

# United States Patent Office.

## IMPROVEMENT IN TANNING.

IRA WOOD, OF WOODSTOCK, VERMONT.

Letters Patent No. 60,108, dated November 27, 1866.

### SPECIFICATION.

#### TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, IRA WOOD, of Woodstock, county of Windsor, and State of Vermont, have invented a new and useful improved Tanning Mixture; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same.

The present invention relates to a new and improved mixture for tanning glove, calf, or buck skins, and other hides, which mixture is composed of the ingredients and mixed together in and about the proportions as will be now stated: 7 lbs. of alum; 3 lbs. of glauber salt (refined); 4 lbs. of rock salt; 10 galls. of soft water; 5 lbs. of ground sumac; 3 lbs. of oak bark; 1 lb. of ground nutgall; 4 oz. of oil of vitriol.

The alum, glauber salt, and rock salt, in or about the proportions above named, are first reduced to a fine powder by pounding, or grinding, or in any other suitable manner, and then afterwards boiled in the ten gallons, more or less, of soft water, by means of a brass, copper, or other suitable kettle. The sumac, oak bark, and nutgalls are then mixed together and boiled smartly for twenty minutes, more or less, when, straining such mixture while hot in any suitable manner over the alum and salts mixed together as has been herein above stated, the four ounces of the oil of vitriol are then added, stirring constantly until all are fully dissolved. In the liquid mixture produced from the ingredients mixed together in or about the proportions above stated, place the skins to be tanned while such liquid is at a blood heat, or nearly so, stirring them constantly for about one hour, after which "crowd" them down, so that they will be entirely covered by the liquid, where let them remain for about twenty-four hours, more or less. The skins are then ready to be removed, and being allowed to drip, they are set upon both sides, using a glass slicker for the grain side. A heavy coat of lard oil is then applied to both sides, when, hanging the skins on hooks in a warm place, they are allowed to dry, thus completing the tanning. With a tanning mixture composed of the ingredients herein above named, skins can be tanned quicker than by any other mixture used, and in such a manner as to be ready to receive any color desired, be it scarlet, purple, or black, these named being most employed. If the skin is to be colored black, nothing more is needed beyond the tanning except something suitable for settling the color to make it permanent, the tanning mixture embraced in this invention possessing an advantage over all methods of tanning in these particulars more especially, that the color will never fade, even if exposed to the sun, that leather can be tanned by it in the quickest and cheapest manner possible, rendering it impervious to moisture or cold. From the above description it is plain to be seen that by my improved tanning mixture a leather can be produced which possesses features never before given to leather in any of the modes or processes of tanning now in common use.

I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

The tanning mixture composed of the ingredients mixed together in and about the proportions herein stated, and substantially as and for the purpose described.

I also claim the leather as a new article of manufacture, produced substantially as herein described.

The above specification of my invention signed by me this seventh day of September, 1866.

IRA WOOD.

Witnesses:

NORMAN PAUL,  
CHARLES G. FITCH.