(No Model.)

T. E. WOODLEY.

SEAM STAY FOR BOOTS AND SHOES.

No. 341,864. Patented May 11, 1886.

Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

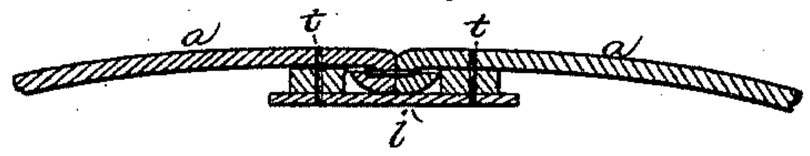


Fig. 4.

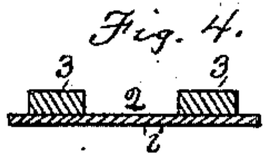
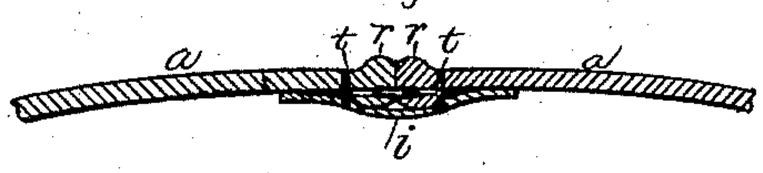


Fig. 5.

Fig. 6.



Witnesses:
H. Brown.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS E. WOODLEY, OF LYNN, ASSIGNOR TO JOHN G. McCARTER, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

SEAM-STAY FOR BOOTS AND SHOES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 341,864, dated May 11, 1886.

Application filed June 25, 1885. Serial No. 169,793. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS E. WOODLEY, of Lynn, in the county of Essex and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Seam-Stays for Uppers, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to strengthening and supporting inside stays for the front and back seams on button or lace boot uppers; and it consists in a stay which is so formed at the side which is placed against the upper as to present a central groove or recess for the ridge formed by the edges of the united parts, and higher portions at each side of said groove, through which the stitches pass which secure the stay to the upper, the object being, first, to prevent said stitches from sinking into the leather; secondly, to guide the stay while it is being stitched to the upper, and, thirdly, to prevent the formation of a ridge on the outer surfaces of the upper along the seam, as I will now proceed to describe.

Of the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, Figure 1 represents a sectional view of two parts of an upper as first united by a seam. Fig. 2 represents a similar view showing the seam "rubbed down." Fig. 3 represents the seam with my improved stay applied thereto. Figs. 4 and 5 represent sectional views of different forms of the improved stay. Fig. 6 represents the ordinary seam as heretofore usually made.

The same letters of reference indicate the same parts in all the figures.

In the drawings, *a a* represent two parts of a boot-upper—as, for example, the two quarters, or the inside quarter and the button-fly. In uniting said parts they are connected by stitches near their edges, the outer sides of the parts being placed together, stitched through at *s*, and then opened out, leaving the edges projecting inwardly, as shown in Fig. 1. These edges are then rubbed down, as shown in Fig. 2. An inside stay, *i*, is then placed against the inner surfaces of the parts *a a*, so as to cover the seam, and is stitched to said parts, at opposite sides of the seam, by rows of stitches, *t t*, which are located close to the seam.

Heretofore a flat stay has generally been used, and as the inwardly-turned and rubbed-down edges of the pieces give an increased thickness to the upper along the seam, the stitches *t t*, drawing the parts *a a* and stay together, cause ridges *r r* to appear on the outer surface of the upper along the seam, as shown in Fig. 6. These ridges soon become worn and rusty when the boot is subjected to use, so that the boot soon acquires a shabby appearance. Moreover, the increased thickness between the stitches *t t* causes said stitches to sink into the leather more deeply than is desirable, and in some cases causes the stitches to cut through the leather.

In carrying out my invention I obviate these objections by providing the side of the stay that is placed next to the parts *a a* with a central groove or recess, 2, and raised portions 3 3 at either side of said groove. The groove is of sufficient width to receive the inwardly-turned edges of the parts *a a*, and the raised parts 3 3 fit closely against the inner surfaces of the upper up to said edges, so that the stitches *t t* pass through said raised parts, and do not, therefore, draw the upper inwardly at each side of the seam. The formation of the ridges *r r* is thus avoided, and the upper is made quite smooth along the seam, as shown in Fig. 3. Moreover, the stitches are prevented from sinking into the leather too far. The groove 2 enables the inwardly-turned edges of the parts *a a* to guide the stay while it is being stitched to the upper, as will be readily seen.

The stay may be given the described form by securing parallel strips of felt or other suitable material to its inner side, as shown in Fig. 4, or by forming welts and placing cords therein, as shown in Fig. 5.

I claim—

1. The combination, with the parts *a a* of a boot or shoe upper, said parts having inturned edges at the seam, of separate parallel strips at each side of said seam on the inside of the shoe, and a strip extending over all, and having both its edges exposed, substantially as described.

2. An inside stay for boots and shoes, consisting of a flexible strip of sufficient width to

cover the seam and extend a little distance at each side thereof, and two narrow separate strips attached to one face thereof, the narrow strips being parallel with each other and near the edges of the main strip.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses, this 15th day of June, 1885.

THOMAS E. WOODLEY.

Witnesses:
A. SEAVER,
C. F. BROWN.