

(Model.)

J. HAEGEN.
HAT OR BONNET.

No. 296,557.

Patented Apr. 8, 1884.

Fig. 1.

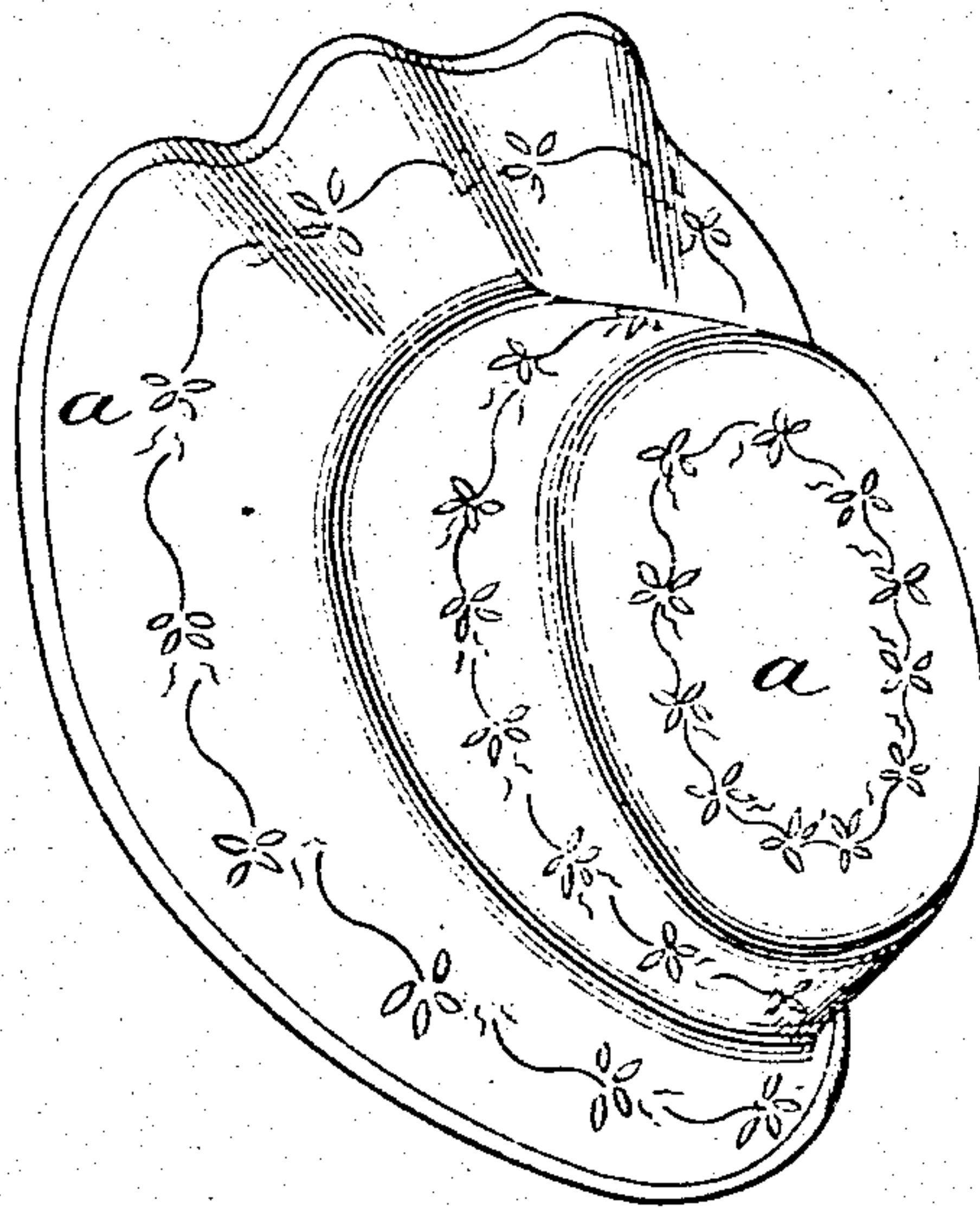
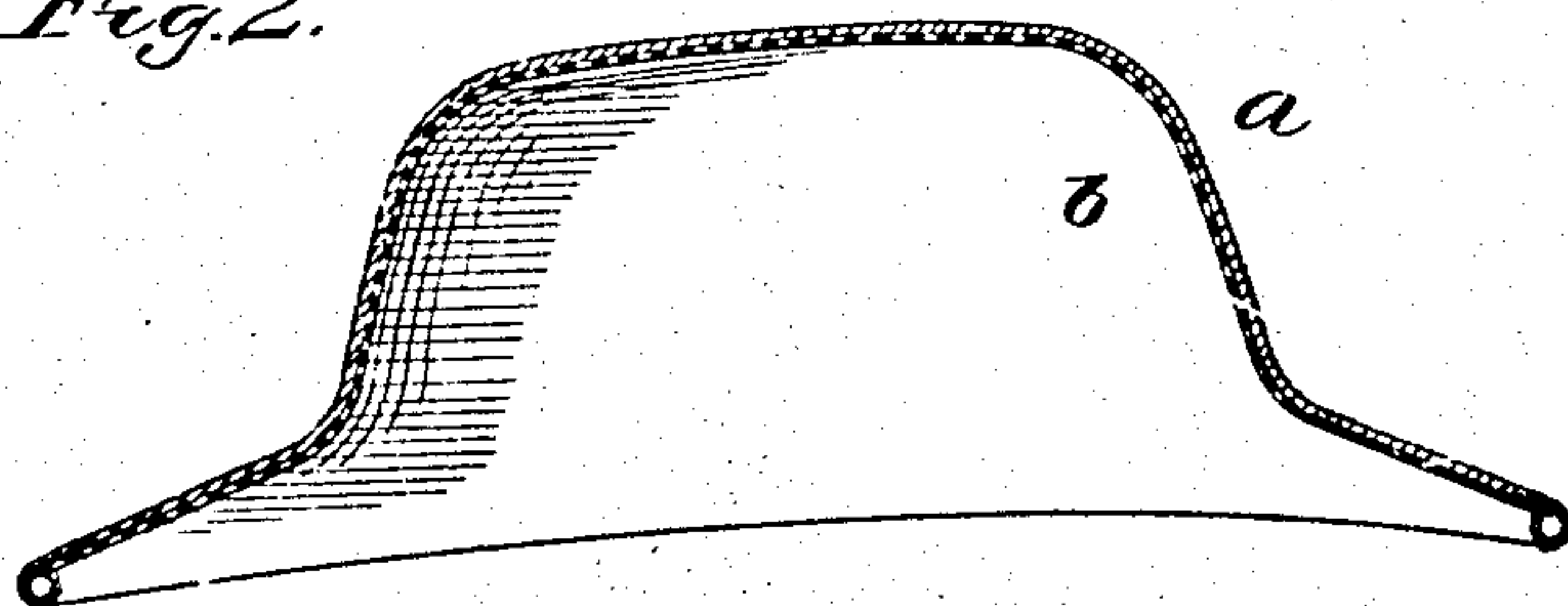


Fig. 2.



Witnesses:
Henry F. Parker
Geo. E. Gravin

Inventor:
Johanna Haegen
by Chas. M. Higgins
Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHANNA HAEGEN, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

HAT OR BONNET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 296,557, dated April 8, 1884.

Application filed May 23, 1883. (Model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHANNA HAEGEN, of New York city, New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Hats and Bonnets, of which the following is a specification.

My invention applies more especially to hats and bonnets for ladies' and children's wear; and the object of my invention is to provide a hat or bonnet which shall possess the valuable commercial quality of novelty, with certain intrinsic advantages important in head-wear. To this end I form a hat or bonnet from fine leather, preferably thin-dressed kid or glove leather, the said leather, with its grain side turned outward, forming the ornamental shell or covering of the hat, which is formed over a foundation of buckram. A hat thus formed constitutes a new article of manufacture, and possesses the decided advantage of attractive novelty, combined with the intrinsic advantage of great lightness, brilliant and dressy appearance, durability, and capacity of receiving many artistic kinds of ornamentation to enhance its appearance.

My invention therefore consists, broadly, in a hat thus formed of thin leather, with a foundation of buckram, and also embodies some special features of construction, as hereinafter fully set forth.

In the drawings, Figure 1 presents a perspective view of my improved hat. Fig. 2 is a sectional view thereof, illustrating my mode of construction.

According to my invention I procure sheets or skins of any suitable fine, thin, or light leathers, preferably ordinary glove-leather or fine upper-leather, preferably kid or substitutes for kid, and these skins are then cut in suitable pieces and pressed, by the aid of dies in suitable blocking or pressing machines, into the forms of the desired hats or bonnets in the same manner that felt hats or buckram frames are now pressed. After the leather sheet is thus pressed into the form of the desired hat, the rough edge of the leather on the rim of the hat may then be trimmed off as usual, and the rim wired in the ordinary manner. Previous to pressing the leather it may, if necessary, be slightly moistened, and the flesh side may also be brushed over with a good coating of

size, and allowed to nearly dry before pressing. The leather will then be in a soft, plastic state when pressed, and will readily take an impression without tearing, and will retain it firmly afterward, and the inner coating of size will help to stiffen the hat and impart necessary strength thereto. As most of the glove-leathers have not sufficient strength to endure such pressing unsupported, I therefore place or paste the leather sheet, flesh side down, upon a sheet of moistened buckram or other suitable fabric—for instance, thin canvas or stout paper—and then press the compound sheet between the blocking or forming dies, the leather, of course, being outermost, as this process will thoroughly protect the leather and enable the material to take and retain a perfect impression, and will form a very light, strong, and handsome hat. This construction is shown in section in Fig. 2, in which *a* indicates the external layer of leather, with its dressed or grain side outermost, forming the ornamental covering fabric of the hat, while *b* represents the internal layer of buckram forming the supporting frame or fabric of the hat. This construction I believe will make a hat that will retain its shape better than any other material now known to me, because the buckram and leather help to sustain each other, which is not the case where the covering of thin, soft material is simply sewed upon a buckram frame, for in this case the covering has no strengthening effect, whereas my covering coats with the foundation in stiffening the hat and holding it in shape.

It is obvious that a hat constructed in this way will be very light and durable, leather being one of the most durable materials, and will possess a brilliant, dressy appearance, and will be rendered further valuable in being distinctly novel. Another dressy advantage of this hat is that a hat may be selected to match with the gloves worn by the lady, and thus produce a pleasing and novel harmony in her apparel. Leather has also the further advantage that it may be easily and cheaply ornamented with various kinds of embossing, which it will readily take and retain, and also may be embroidered with great advantage, it being a material admirably adapted to display embossing or embroidering. The leather will

also readily receive water or oil colors, and may be beautifully decorated, by hand-painting, with representations of birds, flowers, vines, or other figures, which will greatly enhance its appearance.

Fig. 1 represents the leather hat decorated in said manner by embossing, embroidering, or painting.

The soft and brightly-dyed grained surface of the leather is admirably adapted to display any of the above-named styles of decoration, and by this means the leather hat may be artistically dressed or decorated without any of the usual excrescences of millinery, and may in this way be furnished at a much less price than ordinary dressed hats, and the hat thus formed will therefore be of a very ornamental character, very thin and light, and well adapted for summer-wear, and will thus introduce a very artistic and novel variation into ladies' dress.

Instead of forming the hats by pressing the leather by dies, as already described, it is obvious that the leather, in one or more pieces, may be pressed and pasted, stitched, or otherwise fastened by hand over frames of buckram fitted temporarily upon blocks; but the ordinary process of machine-pressing is generally considered preferable.

It is evident that thick, hard leather—such as sole-leather, &c.—would be entirely unsuited for this purpose, and only thin, light, soft leather—such as glove or kid or similar leathers, whether “dressed” or “undressed”—are contemplated for this purpose. Dressed glove-leathers are, however, much the best, as their fine smoothly-finished grain is admi-

rably adapted for the display of the different styles of decorations before referred to, for which an undressed surface would not be well adapted.

I am aware that a head-covering of leather, *per se*, is not new, and I do not make such a claim, for it has been proposed to form a hat of thick or sole leather by slitting a flat sheet internally, opening the slit sheet bag-like, and then blocking the same into the form of a hat. It has also been proposed to form a hat from a sheet of leather by first steaming the leather and then working the steamed sheet into the shape of a hat by forming it over a wooden block by the aid of moistened pads worked by hand.

What I claim is—

1. A hat or bonnet composed of an external layer of thin leather and an internal sustaining-layer of buckram or equivalent fabric, substantially as herein set forth.

2. A hat formed of an external layer of leather and an internal layer of buckram or equivalent fabric, pressed simultaneously by dies into the desired form, substantially as set forth.

3. The process set forth for manufacturing leather hats, consisting in placing a sheet of leather upon a sheet of buckram or equivalent fabric, with the leather layer outermost, and then pressing the two layers simultaneously, between dies, into the form of the desired hat, substantially as set forth.

JOHANNA HAEGEN.

Witnesses:

RAY MAYERS,
CHAS. M. HIGGINS.