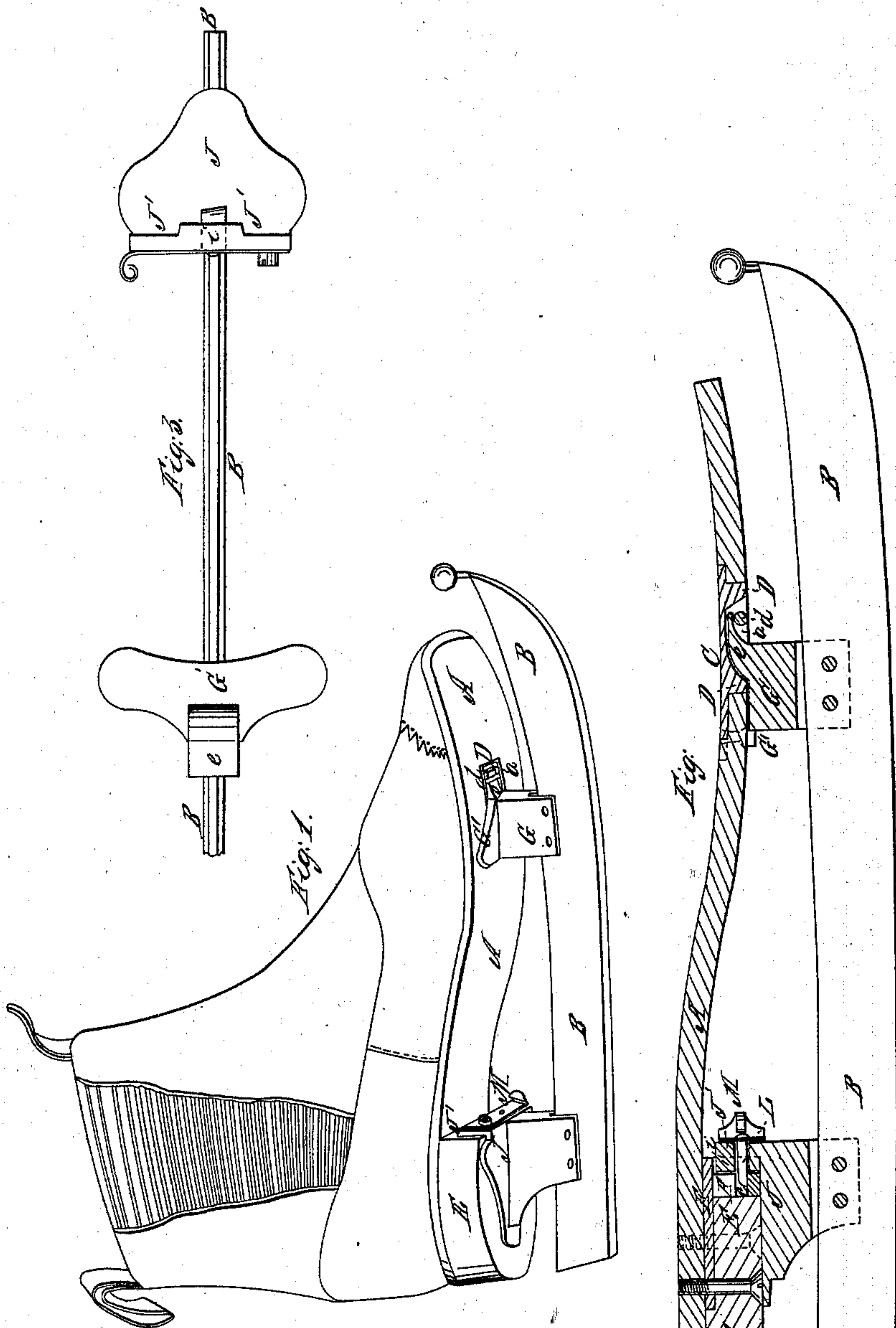


*T. S. Whitman,*

*Skate,*

*Nº 26,540,*

*Patented Dec. 20, 1859.*



*Witnesses:*  
*Wm. T. Fitch*  
*R. J. Campbell*

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*Thomas Spruce Whitman*



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS SPURR WHITMAN, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## ATTACHING SKATES TO BOOTS.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 26,540, dated December 20, 1859.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, THOMAS SPURR WHITMAN, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Attaching Skates to the Soles of Boots; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents a perspective view of a gaiter boot with the skate iron attached to the sole of the same after my improved plan. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal vertical section taken centrally through the sole of the boot, showing clearly the devices for securing the skate iron thereto. Fig. 3 is a top or plan view of the skate iron with its front end broken off, showing the plates and devices attached thereto for securing the iron to the sole of the boot.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the three figures.

The object of this invention is to enable the skater to secure his skates to the feet quickly and rigidly without clamps or straps or screws, and to remove the same at pleasure with equal facility.

The nature of my invention consists in furnishing the soles of either boots or shoes with metal plates, the front part of the sole having a plate with a box passing through the sole and flush with its surface, into which box is a recess and a transverse bar for receiving and holding a tongue projecting from the sole plate of the skate iron or runner; and on the inside of the heel of the boot or shoe is a recessed plate for receiving a spring pin or latch, which is attached to the heel plate of the skate iron, which latter device, with the sole plate attachment, will secure the skate iron rigidly to the sole of the boot in a simple, cheap and efficient manner, thus dispensing with all clumsy and painful attachments common to skates of the present construction, such as straps and clamps, as above stated, and rendering the skate fixtures light and portable: described and represented as follows:—

In the drawings, A, represents the sole of the boot or shoe to which the runner or skate iron, B, is attached. In the manufacture of the boots for skating purposes a plate, C, with an enlargement, D, having a recess, *a*, in it, as clearly shown by Figs. 1 and 2,

is screwed or secured in any suitable manner to the front part of the sole, A, so that the recessed portion, D, will be flush with the surface of the sole inside and outside. *d* is a pin or bar passing across the recess, *a*, transversely with the length of the sole.

To the vertical inner face of the heel, E, is affixed a plate, F, with a square recess and a hole, *c*, of sufficient size to admit freely a spring latch or bolt, hereinafter described. These heel fixtures, with that above described, constitute the foot fastenings, and the boots may be used in walking as any ordinary boot, without injuring or impairing the plates affixed to them.

The skate irons, B, have no stock as in skates commonly used but instead of a stock the front part of the skate iron, B, is furnished with a standard, G, and flat base plate, G', which may extend nearly across the bottom of the sole, A; and from the front part of this base plate projects a curved and tapering tongue, *e*, which fits in a corresponding recess, *a*, and over the bar or pin, *d*, in the sole plate, C. This attachment secures the front part of the runner rigidly to the sole of the boot and will clear or clean itself of adhering ice or snow in making the attachment.

The heel portion of the runner or skate iron, B, has a heel plate, J, fixed to it, upon which the heel rests. J' is a right angular portion of this heel plate with a central projection, *i*, which fits into the corresponding recess of the heel plate, F, and in connection with the portion, J', secures the skate iron against any lateral or longitudinal movement when placed thereon, as shown by Figs. 1 and 2. A catch, L, is now attached to a spring plate, M, and serves to hold the skate iron firmly in place against the sole of the boot. By withdrawing this latch or bolt, L, from the heel plate, F, the skate iron can be readily removed from the foot. This latter fastening serves only to keep the heel portion of the skate iron up against the heel of the boot, and it receives very little strain in using the skate.

To put on this skate the tongue, *e*, is first inserted into the recess, *a*, of the sole plate, C, fixed to the boot, and the heel portion of the skate iron is pressed upward until the spring catch flies into its hole, *c*, in the heel plate, and the skate is securely fixed to the foot. In removing the skates the



spring plate is pressed forward, which relieves the catch, and the irons may be taken off with the same facility and ease as in attaching them to the boot.

5 This device is exceedingly simple, cheap and compact, and being made nearly solid, there is nothing about the skates which is liable to break or become deranged under all ordinary usage.

10 Having thus described my invention what

I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:—

Uniting the skate iron to the sole of the boot or shoe essentially in the manner and for the purposes herein stated.

THOMAS SPURR WHITMAN.

Witnesses:

W. ZUSCH,

C. HUGHES.