

G. Hawkes.
Lasting Machine.

N^o 55,858.

Patented June 26, 1866.

Fig. 3.

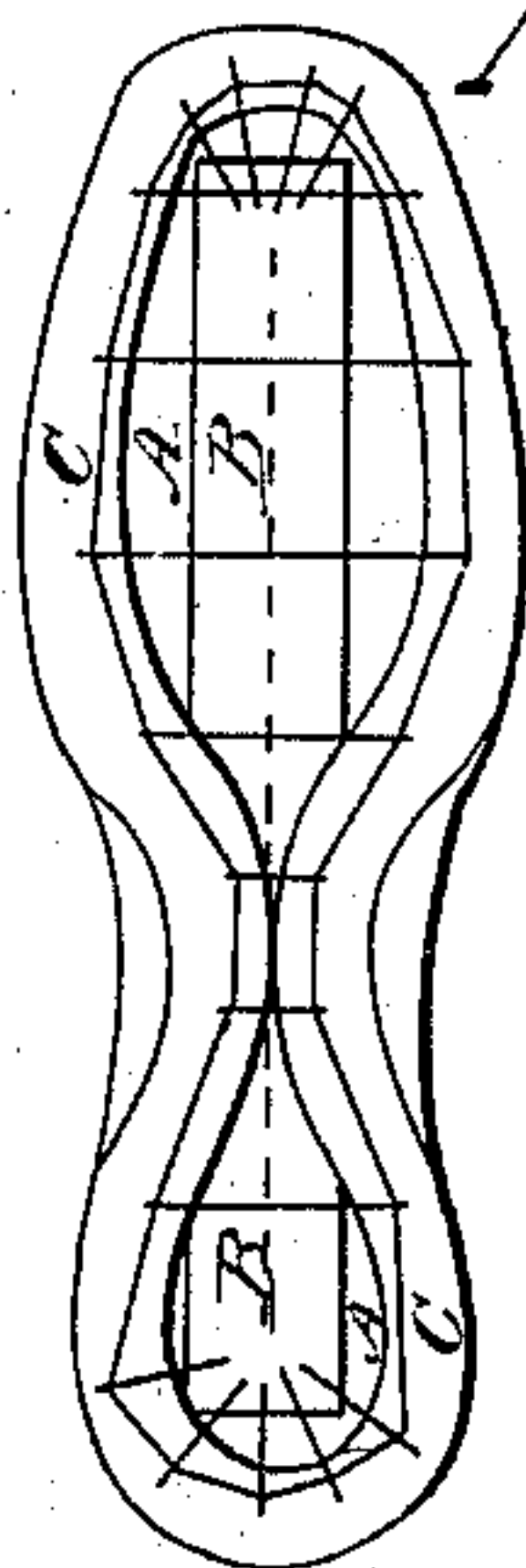


Fig. 1.

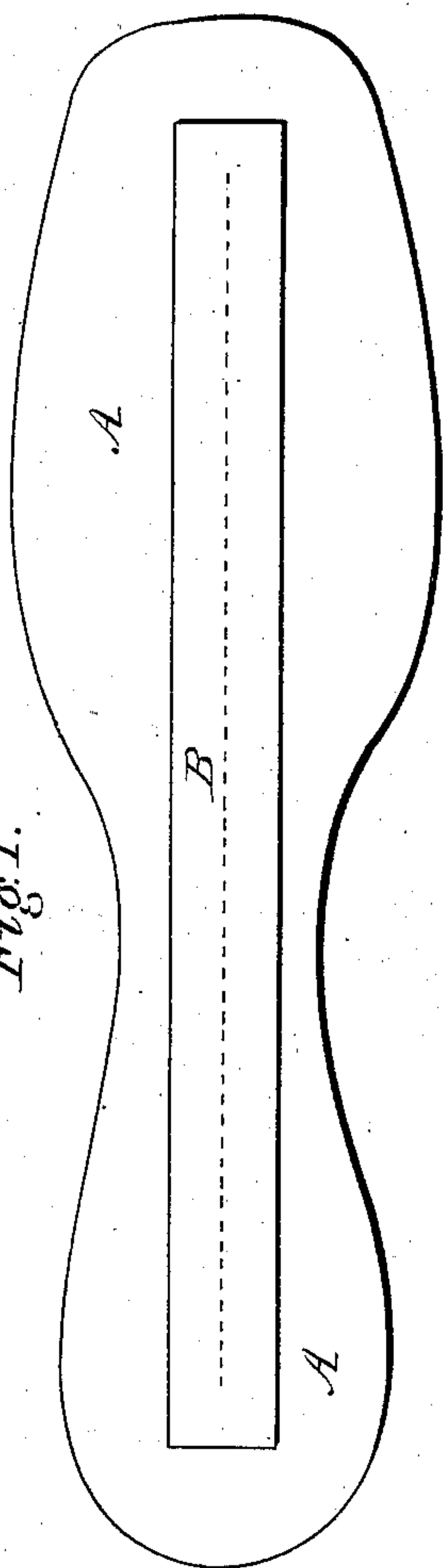
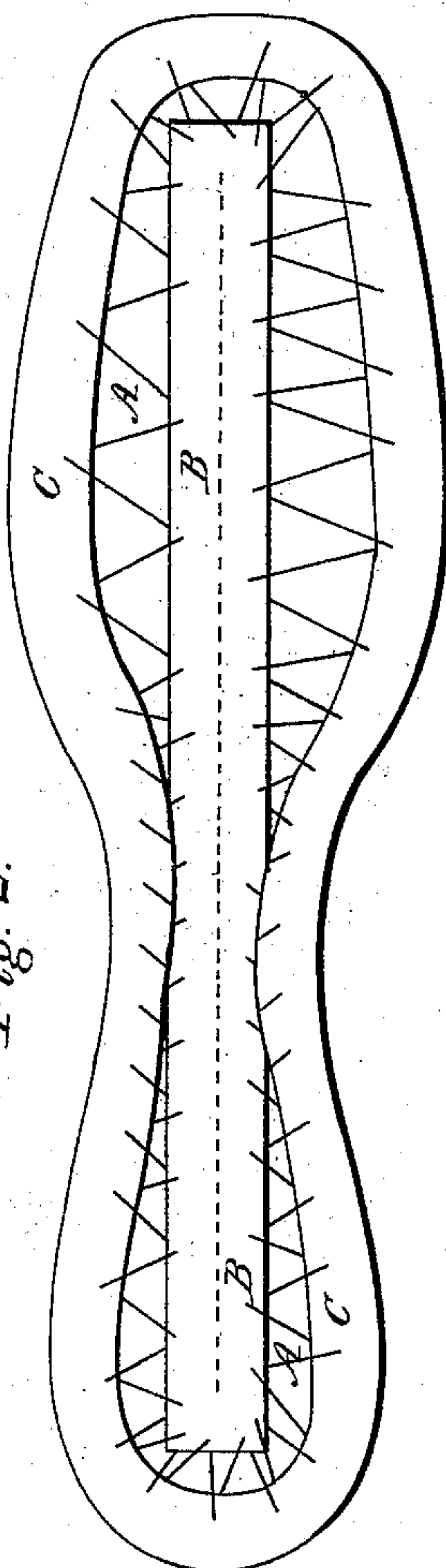


Fig. 2.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GILBERT HAWKES, OF LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS.

IMPROVEMENT IN THE MANUFACTURE OF BOOTS AND SHOES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 55,858, dated June 26, 1866.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GILBERT HAWKES, of Lynn, in the county of Essex and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in the Method of Manufacturing Boots and Shoes, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents a view of the inner sole with the narrow strip attached to it, and Fig. 2 a view of the same attached to the upper of a boot or shoe. Fig. 3 exhibits a different mode of stitching from Fig. 2.

This invention is designed to be applied more particularly to boots and shoes which are sewed by machinery; and the object of the invention is to render the sole of the finished boot or shoe more flexible and pliant than those at present made by machinery, so as to adapt it to the motion of the foot and obtain for it the advantages of a hand-made boot or shoe, and likewise to diminish the expense and labor required in the preparation of the inner sole for the use for which it is designed.

The invention consists of an inner sole made of a textile fabric which may be stiffened by the application of varnish or other analogous substance suitable for the purpose, in connection with a strip of cloth or other material attached in any suitable manner to the central part of the under side of the said inner sole and extending from a point near the rear end or heel to within a short distance from the front end or toe of the sole, the upper being attached to the said strip by stitching.

One of the objections to boots and shoes sewed by machinery consists in the stiffness and want of pliability of the soles, rendering the stitch that connects the inner with the outer sole liable to break, and also causing an uncomfortable feeling to the wearer.

These objections, it is believed, are obviated by my invention and a boot or shoe made to possess the qualities that render the hand-made shoe or boot preferable to those made by machinery.

The inner sole has heretofore been made of leather, or of what is termed "leather-paper;" and I am not aware that a textile material has ever been used for the purpose of an inner sole.

Referring to the drawings, A represents an inner sole formed of a textile fabric, and it may be so closely woven as to answer the purpose without the aid of any extraneous stiffening. It is my purpose, however, to apply to the surface of the said inner sole a coating of varnish or other suitable stiffening substance, for the purpose of increasing its efficiency, and this substance may be water-proof, if desirable.

Extending along the center of the under side of the inner sole, A, is a strip, B, of cloth or any other suitable material, from a point near the rear end or heel of the sole to within a short distance of the front end or toe. This strip may be sewed or attached to the inner sole in any suitable manner.

The inner sole, A, having the central strip, B, attached to it, is tacked or otherwise fastened to the last, as usual; and C represents the upper, which is drawn over the edges of the last and secured to the strip B by stitching all around, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3. The upper may, however, be secured or stitched to the textile inner sole directly, without the intervention of the strip B, if found desirable.

I am aware that a thin textile covering has been applied to the upper surface of the inner sole of a boot or shoe. This I do not claim as any part of my invention; but,

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

1. An inner sole, A, formed of a textile fabric, to be used either with or without a stiffening preparation, as set forth and described.

2. A strip, B, of a textile or any other suitable material, when used as and for the purpose specified.

3. The combination of an inner sole, A, formed of a textile material, with a strip, B, of any suitable material, as and for the purpose specified.

4. The application to the lasting of boots and shoes sewed by machinery of an inner sole of textile material, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

GILBERT HAWKES.

Witnesses:

J. H. ADAMS,
G. A. C. SMITH.