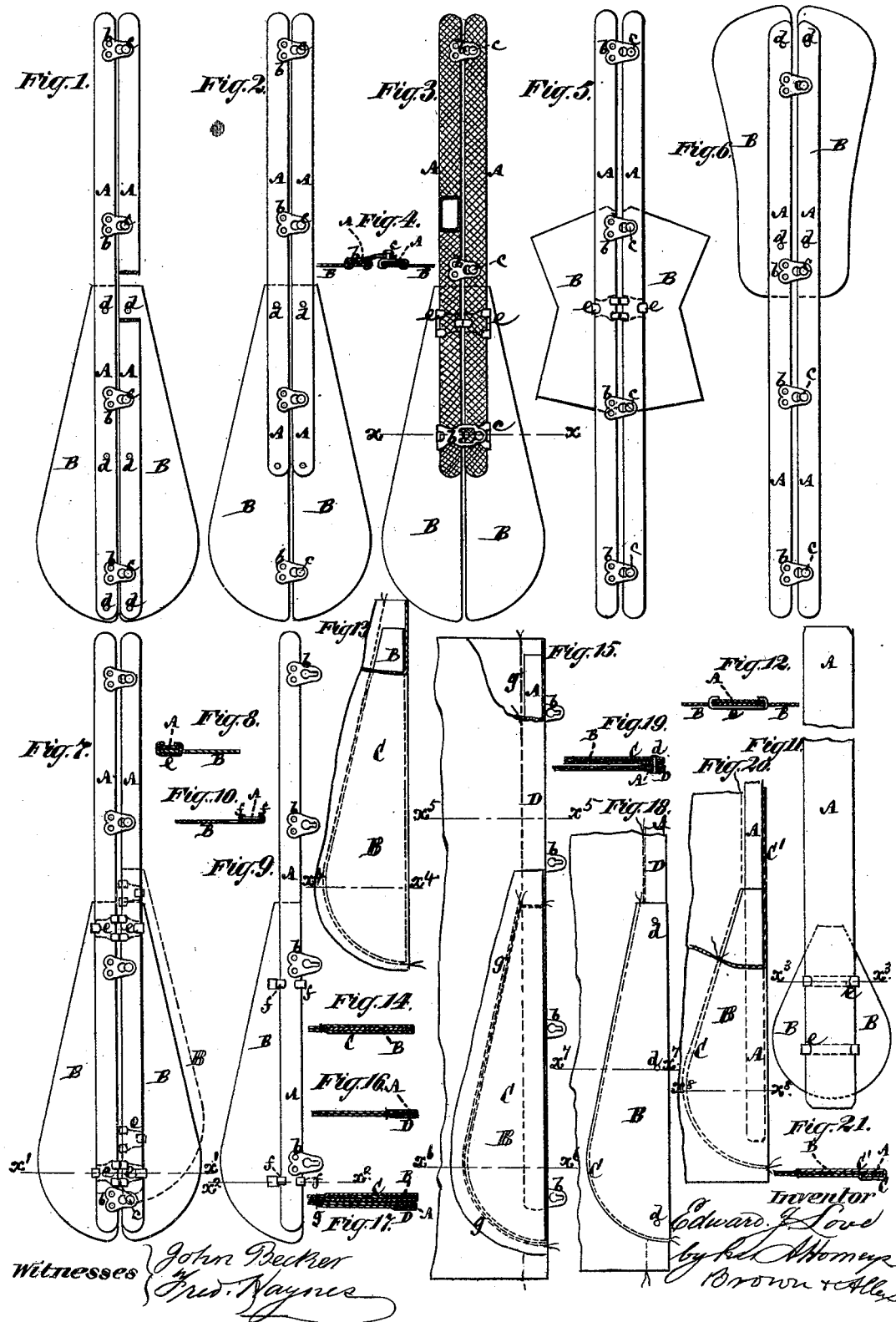


E. J. LOVE.
Corset-Clasp.

No. 208,618.

Patented Oct. 1, 1878.



Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD J. LOVE, OF RUTHERFORD, NEW JERSEY, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF
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IMPROVEMENT IN CORSET-CLASPS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **208,618**, dated October 1, 1878; application filed
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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD J. LOVE, of Rutherford, in the county of Bergen and State of New Jersey, have invented certain Improvements in Clasps for Corsets, and other similar supports for the body, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, forming part of this specification.

This invention relates to corsets and other similar supports for the body, in which one or more spoon or widening pieces of steel or other elastic material are combined with one or more longitudinal strips or clasp-pieces. Heretofore said spoon or widening pieces and longitudinal strips or clasp-pieces, both of which form stiffening or supporting devices, have usually been made of one piece, which it is not only inconvenient to manufacture, but which involves great waste of stock, and is otherwise expensive.

My invention consists in making the longitudinal strip or strips and their respective widening piece or pieces independently of each other, and suitably connecting them or applying them to the corset or article they are designed to be used with or in; also, in an adjustable connection of the widening stiffening piece or pieces with the longitudinal stiffening strip or strips, whereby said widening piece or pieces may be raised or lowered to suit various figures and requirements.

The invention likewise consists in a special construction and combination of parts, whereby the mountings, which form the fastenings for the longitudinal strips or clasp-pieces of a corset, also serve to unite the widening-pieces with said strips or clasp-pieces.

In the accompanying drawing, Figure 1 represents a face view of a corset stiffener or supporter, composed of longitudinal clasp-pieces or strips A A, which may be of steel, whale-bone, or other suitable stiffening and elastic material, and independent spoon or widening pieces B B, preferably of steel, but which may also be of other suitable stiffening and elastic material. In this figure the clasp-pieces A A, having the mountings *b b* and *c c*, which form the fastenings, secured to them, are perma-

nently united with the spoon or widening pieces B B by rivets *d d*, or otherwise, and said clasp-pieces are represented as extended the full length of the widening-pieces B B.

Fig. 2 represents a similar construction to Fig. 1, with the exception that the clasp-pieces A A are foreshortened, or the widening-pieces B B as arranged to extend beyond the clasp-pieces. In either of these cases, as in other modifications which will be hereinafter described, the clasp-pieces, with their permanently-attached widening-pieces, are subsequently covered or inserted within pockets in the body of the corset. When the construction is as represented in Fig. 2, then one or more of the fastening-mountings *b c* may be attached directly to the widening-pieces B B.

Fig. 3 represents a face view, and Fig. 4 a transverse section on the line *x x*, of a modification of my improved corset stiffener or supporter, in which the widening-pieces B B are secured to the clasp-pieces A A (that may be previously covered) by one or more sets of clamps, *e*, specially provided for the purpose, or by one or more of the same mountings, *b c*, which are used to fasten the corset, as shown in section, Fig. 4.

The widening-pieces B B may be either at the top, bottom, or anywhere between the top and bottom, of the longitudinal strips or clasp-pieces A A.

Fig. 5 represents a face view of a modification, in which, instead of the widening-pieces B B being at the bottom of the clasp-pieces A A, they are shown as arranged between the top and bottom of the clasp-pieces; and Fig. 6 represents a similar view of another modification, in which the widening-pieces B B are arranged at the top of the clasp-pieces A A. In both of these figures, as in the previous figures, and in certain others which will be hereinafter described, the mountings *b b* and *c c*, which form the fastenings, may be of the usual or any other suitable description, and the widening-pieces B B may either be attached by rivets *d* to the clasp-pieces A A, as shown in Fig. 6, or be secured by one or more clamps, *e*, thereto, as shown in Fig. 5; or they may be otherwise attached, and be either

permanently or adjustably secured to the clasp-pieces.

Fig. 5 of the drawing represents the clamps *e*, which are carried by the widening-pieces B B, as capable of sliding up and down the clasp-pieces A A, to admit of a varied adjustment of the widening-pieces B B up or down the clasp-pieces A A.

Fig. 7 represents a face view, and Fig. 8 a transverse section on the line $x^1 x^1$, of a modification, which only differs from that shown in Fig. 5 in arranging the widening-pieces B B at the lower end or portion of the clasp-pieces, and in employing duplicate sets of clamps *ee*, constructed and attached to admit of the adjustment of the widening-pieces up or down, as required.

Fig. 9 represents a face view, and Fig. 10 a transverse section on the line $x^2 x^2$, of a modification in part or half, in which the clamps that unite either widening-piece B to its clasp-piece A are not independent devices, but are formed by punching or cutting either widening-piece and suitably bending the punched or cut portion to produce turned-over lips *ff*, which clamp or clip the clasp-piece A with freedom, if desired, for the adjustment of the widening-piece B up or down the clasp-piece.

The invention is equally applicable to busks, as well as to the clasp-pieces of corsets; and Fig. 11 represents a face view, and Fig. 12 a transverse section on the line $x^3 x^3$, of a busk or single longitudinal strip, A, having an independent widening-piece, B, secured to it by clamps *e*, with or without freedom of adjustment of the widening-piece up or down the strip or piece A.

As hereinbefore observed, the separate widening piece or pieces may be variously combined with the longitudinal or clasp piece or pieces.

Figs. 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17 represent a modification, in which the spoon or widening piece B is laid and sewed into a special pocket, C, of suitable fibrous or other material, and the clasp-piece A pertaining to said widening-piece is similarly laid and sewed into another pocket, D, formed in the fabric which constitutes the body of the corset, after which the two pockets are stitched together by one or more rows of stitching, *g*. This unites the widening-piece and clasp-piece in fixed positions, without any other means of attachment than the pockets, which also serve as coverings to said pieces A and B. Fig. 13 shows a face view of a spoon or widening piece as inserted within its pocket C; Fig. 14, a transverse section on the line $x^4 x^4$; Fig. 15, a face

view, showing both the widening-piece B and the clasp-piece A as inserted in their respective pockets, and showing the latter as sewed together. Fig. 16 is a transverse section on the line $x^5 x^5$, and Fig. 17 a transverse section on the line $x^6 x^6$.

Fig. 18 represents a face view, and Fig. 19 a transverse section on the line $x^7 x^7$, of a modification, in which either widening-piece B is united with its clasp-piece A by arranging said pieces while uncovered in separate pockets, C and D, and afterward attaching, by rivets *d*, said pieces A and B when covered by the pockets.

Fig. 20 represents a face view, and Fig. 21 a transverse section on the line $x^8 x^8$, of a modification, in which the separate spoon or widening piece B and its clasp-piece A are both inserted uncovered into the same pocket C C', formed by or stitched onto the body of the corset, and serving to unite the widening-piece and clasp-piece together, with or without the aid of rivets or independent fastenings, and with the spoon-piece arranged either on the interior or exterior of the corset.

The invention may be applied to the front, back, or wherever additional support or brace is required to the body, and the longitudinal strip or strips or clasp or clasp-pieces and the spoon or widening piece or pieces, both of which may be of various materials, may be of various shapes, and convex or concave forms or curvatures, according to the portion of the body which they are required to support.

I claim—

1. In corsets or other similar supports for the body, the stiffening-pieces constructed of one or more longitudinal strips or clasp-pieces, A, and one or more spoon or widening pieces, B, made separate from the longitudinal strips or clasp-pieces A, and united with the latter, substantially as specified.

2. The combination of one or more adjustable spoon or widening pieces, B, with one or more longitudinal strips or clasp-pieces, A, essentially as described.

3. The combination, with the clasp-pieces A and the spoon or widening pieces B, made separate from the clasp-pieces, of one or more mountings or fastenings for the clasp-pieces, constructed to also form clamps for uniting the clasp-pieces and widening-pieces together, substantially as specified.

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Witnesses:

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