F. A. FENTON.

'Hatters' Head-Measures.

No. 144,606. Patented Nov. 18, 1873.

Fig. 1

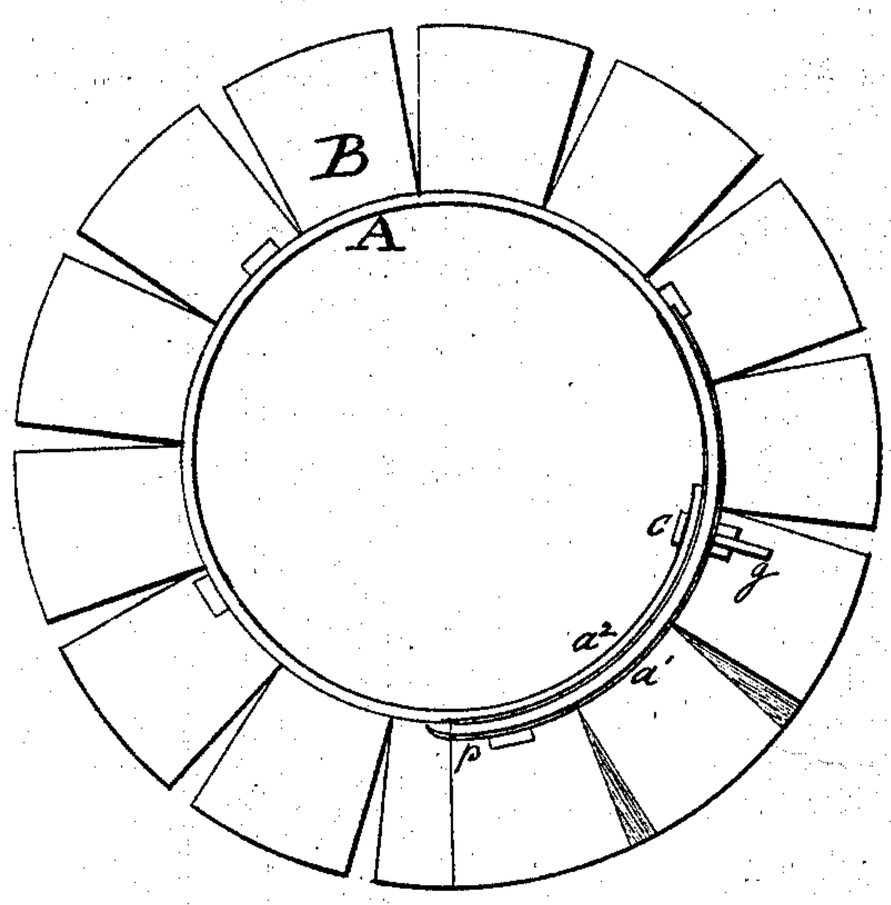


Fig. 2

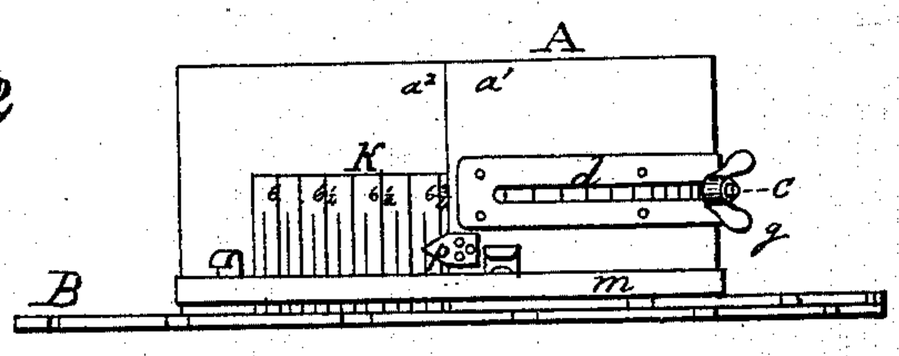
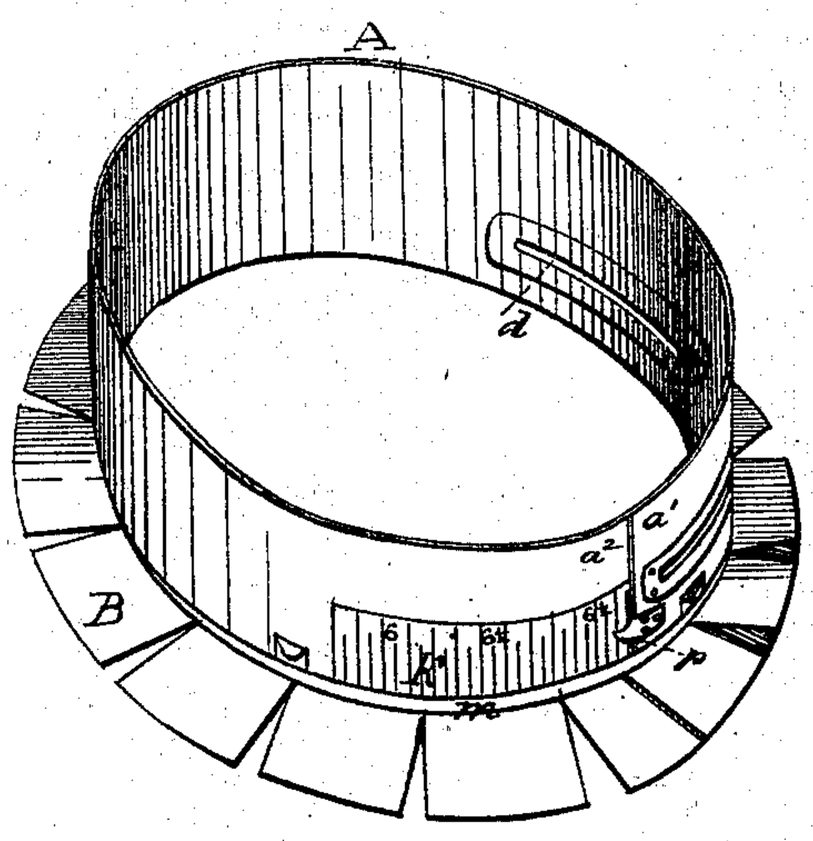


Fig. 3



Witnesses { Charles McFarland & Co
John F. Grant

Frank A. Fenton
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK A. FENTON, OF CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY.

IMPROVEMENT IN HATTERS' HEAD-MEASURES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **144,606**, dated November 18, 1873; application filed December 11, 1872.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK A. FENTON, of Camden, New Jersey, have invented an Improved Hatters' Head-Measure, of which the following is a specification:

Hats are designated by various sizes, as seven, seven and a half, and so on, according to the size of the wearer's head.

My invention is for the purpose of ascertaining the exact size of hat required by a purchaser. There is another somewhat similar contrivance used by hatters, called a conformator, for taking the form or shape of the head. Such is not the object of the present invention.

Figure 1 is a plan of the head-measure. Fig. 2 is an elevation of the same. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the same.

The instrument is shaped somewhat in the form of a hat, with a cylindrical shell or body, A, and a brim, B. This is divided vertically, so that one end, a^1, may overlap the other one, a^2. A portion of the brim overlaps in the same manner. To the end a^2 is secured a screw, C, which passes through a horizontal slot, *d*, in the end a^1. A thumb-screw, *g*, upon the screw C, serves to hold the ends securely in contact. This sliding slot and screw, or a similar sliding guide, permit the enlargement and contraction of the shell within certain limits of size common among hatters, and retain the ends also in contact. On the end a^2 is secured or engraved the scale K, usually employed by hatters to denote the size of the head. A pointer, *p*, touches accurately upon the engraved lines. An elastic band, *m*, is drawn tight around the shell A, so that when the machine is placed in position it shall fit close and conform to the head. The brim B is notched at intervals, so that the shell can more easily be bent to the proper form.

The shell itself, without the brim, may be used for taking the size of the head; but it would not be so useful or convenient as the instrument herein shown, which has the advantage of conveying the impression to the purchaser of its being a real hat, both in weight and form, and consequently he can adjust it with much greater accuracy upon his head; and no one but the wearer can do this precisely in the way he prefers to wear his hat.

The material I use is canvas stiffened with shellac, or thin sheet-brass. When of the latter material, I perforate both the shell and brim to make it lighter.

To ascertain the size of hat required by a purchaser, the set-screw C is loosened, and the purchaser then fits the device upon his head, in the exact position as if it were a hat. The two ends are then held fast between the thumb and finger, or secured by the set-screw, and the size read off on the scale.

I claim—

1. The combination of the yielding shell A, the sliding guide *d*, the set-screw C, the engraved scale K, and the elastic cord *m*, arranged and operating as herein described.

2. The arrangement of the yielding shell A, made of a continuous strip of thin flexible material, in combination with the brim B, rigidly secured to it, but capable of expanding in size with the shell, substantially as herein described.

3. The combination of the yielding shell A with a suitable sliding guide to retain the two ends in contact, the scale A, the elastic cord *m*, and the expanding brim B.

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