

W. T. Downs,
Boot & Shoe Heel.

No. 88,461.

Patented Mar. 30. 1869.

Fig. 1.

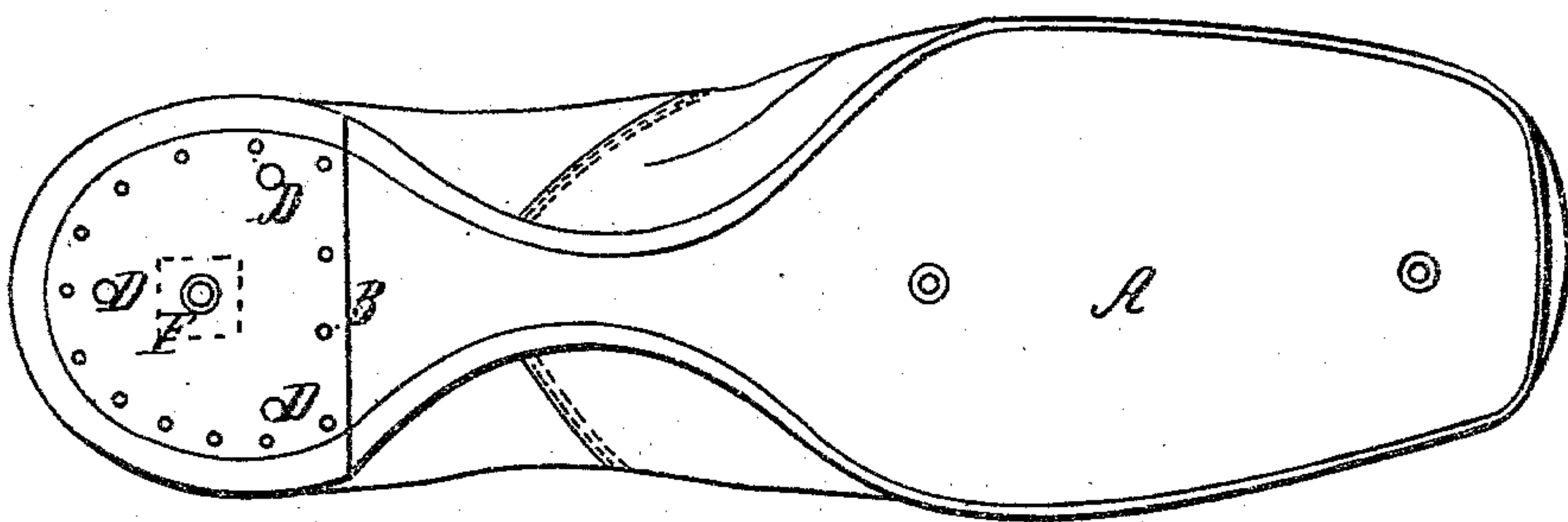


Fig. 3.

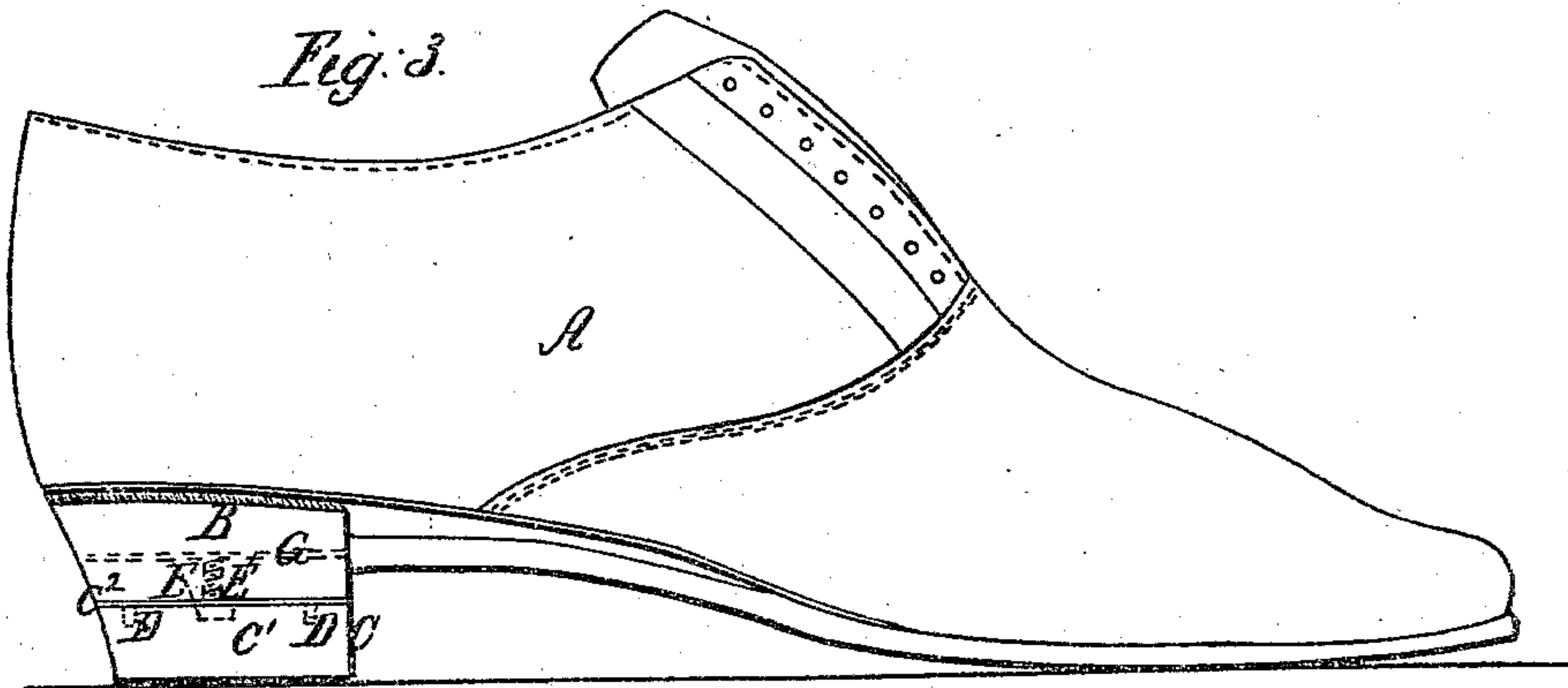
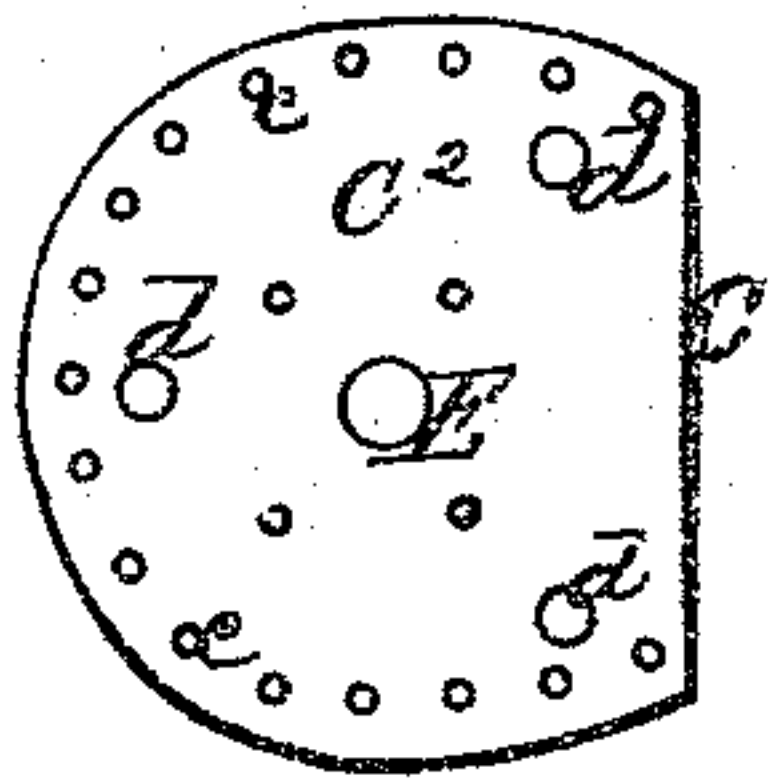


Fig. 2.



Witnesses;
Robert Burns
Wm. H. Hertel

Inventor;
Wm. T. Downs

United States Patent Office.

WILLIAM T. DOWNS, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

Letters Patent No. 88,461, dated March 30, 1869.

IMPROVEMENT IN HEELS.

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, WILLIAM T. DOWNS, of St. Louis, in the county of St. Louis, and State of Missouri, have made certain new and useful Improvements in Boot, Shoe, or Gaiter-Heels; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and clear description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

It is well known that in the wear and tear of boots, shoes, or gaiters, the heel is generally cut down, and its lower, or bearing-surface, or tread, is worn to a slant, or bevel, occasioned by the gait, or manner of walking of the wearer.

It is also apparent that when the heel is once worn to a bevelled tread, the boot, shoe, or gaiter is twisted, and that part of the sole under the heel of the foot, the so-called "counter," is especially strained, whereby the sole is frequently disconnected from the upper leather, and a general destruction of the boot or shoe hastened.

To avoid said consequences, and to construct a more durable boot, shoe, or gaiter, the nature of this invention is in the arrangement of a separate heel-cap, which is to be secured to the heel proper, and which forms the tread, in such wise that said heel-cap, when worn, may either be wholly removed and replaced by a new one, or that the right and left caps of one pair of boots or shoes may be interchanged, thus transferring the heel-caps to opposite heels, and thereby causing greater uniformity of wear.

To enable those herein skilled to make and use my said invention, I will now more fully describe the same, referring, herein, to

- Figure 1 as a bottom, or sole plan; to
- Figure 2 as a plan of the heel-cap; and to
- Figure 3 as a general elevation.

I construct the boot, shoe, or gaiter A, of ordinary forms and materials, adapting the same to the wearer, in the manner usual.

The heel, however, I form of two parts, the one part, B, being permanently secured to the sole and uppers of the boot or shoe, in the usual manner, and the adjustable part, C, which is formed and connected in the manner now to be described.

Said heel-cap C will be formed usually of a body of

sole or other leather, C¹, and metallic plates C², said plates being securely attached to the body C¹ by tacks, nails, or pegs c.

The upper plate will be perforated by holes d, for engagement of proper pins, or studs, D, to be secured in the part B of the heel. Said pins D will thus prevent the heel-cap C from lateral play when properly placed under the heel-piece B.

In order to secure the cap C to the heel-piece B, I arrange the heel-screw E, having a proper lodgment in the body C¹, and being so placed that the head shall abut firmly against the under side of the plate C².

The threads of said screw E engage with the nut F, which is firmly secured in the heel-piece B. In this wise, by the screw E and nut F, a firm connection of said parts is effected, the pins D, at the same time, preventing dislodgment, or loosening under the blows received in ordinary wear.

One or more screws E may be used, and the material thereof may be brass or iron, or similar metal.

It is plain that after the heel-cap C has been worn to a bevelled tread, that then, by removing and transferring the one cap to the other heel, the wearer will thus be enabled to economize, and wear to a greater uniformity, the heel-treads, and thus strain and wear and tear upon other parts of the boot, shoe, or gaiter, will be avoided.

The nut F may be secured in the heel-piece B by a metallic plate, G, which should be properly covered with leather, so as to avoid contact with the plate C², and prevent rattling or jar, besides insuring a better fit.

Having thus fully described my invention,
What I claim, is—

The retaining-plate G, the nut F, screw E, mortises d, and pins D, when arranged with the heel-piece B, the plate C², and cap C, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

In witness of said invention, I have hereunto set my hand, in the presence of—

WM. T. DOWNS.

Witnesses:

WM. W. HERTHEL,
ROBERT BURNS.