been sewed to the garment, that said spring may be attached at any point to the dress, and that said spring has greater stiffness in proportion to the weight than in the devices heretofore produced.

When the spring is in use, should the wearer in sitting press the bowed portion inwardly, the power thus exerted causes the straps *c* to stretch and the steels assume a straighter shape, there being little danger of said steels breaking, inasmuch as they are of uniform strength throughout their length.

I am aware that somewhat similar spring-bows have heretofore been provided for ladies' dresses, and also that springs have been provided for other purposes in which two parallel wires and between said wires a layer of rubber, leather, gutta-percha, vulcanized fiber, or other like material have been inclosed by a covering of cloth and finished at the ends with a cap of metal, and I do not claim such a spring. In my device the springs *b b* are held apart by the covering and end caps alone, so that the seamstress can readily thrust a needle through without such a hinderance as would be presented by layers of rubber, gutta-percha, &c., above referred to, and so that the spring may be sewed to the dress easily and readily in its course, and be bowed to give the desired shape to the dress.

I am aware, also, that certain skirt-supports have been provided with a spring somewhat resembling the one herein described, and I do not claim this feature, broadly.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new is—

The improved bustle spring-bow herein de-

scribed, consisting, essentially, of two springs,
a a', held in a separated relation by end caps,
which cover said extremities, a textile cover-
ing inclosing said springs and forming a per-
5 forable web therebetween, and elastic straps
secured at the opposite ends of said separated
and united springs to connect said ends and
hold said springs in their bowed positions, the
elasticity of the straps allowing a limited sep-
10 aration of said ends, all said parts being ar-

ranged and combined substantially as and for
the purposes set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I
have hereunto set my hand this 13th day of
October, 1886.

JAMES BOWERS.

Witnesses.

CHARLES H. PELL,
WM. S. CORWIN.