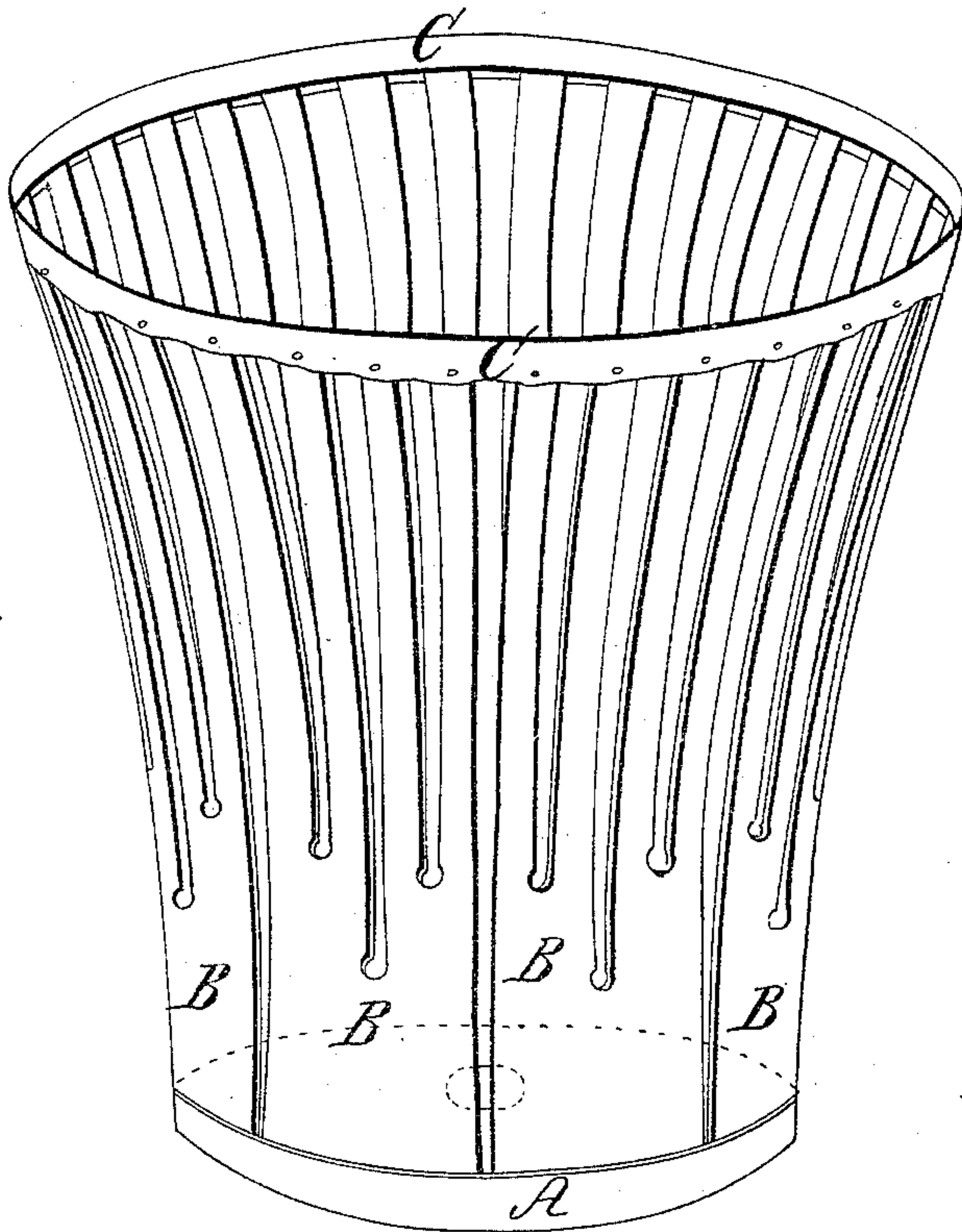


*J. Cook,*

*Fruit Basket.*

*N<sup>o</sup> 24,723.*

*Patented July 12, 1859.*



*Witnesses;  
E. Craig  
R. Fitzgerald.*

*Inventor;*

*J. Cook*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DAVID COOK, OF NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT.

## IMPROVED FRUIT-BASKET.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 24,723, dated July 12, 1859.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, DAVID COOK, of the city and county of New Haven, in the State of Connecticut, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Fruit-Baskets as a New Article of Manufacture; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and character of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, which makes a part of this specification, which drawing is a perspective view of the fruit-basket in all its essential particulars.

My improvement consists in making the fruit-basket of thin slats of wood curved or bent laterally or transversely to fit the shape of the bottom, and having those slats sawed or slitted lengthwise from the top to a point more or less distant from the bottom as shall be found most convenient to enable me to give the desired flaring or bell-shape to the article; and in binding the top and bottom of the fruit-basket with a suitable band of sheet metal, to strengthen the article, and also to enable me to produce the flaring or bell shape of the article and render that shape permanent. I make the bottom of a circular or elliptic piece of wood and perforate it with holes, if thought necessary, for ventilation. I make the upright part of thin slats of wood of any suitable or desired kind, and I perforate them in one or more places as near the bottom as I desire to cut or saw the slit, and saw a kerf or slit from the top to the perforation, so as to divide the upper portion into two or more narrow slats, as represented in the drawing, which shows the article as finished. I make the hoop or band A for the bottom of sheet metal, (either plain or ornamented,) and set up the slats B (being slitted and prepared as above described) with-

in this hoop or band A, until it is full, in a similar manner to that practiced by coopers in setting up casks, &c. I then insert the bottom and secure it in its proper position by any suitable means. I then form of sheet metal a double band or cap, C, (or use prepared edging,) somewhat larger in diameter than the bottom, and insert into it the upper ends of the narrow (or slitted) part of the slats, and arrange and secure them at equal distances around the circle or ellipse. By thus spreading them out and making the top the largest, the narrow slats will be curved in their longitudinal direction, and thus give to the article the bell shape, and the spaces between the narrow slats will afford a sufficient circulation of air or ventilation.

The advantages of my improvement consist in that I can make wooden fruit-baskets by this method at much less expense, in proportion to their style, (either plain or ornamented,) than can be made by any method heretofore known, or of any other material, (I can even make them at less expense than the common splint strawberry-basket,) and in that they may be made of any species of wood and ornamented to any desired extent, and therefore be made suitable for fancy baskets for any purpose whatever, and with or without handles of any kind.

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

As an article of new manufacture, making a metal-bound wooden fruit-basket, either plain or ornamented, when constructed and fitted for use, substantially as herein described.

DAVID COOK.

Witnesses:

E. CRAIG,  
R. FITZGERALD.