

C. O. PARMENTER.  
Manufacture of Hats and Caps from Straw-Braid.

No. 205,130.

Patented June 18, 1878.

Fig. 1.

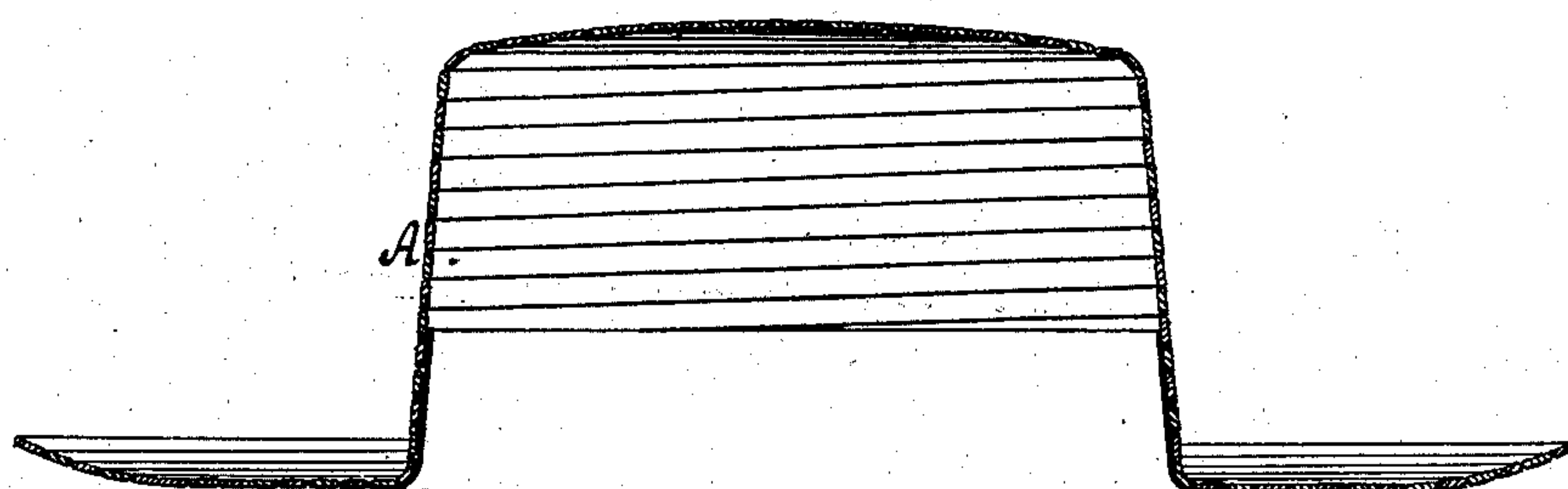


Fig. 3.

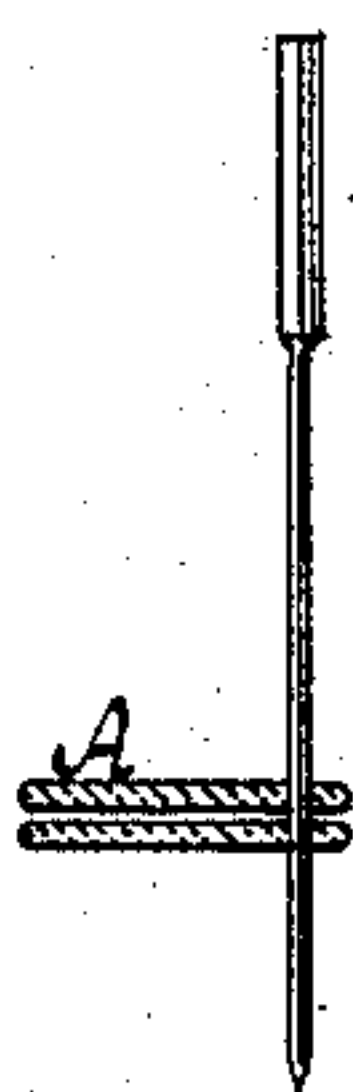


Fig. 4.



Fig. 2.

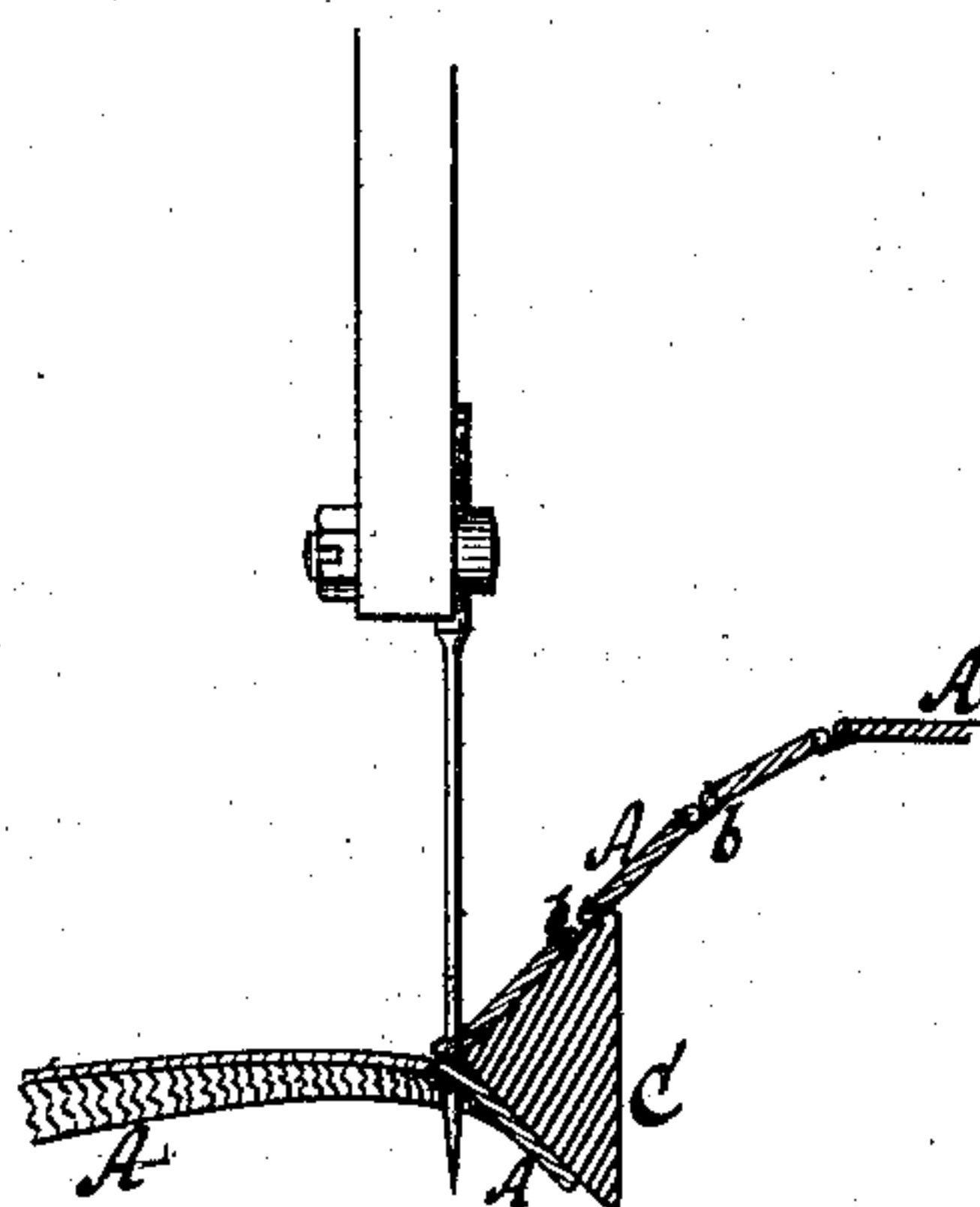
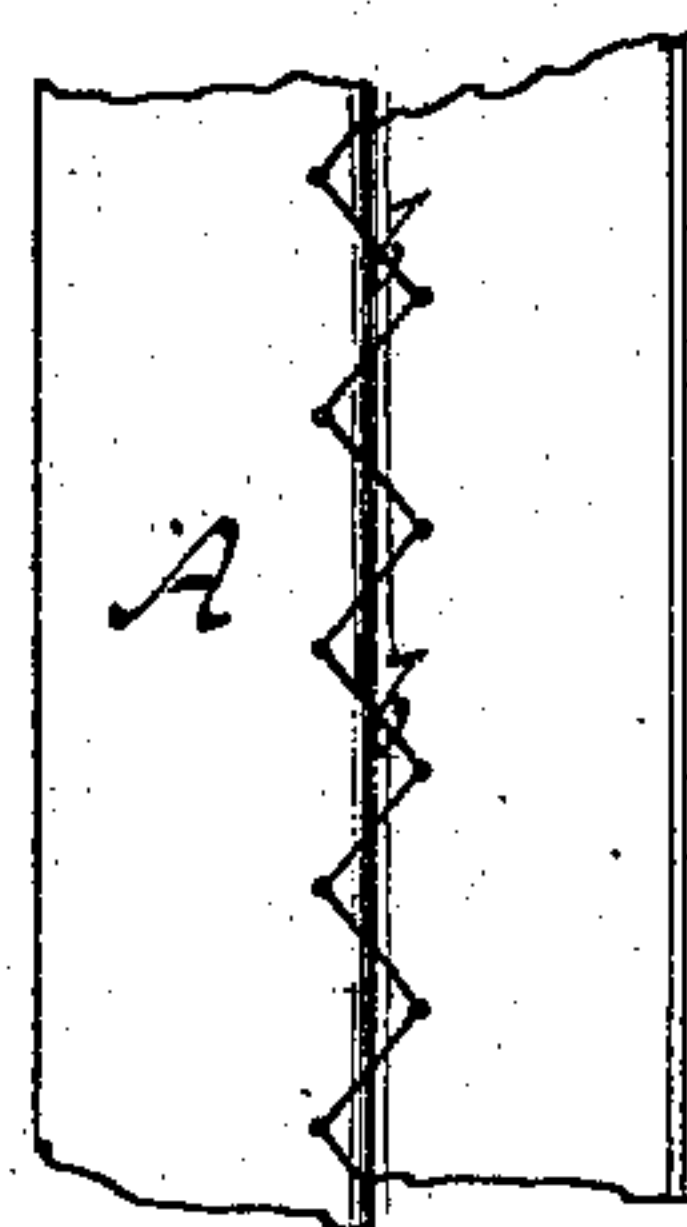


Fig. 5.



Witnesses

Otto Hufeland.  
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Inventor

Charles O. Parmenter  
by  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES O. PARMENTER, OF AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS.

IMPROVEMENT IN THE MANUFACTURE OF HATS AND CAPS FROM STRAW BRAID.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **205,130**, dated June 18, 1878; application filed April 10, 1878.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CHARLES O. PARMENTER, of Amherst, in the county of Hampshire and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Hats, which improvement is fully set forth in the following specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 represents a cross-section of a hat embracing my invention. Figs. 2, 3, 4, and 5 illustrate various methods of uniting the braid composing the hat.

Similar letters indicate corresponding parts.

My invention relates to that class of hats which are composed of a practically-continuous strip of straw braid or like material, its object being to utilize the entire width of the braid without increasing the cost of manufacturing the article, and to join the edges of the braid by a seam in such manner as to hold said edges well together, while neither the thread nor straw will be unduly strained.

In sewing hat-braid heretofore the edges have been either lapped, or else the braid was laid with flat surfaces together and the edges even, as in Fig. 3, and thus stitched, so that, when opened or turned, the layers of braid would stand edge to edge. In the first-mentioned mode a very heavy article is produced, and much stock wasted on account of the lap. In the latter mode, in order to get a firm attachment, the seam must be sewed so far from the edges that, when the braid is turned so as to stand edge to edge, both the thread and straw are greatly strained, the former rendered liable to easily break, and the latter is torn or forced out of its proper position.

In carrying out my invention, I take a strip, A, of straw braid or other similar material usually employed in the manufacture of hats, and bend the same in the ordinary manner to form a hat of the desired shape, while, as the bending operation is proceeded with, I lay one edge of the braid against the other, while the two layers or rows being attached stand at an obtuse angle to each other, as shown in Figs. 2 and 4, instead of lying flat against each other, and in this position they are guided so that the point of the angle formed extends a suitable distance beyond the needle of a sewing-machine to bring the seam in proper posi-

tion, the stitches being formed in a line parallel to and at such a distance from the edges of the braid that, when it has been sewed together and is straightened out, the edges thereof lie adjacent to or against each other, as shown in Fig. 1.

The entire width of the braid is thus utilized in making the hat, and hence less stock is used than when the hat is made in the usual way by overlapping the edges of the braid; and at the same time, owing to the position which the rows of braid have to each other while being sewed, they may be brought directly edge to edge without causing upon either the thread or straw any more strain than will be sufficient to hold the edges snugly together.

In sewing the braid together, as stated, I make use usually of a guide or rest, C, which has a triangular shape in cross-section, and which is placed between the braid so as to bring the two parts thereof at an obtuse angle, as shown in Figs. 2 and 4, which figures respectively show a guide or rest having a different angle to the other. By altering the shape or angle of the guide or rest C, the braid to be sewed can be brought to various angles without altering the position thereof relatively to the needles of the sewing-machine.

The stitches may stand at right angles to the braid, or may have a zigzag arrangement, as shown in Fig. 5, the form of stitch, of course, depending upon the kind of sewing-machine to which the angular guide C is attached or adapted.

What I claim as new is—

1. The method of sewing straw-hat braid by guiding the rows of braid longitudinally at an obtuse angle to each other while being sewed, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. A hat or cap having its brim and crown made up from a continuous strip of straw or other braid, said continuous strip being stitched together edge to edge, substantially as described, and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 6th day of April, 1878.

CHARLES O. PARMENTER. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

JAS. I. COOPER,  
L. D. HILLS.