

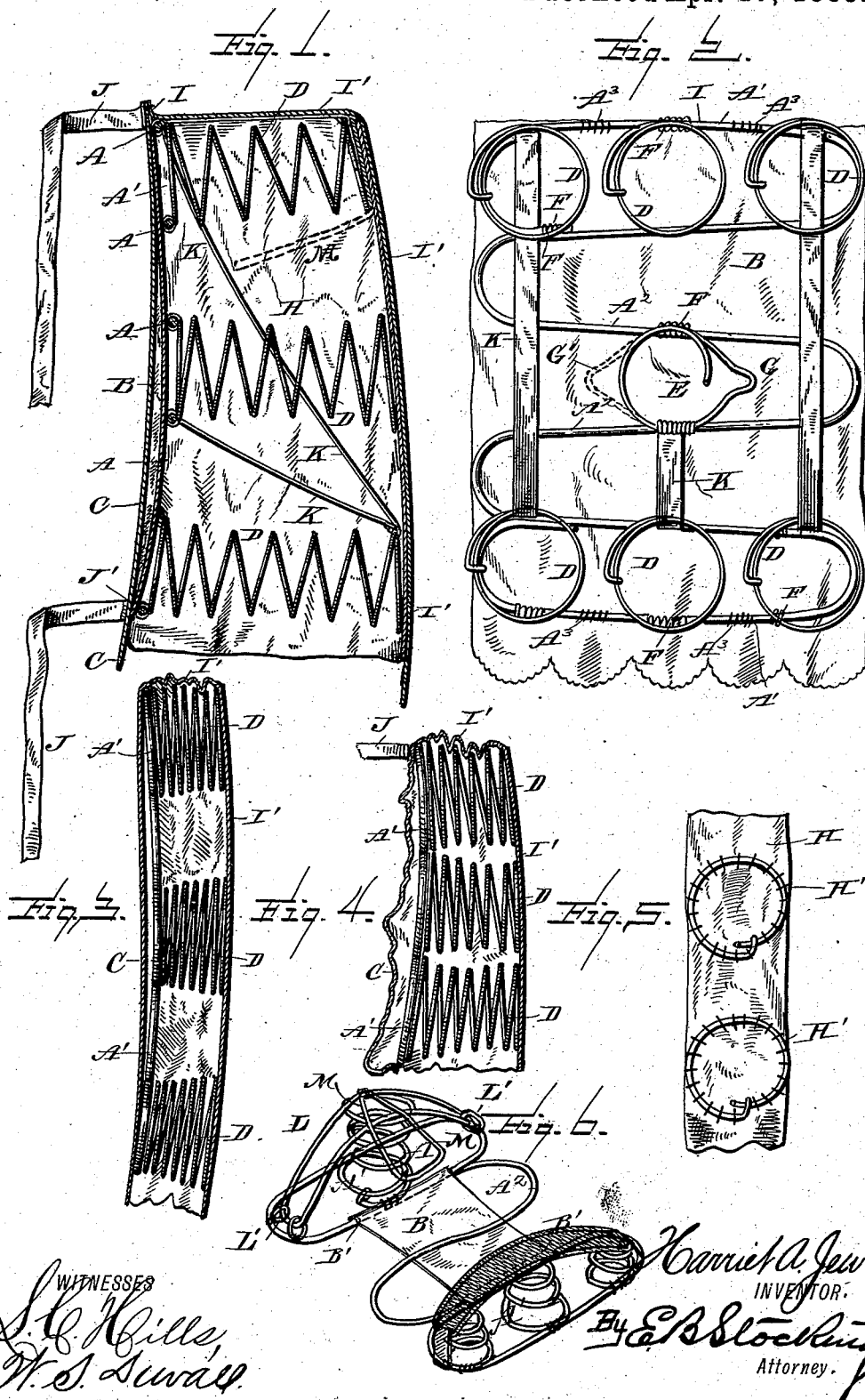
(No Model.)

H. A. JEWELL.

BUSTLE.

No. 381,140.

Patented Apr. 17, 1888.



WITNESSES
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HARRIET A. JEWELL, OF CLEVELAND, OHIO.

BUSTLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 381,140, dated April 17, 1888.

Application filed August 3, 1886. Serial No. 209,838. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HARRIET A. JEWELL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Cleveland, in the county of Cuyahoga, State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Bustles, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

This invention has relation to bustles, and has for its object the production of a light, strong, serviceable bustle which will contract and expand in two directions—namely, horizontally, as heretofore, and vertically.

A bustle constructed in accordance with my invention will, when the wearer assumes a sitting posture, be compressed horizontally—as, for example, when the wearer is sitting against the back of a seat—and at the same time the bustle will be compressed vertically. The attainment of the last above-mentioned operation—that is, vertical compression and expansion—is secured by providing a base or foundation formed of any material which is in the nature of a spring and adapted to support the principal elements of the bustle as a whole.

Other objects and advantages of my invention will appear in the following description, and the novel features will be particularly pointed out in the claims.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 is a substantially vertical central section of a bustle constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is an elevation, the outer covering being removed. Fig. 3 represents Fig. 1 compressed horizontally, and Fig. 4 represents the same compressed both vertically and horizontally. Fig. 5 is a detail illustrating one method of securing the outer ends of the horizontal springs of the bustle. Fig. 6 is a modified form of my vertically-yielding base.

Like letters indicate like parts in all the figures of the drawings.

A represents the base or foundation, which in this instance is represented as being made of wire bent to form a lower and upper loop, A', with an intermediate transverse bend or bends, A², whereby the said base may be contracted and expanded vertically, so as to bring the frames and intermediate bends close together, and whereby, also, when the compressing force is removed—as when the wearer resumes a standing position after sitting—the

natural resiliency of the base will cause it to expand.

B represents a fabric secured in any manner to the base which shall limit its expansion. In one instance herein shown the fabric is of such a size as to completely cover the base, or, in other words, is of substantially the same area as is the base.

In Fig. 6 the fabric is limited in area, being much less than that of the base, but still serving the same function, in that the two frames A' A' are secured to the lining or fabric B.

In securing the base and lining B to each other the former is slightly contracted, so as to keep the lining under a tension. The said lining may be passed over the inner sides of each of the frames and stitched thereto, as at B', Fig. 6, or it may be stitched to the outer sides of the frames A', as shown at A³, Fig. 2. In this instance I have shown a facing, C, secured to the upper edge of the bustle and falling over the lining B, this to give finish to the article and to provide additional protection to the wearer from any discomfort by reason of the contact of the base with the person; but this is also materially avoided by reason of the arched contour of the base, as clearly illustrated in Fig. 1.

Upon the base I mount all the horizontal springs used in the bustle. These are indicated as comprising two series of three springs, D, each secured upon the frames A' A' at the top and bottom of the bustle, and upon the intermediate transverse arms, A², another spring, E, is represented.

I wish it clearly understood that I do not limit my invention to any particular arrangement of horizontal springs upon the base, as I may increase or diminish the number and change the arrangement thereof without a departure from my invention.

For the purpose of a clear understanding of my invention I have limited the number of springs employed. I may secure the horizontal springs to the base in any well-known or convenient manner. In this instance I have represented the lower coil secured to the frame by means of a coil, F, of wire, cord, or thread; but, as before indicated, it is apparent that I may employ any of the well-known clamping devices used in hoop-skirt manufacture.

Whenever the base comprises more than a

single transverse bend, and whenever the lower coil of the horizontal springs is secured to an end frame and a transverse bend of the base, I may bend said lower coil or coils so as to form a spring-connection of the frame and transverse arm or of the two arms upon which said spring is mounted. This lateral extension of the coil is indicated at G, Fig. 2. Now it will be seen that the said coil is capable of contraction and expansion in harmony with the base. If desired, the last coil may be laterally extended in both directions, (see dotted lines G', Fig. 2,) although I secure sufficient elasticity to conform at the base with the vertical movements of the base by a single bend or lateral extension, as shown.

The outer ends of the horizontal springs are secured to a series of tape-bands or to a covering, H, which may be continued at each side of the bustle and secured to the opposite edges of the lining or of the base. In Fig. 1 this covering is illustrated as being secured to the sides of the base, so as to inclose the entire series of springs except at the top and bottom.

To give further finish to the article, I secure at its upper edge, by stitching or otherwise, as at I, an apron, skirt, or fall, I', of any suitable fabric, and at the same place, and, if desired, by the same stitching, I secure waistbands J, these bands being intended to be passed about the body of the person in order to secure the bustle in desired positions for use. The upper coils of the horizontal springs may be secured to the covering by stitches, as shown at H', Fig. 5, or by any of the devices usually employed in hoop-skirt manufacture.

If desired, and in order to secure parallelism in the contracting and expanding movements of the horizontal spring, I may employ guy-tapes K, secured to the outer coil or coils of the horizontal springs and to the inner coil or coils of the springs next above the same, as clearly illustrated in Fig. 1; or these tapes may be secured to a transverse bend of the base.

By the construction above described it will be seen that I have a light, strong, serviceable bustle, which, when the wearer is standing, will support the weight of the skirts and give the desired form and appearance, and which, when the wearer assumes a sitting posture, will be compressed vertically, and by the train of the skirts or sitting against the back of a seat will be compressed horizontally, so that the bustle as a whole is contracted into a small space without injury thereto and without discomfort to the wearer, and this adaptability to occupy a limited space is also an important advantage in packing, storing, and transporting the bustles. It will also be seen that as the wearer resumes a standing position the bustle automatically expands in both directions, bringing the skirts again to the desired form.

If desired, stays L (see Fig. 6) may be employed at the top and bottom series of coils to secure said coils in their relative position.

These stays may be reed, rattan, wire-cloth, or wire, wire-cloth being shown at the bottom series in said figure and wire at the top. The purpose of this is, as before stated, to retain the coils in relative position to each other.

Should exceedingly heavy clothing be worn, I provide means whereby the same is prevented from sagging the top series of the coils. This is shown in Fig. 1 and also in Fig. 6 of the drawings, and consists of a downwardly-extending stop or limiting-arm of wire, M, whereby clothing bearing down upon the top series of coils, which series bears the most strain, can only force the said series down a certain distance, when the stop-arm M comes in contact with the base of the bustle and prevents further downward movement. This stop-arm M (see Fig. 6 and dotted lines, Fig. 1) is the equivalent of the straps K, Fig. 1, as they serve a like function—that is, prevent an undue sagging of the horizontal springs—the straps K, as shown, supporting the lower springs and the arm M the upper spring or springs.

Should a wire brace or stay, L, be made simply of a link of wire, only a central spring may be used at the top of the bustle, and rings L' may be provided at the sides of the base, which, when the bustle is flattened by weight, will allow the said brace to expand laterally. If desired, the rings may be dispensed with and elastic bands may be used to connect the ends of the stay with the sides of the base.

By the means above described I may use a single vertical series of two or more coils of wire to form the bustle, thus rendering the bustle easy of manufacture, cheap, and very light.

There are certain novel features as to the arrangement and connections of the horizontal springs, which may be used in connection with a rigid base, if desired, by which I mean a base that does not collapse vertically.

Having described my invention, its operation, and advantages, what I claim is—

1. A bustle comprising a vertically-yielding base, consisting of a wire forming frames and intermediate transverse frame-connecting portions, and horizontal springs having their lower coils laterally expanded mounted upon the bends, substantially as specified.

2. A bustle-base consisting of a wire or its described equivalent, and comprising frames A' and intermediate transverse bends, A', and a lining, B, secured thereto, substantially as specified.

3. In a bustle, the combination, with a base consisting of frames A', intermediate bends, A', and a lining, B, of horizontally-projecting coiled springs D, secured to the base, and a covering, H, secured to the outer ends of the horizontal springs and to the base, substantially as specified.

4. The combination of the base A, having the transverse bends A' and the lining B, with the springs D, the covering H, and the guy-tapes K, substantially as specified.

5. The combination of the vertically-yielding base A, the springs D, the covering H, the lining C, and the attaching-bands J J', substantially as specified.

5 6. The combination of the base A, adapted for vertical expansion and contraction, and the coils D, mounted thereon, with the central spring or link, E, and tape K, whereby the expansion and contraction of the frame A' is
10 limited, substantially as specified.

7. The combination, with the base A, provided with the springs D, of the stop-arm M, connected at one end only to the outer end of the

center one of the upper series of springs, whereby the downward swing of said top series is 15 limited, whereby the weight of additional clothing sufficient to sag the top series of springs is supported by the said stop-arm, substantially as specified.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in 20 presence of two witnesses.

HARRIET A. JEWELL.

Witnesses:

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HENRY LACY.