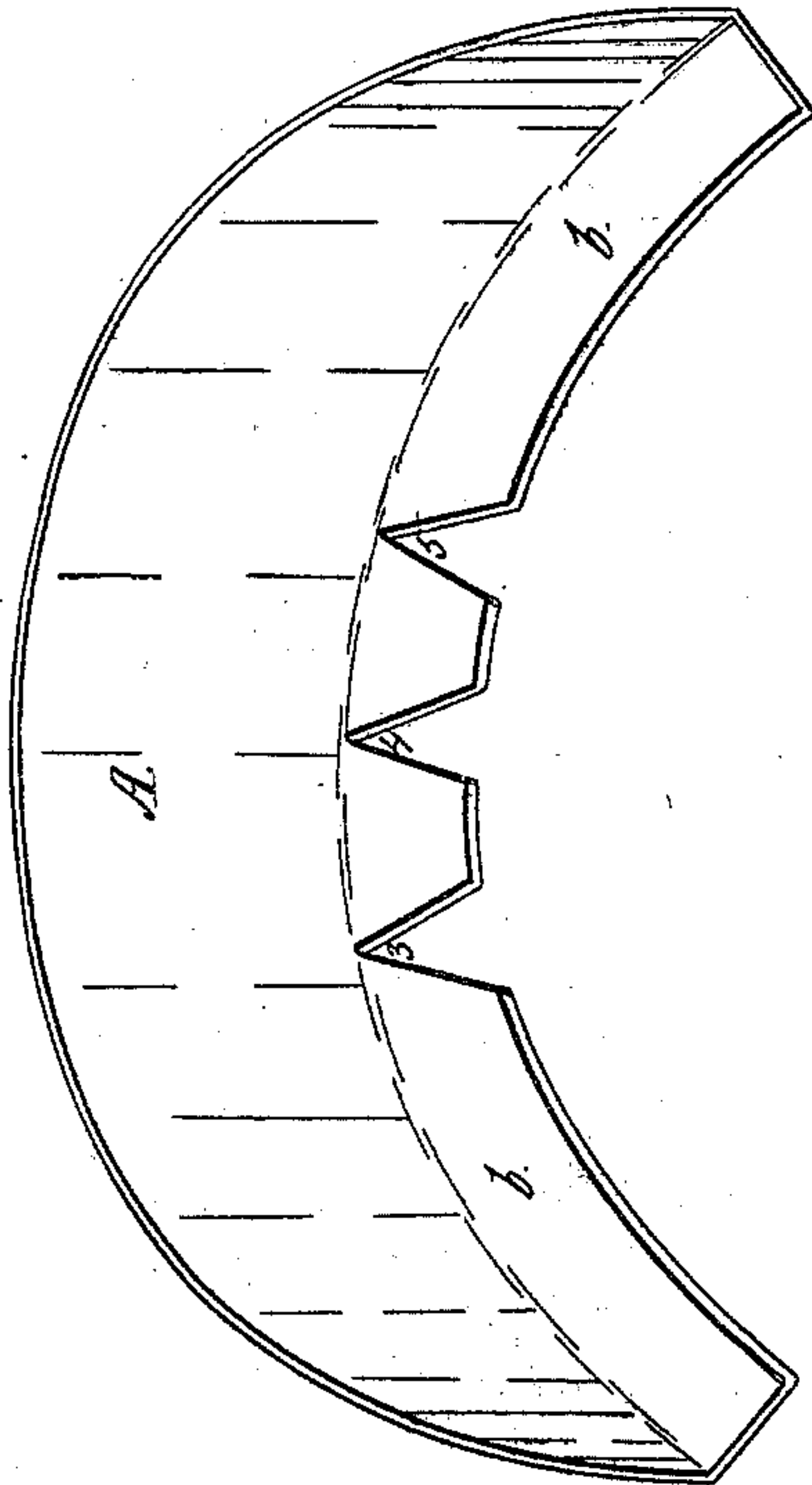
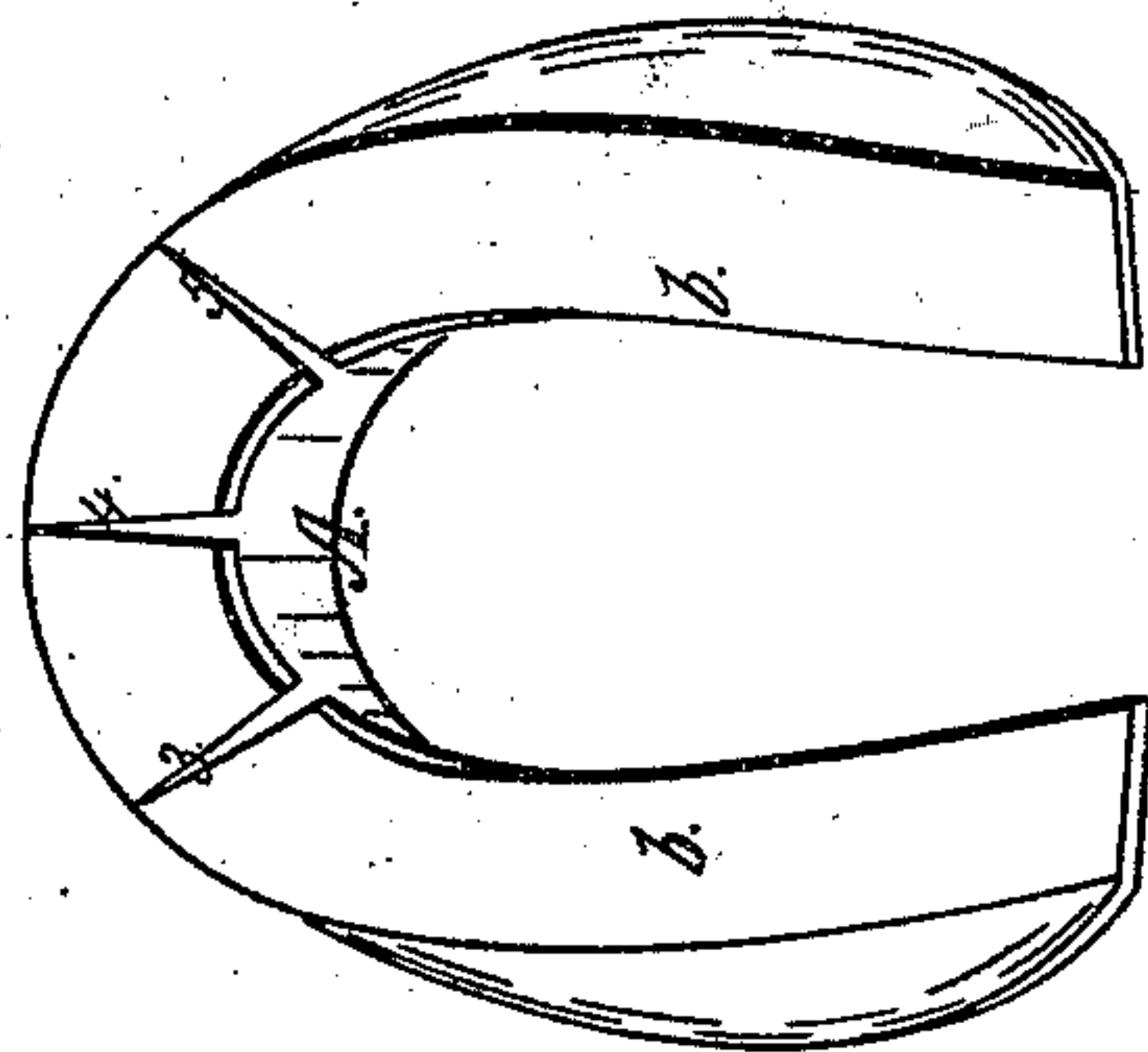


*E. M. Stevens,*  
*Rubber Heel Stiffener,*  
*No. 63,958.                      Patented Apr. 16, 1867.*

*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 1.*



*Witnesses.*

*J. E. Teschemacher*  
*W. W. Stearns*

*Inventor.*

*E. M. Stevens*

# United States Patent Office.

EDGAR M. STEVENS, OF CHELSEA, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF AND JOHN A. MENDUM, OF ROXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNORS TO A. B. ELY, OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

*Letters Patent No. 63,958, dated April 16, 1867.*

## IMPROVEMENT IN RUBBER HEEL-STIFFENERS.

*The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.*

### TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, EDGAR M. STEVENS, of Chelsea, in the county of Suffolk, and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Stiffeners for Heels of Boots and Shoes, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved heel-stiffener.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the same, stretched open and ready to be inserted into its place in the boot or shoe.

In the rubber stiffeners for heels of boots and shoes, for which Letters Patent of the United States were granted to me on the 18th of August, A. D. 1863, the lower portion or rim was made in one continuous piece. A stiffener so constructed, however, could not be spread apart sufficiently to allow of its being easily inserted into its place between the lining and the "upper," thereby consuming considerable time in fitting it properly in the position which it is to occupy. My invention has for its object to overcome this difficulty, and consists in dividing the lower portion or rim of the stiffener so as to allow of its being spread apart and easily inserted into its place in the boot or shoe.

To enable others skilled in the art to understand and use my invention, I will proceed to describe the manner in which I have carried it out.

In the said drawings, A represents a stiffening for the heels of boots and shoes, the lower portion or rim *b* of which is divided or cut in three places, as at 3, 4, 5. This may be done by means of any suitable cutter operated by machinery or by hand, and any desired number of cuts may be made in the portion *b*. By thus dividing the portion *b*, instead of leaving it whole, as heretofore, the stiffener can be spread apart, as seen in fig. 2, and easily inserted into its place between the lining and the "upper" of the boot or shoe while on the last. The inner sole is then tacked on and the boot or shoe completed in the ordinary manner.

Metallic counters have been made with slits around the lower or turned-under rim, but those were, as I apprehend, for the purpose of allowing the metal to be turned over and to come under the sole without lapping or being corrugated and essentially useless. This is not the case with my invention, which applies only to stiffeners of rubber or similar elastic material, for the rubber stiffeners are made in moulds, and need no slits to make them fit over and under the edge of the heel. But in fitting the lining of the shoe it is necessary to insert the fingers sometimes, and in order to reach the parts, and also to spread open the counter without tearing the lower rim, the cuts are made in such rim. The elasticity of the rubber enables this to be done without injuring the form of the counter. In metallic counters this cannot be done, as any spreading out of the metal will at once destroy the form and spoil the thing.

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

A moulded heel-stiffening of rubber or similar elastic material, having a slit or slits cut in the rear portion of the lower and under rim, as and for the purposes set forth.

E. M. STEVENS.

Witnesses:

P. E. TESCHEMACHER,

N. W. STEARNS.