W. W. NIXON.

Polishing-Irons.

No. 210,551. Patented Dec. 3, 1878.

Fig. 1.

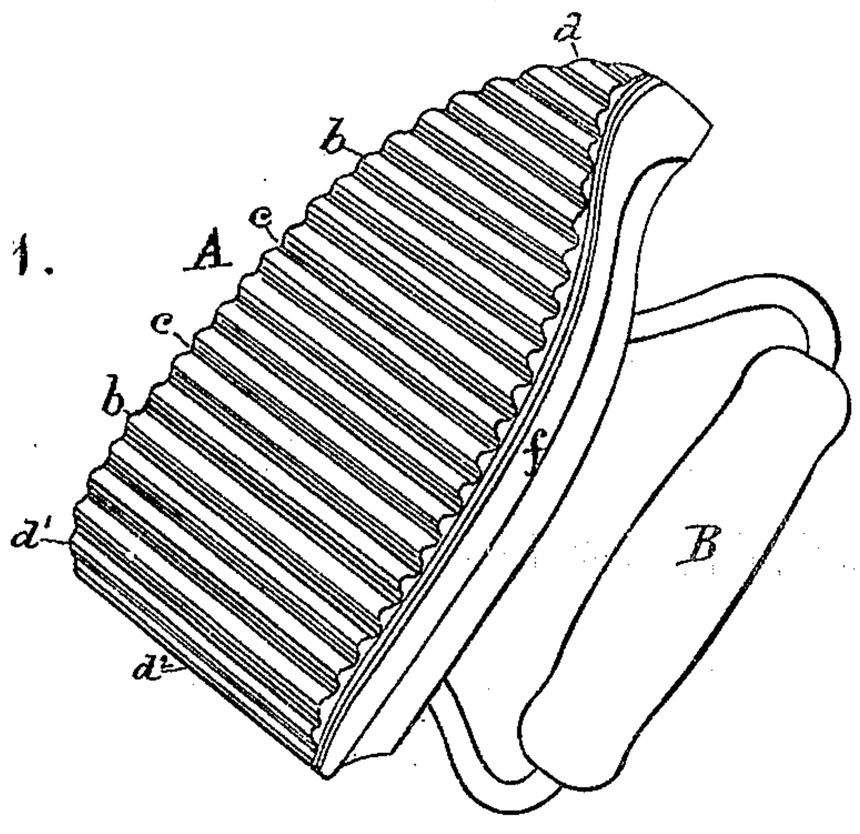


Fig. 2.

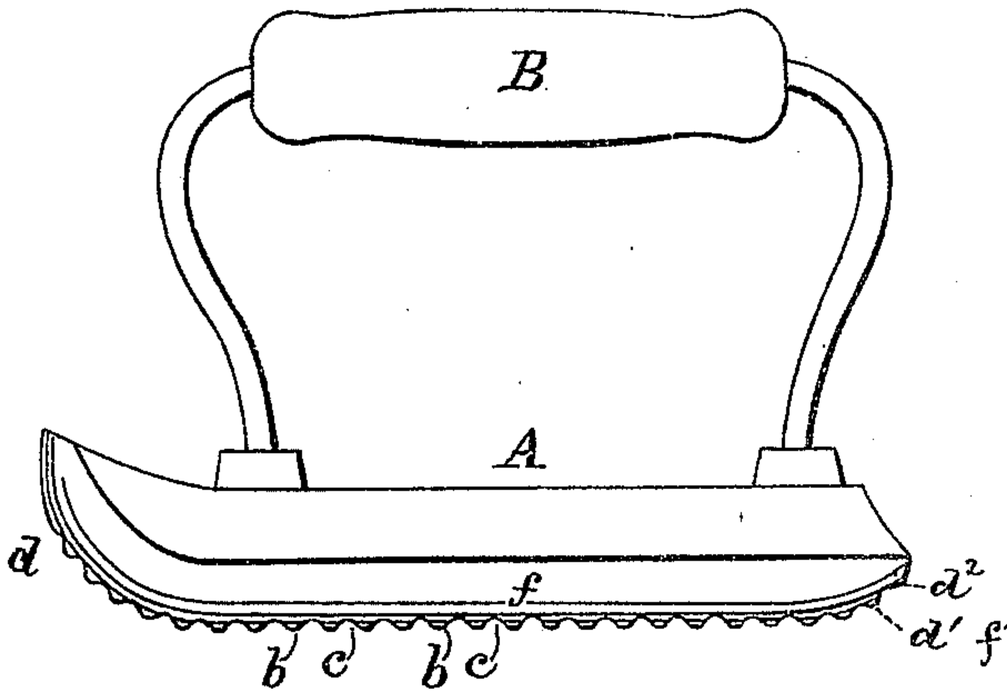
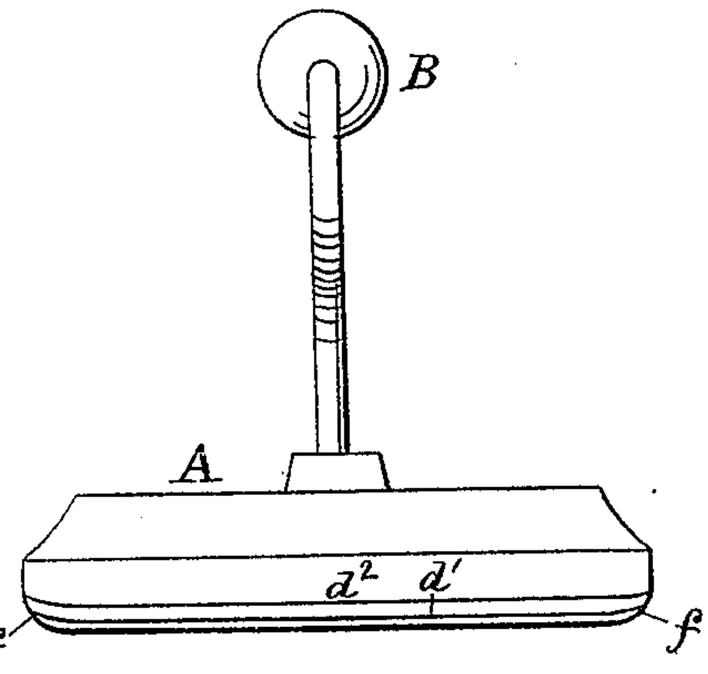


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WALLACE W. NIXON, OF PARKERSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN POLISHING-IRONS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **210,551**, dated December 3, 1878; application filed September 18, 1878.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WALLACE W. NIXON, of Parkersburg, in the county of Wood and State of West Virginia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Combined Glossing and Molding Irons for Laundry Use; and I do hereby declare that the following is full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

Figure 1 is a perspective view. Fig. 2 is a side elevation. Fig. 3 is a back-end view.

My invention relates to a combined smoothing, glossing, and molding iron. Experience teaches that small surfaces are better than large surfaces for glossing starched articles; and hence, in most laundries, the favorite is the "heel-iron," which is an ordinary sad-iron having a rounded heel. To polish with that iron two separate operations are required, one to smooth with the smooth surface of the iron, and the other to polish with the rounded heel; and to produce a thorough polish numerous rapid motions are required, with a hard pressure of the heel upon the starched article, while the point of the iron is held in an elevated position, which process is tiresome and straining to the arm of the operator.

The object of my invention is to provide an iron that will smooth and gloss by the same operation, and with nearly the same ease and in the same time as the one operation of ironing with the ordinary sad-iron; and also to provide an iron constructed to readily mold collars and cuffs into the proper shape for use. I accomplish this by making an iron having its entire face on the same plane, provided with small rounded surfaces, separated from each other by continuous grooves extending across the face of the iron and rounded on the edges, and having a corrugated curved point and a double heel, as hereinafter described, and as shown in the drawings.

A represents the iron, provided with an ordinary handle, B. The face of the iron is corrugated transversely, forming the rounded surfaces *b*, separated from each other by the grooves *c*, extending entirely across the face of the iron. These rounded parts are made with small bearing-surfaces, as shown in the drawings, for the reason above stated—that small surfaces polish more readily and better than large surfaces.

The point of the iron is rounded and corrugated, as shown at *d*, to facilitate the polishing of the small surfaces around the collars and bands of shirts and between the plaits, accessible only to the point of the iron; and the heel is rounded and provided with the two rounded surfaces d^1 d^2, forming a double heel, for molding collars and cuffs.

The ends of the corrugations forming the longitudinal edges of the face of the iron are rounded, as shown at *f*, to prevent catching, wearing, or cutting the goods, which the ends of these corrugations would be liable to do if left square and the corners sharp.

In using this iron, the entire corrugated face rests on the starched fabric, avoiding the strain upon the arm produced in holding the point or heel of the iron in an elevated position, as required in using the other irons herein referred to; and each one of the numerous surfaces of this iron produces at each motion of the iron an effect equal to the effect of one motion of the entire one-surface iron; and hence it is readily seen that this iron will polish about as much by a single motion as a one-surface iron will polish by as many motions as there are separate polishing-surfaces upon this iron, the smoothing and polishing being performed at the same time and by the same part of the iron.

In using the double heel the collar or cuff to be molded is arranged with one end toward the operator, and the point of the iron in the same direction. The rounded surface d^1 of the heel is pressed with one hand upon the farther end of the collar, for example; and as the iron is drawn toward the operator the farther end of the collar is drawn by the other hand in the same direction over the rounded surface d^2 of the heel, which process, with the aid of the heat of the iron, curls the collar into the required shape. Cuffs are molded in the same way; and it is found that the separate rounded

surfaces d^1 d^2, or double heel, operate better in this molding process than one continuous curve or single heel.

I am aware of a polishing-iron having indentations in a continuous flat surface, and of an iron having a flat smoothing-surface on one plane and two large polishing-surfaces on another plane. My iron differs from the former in having separate polishing-surfaces extending entirely across the face of the iron, the separating-grooves being continuous and open at the ends, forming an iron easily polished and cleaned; and this is important, because, in ironing and polishing, portions of the starch are liable to adhere to the iron, which are difficult to be removed from the indented iron; and my iron differs from the other iron in having the entire face corrugated and on the same plane, so that the smoothing and polishing processes are both accomplished by the same operation; and my iron differs from both in having a corrugated curved point for polishing the small surfaces accessible only to the point of the iron, and having the double heel for molding collars and cuffs.

What I claim as new is—

The combined smoothing and glossing iron, having its entire face on the same plane, provided with the small rounded surfaces *b*, separated from each other by continuous grooves *c*, extending across the face of the iron, and rounded, as shown at *f*, and having the corrugated curved point *d* and the double heel d^1 d^2, substantially as and for the purposes described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own invention I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

WALLACE W. NIXON.

Witnesses:
G. B. TOWLES,
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