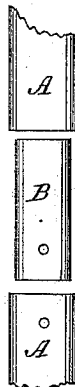
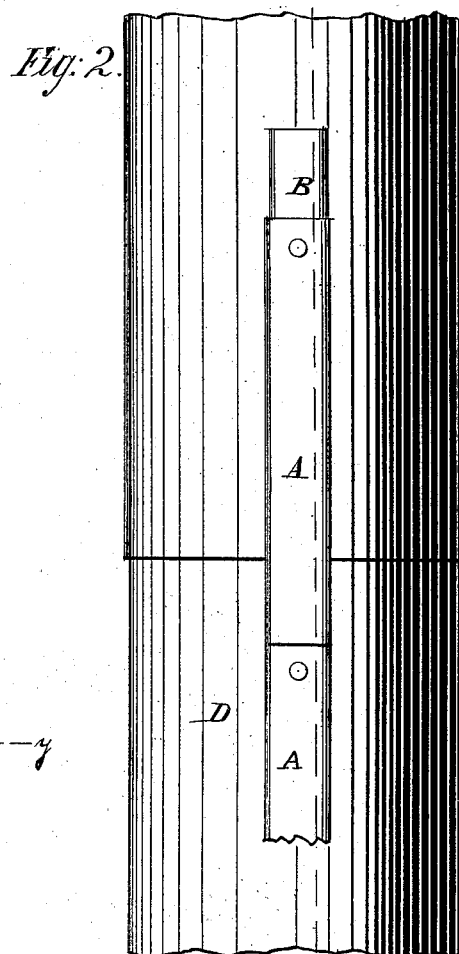
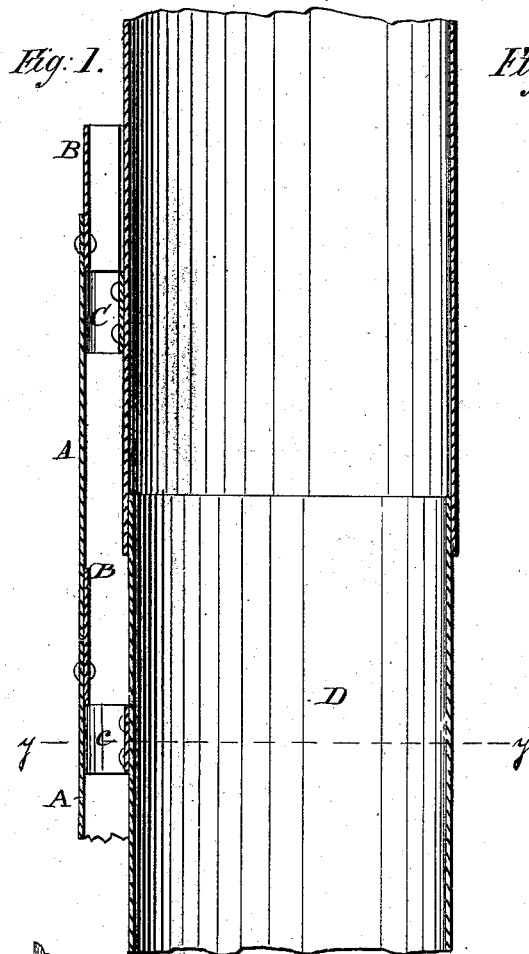


W. E. HOFMAN.  
Stove-Pipe Coupling and Brace.

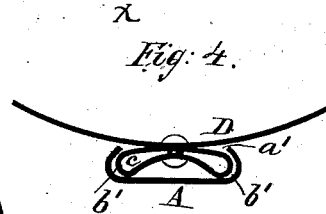
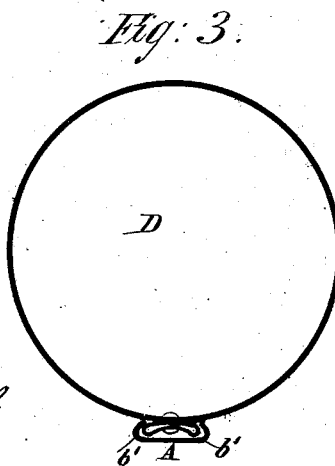
No. 216,852.

Patented June 24, 1879.



WITNESSES:

*Achilles Schehl.*  
*C. Sedgwick*



INVENTOR:

*W. E. Hofman*  
BY *Mumford*  
ATTORNEYS.

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM E. HOFMAN, OF FORT OMAHA, NEBRASKA.

## IMPROVEMENT IN STOVE-PIPE COUPLING AND BRACE.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **216,852**, dated June 24, 1879; application filed March 18, 1879.

### *To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM E. HOFMAN, of Fort Omaha, in the county of Douglas and State of Nebraska, have invented a new and Improved Stove-Pipe Coupling and Brace, of which the following is a specification.

Figure 1 is a sectional elevation of coupling and brace and stove-pipe on line *x x*, Fig. 2. Fig. 2 is a front elevation of stove-pipe with coupling and brace attached. Fig. 3 is a cross-section on line *y y* of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a cross-section of brace and button. Fig. 5 is a plan view of the braces and coupling, showing them detached.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

The object of this invention is to provide a device for holding firmly together the joints of a stove-pipe.

The invention consists of a strip of sheet-iron or other metal, about one and a half to two and a half inches wide, with both edges turned up and bent over toward each other, thus forming the brace A, whose one side or face is flat, with slightly-rounded edges, and whose reverse presents a central longitudinal slot, *a'*, extending throughout its length, resulting from the near approach to each other of the edges of the plate, while the bending over of the edges creates the two nearly-triangular grooves *b' b'*.

The coupling B is a shorter strip of the same metal fashioned in the same manner as the brace, and one end is to be inserted a little way into one end of each brace and be riveted thereto.

The invention further consists of a metal button, C, with concave face, one of which is to be riveted on each section of pipe about four inches from its larger end on the seam or in line with the rivets, so that the brace and coupling may cover the seam.

When it is desired to apply the device the open end of a brace, A, is pressed over the button C on one section of pipe D. Another section of pipe is then fitted into the first, the button on this second section entering the free end of the coupling that has been riveted to the first brace; then another brace and coupling may be connected with the first, and, in turn, another section of pipe added, and in this

manner braces and couplings and pipe-sections may be added until the required length of pipe is had.

The coupling B should always be at about the center of the length of the pipe-section, and this may be secured by making them and the braces of a variety of lengths to suit different lengths of sections.

If a brace or coupling slide too loosely on a button, the latter may be widened by pressing down its edges. If the fit be too tight, the edges may be pressed upward.

This device is simple and of easy application. It will hide the seam and line of rivets on the pipe. It will hold the sections of pipe firmly together, and thereby decrease the chances of accidental fires. It acts as a brace, whether the pipe be in a vertical or horizontal position, so that no vibration or jarring will cause the pipe to uncouple. Where it is applied it will not be necessary to resort to the usual method of securing stove-pipes by wires and braces to walls and ceilings to give them stability; nor will it be important that the sections fit very closely.

The above are some of the advantages attending the use of this device.

I am aware that the sections of a pipe have been held in sockets formed by an inner and outer pipe.

I am also aware that the sections of a pipe have been held rigid in cast-iron couplings by screw-rods which pass through the perforated ears of the said couplings; and I am also aware that the sections have been held adjustably on each other by a slotted bar attached to one section and a thumb-screw on the other section; but

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The within-described device, consisting of the brace A, coupling B, and button C, for holding together sections of stove-pipe.

2. In combination with a stove-pipe section, D, the brace A, coupling B, and button C, substantially as herein shown and described.

WILLIAM EDWIN HOFMAN.

Witnesses:

W. L. CARPENTER,  
CHARLES PAGE.