

(No Model.)

A. W. ROGERS.

SHOE FORM.

No. 292,682.

Patented Jan. 29, 1884.

Fig. 1.

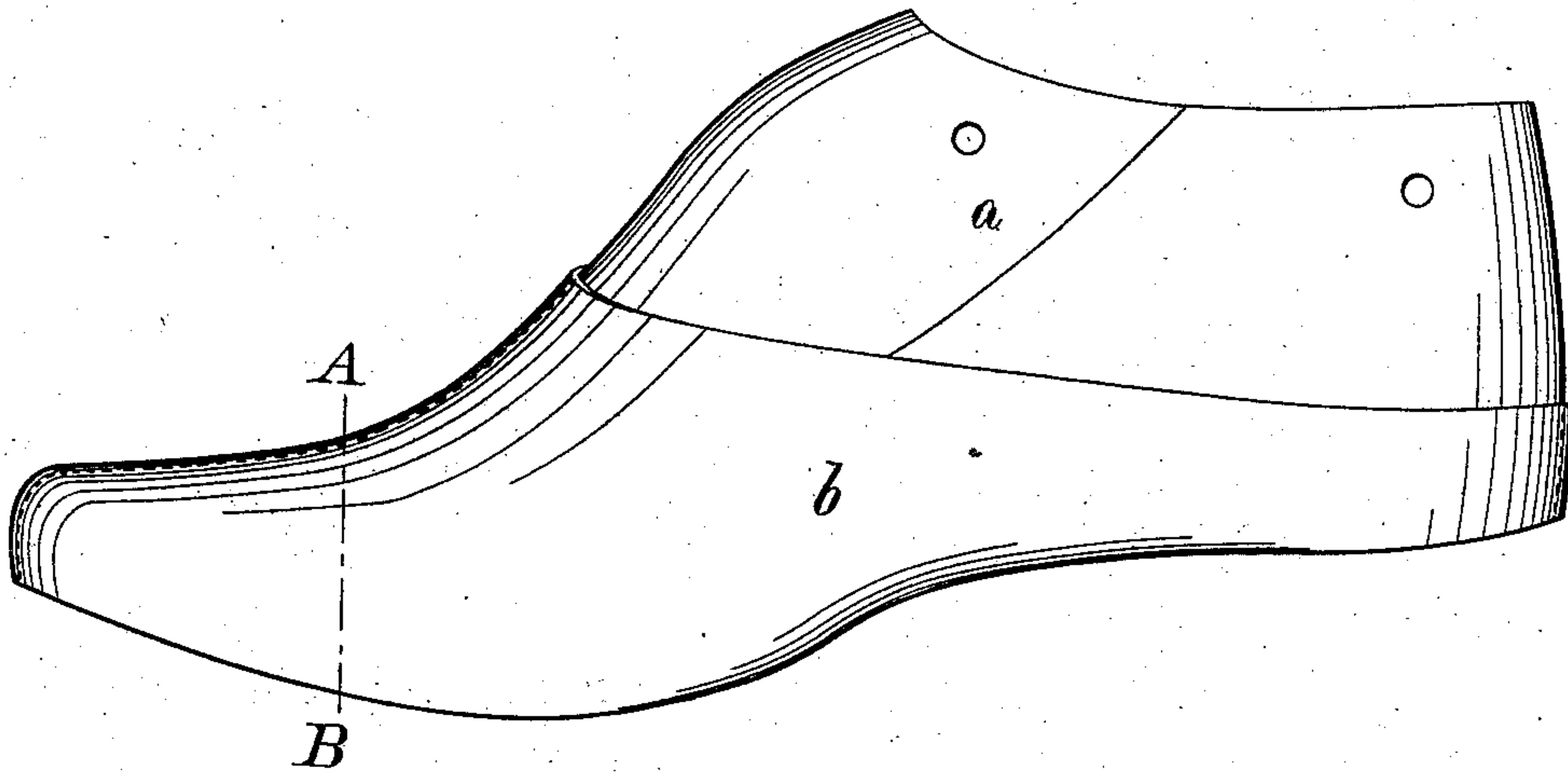


Fig. 2.

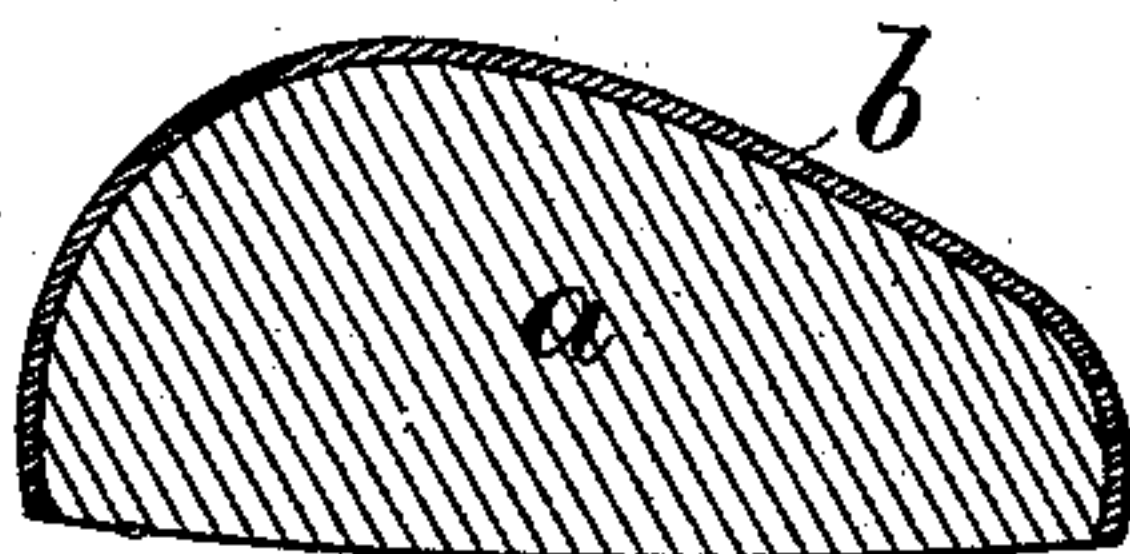
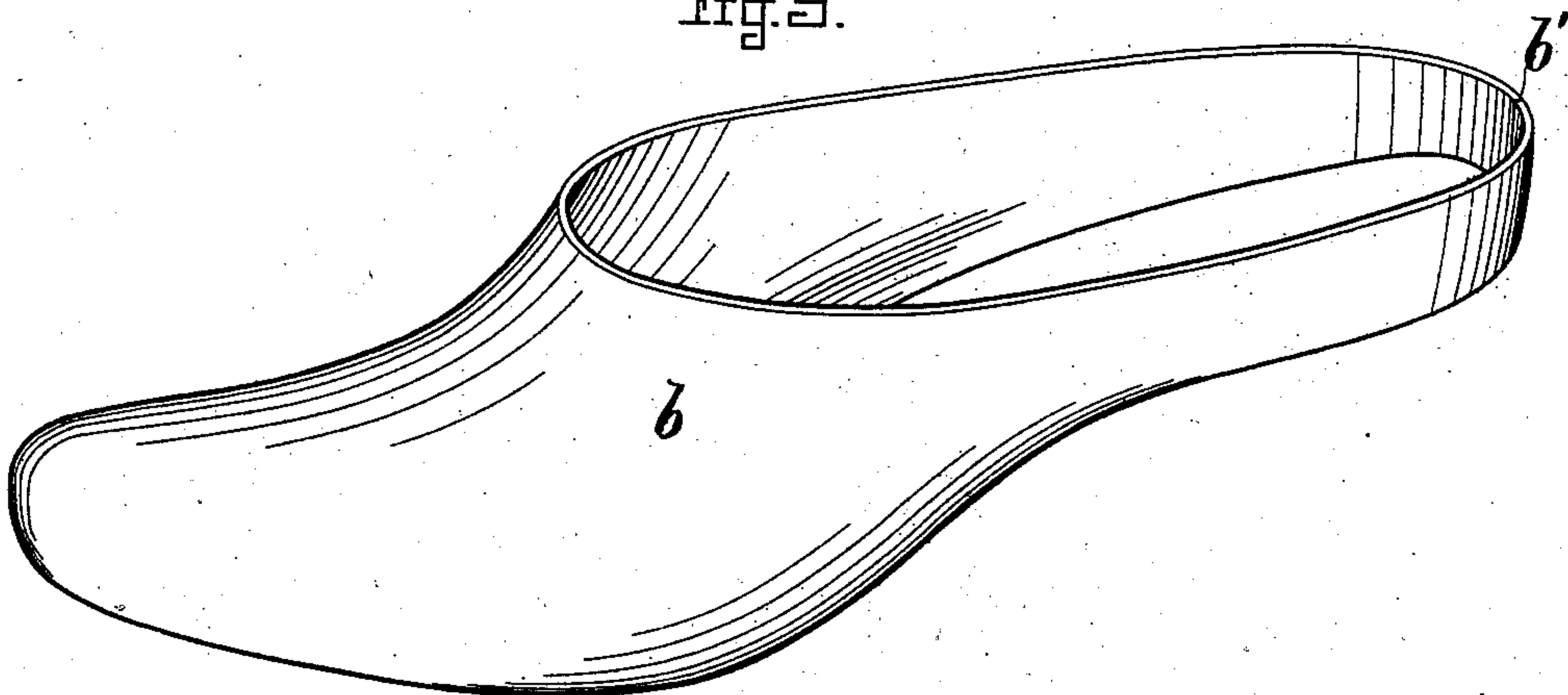


Fig. 3.



Witnesses

Henry Chadbourne.  
J. Allen.

Inventor

Andrew W. Rogers.  
by Alban Andrieu.  
his atty.

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ANDREW W. ROGERS, OF SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS.

## SHOE-FORM.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 292,682, dated January 29, 1884.

Application filed May 28, 1883. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ANDREW W. ROGERS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Salem, in the county of Essex and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Shoe-Forms; and I do hereby declare that the same are fully described in the following specification and illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to improvements in the construction of boot and shoe formers, for which Letters Patent No. 254,150 were issued to W. O. Nichols on the 28th day of February, 1882, and of which Letters Patent I am now the owner. The former shown in the patent alluded to will support the instep of a boot or shoe; but it is open to the objection that when the last is withdrawn from the boot or shoe there is no provision to prevent the former from following the movement of the last and being withdrawn with the latter.

The object of my invention is to avoid this objection, which I accomplish by a former having the following characteristics, namely: a hollow body portion arched and shaped to the contour of the front top portion and instep of a last, terminating in side pieces extending rearwardly and curved at their extremities to pass around the heel end of the last, so that when the last is withdrawn from the boot or shoe the curved extremities of the side pieces abut or bear against the inner side of the heel portion of the boot or shoe and act as stops to prevent any rearward movement of the former in withdrawing the last.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which Figure 1 represents a side elevation of my improved boot or shoe former shown as placed on the outside of an ordinary last. Fig. 2 represents a cross-section on the line A B, shown in Fig. 1; and Fig. 3 represents a perspective view of the improved former.

Similar letters refer to similar parts wherever they occur on the different parts of the drawings.

*a* represents an ordinary wooden or metal last, and *b* represents my improved hollow or skeleton shoe-former, which, when in use on the last, surrounds the latter, except at the

bottom, as the improved former *b* is made bottomless, as shown in Fig. 3.

The improved skeleton former may be made of any required height as may be desired from the lower edge upward, and it may be made continuous all round the last, or split at the point *b'* at the rear or any other place to enable it to be placed more easily upon the last, and to enable the latter to be withdrawn, if so desired.

In using this bottomless skeleton former, the last *a* can be turned down or made smaller all round equal to the thickness of the skeleton former *b*, so that the last and former together may be equal to the last ordinarily used in making the required size of boot or shoe. The former *b* is placed on the reduced last *a*, and the shoe is then lasted thereon in the same manner as on any ordinary solid last. When the shoe is lasted, I pull out the solid last *a* and leave the skeleton former *b* within the shoe, by which the latter is retained in its proper shape during the subsequent manipulations until the shoe is finished, when I remove the bottomless skeleton former *b* from within the upper of the boot or shoe.

This improved former being without any bottom, the shoe with the former in it can have the sole sewed or nailed on on a McKay or other sewing-machine, or other various machines, without straining or wrinkling the vamp or upper part of the boot or shoe. It also keeps the sole in its proper shape and does not require the operator to straighten it out in sewing the shoe, as is often the case, and it keeps the machine from running off the inner sole on the inside of the shoe while it is being stitched. After the sole has been nailed or stitched onto the shoe, it can be beaten out, have the edge of the sole trimmed and set up, heel nailed on and shaved, and all other parts of the work done on a solid last introduced within the hollow skeleton former in the same manner as on the ordinary solid lasts. All this work can be done and the shoe finished and ready for packing without removing the improved skeleton bottomless former *b*, which keeps the shoe in its proper shape all the time in the same manner as if the ordinary last had not been pulled out, and it prevents the vamp



and upper part of the shoe from getting strained, wrinkled, or broken up at any time during the manufacture of the shoe.

It is an advantage to most of the operators 5 to have this skeleton former in the shoe, as it keeps the upper up in its place and away from the edge of the sole while trimming and setting the latter. When the shoe is finished and ready for packing, I remove the skeleton former 10 b from within the shoe.

By the use of this my improved shoe-former I am able to dispense with a great percentage of ordinary costly lasts, as the latter are only needed for lasting the shoes, and consequently 15 are only needed for use a much shorter time as compared with the old manner of making shoes.

I do not wish to be understood as claiming what is shown in the patent hereinbefore al- 20 luded to, or as claiming what is shown in Pat-

ent No. 227,631, dated May 18, 1880, as such do not constitute my invention.

What I wish to secure by Letters Patent, and claim, is—

As an improved article of manufacture, the 25 within-described device for expanding the upper of a boot or shoe, consisting of a hollow bottomless body portion arched and shaped to the contour of the front top portion of a last, and terminating in side pieces extending rear- 30 wardly and curved at their extremities to pass around the heel end of the last, and serve to prevent the withdrawal of the former in removing the last, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my sig- 35 nature in presence of two witnesses.

ANDREW W. ROGERS.

Witnesses:

ALBAN ANDRÉN,  
HENRY CHADBOURN.