

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FREDERICK RIEGERT, OF ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI.

## PROCESS OF TREATING LEATHER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 467,200, dated January 19, 1892.

Application filed April 24, 1891. Serial No. 390,354. (No specimens.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, FREDERICK RIEGERT, a citizen of the United States, residing at St. Joseph, in the county of Buchanan and State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Processes of Treating Leather; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to a process of treating leather so as to render it perfectly water-proof; and it has for its object to expedite such process and to impart pliability and flexibility to the leather treated, so that it may be conveniently handled while being manufactured into boots, shoes, or other articles.

In carrying out my process I take a piece of leather, and after cleaning the same by any known or common method, so as to render it free of all impurities and then allowing it to dry, I subject such leather to the action of heat, so as to throw open as much as possible all of the pores of the leather. I then take dissolved rubber, known as "Brazilian gum," in a liquid or semi-liquid state, and by means of a brush or other suitable device apply it to the side of the leather which is intended for the inside of the article to be manufactured, and care should be taken to thoroughly rub such dissolved rubber into the leather, so that the pores may be filled and absorb the rubber. I then take a cloth, brush, or other suitable article and apply fish-oil or other suitable oil to the leather thus treated and thoroughly rub the same while applying it,

after which the leather is allowed to dry, and when dry I apply a suitable quantity of powdered soapstone to the leather and rub the same in by means of the hand, a cloth, or other suitable article. I have found that leather thus treated is thoroughly water-proof and impervious to moisture, and by reason of its being flexible and pliable it is rendered very convenient to handle in working it into articles of manufacture.

I am aware that it has heretofore been proposed to render leather water-proof by applying thereto a composition consisting of cotton-seed or cod-fish oil, caoutchouc, cocoanut, pomegranate-rind, and an aromatic, which have been prepared and applied by a long and tedious process, and I therefore do not wish to be understood as claiming such composition; but,

Having described my invention, what I claim is—

The improved process described of rendering leather pliable and water-proof, consisting, first, in cleaning the leather, then allowing the same to dry, then heating the leather so as to open its pores, then applying dissolved rubber or Brazilian gum in a liquid or fluid state to the heated leather, then applying fish-oil or other oil thereto, and finally rubbing powdered soapstone to the leather thus treated, substantially as specified.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

FREDERICK RIEGERT.

Witnesses:

JOSEPH KNEAU,  
ADOLPHE HENRY.