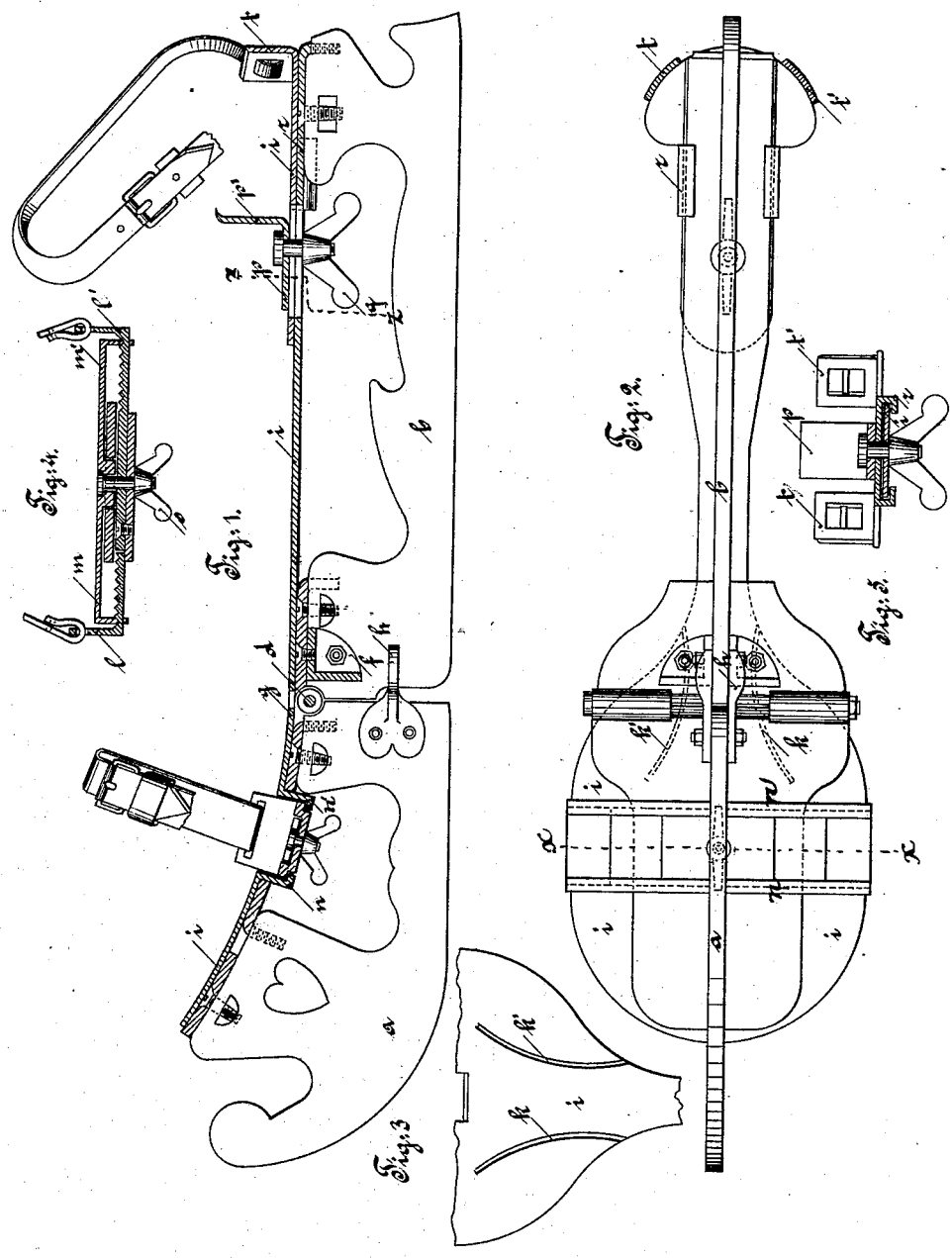
(No Model.)

E. RIEBLING.

SKATE.

No. 267,111. Patented Nov. 7, 1882.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ERNST RIEBLING, OF BERNIKOW, NEAR KÖNIGSBERG IN THE NEUMARK, PRUSSIA, GERMANY.

SKATE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 267,111, dated November 7, 1882.

Application filed February 28, 1882. (No model.) Patented in Germany December 15, 1880, No. 16,264.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ERNST RIEBLING, of the village of Bernikow, near Königsberg in the Neumark, in the Kingdom of Prussia, German Empire, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Skates, (for which I have obtained a patent in Germany, numbered 16,264, dated December 15, 1880,) of which the following is a specification.

The skates of known construction have a stiff and inflexible skate blade or runner in one piece, so that when the skater runs a great inconvenience takes place, as with each stroke made by the skater a strong draft is produced on the heel of the skater's boots or shoes. Consequently the fastening of the rear end of the skate to the boot must be a very good one, whereby the leather is injured and more time is required for the fastening; and, finally, the skater is more liable to fall in laying his center of gravity forward and resting on the fore part of the skates. All these inconveniences are avoided by my improvements, chiefly consisting in the mode of dividing the skate-blade in two independent parts—in a fore and rear part—and of making use of a flexible foot-plate. The two skate-blades are fastened to the foot-plate, the parts of which are jointed by a hinge.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents a longitudinal sectional view of my improved skate; Fig. 2, a bottom plan view of the same; Fig. 3, a detail view of a portion of the foot-plate; Fig. 4, a transverse sectional view on the line *x x*, Fig. 2, and Fig. 5 a transverse sectional view on the line *z z*, Fig. 1.

Similar letters of reference in the several figures indicate the same parts.

The skate-blade *b* is provided with a hinge part, *d*, fastened by screws to the angle-shaped iron piece *f*, and this again screwed to the skate-blade. The front skate-blade, *a*, carries the other part, *g*, of the hinge, likewise screwed to the skate-blade. A guide, *h*, holds both blades in position. A foot-plate, *i*, of steel, made more flexible by the slots *k k*, Fig. 3, cut into it, is fastened above the hinge to the running-blade by screws or rivets, and provided with a device for holding the sole and the heel of the boot. For the first purpose, under the foot-plate two hooked iron bands, *l l'*, Fig. 4, provided with holes for the leather straps, are loosely attached to it by means of flaps *n n'*, stamped out of the metal and bent around these bands. Two iron flaps, *m m'*, of the foot-plate, as large as the bands *l*, are bent down and shaped to fit in the depressions of the teeth of band *l*. A screw, *o*, tightens these parts when they are in proper position, wherein they are held by the toothed flaps *m m'* and the notches or teeth in *l l'*. The rear part can be fastened to the boot-heel by a sliding plate, *p*, with a sharp thorn or edge, *p'*, which is thrown into the heel and afterward tightened by a screw, *q*. A plate, *r*, screwed to the main plate, provided with holes for the leather straps, is bent down in its middle and turned around the main plate. All three plates—the main plate *i*, the plate *r*, with the leather straps, and the sharp plate *p*—are draw together by the screw *q*.

A skate constructed in this way will allow free and easy motion to the foot of the skater, who therefore runs safer, easier, and more elegantly, and—the greatest advantage—the skater will not so soon be fatigued, for the blades and the foot-plates can follow the natural bending of the skater's foot.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new—

1. The combination, with the skate blades or runners *a b*, hinged at the top, as described, of the guide *h* for permitting free motion of the blades on the hinge, but preventing the blades from moving laterally out of line with each other, substantially as described.

2. The combination, with the blades *a b*, hinged together as described, of the elastic metal foot-plate *i*, extending from end to end of the skate, and having the slots *k k'* over the hinge to increase its flexibility at that point, substantially as described.

3. The combination, with the foot-plate *i*, of the longitudinally-sliding heel-plate *r*, having the upturned ends *t t*, with the adjustable sliding plate *p*, having the spur *p'*, and the thumb-screw *q*, whereby either the plate *r* or the plate *p*, or both, can be adjusted longitudinally and locked in adjusted position by the set-screw, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ERNST RIEBLING.

Witnesses:
GUSTAVE DITTMAR,
BERTHOLD ROI.