J. Elson

Breech-loading Fire-arm.

No. 71,149. Patented Nov. 19, 1867.

Fig. 1.

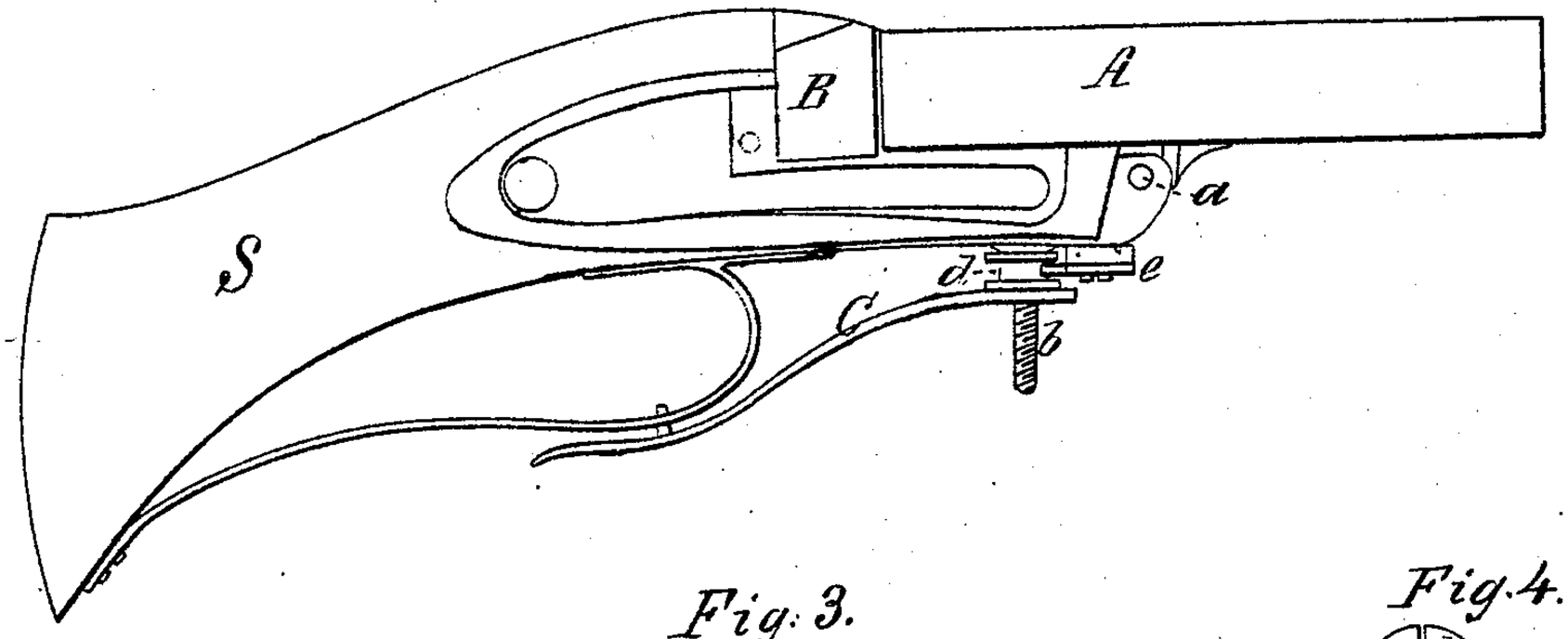

Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

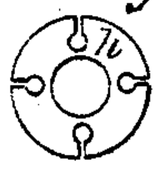

Fig. 2.

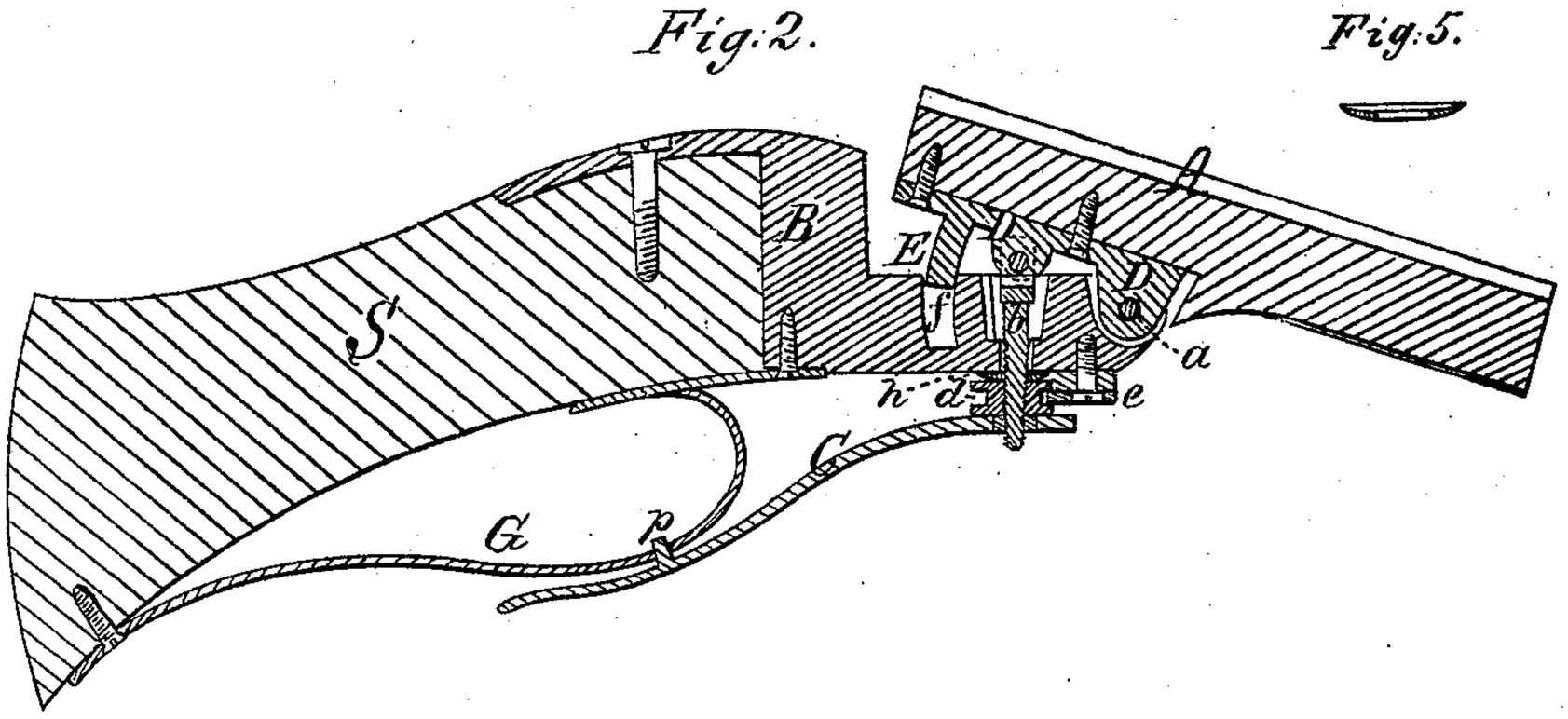

Fig. 5.

Witnesses:

J. H. Adams

M. S. G. Wilde.

Inventor:

Julius Elson.

United States Patent Office.

JULIUS ELSON, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

Letters Patent No. 71,149, *dated November* 19, 1867.

IMPROVEMENT IN BREECH-LOADING FIRE-ARMS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, JULIUS ELSON, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk, and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Breech-Loading Fire-Arms, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents an elevation of a portion of a fire-arm with my improvement.

Figure 2 is a longitudinal section of the same with the breech open; and

Figure 3 is a section of a double-barrelled gun.

Figures 4 and 5 are details.

The main object of my invention is to provide for the alteration, in a simple and economical manner, of a muzzle-loading fire-arm to a breech-loader, although it may be applied equally well to the manufacture of a breech-loading fire-arm originally, whereby the breech of the said arm may, by a simple movement, be opened to a position for the insertion of a cartridge or load, and likewise be as easily and securely closed to a position for firing; and the invention consists in hinging the barrel to a break-off or breech-block attached to the stock, and providing it in the rear of the hinge with a hinged screw-rod that passes down through the said breech-block. Upon the said screw-rod is fitted a grooved nut attached to or forming a part of a lever that extends to the rear, and is secured in position to the trigger-guard or otherwise when the breech is closed or open. In the groove of the said nut is fitted a fixed projection attached to the under side of the breech-block, so that as the nut is turned it will maintain its position near the breech, but cause the screw-rod to ascend or descend and carry with it the rear end of the barrel of the gun, whereby the breech is opened or closed as required.

By referring to the drawings, fig. 1, A represents the barrel of a common single or double-barrelled fire-arm. S is the stock. B represents the break-off or breech-block, which is made of a solid piece of metal, and inserted in the stock in such a manner as not to weaken the same or interfere with the lock. At the rear end of the under side of the barrel A is brazed or otherwise firmly attached a metallic plate or piece, D, which is pivoted or hinged to the forward end of the breech-block B, as shown at *a*. A short distance from the rear of the hinge *a* is hinged a rod, *b*, which passes down through the breech-block B, and is provided with a screw-thread on its lower portion. Upon this threaded portion is fitted a nut, *d*, which is formed with a groove or recess on its circumference. The said nut is attached to or forms a part of a lever, C, which extends to the rear, and, springing over the trigger-guard G, is secured in position by means of a pin or projection, *p*, fitting in a hole in the trigger-guard. To the lower part of the breech-block B is attached a projection, *e*, which fits in the groove or recess in the nut *d* in such a manner as to admit of the latter turning freely, but preventing it from rising or falling, so that as the lever is moved around, making an entire revolution on the screw-pin *b* as an axis, the said screw-pin will be raised or lowered and thus elevate or depress the breech of the barrel. The thread of the screw may be made quicker or slower, as may be required, in a larger or smaller piece, to bring the breech to the proper position for inserting a cartridge. Between the nut *d* and the under side of the breech-block B is a disk or washer, *h*, of the form shown in figs. 4 and 5, and rendered elastic by means of cuts or notches on its edge, so as to enable the nut to be made to bear firmly against the breech-block and compensate for any wear in the screw or nut. Near the rear end of the plate or portion D is a projection, E, which is made somewhat of a curved form, and fitting within a corresponding recess, *f*, in the breech-block when the breech is closed, so that as the barrel turns upon the hinge *a*, the projection E will enter the recess, and thus aid in resisting the force of the exploding charge.

When the breech is to be opened for the insertion of a cartridge, the lever C is released from the trigger-guard and turned once entirely around, thus causing the screw-rod *b* to rise and elevate the rear end of the breech sufficiently above the breech-block for the purpose.

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

1. The lever C, provided with the grooved nut *d*, in combination with the projection *e* and the hinged screw-rod *b*, as and for the purpose set forth.

2. I claim the combination of the solid breech-block B, when constructed as described, the hinged barrel A, the projection E, and the hinged screw-rod *b*, as and for the purpose specified.

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

JULIUS ELSON.

Witnesses:

J. H. ADAMS,

M. S. G. WILDE.