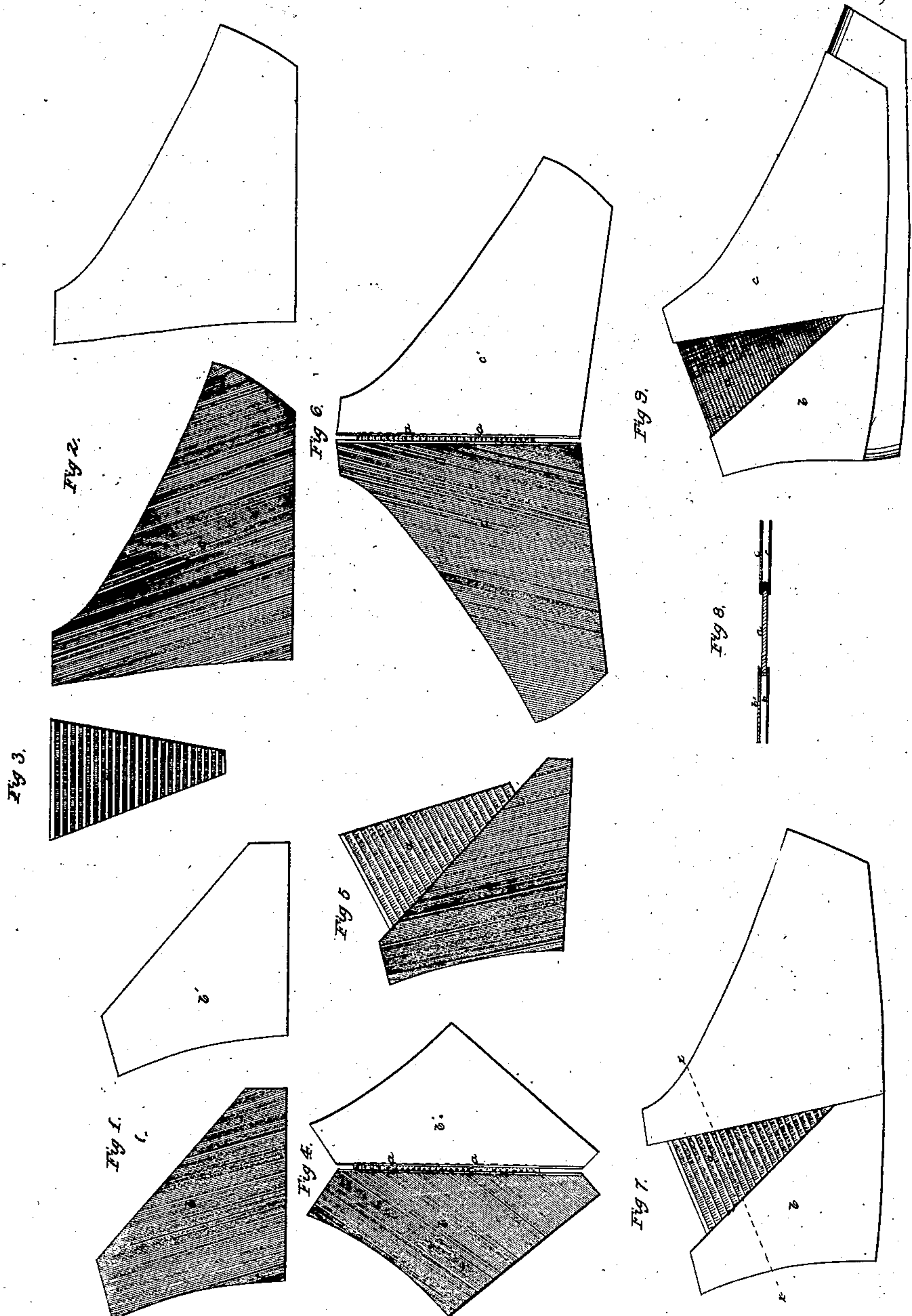


*H. S. Holmes*

*Shoe Upper,*

*N<sup>o</sup> 28,754,*

*Patented June 19, 1860.*



*Witnesses;*

*James  
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*Henry S. Holmes*



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY S. HOLMES, OF LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS.

## CONGRESS BOOT.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 28,754, dated June 19, 1860.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HENRY S. HOLMES, of Lynn, in the county of Essex and State of Massachusetts, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in the Manufacture of "Congress Gaiters;" and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, making part of this specification.

My invention relates to that class of gaiters commonly called "Congress gaiters" or "boots," that is to say, boots or gaiters provided with elastic gores of "shirred cloth." In the manufacture of these, it has been the practice of the operatives in sewing the gores to the gaiter tops and linings to baste one side of the gore to the corresponding part of the gaiter top, first turning the edge of the gaiter top inward, and then to stitch the two together. And in like manner the other side of the gore to the corresponding part of the gaiter top. This done the gore on the other side of the gaiter is secured in the same manner. The gores being thus united to the gaiter top, the lining has then to be united to the gaiter top and to the gores; a piece of suitable size and shape having been cut out of it on either side to correspond with the size and shape of the gores. This they effect by turning in the edges of the lining and hemming it down to the gores; the upper edges of the lining being then secured to the gaiter top by stitching a piece of binding ribbon to the outside of the gaiter top and turning it over the edge of the gaiter top and lining and hemming it down upon the latter, from which it will be apparent that the present mode of securing the gores to the gaiter top and lining is at once costly, laborious, and exceedingly troublesome, and at the same time requires the employment of experienced and skilful hands; for the reason, that, inasmuch as the gores are secured to the gaiter top and to the linings by two separate and distinct seams, there must of necessity be an unequal tension or strain upon the gores from the two seams as it is almost impossible so to sew it, as that the two shall draw from the same points and in the same lines; and any departure from such points and lines must necessarily cause an unequal tension between them, and therefore unequal wear and unequal fit accompanied by puckerings in the gores and breakage in the strands of the

shirred or elastic cloth, examples of which may be found in almost every boot of this kind that has been worn a few times; and which, in a great measure, has been the cause of their not being more generally used, as the gores from this cause are almost always bursting away either from the gaiter tops or from the lining.

The object of my invention is to remedy these defects, and at the same time, to produce a neater, stronger and better boot, at much less cost, because of the great saving of time and labor in its production, by dispensing with the various manipulations just described. And it consists in uniting the gores to the gaiter top and lining by a single seam common to all in a manner to be hereafter described, by means of which the tension may either be made equal on the gaiter top and lining, or it may be a regular uneven tension on the two, that is to say, a greater but regular and uniform strain may be thrown on the gaiter top than on the lining and vice versa, as may be required or deemed advisable.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my improvement, I will now proceed to describe it in detail, here premising that in the following description the employment of a sewing machine is presupposed, as they are now generally used in the manufacture of gaiters.

In the accompanying drawing Figure 1, represents a plan of one half of the heel part of the gaiter top as cut out preparatory to being secured to the gore; and also the corresponding part of the lining. Fig. 2, a plan of a half of the front part of the gaiter top and the corresponding lining. Fig. 3, a plan of the gore. Fig. 4, represents an end view of the edges of the half of the heel part of the gaiter top, lining and gore, properly arranged and showing in red lines the seam which unites them together. Fig. 5, a plan of the same, the top and lining being turned over, preparatory to the other edge of the gore being secured to the corresponding half of the front part of the gaiter top and lining. Fig. 6, represents an edge view of the gore, front half of the gaiter top and lining as arranged preparatory to being sewed together. Fig. 7, represents a plan of one half of the gaiter, ready to be secured to the other half so as to form the complete gaiter top. Fig. 8, represents a section taken through the line  $x, x$  of Fig. 7.



Fig. 9, a view of the gaiter top manufactured on my improved plan and lined at the bottom with a leather strip.

The cloth or other suitable material for the  
 5 gaiter top, having been properly cut out into  
 pieces of the requisite size and shape preparatory to being fashioned into gaiters, and  
 also the corresponding pieces of the lining  
 (as shown in Figs. 1 and 2): A gore (*a*)  
 10 turned with its left side outward is placed  
 over the outer side of one of the top pieces,  
 for instance a half of the heel part (*b*); and  
 after the edge of the gore has been properly  
 adjusted over the corresponding edge of the  
 15 top piece, the lining (*b'*), which is also  
 turned with its right side inward, is placed  
 over the gore (*a*) and top piece (*b*), and the  
 three passed together under the needle of a  
 sewing machine, so as to be united by a seam  
 20 common to all, as shown in Fig. 4, which  
 done, the top piece (*b*) and its lining (*b'*)  
 are turned over, so as to present the right  
 side outward, as shown in Fig. 5, whereby  
 the seam which unites them to the gore be-  
 25 comes inclosed and in a measure hidden.  
 To the other edge of the gore (*a*) is then  
 secured in a similar manner the correspond-  
 ing front half (*c*) of the gaiter top and its  
 lining (*c'*); whereupon the top (*c*) and lin-  
 30 ing (*c'*) are turned over with the right side  
 outward, thereby inclosing the seam which  
 unites them to the gore. One half of the  
 gaiter top being thus completed, as shown  
 in Fig. 5, a corresponding gore is secured in  
 35 like manner to the two parts of the other  
 half, that is to say, the other half (front and  
 heel) of the gaiter top and lining: which  
 when completed the two halves are sewed  
 together in the usual way in front and rear:  
 40 the lining is then turned over and the upper  
 edge of the front and rear part of the lining

and top sewed together in the same manner,  
 a tug front and rear having previously been  
 interposed between them; thus finishing the  
 gaiter top ready to be "soled." The prin- 45  
 cipal difference in the appearance of gaiters  
 manufactured on this plan is, that the seams  
 which unite the gores to the body of gaiters  
 are not visible—they being inclosed between  
 the top and lining; while in all other Con- 50  
 gress gaiters there is a stitching on the outer  
 side of the gaiter top around the gores.

From the foregoing description of my im-  
 proved plan of securing the gore to the gaiter  
 top and lining it will be readily perceived 55  
 that there is a great saving of time, labor  
 and trouble, as compared with the old and  
 well known methods of securing the gores.  
 Moreover it dispenses with various and tedi-  
 ous manipulations and also with skilled 60  
 labor, as it can be done readily by new  
 hands; and at the same time presents this  
 advantage, that, the whole sewing may be  
 effected solely by a machine, there being no  
 hemming or other finishing requisite to be 65  
 executed by hand—which heretofore has  
 greatly enhanced the cost of manufacturing  
 Congress gaiters.

Having thus described my improvement  
 what I claim as new and desire to secure by 70  
 Letters Patent is—

Securing the edges of the gores to the  
 gaiter top and lining by a seam common to  
 all, in the manner and for the purposes sub-  
 stantially as herein set forth. 75

In testimony whereof, I hereunto set my  
 hand to this specification.

HENRY S. HOLMES.

Witnesses:

ISAAC NEWHULL,  
 P. HUNNAY.