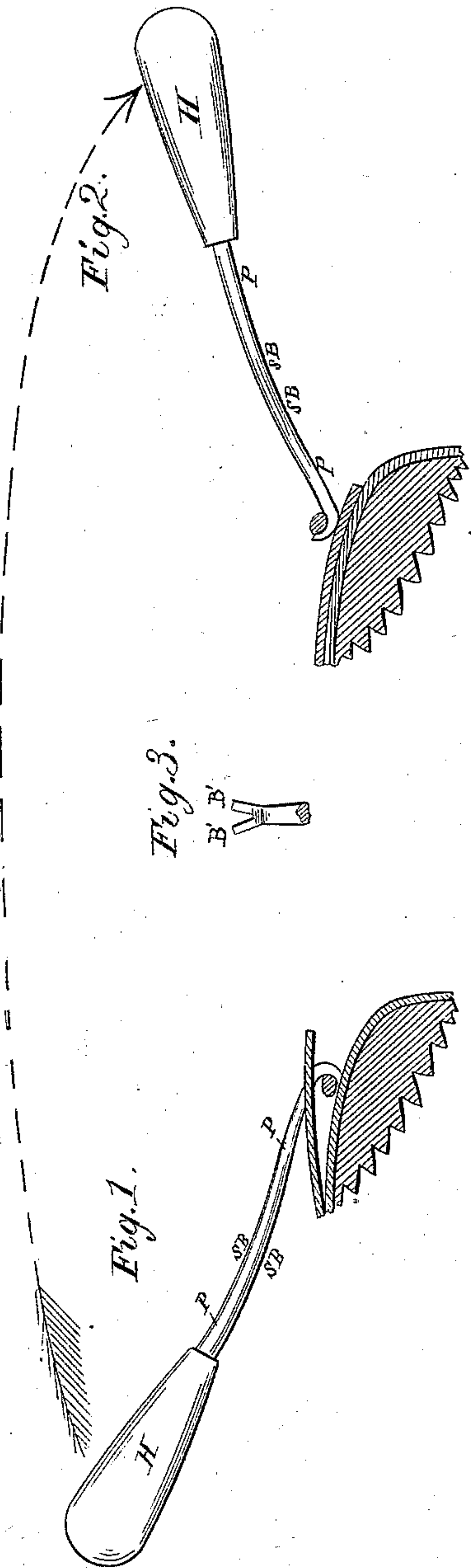


E. L. Tevis,

Shoe Hook.

No. 79,788.

Patented July 7, 1868.



Witnesses { *M. Sample*
J. H. Borden

E. L. Tevis

United States Patent Office.

E. LAWRENCE TEVIS, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

Letters Patent No. 79,788, dated July 7, 1868.

IMPROVEMENT IN SHOE-HOOKS.

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, E. LAWRENCE TEVIS, of the city of Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia, in the State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in "Shoe-Hooks;" and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 shows my hook in the first position.

Figure 2 shows it in the position when it has accomplished its object.

Figure 3 shows the clasp or jaw of my hook.

The nature of my invention consists in the construction of a hook of a peculiar shape, by means of which a button-shoe can be easily buttoned without any strain on the button-hole of the upper or the button itself.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will now proceed to describe its construction and operation.

I take a piece, P, of brass, iron, or steel wire, which I flatten from about one-third of one of its ends toward the other. I give P a slight, soft bend, B, and I split the flat end in two branches, B B', fig. 3. I then bend said branches as shown in K, figs. 1 and 2.

The piece, P, of wire used must be of a sufficient diameter or thickness to have sufficient strength in itself to resist the lever-strain in the action of buttoning, but the width of the flattened end must be smaller than the diameter of the ordinary shoe-button.

The round end R E of piece P being inserted and firmly set into a handle, H, my hook is now ready for use.

When I desire to use, viz, to button my button-shoe, I insert the hook into and through the button-hole, and I take hold of the button with the bifurcated jaw of my hook, so that each branch, B and B', of it be respectively on each side of the button's shank; the hook occupies then the position shown in fig. 1.

I then, with the help of the hand, holding it in the position of fig. 1, act on the hook, bringing its handle in the direction of the arrow, in red ink. The hook thus acted on, is in fact a lever, having its fulcrum on the inside of the outer end of the button-hole. Its bifurcated jaw takes hold of the button from under, and lifts it up, shoving it through the button-hole, and as it (the hook) does not act at all on the shank of the button, there is no strain on said shank, or on the thread by means of which the button is fastened on to the upper of the shoe.

There is no danger of tearing the button-hole, because the strain on it is almost insignificant; and there is no danger, either, that during the operation the jaw would lose hold of the button, because, on the contrary, the more we move the handle toward position 2, the more we set the bifurcated jaw close against the shank and under part of the button.

The description I have just given shows the advantages of my improved hooks on any ordinary shoe-hooks to be obvious. The ordinary shoe-hook, after being inserted through the button-hole, and having hold of the button, must be more semicircularly in a horizontal position, the lever acting with full force on the very shank of the button, and the strain is so great that if the shoe fits tight, and the thread fastening the button to the shoe is not very strong and thick, the button will be torn off nine times in ten.

Again, my hook is no more complicated in its construction, and consequently costs no more than the ordinary hook, from which some differ essentially in form and action.

I do not intend claiming having invented the mode of buttoning shoes with the help of a hook; hooks of the ordinary form having been used a long while; but having described my invention,

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, as a new article of manufacture, is—

A shoe-hook, constructed and operated for the purpose and in the manner above described and set forth.

E. LAWRENCE TEVIS.

Witnesses:

M. SEMPLE,

J. H. BOWDEN.