G. H. Hawkins.

Blocking Hats.

No. 80,733. Patented Aug. 4, 1868.

Fig. 1.

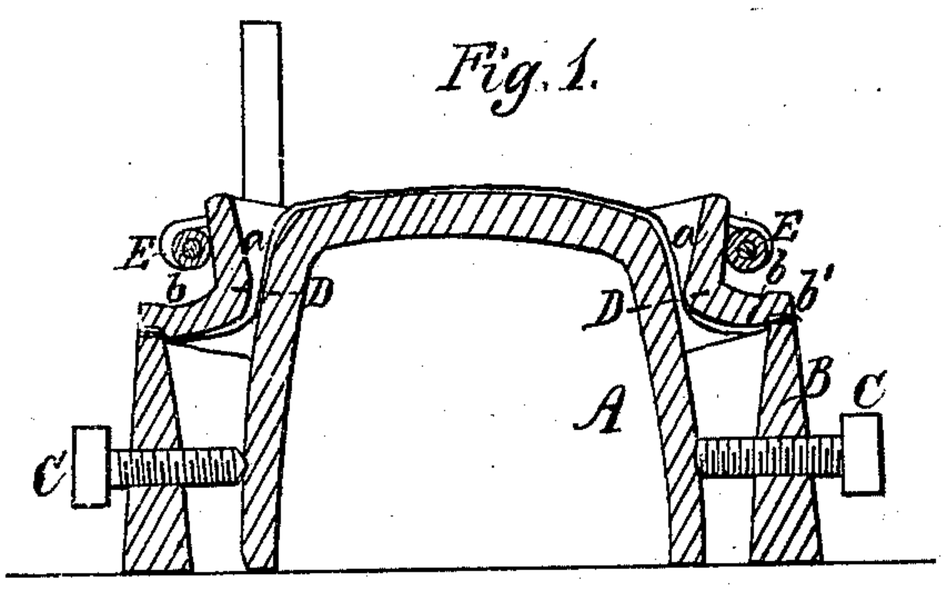
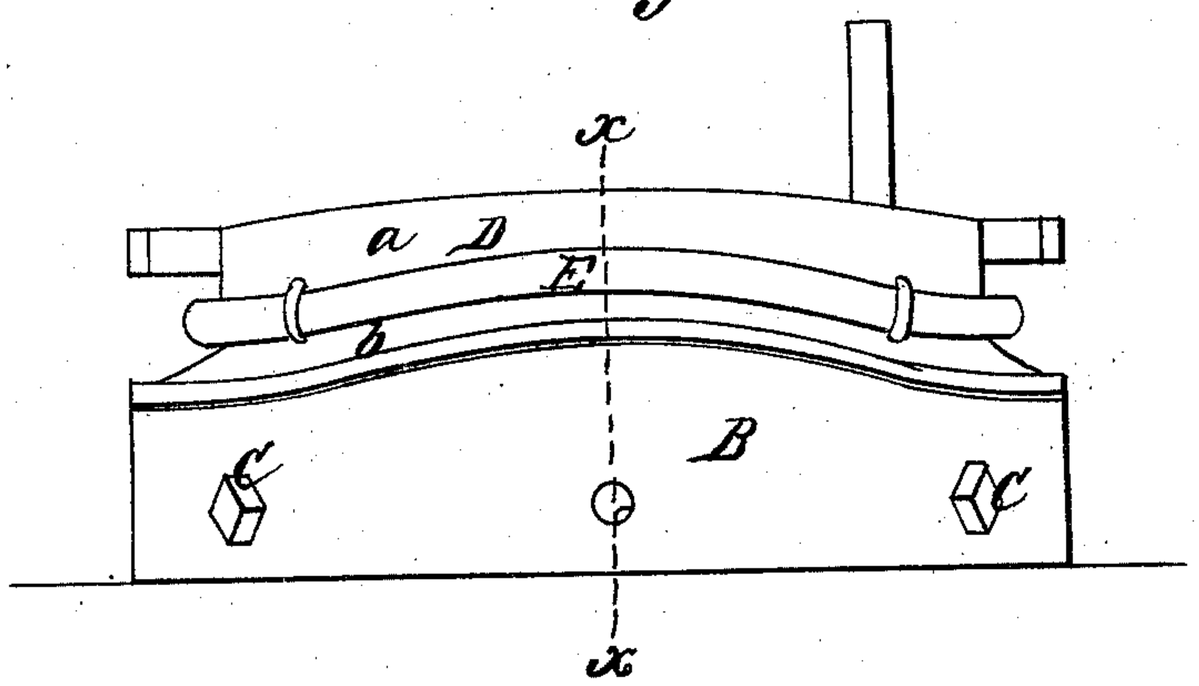


Fig. 2



WITNESSES.

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GEORGE H. HAWKINS, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

Letters Patent No. 80,733, *dated August* 4, 1868.

IMPROVEMENT IN MACHINES FOR BLOCKING AND STRETCHING HATS.

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, GEORGE H. HAWKINS, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Dies for Forming Hats; and do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the annexed drawing.

This invention relates to a new and improved device for forming hats, and gives a means whereby hats may be formed or brought to the desired shape without being subjected to the pressure of dies, which are now used for such purpose, and which very frequently cause the fabric of which the hat is composed to be compressed, and the face-surface of the fabric to show the effect of such compression, a result injurious to the material, such as velvets, &c., and to wrinkle or crease the hat. These defects are fully overcome by my improvements.

It also consists in making the die for forming the crown of the hat adjustable up and down, if desired, so as to obtain the crown of the required depth.

In the accompanying drawing—

Figure 1 is a vertical central section of my invention, taken in the line *x x*, fig. 2.

Figure 2, an external view of the same.

Similar letters may be seen on the drawing, to which reference is had.

A represents a block or shell, which I prefer to make of cast iron, and has its upper external point of a shape corresponding to the top or crown of the hat, as shown in fig. 1.

B represents a rim or base, which I also prefer to make of the same metal, and within which the block A is fitted, concentric with the base, B, the base and block being retained in a proper relative position with each other by means of set-screws C.

D is a rim, which I also prefer to be of cast iron, and is of curved form in its transverse section, as shown clearly in fig. 1. The upper part, *a*, of D, I prefer to make nearly parallel with the upper part of the side of block A, but is not designed to be in contact with it, and the lower part, *b*, of D, I prefer to have inclined slightly downward from its inner part to its outer edge; the outer edge, *b'*, of *b*, resting on the top of the base-rim B, (see fig. 1.)

This rim D is encompassed by a gas-tube, E, perforated so as to admit of the rim being heated by gas-jets. The block A may be heated in a similar or any other convenient manner.

The block A and base B are adjusted, for convenience in use, to a suitable bench or support, and the rim D is secured to a rising and falling frame or block, placed between guides, and arranged so that it may be operated by a treadle.

The material of which the hat is made, (shown in red, fig. 1,) is moistened, so as to be perfectly yielding or pliable, and the rim B being heated, the frabric is placed on the top of the block A, and the rim D is brought down by means of a treadle, until the outer edge of the rim rests upon the top of the base, B. The rim D, in descending, gives the desired form or shape to the fabric, not by pressure, but simply by moulding or bending it.

The hat, when in this form, is retained in place over the block A until dry, which is soon accomplished by the heat of the block A and rim D.

By having the base, B, and block or shell A connected by set-screws C, or other convenient means, instead of being cast in one piece, the block or shell A may be adjusted higher or lower, according to the height of crown required for the hat, as shown in the drawing.

Claim.

The combination of a block or former, to form the crown and body from the inside, and a rim or former, to form the brim from the upper side, with a base-rim, to aid in holding the material while it is being moulded or formed, substantially as described.

GEO. H. HAWKINS.

Witnesses:

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J. C. DUCKWORTH.