

No. 679,515.

Patented July 30, 1901.

J. E. SCOTT.  
THIMBLE FOR SHOE LASTS.

(Application filed Nov. 30, 1898.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

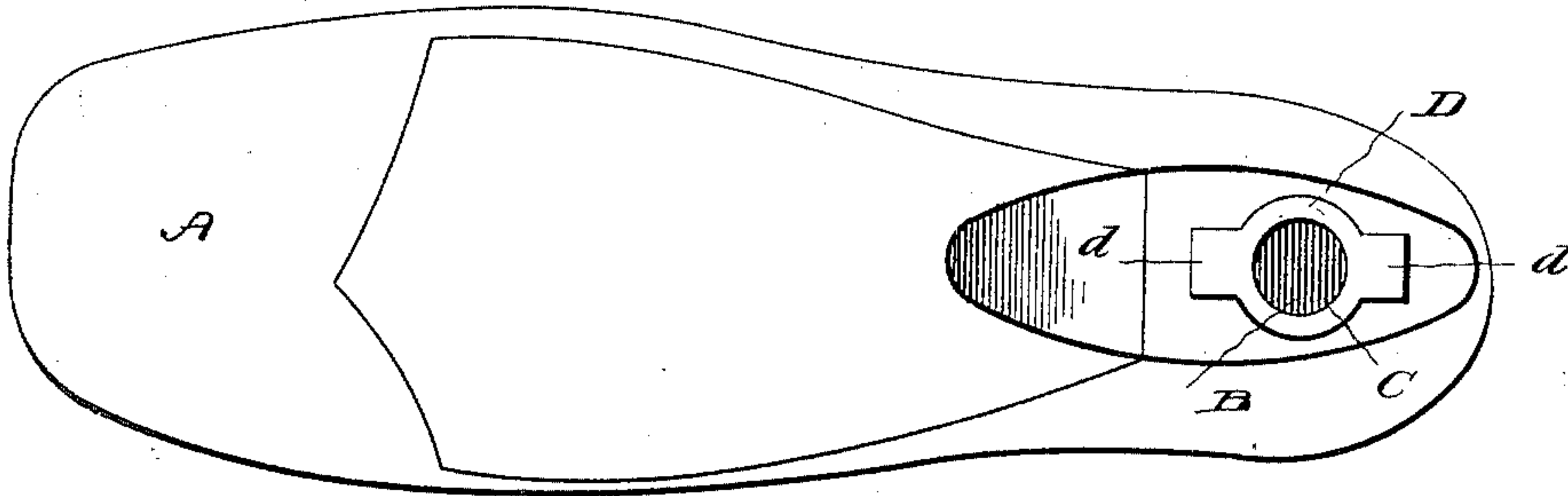


Fig. 2.

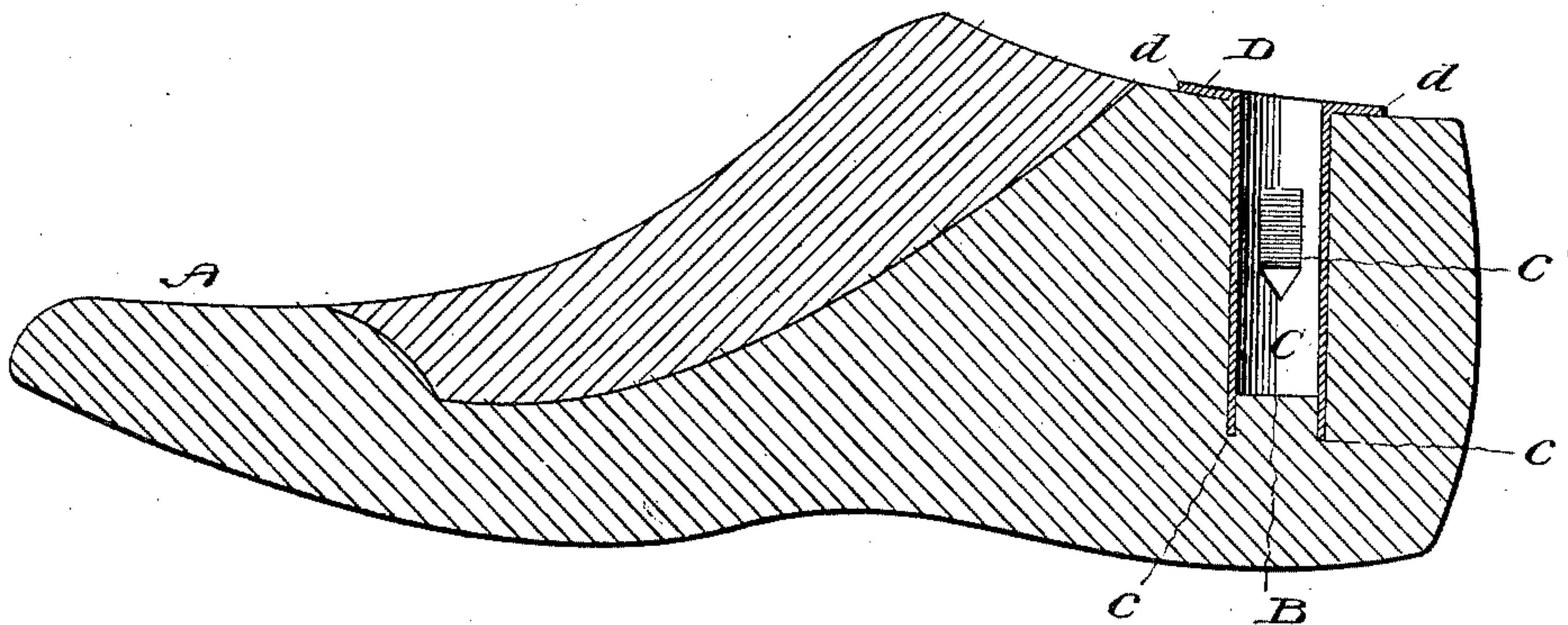


Fig. 4.

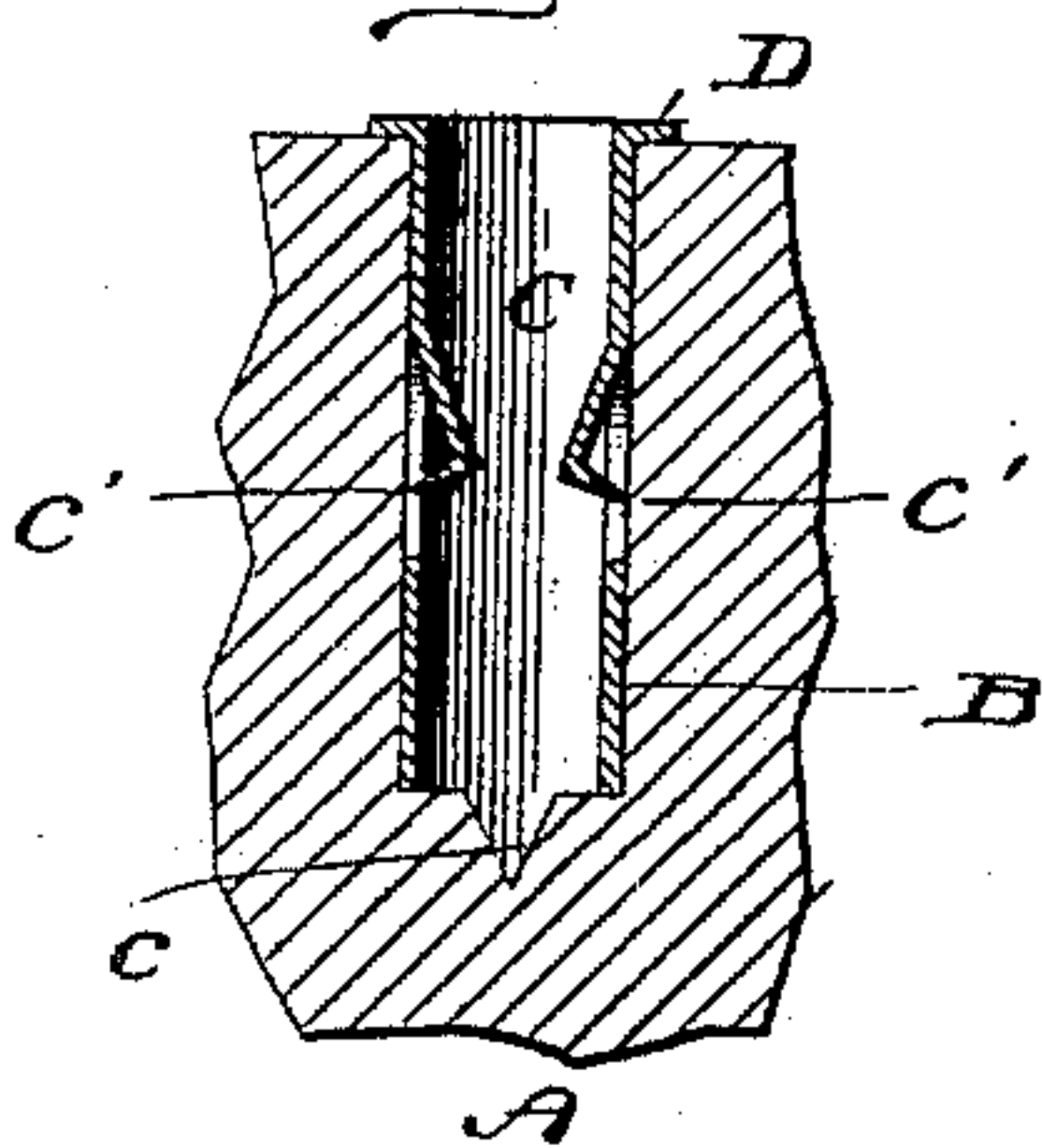


Fig. 3.

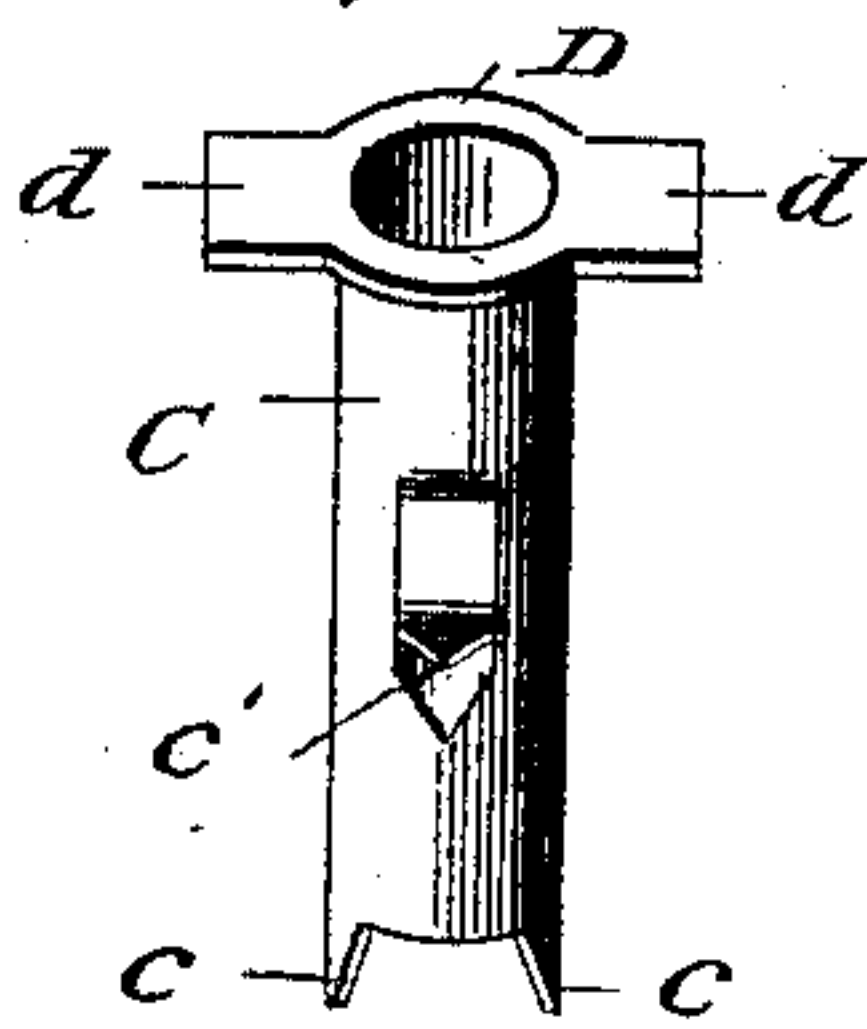
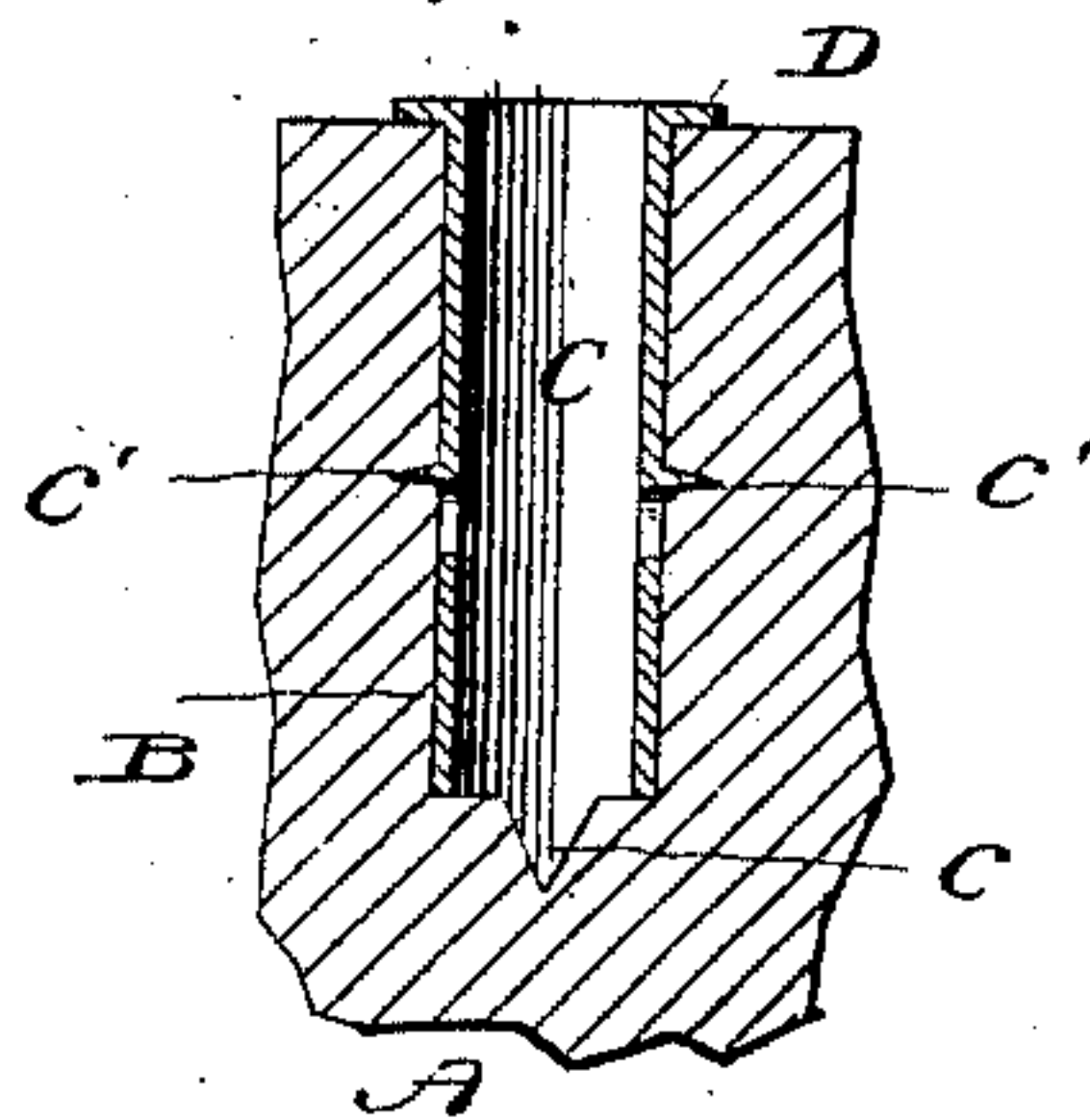


Fig. 5.



Witnesses

*Wm. O. Cashier*  
*Herbert Lawson*

Inventor  
John E. Scott.

By *Edw. A. Smith*  
Attorneys.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN E. SCOTT, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

## THIMBLE FOR SHOE-LASTS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 679,515, dated July 30, 1901.

Application filed November 30, 1898. Serial No. 697,895. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHN E. SCOTT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Thimbles for Shoe-Lasts; and I do hereby 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.

My present invention relates to improvements in thimbles or linings for the spindle-sockets of shoe-last; and the object of the invention is to provide a strong and durable thimble which can be quickly and firmly secured in such a socket.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a plan view of a shoe-last having my improved thimble applied thereto. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal vertical sectional view of the same. Fig. 3 is a detail view of the thimble. Figs. 4 and 5 are detail sectional views.

Like letters of reference designate corresponding parts in the several figures of the drawings.

A designates a last, and B the socket formed therein to receive the spindle on which the last is supported when in use in the ordinary manner.

C designates my improved thimble or lining, it being formed from a metal tube of the proper diameter and length to fit snugly in the socket B and to extend throughout the length thereof. For the purpose of retaining the thimble or lining C in place in the spindle-socket it is provided with a series of integral prongs adapted to be forced into the body of the last. In the embodiment of my invention herein illustrated there are provided four of these spurs or holding-prongs, two of them, *c c*, being arranged at the lower end and extending longitudinally of the thimble and the other two, *c' c'*, being arranged at diametrically opposite points about midway of the length of the thimble and adapted to be projected transversely of the thimble into engagement with the last. These last said spurs or prongs *c' c'* are stamped out or struck up from the body of the thimble and are preferably of the form shown in Fig. 4—

that is, they have a shank or stem provided with substantially parallel longitudinal sides terminating in a V-shaped point—while the spurs *c c* at the lower end of the thimble are substantially triangular in form. The shanks or stems of the lateral spurs or prongs *c' c'* are initially bent inwardly to extend into the bore or passage in the thimble and so as to bring the points of such spurs within the side lines of the thimble, and thus offer no obstruction or hindrance to the insertion of the thimble into the socket B. After the thimble has been inserted in said socket and forced downward until the prongs *c c* thereof have been embedded in the bottom of the socket a suitable rod or tool is inserted in the bore of the thimble, and thereby the points of the spurs or prongs *c' c'* are forced laterally beyond the thimble and embedded in the side walls of the socket B. The thimble C is also provided at its upper end with an integral annular flange D, which at diametrically opposite points is extended to form ears or lugs *d d*. When the thimble is properly placed in position in the socket, this flange D and the ears *d d* thereof bear close against the surface of the last about the open end of the socket B and protect such surface from the wear caused by the vibration of the last on the spindle when in use.

In forming the thimble or lining herein described I take a section of tubing of the proper diameter and length and after cutting one end of the same to provide the spurs *c c* and stamping out [the lateral prongs *c' c'* form slits or cuts in the end of the tube opposite the spurs *c c*, so that when said end is upset the flange D and the ears *d d* will be formed and related as shown.

I am aware that prior to my invention it had been proposed to provide the spindle-socket of a last with a cast-metal thimble having an integral laterally-projecting rim or flange at its upper end that served to cover more or less of the surface of the last about said socket; but it will be readily apparent that such a thimble as I have invented and have above described differs materially from and has many advantages over such devices as those last referred to.

My improved thimble is, as aforesaid,



formed from a section of tubing, which makes it both lighter and more durable than a thimble of cast metal. As is well known, the upper surfaces of lasts vary—that is, no two will have the surface about the upper end of the socket in exactly the same planes at corresponding points; but it is important that the flange at the upper end of the thimble should lie close against such surface at all points. Now it is impossible to cast a thimble which shall be adapted to correctly fit various makes of lasts and can be applied by any party. If there is an unevenness in the contact between the said flange and the last-surface, the blows or impacts received by said flange when the last is in use will quickly break said flange, if of cast metal, at those places where it is not in contact with the last-body, and the same result will follow if at the time of applying the thimble the operator endeavors by hammering to cause the cast flange to bear against the last throughout its length and breadth, as is necessary, for the reasons above stated. With a thimble made from a section of light tubing, however, and having the flange formed by bending one end thereof outwardly it will be seen that such flange can be easily shaped to conform accurately to the surface of any last. It is to be understood that it is proposed to manufacture and sell these thimbles separate from a last, and therefore this capability by which any owner of a last can easily fit a thimble thereto and have it properly positioned and related is of great importance. The flange which I provide being, as described, made in two sections can be easily made to conform to the surface of the particular last about the spindle-socket.

In an earlier application, Serial No. 680,274, I have shown and described a thimble for the spindle-socket of a shoe-last having some features which are common to that form of thimble presented herein. It will be noted, however, that the present thimble is formed from a solid tubular blank instead of from a flat plate, as in my earlier construction, and that the flange D of the present improvement more completely protects the upper surface of the last, it extending entirely around such socket instead of merely beyond two sides thereof. Again, I arrange the lateral spurs or prongs *c' c'* at diametrically opposite points instead

of having such spurs at one side only of the thimble.

I do not claim in this application any of the features of novelty incident to both that embodiment of my invention disclosed by my said earlier application and that presented herein, preferring to present such claims in said application Serial No. 680,274 and to present in this application only claims for the novel features of the particular embodiment of the invention herein illustrated.

What I claim is—

1. A thimble or lining for the spindle-socket of a shoe-last having at intermediate points in its length, and at diametrically opposite points, integral spurs or prongs the stems of which are adapted to extend into the bore of the thimble when it is being inserted in a socket to hold the points of said spurs inside of the outer face or surface of the thimble, substantially as set forth.

2. A thimble or lining for the spindle-socket of a shoe-last comprising a tube having at one end longitudinally-extending spurs, *c, c*, adapted to engage the bottom of a socket, and having its other end upset to form an annular flange about the upper end of the thimble to protect the surface of the last surrounding the socket from wear, substantially as set forth.

3. A thimble or lining for the spindle-socket of a last comprising a section of thin metal tubing which is provided with integral spurs for securing it to a last, and which has two outwardly-bent members which with the upset portion of the tube form an annular flange about the upper end of the thimble, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

4. A thimble or lining for the spindle-socket of a last comprising a section of light metal tubing having at its upper end a flange adapted to conform accurately to the top surface of a last about the spindle-socket, and having in its tubular body portion spurs adapted to engage with the last surrounding the spindle-socket, substantially as set forth.

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

JOHN E. SCOTT.

Witnesses:

JOSEPH R. EDSON,  
HERBERT D. LAWSON.