H. ELDRIDGE.

BOOT OR SHOE.

No. 75,398. Patented Mar. 10, 1868.

Fig. 3.

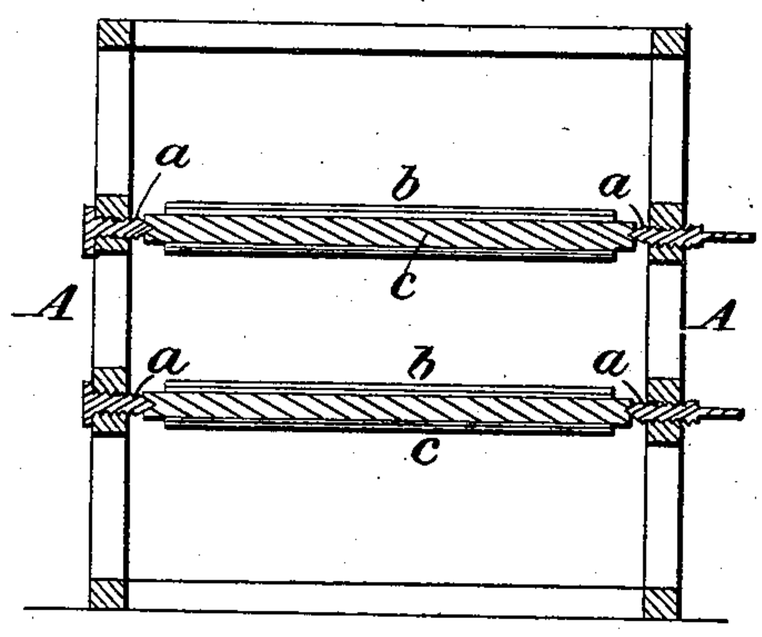


Fig. 2.

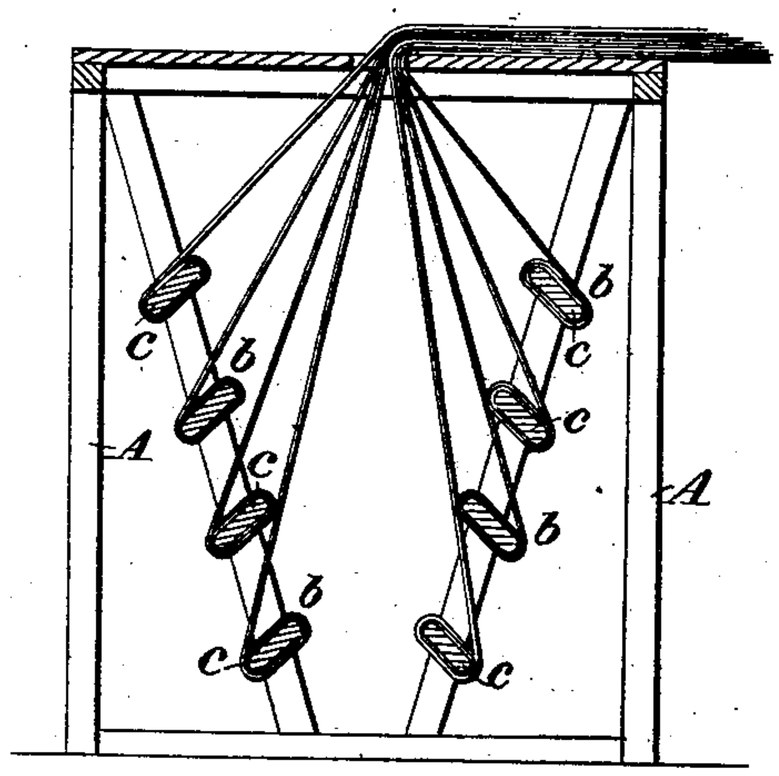
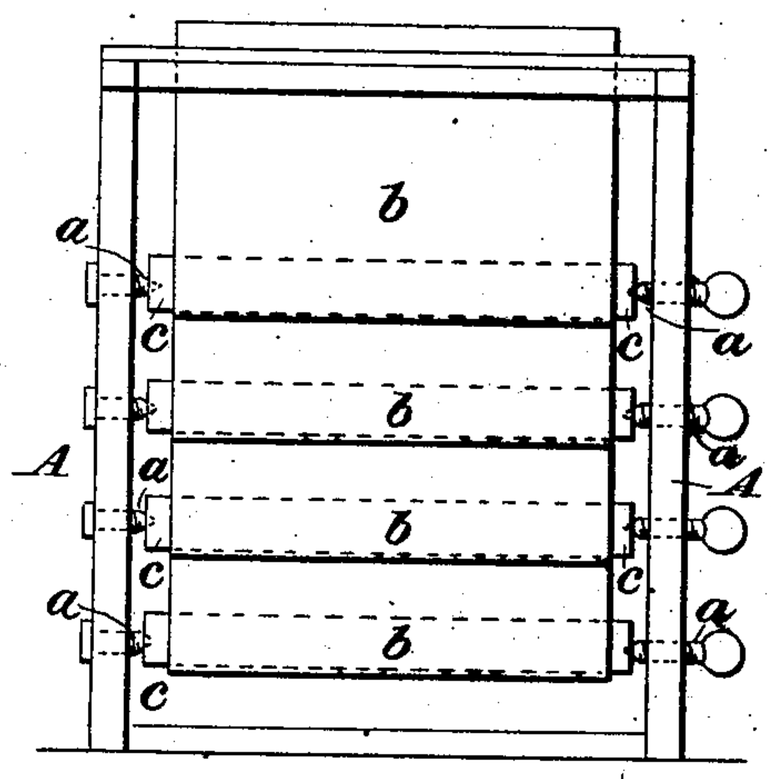


Fig. 1.



Witnesses:

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HENRY ELDRIDGE, OF LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS.

Letters Patent No. 75,398, *dated March* 10, 1868.

IMPROVEMENT IN BOOTS AND SHOES.

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, HENRY ELDRIDGE, of Lynn, in the county of Essex, and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful invention having reference to the Manufacture of Boots and Shoes; and do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof, due reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation,

Figure 2 a vertical section,

Figure 3 a horizontal section of my invention.

In the manufacture of boots and shoes, the "lasting," or material of which the body of the boot is composed, is laid upon a bench in successive layers or thicknesses, to the number of eight, or thereabouts, and the quarters or vamps, as the case may be, cut through the entire number of layers, for the sake of expedition and economy of time.

It has been the custom heretofore, in order to form these successive layers, to unroll a piece of lasting containing some forty yards, and make three or four folds in it. This requires the labor of several men, and a considerable amount of time, and in a large establishment is an item of great expense. In addition to this fact, in cutting the material thus folded, more or less of it is wasted at each fold, making another and serious loss.

The object of this invention is to produce a means of combining a number of successive layers of material directly from the rolls, and without folding such material or manipulating it otherwise than to draw it from the roll.

The invention consists in suspending the rolls of cloth or lasting on the boards about which they are wound, in such manner that they shall be capable of freely revolving, and allow the material to be drawn from them. This condition being observed, and the requisite number of rolls thus suspended being combined together to form the aggregate amount of layers required, the ends of such rolls of material are to be lapped together, and the whole thus joined together, carried to the top of the bench or table upon which they are to be cut.

In the drawings above referred to as constituting part of this specification, A denotes a framework of any proper construction, having inserted within its opposite posts a series of pivots or pointed screws, *a a a*, &c. The boards upon which the rolls *b b b*, &c., of material are wound, are shown at *c c c*, &c., as suspended between the pivots *a a a*, which are extended into their opposite ends at about the centre thereof, thus allowing them to freely rotate on such pivots. The ends of the rolls of material are to be laid or lapped upon one another, as shown in the drawings, and thus joined, are to be carried to and laid upon the bench, as before observed.

As the material is consumed in cutting up, the combined layers are to be drawn along upon the bench, which will unroll each piece of material from its board, and cause them to advance towards the bench properly lapped upon one another.

By the employment of my invention, the labor of unrolling and folding each piece of material is saved. The only waste of material, when using my invention, is a comparatively trifling one at each end of the piece, consequently considerable expense of material is saved.

I claim suspending and combining the rolls of material in the manner described, whereby they may be unwound and lapped one upon another, essentially as herein shown and specified.

HENRY ELDRIDGE.

Witnesses:

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