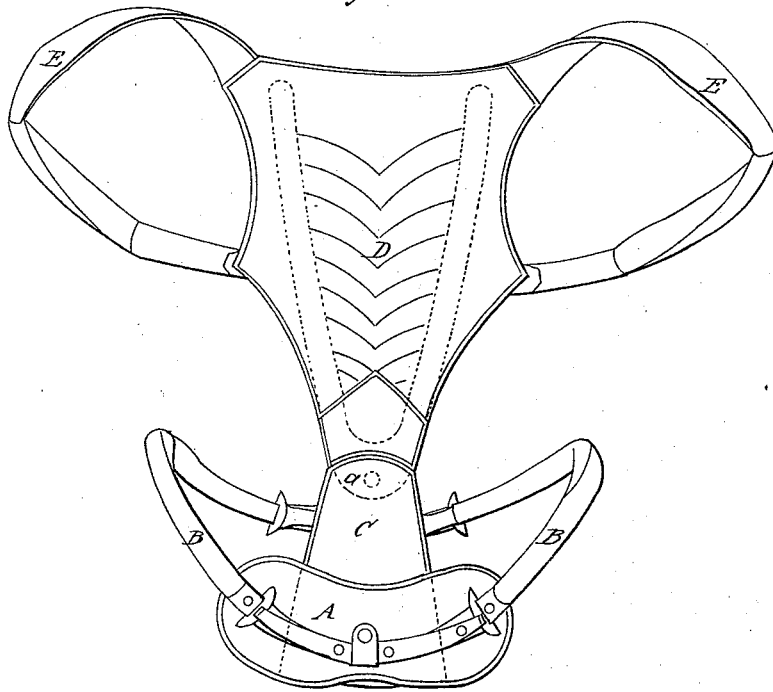


*J. W. Phelps,*

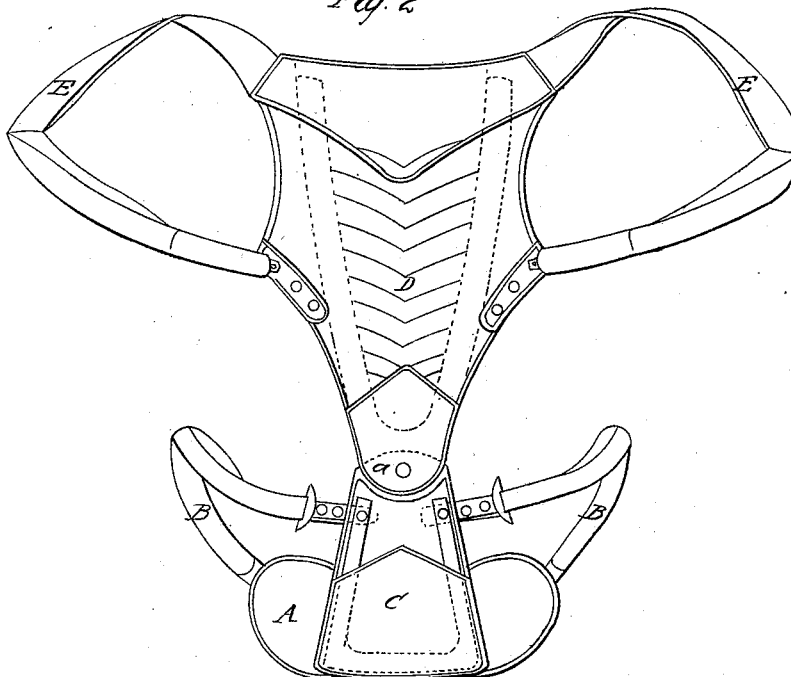
*Truss.*

*No 5,783.*

*Fig. 1. Patented Sep. 19, 1848.*



*Fig. 2*



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN W. PHELPS, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

## SPINOABDOMINAL SUPPORTER.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 5,783, dated September 19, 1848.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHN W. PHELPS, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and  
5 useful Improvement in Dorsal Abdominal Supporters; and I do hereby declare that the same is fully described and represented in the following specification and accompanying drawings, letters, figures, and references thereof.

Of the drawings Figure 1, denotes a front elevation, and Fig. 2 a rear elevation of my improved dorsal abdominal supporter.

In the same, A exhibits the anterior or  
15 front pad; B, B, two lateral or main springs curved so as to adjust themselves to the body, and passing directly over the crest of the ilium or hip bone; and united at the rear ends to the inferior rest frame C, of  
20 the back piece. The said back piece is composed of two frames or parts C, D, which are jointed together in such a manner as to admit of the lateral movements of that part of the body above the hips, without disturbing the position of the front pad or inferior  
25 back rest C. The two frames C and D, should be made of thin strips of tempered steel, and separated at the top or superior ends, so as to rest on the shoulder blades, and admit of a forward or backward movement  
30 of the body when in the act of stooping or bending forward or backward as occasion may require.

The shoulder straps E, E, are fastened to  
35 the superior frame D, and respectively have hooks and eyelets or other suitable contrivances to confine them and the back piece to the shoulders and back of the wearer.

The ends of each of the two lateral or  
40 hip springs are perforated with holes, and may be connected to the front pad and back rest C, by means of such contrivances as will admit of their being lengthened or shortened as the case may require.

The whole, viz, the pads, springs, and superior and inferior parts of the back piece, should be suitably covered with silk, cloth, or other proper materials, and padded and  
50 stuffed as occasion may require. It is well known to the medical profession that in almost all cases of abdominal weakness there is a corresponding debility in the dorsal vertebra or small of the back; my instrument has been constructed so that its parts may  
55 act in unison, and alleviate both disabilities.

I am aware that an abdominal supporter has been constructed with a spinal back piece, made to extend entirely up and down the back and close along both sides of the spine. I am also aware that corselets for the extension of the spine or correction of deformities thereof, have been made with a back piece formed of two parts having a joint between them, or where they come together. I am not aware of a dorsal abdominal supporter  
60 having been made with its back piece constructed in two parts, and so as to rest on the shoulder blades, and jointed together as above specified; and for the purpose of preventing the troublesome disarrangement of  
70 the front pad when the person or wearer is in the act of stooping laterally. Consequently I lay no claim to a corselet having a back piece constructed in two parts; said corselet being in no respect intended for abdominal support; but only as a spinal support and extender. Neither do I claim as  
75 any part of my invention an abdominal supporter constructed with a single spinal or back piece, made to extend entirely up and down the back; as my invention or improvement is intended to possess all the advantages of such an apparatus, and to correct one of its most important defects, to wit, the irregular and improper strain produced on  
85 the abdominal pad, when the person while sitting or standing moves the upper part of the body, or that part of it which is situated above the hips, in a lateral direction. Nor do I claim as part of this improvement  
90 the manner in which the front pad is attached to the transverse spring, by means of a spiral spring, though I am able to show that I was the original inventor of this mode of attachment, more than six years since.

What I claim as my invention is—

The combination of a back piece made in two parts and jointed together as described, with the abdominal pad and the lateral springs; the whole being constructed and  
100 operating together, substantially, in the manner and for the purpose as specified.

In testimony whereof I have hereto set my signature this eleventh day of November, A. D. 1847.

JOHN W. PHELPS.

Witnesses:

R. H. EDDY,  
FRANCIS GOULD.