

J. H. Bradley.

Hoop Skirt.

N^o 52665

Patented Feb. 20, 1866.

Fig. 1

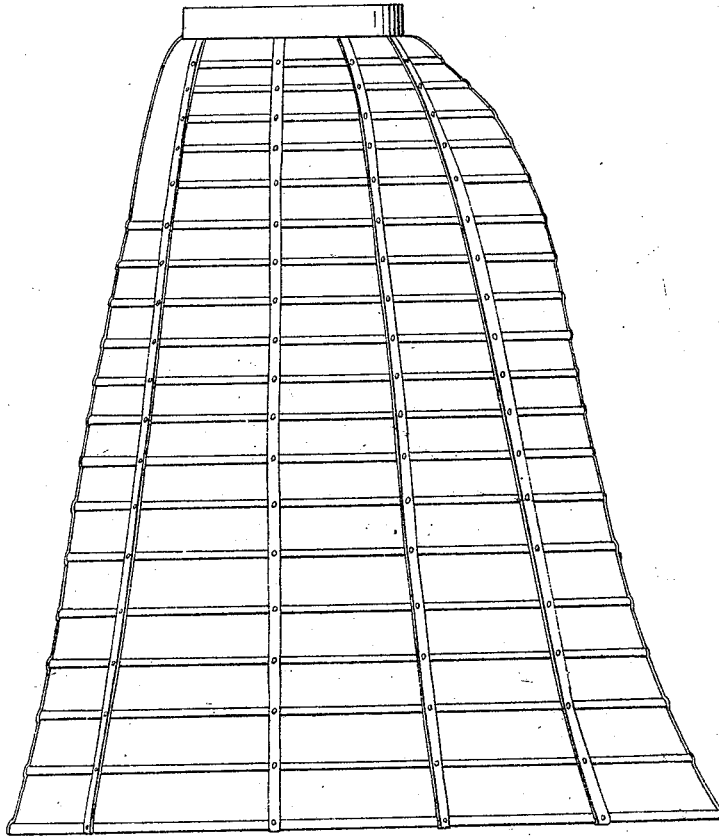
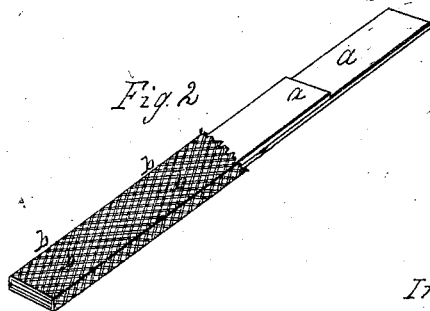


Fig. 2



Witnesses.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

J. W. BRADLEY, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPROVEMENT IN SKIRT-HOOPS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 52,665, dated February 20, 1866.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH W. BRADLEY, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Hoop-Skirts; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification.

The present invention relates to a certain new and useful improvement in the manner of arranging and combining the steel springs which constitute the hoops of ladies' skirts in layers or groups of two or more, placed together flatwise, or side by side, and held or incased together by weaving or braiding, so as to add to their strength without diminishing the elasticity of the hoop so formed, and at the same time allow the springs sufficient movement or play upon each other to obviate any rigidity and danger of fracture of the springs.

In the accompanying plate of drawings my improvements are represented, Figure 1 being a view of a skirt with my improvements applied, and Fig. 2 a detail view of one mode of forming a spring.

a a represent two thin metallic flat wires or bands, on an enlarged scale, laid together face to face, or broadest surfaces toward each other, and incased in a woven, braided, or otherwise formed covering, *b b*, made of cotton or any suitable textile or other material. These wires *aa*, bound together as described, constitute one of my improved wire springs, which are used arranged and fastened together with regard to each other in any of the usual modes practiced to form a skirt; but care must be taken that the braided or woven covering of the

springs or hoop should not be so close or tight upon the springs as to hold them fixed or rigid, for it is necessary that the springs should have some slight motion or sliding longitudinally upon each other, to adapt themselves to the foldings and undulations of the skirt without straining or pinching each other, which might cause the steel to break.

From the above it is evident that by laying two thin bands or wires together, as described, the elasticity and flexibility of both are retained, and each strengthened by the other, and that advantages are secured not attainable by a single-spring hoop.

In lieu of having only two bands or wires laid and secured together, as described, more may be used if desired. Also, there are various ways in which they can be covered other than the one specified--as, for instance, each wire may be separately covered with braid, and then the two held together in and by another braided covering around both, &c., which may be used without departing from the principles of the present invention.

The hoops so constructed of two or more plates may be used alternately with the hoops of single plates, or at intervals on the skirt; and I have found in practice that they are particularly useful in the lower part of the skirt.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent--

Hoop-skirt springs composed of two or more thicknesses of metal combined together, substantially as described.

JOSEPH W. BRADLEY.

Witnesses:

M. M. LIVINGSTON,
C. L. TOPLIFF.