

(No Model.)

G. WATKINSON.

TAP SOLE FOR RUBBER BOOTS AND SHOES.

No. 282,423.

Patented July 31, 1883.

fig. 1.

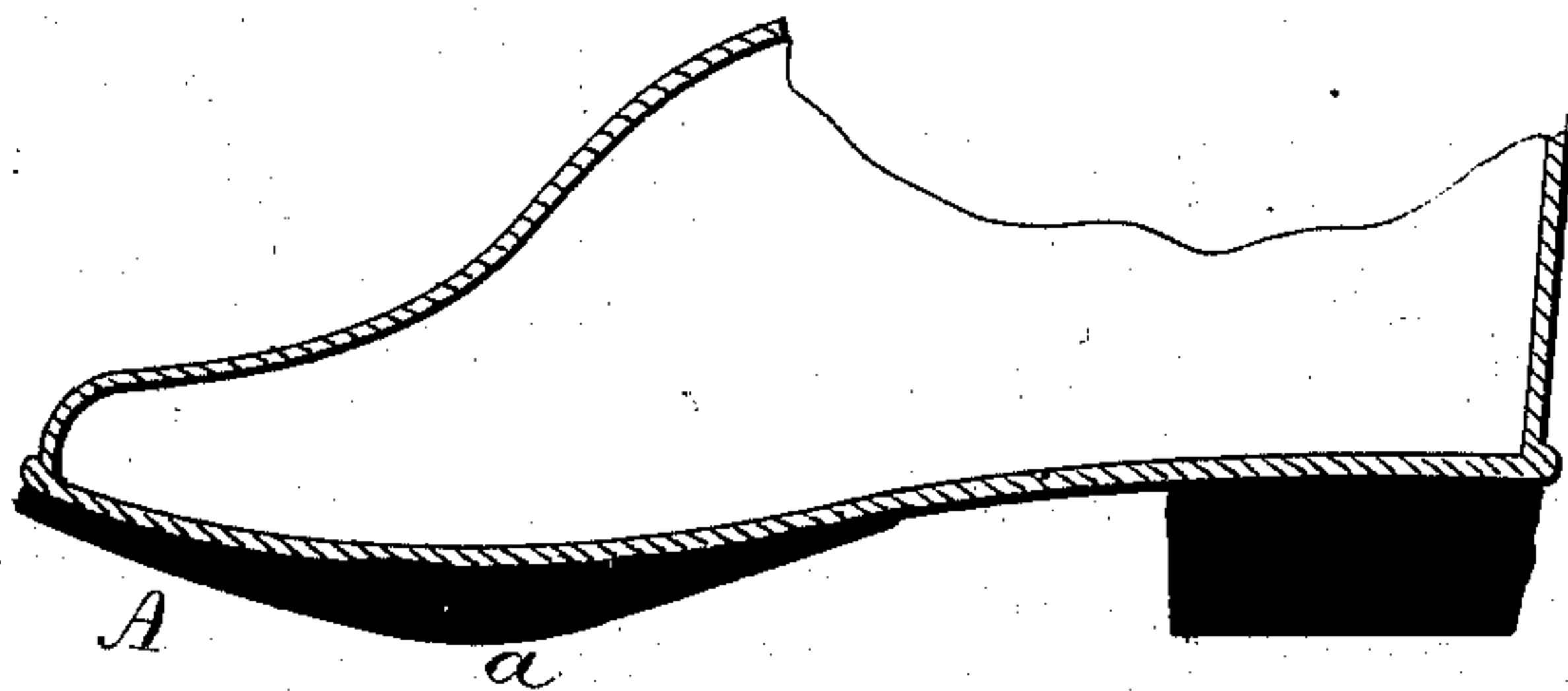
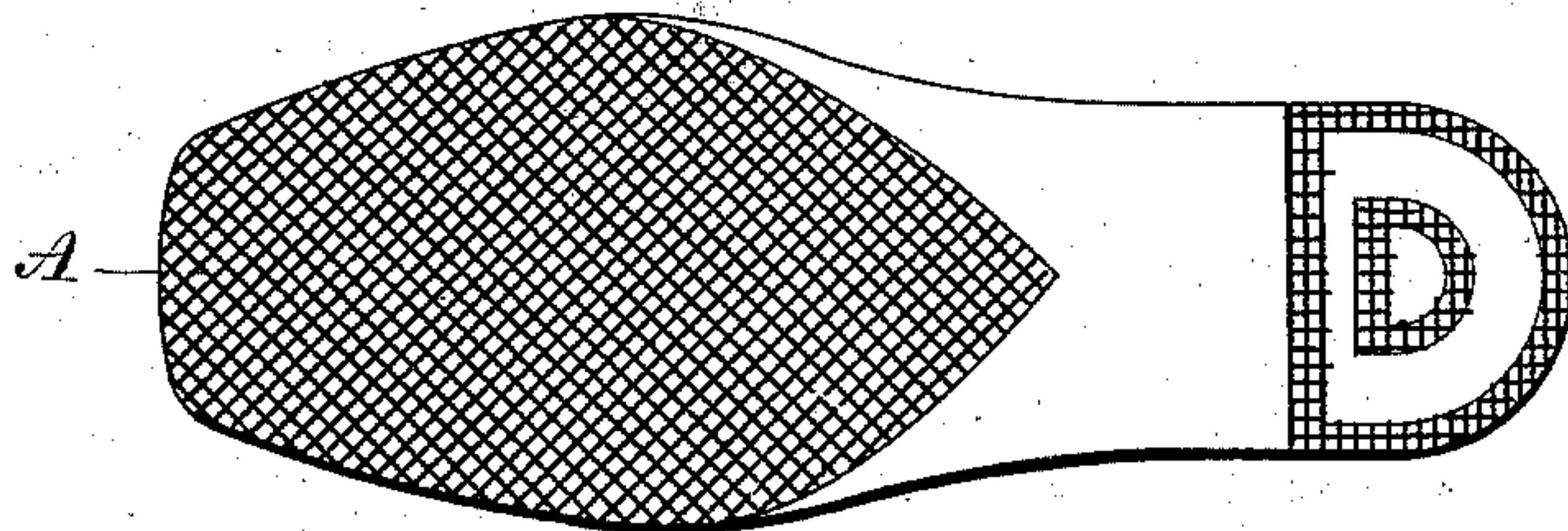


fig. 2.



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TAP-SOLE FOR RUBBER BOOTS AND SHOES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 282,423, dated July 31, 1883.

Application filed May 31, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE WATKINSON, of New Haven, in the county of New Haven and State of Connecticut, have invented a new
5 Improvement in Tap-Soles for India-Rubber Boots and Shoes; and I do hereby declare the following, when taken in connection with accompanying drawings and the letters of reference marked thereon, to be a full, clear, and
10 exact description of the same, and which said drawings constitute part of this specification, and represent, in—

Figure 1, a vertical central section; Fig. 2, an under side view of the sole.

15 This invention relates to an improvement in tap-soles for india-rubber boots and shoes.

In the usual construction of such tap-soles they are rolled in even thickness throughout, and sufficiently thick to give the usual or
20 ordinary wear to the boot or shoe. In nearly every case the principal wear comes across the ball of the foot, gradually diminishing in both directions from that point, so that there is, in fact, a surplus of material in the tap-sole toward the toe and shank; or, if not a surplus,
25 then the sole across the ball of the foot is not of a thickness to afford the proper amount of wear for the boot or shoe.

The object of my invention is to construct
30 the tap-sole so that it may be of a thickness at the ball of the foot to stand the usual wear to which such boots and shoes are adapted, and without the surplus material at other points; and the invention consists in constructing the
35 tap-sole thicker across the ball and gradually reducing it toward the toe and shank, as more fully hereinafter described.

In the manufacture of the boot or shoe the usual process is followed, except as to the tap-
40 sole A. This tap-sole is of the usual outline, preferably extending from the ball rearward,

and terminating in a point on the shank, as shown; but instead of making the sole of an equal thickness throughout, as in the usual construction, I make it the extreme practical
45 thickness at the ball *a* and gradually reduce it in thickness toward the toe and shank, as shown. By thus reducing the thickness toward the toe and shank I am enabled to increase the thickness at the ball without adding
50 to the weight of the boot or shoe or to the cost of manufacture, and because of this increased thickness of sole at the ball the sole will wear proportionately longer, because the wear of the boot necessarily comes on this thickened
55 portion.

By the term "tap-sole" is understood that part of the sole which gives the appearance to the boot or shoe of an overlying thickness upon the bottom. In some cases, however,
60 the tap-sole is molded with the bottom, and is therefore not an independent thickness. In such case the mold is made to give to the sole the increased thickness at the ball and gradually reducing toward the toe and shank. By
65 the term "tap-sole," therefore, I wish to be understood as what is commonly known in the trade as "tap-sole boots and shoes"—that is to say, boots or shoes in which the bottom shows an apparently overlying thickness ex-
70 tending from the shank forward to the toe.

I claim—

The herein-described improvement in tap-soles for india-rubber boots and shoes, consisting in the tap-sole diminishing in thickness
75 from the ball of the foot toward the toe and shank, substantially as described.

GEORGE WATKINSON.

Witnesses:

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