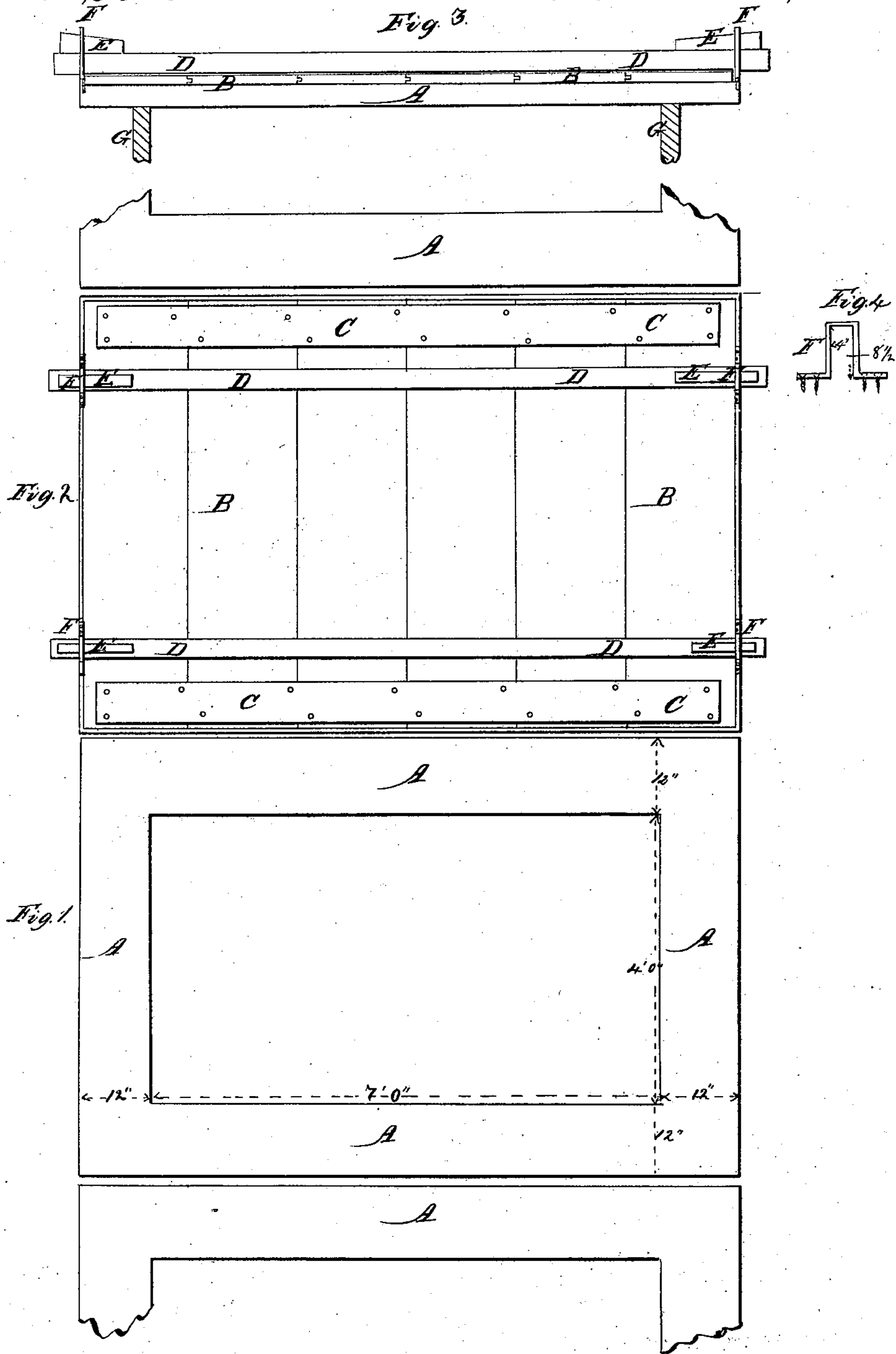


L. W. Fiske,

Tan Vat,

N^o 12,369.

Patented Feb. 6, 1855.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

L. WOODBURY FISKE, OF LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY.

IMPROVEMENT IN WORKING LIMING-VATS IN TANNERIES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **12,369**, dated February 6, 1855.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, L. WOODBURY FISKE, of Louisville, Jefferson county, Kentucky, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Using Liming-Vats; and I hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of my said improvements, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the figures and letters of reference marked thereon, in which the same letters designate the same parts in all the drawings, viz:

The nature of my said improvement consists in using close-covered vats for liming and unhairing hides and skins for the following objects, viz: to render the process of liming as now generally practiced by tanners, as well as my own unhairing-soak, more rapid, efficacious, and economical; to cause the hides and skins to come from the vats more "plump," heavy, fair, and free from lime in the pores than has been the case hitherto, at the same time preventing the forming of the pellicle on the surface of the liquid in the vats, the deposits of carbonate of lime and consequent loss of strength, and the labor and expense of frequent changes in limes thereby induced. This I effect by placing over said "limes," except when open for changes and handlings, an air-tight cover made and applied as follows, reference being had to the annexed drawings, figures, and letters, making a part of this specification, viz:

First. On the plates or tops of the vats, which should be smooth or level, whether of wood or stone, near the outside of said plates,

or at least six or eight inches from the inner edges thereof, fasten four strong staples of, say, three-eighths by one-and-one-fourth-inch iron opposite each other, as shown at F F F F, Figures 2 and 3. The dimensions of the staples should be about those marked in the figures above referred to and in Fig. 4.

Second. Make for vat-covers platforms eight or ten inches larger in each direction than the opening of the vats to be covered, of sound tongue-and-grooved boards closely laid and secured by wrought-nails to two battens, C C C C, Fig. 2.

Third. If the tops of the vats or plates be smooth and level and the platforms new, they may be laid without anything under them. If otherwise, some strips of packing, canvas, or coarse cloth wet may be laid evenly around on the top of the vat and the platform laid on them.

Fourth. It is pressed down and secured by two stiff straight wooden bars, D D D D, the opposite ends of which pass into the staples F F F F, and pressed down by driving the hardwood wedges E E E E, Figs. 2 and 3, over them and under the staples.

What I claim is—

Using a close-covering for liming and unhairing vats, in the manner and for the purposes set forth.

L. WOODBURY FISKE.

Witnesses:

ALEX. DUVALL,

J. A. M. MORRIS.