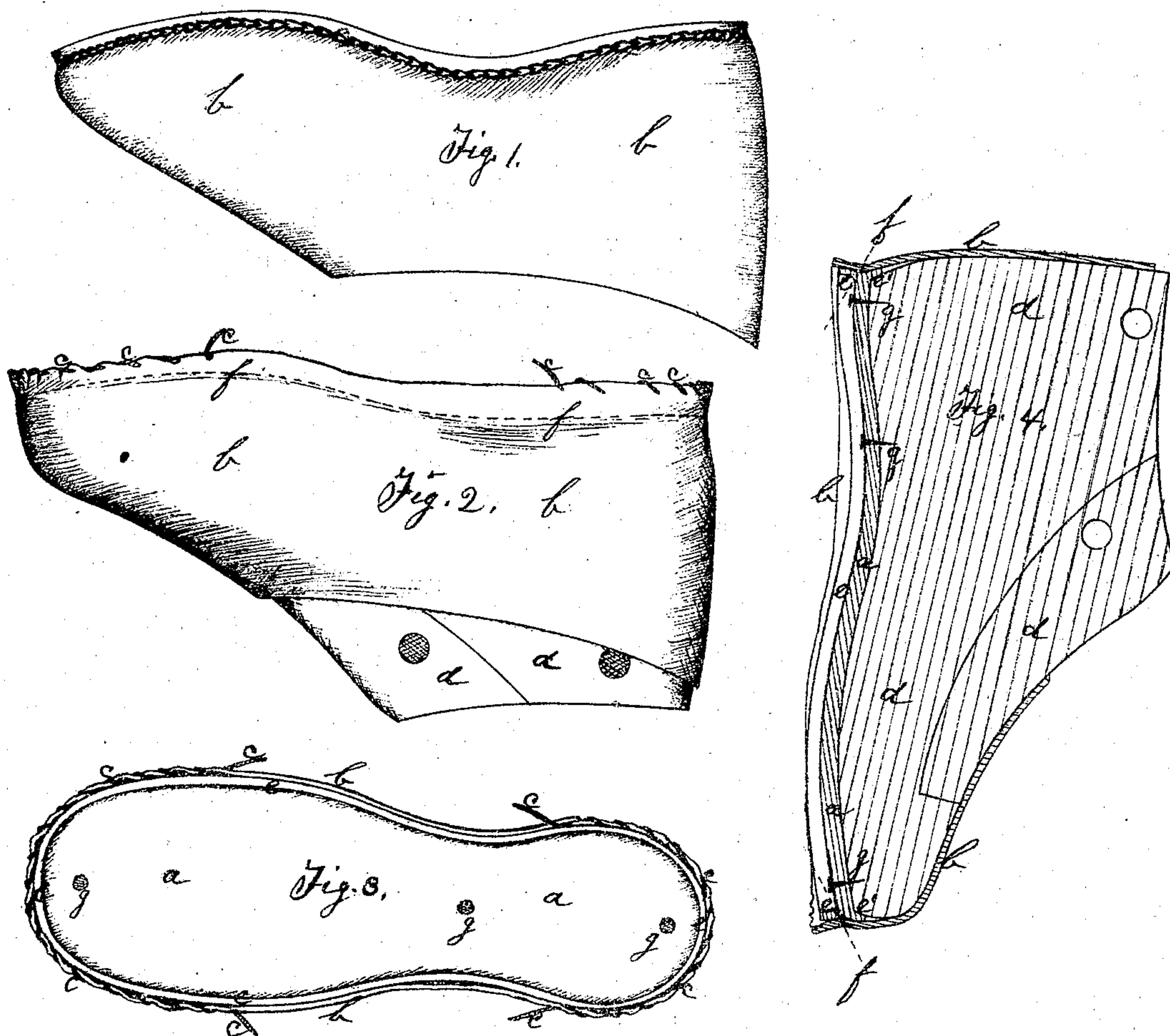


W. WICKERSHAMS IMPROVED PROCESS

FOR LASTING BOOTS AND SHOES.

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PATENTED AUG 22 1871



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IMPROVEMENT IN PROCESSES FOR LASTING BOOTS AND SHOES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 118,319, dated August 22, 1871.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM WICKERSHAM, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Process or Method of Lasting Shoes and Boots; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the annexed drawing and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

My invention relates mainly to a process or method of lasting a kind of boots and shoes already patented by me, in which the sole has a slit made entirely around and in the edge of it, and then these split portions are opened out at right angles, or nearly so, to the plane of the sole, one portion being bent down and the other up in such manner that, when it is properly placed on the bottom of the last and the upper is placed upon the upper part of said last, it may be presented to the split surfaces of the two parts of the sole separated, and, when the sole and upper are so placed on the last, I sew stitches into the edge of the upper leather around the toe and heel, and so draw on the thread at each stitch as to cause the edge of the upper at the place of the stitch to be drawn close up against the split surfaces of the sole, separated as above stated, so that when these stitches are taken in the edge of the upper around the toe and heel of the boot the leather will be so full or gathered at the heel and toe that a seam may readily be sewed through the upper and the one part of the sole split from the other, as described, all the way around the shoe or boot.

Referring to the drawing, Figure 1 is a shoe with the sole sewed on, trimmed, and the last taken out, but before it has been turned. Fig. 2 is a side view of a shoe lasted by my process, showing the thread sewed into the edge of the upper leather and so drawn as to full or gather the upper leather against the edge of the sole around the heel and toe after the said sole has been split and opened, as described. Fig. 3 gives a bottom view of the same. Fig. 4 is a longitudinal and perpendicular section of the same.

a is the sole. *b* is the upper. *c c*, &c., is the thread or stitches by which the upper is drawn up close to the edge of the sole, around the heel and toe. *d* is the last. *e e* are the two flange-

like portions of the edge of the sole after having been split and separated, as previously described. *f f f*, &c., are dotted lines, showing the place where the seam is to be sewed which attaches the upper to the sole. *g g g* are small tacks by which the sole is attached to the last.

In lasting a shoe or boot by my method I usually open or separate the two parts of the split edge of the sole after it has been placed on the last, then apply the upper, then take stitches in the edge of the upper, and so draw on the thread while taking the stitches as to gather the upper *b* around the toe and heel of the shoe close to the split parts *e e'* of the edge of the sole *a*, and when this is done it is ready for the seam in the position *f f f*, as shown in Figs. 2 and 4, and the lasting of the shoe is completed.

This process requires less time than lasting by any machinery which I have yet seen. It only requires a few seconds to run the necessary stitches in the edge of the upper leather around the toe, thereby gathering it up against the edge of the sole, and it is completely ready for the seam. It looks, indeed, like a very simple process, yet in that simplicity and the quickness and completeness of the work consists its great value.

I do not claim as any part of my invention, in lasting a boot or shoe, drawing the edge of the upper over the bottom surface of the last or insole by taking stitches in it, or having the threads of said stitches extend from one side to the other over the bottom surface of said last, as that has already been done.

Having described my invention, I will state my claim as follows:

A process of lasting a boot or shoe, which consists, first, in applying a sole which has been split in the edge and opened to the bottom of the last; second, in gathering or fulling the edge of the upper by means of stitches in the same, thereby drawing it close to the open split edge of the sole preparatory to the attachment of said sole to the upper, as shown and for the purpose set forth.

WILLIAM WICKERSHAM.

Witnesses:

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