

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

J. W. STILES, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## IMPROVED HOOP-SKIRT WIRE.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 40,960, dated December 15, 1863.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, J. W. STILES, of the city, county, and State of New York, do hereby declare that the following is a description of my said invention and improvement in the style and mode of manufacturing and preparing hoops for what is known as "ladies' hoop-skirts," of which the following is a specification.

The ordinary and well-known mode of covering steel hoops with cotton or other textile covering, as is well known, is objectionable on account of their liability to become soiled after using them a short time, so that they become unsightly, as well as uncleanly; and if an attempt to cleanse them is made by washing the cotton covering is stained and discolored by the oxide of iron or rust striking through the covering. The ordinary covering of cotton being thus shown to be objectionable, I proceed to cover the steel hoops with one or more metals—viz., gold, silver, tin, or other metal or metals—either by plating, electroplating, or in the moist way, or other equivalent means,

and by such covering produce a much more elegant, cleanly, and cleansable hoop for ladies' hoop-skirts. I also propose, as part of my said invention and improvement, to cover the plaited hoop above described with the ordinary cotton or other textile covering, whereby the hoop-skirt may be washed without the liability of becoming stained by the rust striking through, being protected therefrom by the plating or metal covering.

Having thus described the nature of my invention and improvement, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

A steel hoop for ladies' hoop-skirts, covered with one or more metals by plating, electroplating, or in the moist way, or other equivalent means. The hoop may then or may not be covered with cotton or other textile fabric, whereby I produce a more elegant, cleanly, and cleansable hoop for ladies' hoop-skirts.

J. W. STILES.

Witnesses:

JAMES S. REED,  
FREDERICK M. HILL.