

(No Model.)

W. W. CROOKER.

DEVICE FOR INKING THE EDGES OF SHOE SOLES.

No. 373,390.

Patented Nov. 15, 1887.

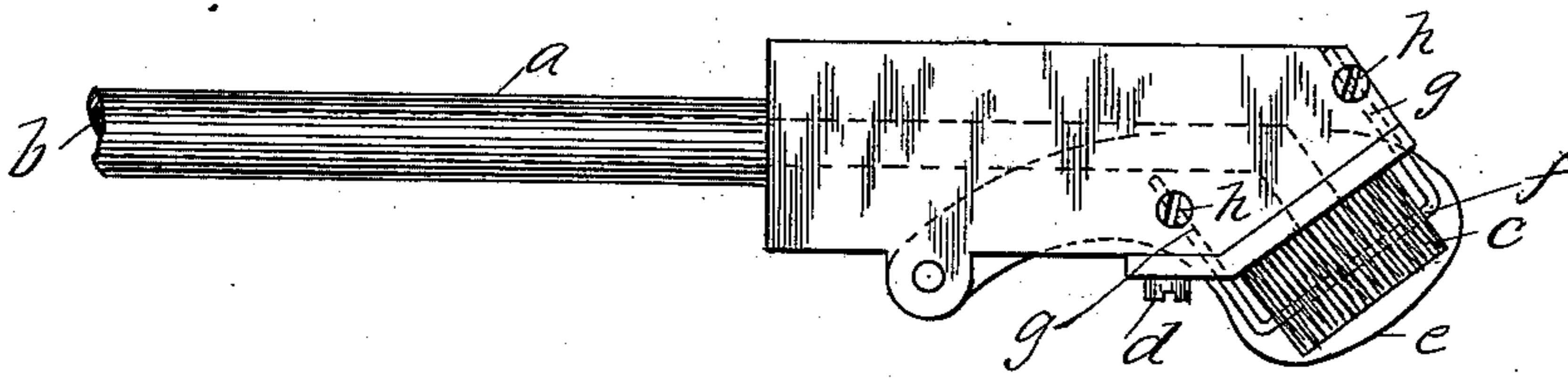


Fig. 1.

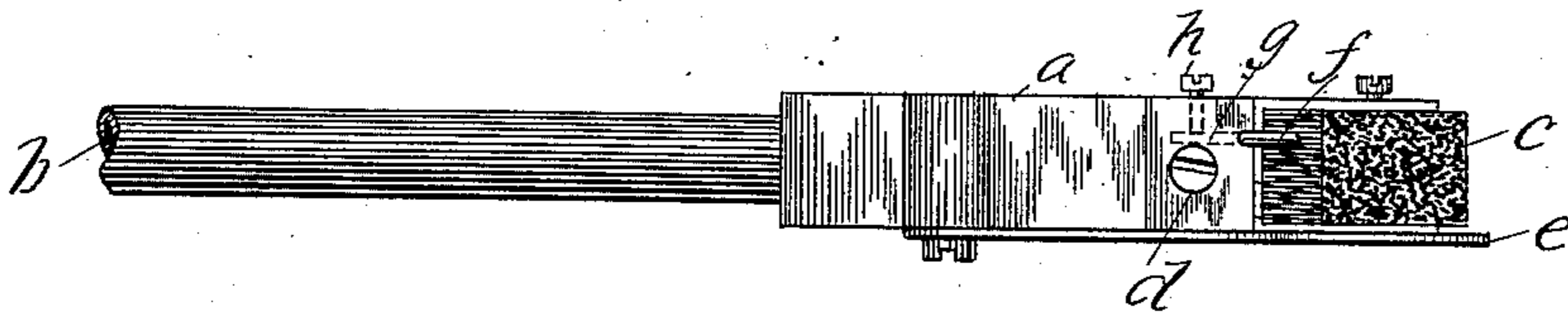


Fig. 2.

WITNESSES.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM W. CROOKER, OF LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS.

## DEVICE FOR INKING THE EDGES OF SHOE-SOLES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 373,390, dated November 15, 1887.

Application filed April 7, 1887. Serial No. 233,964. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM W. CROOKER, of Lynn, in the county of Essex and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Devices for Inking the Edges of Soles of Boots or Shoes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to devices for inking the edges of soles of boots or shoes, and is an improvement on the contrivance shown and described in my application filed December 4, 1886, Serial No. 220,653, to which reference may be had. In the aforesaid application I have discovered a device for inking the edges of boot or shoe soles, consisting of a brush attached in an oblique position to the end of a handle, through which the coloring-liquid is led to the brush, a guard adapted to enter the crease between the sole and upper of the boot or shoe, being yieldingly connected with the handle and extending alongside of the brush to prevent the coloring-liquid from being applied to the upper of the boot or shoe.

While the invention mentioned serves very well the purpose for which it is constructed, I have found that in some instances, particularly where the edge of the sole being operated upon is quite thin or narrow or where the device is manipulated by an unskilled operator, there is liability of sinking the edge of the sole so deep into the bristles of the brush as to get ink upon the lower face of the sole, a happening quite as objectionable as when the coloring-liquid is daubed upon the upper, since in both cases it must be removed to present a neatly-finished boot or shoe.

It is the object of my present invention to overcome this objection, and this I accomplish by extending a guard through the brush, which limits the depth to which the sole-edge can be sunk into the bristles, all as I will now proceed to describe and claim.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, the same letters indicating the same parts in both views.

Figure 1 represents a side view of the invention, the rear end of the reservoir-handle being broken off. Fig. 2 is a bottom plan view of the same.

*a* represents the handle, through the opening *b* in which the ink may be led to the brush *c*, secured in an oblique position on the end of the handle by means of a screw, *d*, or in any other suitable manner.

*e* indicates a guard adapted to enter the crease between the sole and upper of the boot or shoe, which guard extends alongside of the brush, as shown, and may be, and preferably is, yieldingly connected with the handle, (though here not so shown,) as described in my aforesaid application.

The parts so far described constitute no part of my present invention, and may be varied in form and arrangement without affecting my improvement, which consists in a guard, *f*, in the present instance shown to be a length of wire bent into staple-like form, the legs *g g* of which are secured in the head of the device, while the portion connecting the legs extends through the brush at a suitable point, as shown, to prevent the edge of the sole from being sunk into the brush to a greater depth than the guard will permit.

I prefer to secure the legs *g g* of the guard *f* in the device in an adjustable manner, so that any desired amount of the bristle portion of the contrivance may be utilized, as the circumstances or character of the work may demand. This adjustment of the guard is here shown to be accomplished by means of set-screws *h h*, screwed into the side of the head against the legs *g g*.

By the means described I am enabled to overcome the objections and attain the ends recited at the outset of this specification.

The brush here shown consists of a metal plate provided with perforations, in which the bristles are inserted, and the plate subsequently compressed laterally to secure the bristles in place; but as this feature does not form a part of my present invention it is not herein claimed, but will be made the subject of a separate application.

It is of course not essential that the guard *f* should be made of wire, as shown, or that it should be given the precise form illustrated, or that the adjustable feature or the precise means of adjustment explained should be adhered to, as these may be varied without de-

parting from the nature or spirit of the invention.

What I claim is—

1. In a device for inking the edges of boot  
5 or shoe soles, the combination, with the brush,  
of a guard, *f*, extending therethrough to limit  
the depth to which the edge of the sole may  
be sunk into the brush, as set forth.

2. In a device for inking the edges of boot  
10 or shoe soles, the combination, with a brush,  
*c*, and its handle or support, of a guard, *f*, ex-  
tending through the brush and adjustable in

the handle or support to limit and regulate  
the depth to which the edge of the sole may  
be sunk into the brush, as set forth. 15

In testimony whereof I have signed my name  
to this specification, in the presence of two sub-  
scribing witnesses, this 4th day of April, A. D.  
1887.

WILLIAM W. CROOKER.

Witnesses:

ARTHUR W. CROSSLEY,  
A. D. HARRISON.