

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD H. LEWIS, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR TO THE AMERICAN LEATHER WATERPROOFING COMPANY, OF ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI.

COMPOUND FOR WATERPROOFING SOLES OF SHOES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 547,584, dated October 8, 1895.

Application filed January 15, 1894. Serial No. 496,976. (No specimens.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD H. LEWIS, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city of Chicago, county of Cook, State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Compound for Waterproofing the Soles of Shoes, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and practice the same.

This invention relates to a new and useful compound for waterproofing the soles of shoes; and it consists in the waterproofing compound, which is to be applied to the inner sole of the shoe in such manner that the iron-tack, wooden-peg, or awl holes or the inner seams are filled with the compound, preventing water or oil being led to the interior of the shoe by following such punctures, said compound being held in place or confined by the outer sole.

In practice to make a perfectly waterproof shoe the upper and the insole and outer sole are preferably treated, so that they themselves will not absorb water. By the application of the waterproofing compound, whose ingredients will hereinafter be described, to the inner sole, which compound is smeared freely over the inner seam if it be a welt shoe, or over the tack, peg, or awl holes if the upper is crimped and lasted over the insole, when the shoe is sewed to attach the outer sole, or pegged, as the case may be, the compound being interposed between the two soles, or between the turned-under upper and the outer sole of a lasted shoe, the stitching or the nails and pegs will pass therethrough and carry with them a portion of the waterproofing compound, which will make the openings or punctures so formed absolutely waterproof, at the same time preventing all oil from the upper seeping through said holes or punctures or following the thread to the outer sole channel, or the peg, as the case may be, which would deface the white bottom finish of the shoe.

Should the compound be used on a McKay

sewed shoe, which is a pegged or nailed bottom, it is preferable that the same be freely applied upon and under the edges of the upper, which is lasted over the insole, and also that it be applied on the insole to make sure that all tack, peg, or awl holes which might be made in retaining the outer sole in place when it is being sewed on are filled, to make the sole absolutely water and oil proof.

The compound consists of wax, powdered talc or steatite, and rubber paste or caoutchouc. This preparation is preferably made in the following manner and in the following proportions: Of wax (which is preferably beeswax, or mineral waxes or spermaceti could also be used) I take two and one-half pounds and place it in a suitable receptacle, where it is subjected to the action of heat, which reduces the wax to a molten state. To this molten wax I add about three pounds of talcos or steatitic powder, preferably soapstone, which is thoroughly mixed with the wax. I then add about four pints of rubber paste or caoutchouc, which is sometimes known as "Brazilian gum," and thoroughly mix the mass. The preparation is then set aside, when it is ready for use.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The herein-described compound for preventing water from seeping through the seams, joints, tack, peg, or awl holes of shoe soles, consisting of a composition of wax, two and one-half pounds, powdered talc or steatite, three pounds, and rubber paste or caoutchouc, four pints, compounded in the manner stated, and substantially in the proportions herein specified.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature, in presence of two witnesses, this 11th day of January, 1894.

EDWARD H. LEWIS.

Witnesses:

F. R. CORNWALL,
HUGH K. WAGNER.