

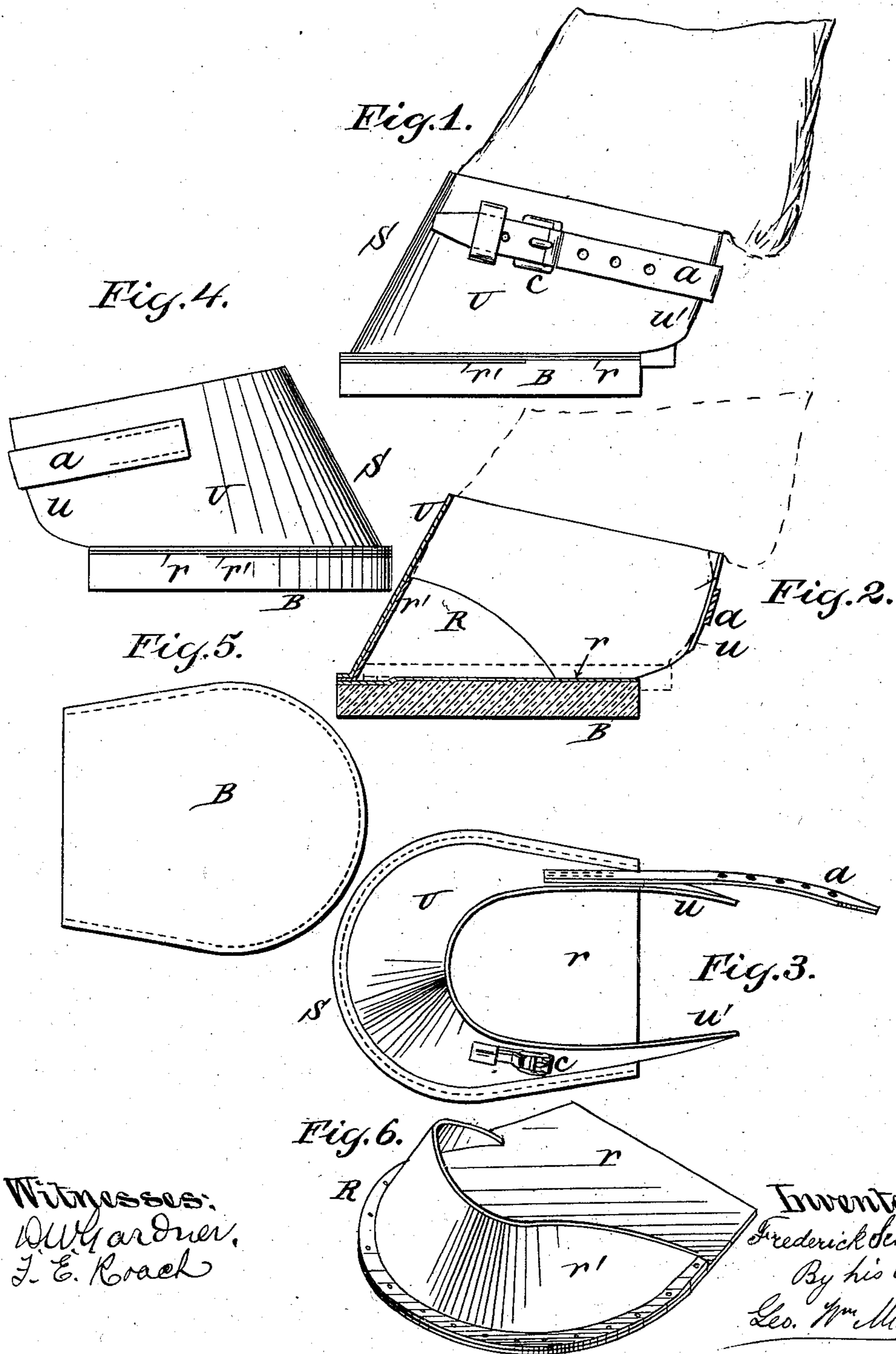
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Patented Sept. 9, 1902.

F. SCHNEIDER.
OVERSHOE FOR HORSES.

(Application filed Jan. 16, 1902.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FREDERICK SCHNEIDER, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

OVERSHOE FOR HORSES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 708,668, dated September 9, 1902.

Application filed January 16, 1902. Serial No. 90,018. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FREDERICK SCHNEIDER, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city of New York, borough of Manhattan, county and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Overshoes for Horses, &c., of which the following is a specification sufficient to enable others skilled in the art to which the invention appertains to make and use the same.

The object of my invention is to afford a temporary covering for the feet of a horse to enable the animal to travel safely and surely over slippery surfaces.

My improvements are designed more particularly to afford means whereby a horse may safely and surely walk upon wet or icy or otherwise slippery surfaces; and the invention consists, primarily, in an overshoe consisting of an upper, preferably of leather, and a sole of felt, in contradistinction to a sole of rubber, leather, or other material which will not adhere firmly to a smooth or icy surface, and, secondly, in an overshoe thus formed provided with a metallic stiffener of special structure and adapted to serve a twofold function, as hereinafter more fully described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 shows a side elevation of my improved overshoe applied to the foot of a horse. Fig. 2 is a sectional view of the overshoe thus applied, the horse's hoof and metal shoe being indicated by dotted lines. Fig. 3 is a top view of the overshoe. Fig. 4 is an elevation of the side of the overshoe opposite to that shown in Fig. 1. Fig. 5 is a view of the under side of the shoe; Fig. 6, an isometrical view of the reinforcing-shield which is incorporated within the overshoe.

The more important feature of my invention resides in forming the overshoe S with a sole B of comparatively thick soft felt for the purpose of affording a relatively high degree of frictional contact with a smooth, icy, or slippery surface upon which it may be desired to attain a firm foothold, the coarse, fibrous, soft, and compressible character of the felt affording a contact-surface which is adhesive and which does not wear smooth. This soft sole B is sewed or otherwise attached

to an upper U, which latter is preferably, though not necessarily, made of one piece of leather or equivalent flexible material. The upper U is made with rear flaps *u u'*, which may be opened or spread apart to admit of the application of the overshoe to the hoof. Obviously various well-known means may be employed to fasten the shoe to the hoof, as cords, straps, &c. I prefer, however, to use a single strap *a*, attached to one side of the upper U and engaging with a suitable buckle *c* or equivalent mechanical expedient on the other side thereof, as indicated in the drawings, the strap passing under the fetlock of the animal and immediately above the heel of its metallic shoe worn.

In connection with the flexible upper U and soft non-metallic sole B, I design to use a stiffener R, of metal, leather, or other suitable material, for the double purpose of reinforcing and sustaining the upper U and of preventing the penetration of the sole B by the metallic shoe worn by the horse. A preferred form of this stiffener is shown in Fig. 6, consisting of the sole-plate *r*, united to the upper or toe plate *r'*. This stiffener is formed with a lateral flange, as seen in Figs. 2 and 6, and through this flange pass the means that secure the sole, stiffener, and upper together.

It will be seen that my improved overshoe is neat in appearance and simple in construction and application, while affording a sure foothold for the animal on surfaces that would otherwise afford no hold or purchase to the usual metallic shoe worn by the animal.

I am aware that overshoes for horses have been proposed in which is used a sole of leather or rubber; but I find by actual test and experiment that felt is the best and only reliable material thus far available. The leather sole when wet upon a smooth surface is slippery and unreliable, whereas my soft fibrous surface of felt adheres firmly to a smooth, wet, or icy surface. Furthermore, the frictional resistance of the felt sole on a surface of smooth ice is always sufficient to insure a firm foothold, whereas a surface of rubber can never be relied upon to maintain contact with smooth slippery ice unless the surface of the rubber is freshly and deeply corrugated and roughened, an expedient that

is only effective for a very short time in actual use, since the rubber quickly wears smooth and is then more dangerous than the ordinary iron horseshoe. By my felt I attain another
5 important advantage in that no matter how great the wear the surface presented is always of the same character, since the felt cannot wear smooth and is of the same fibrous consistency throughout.

10 What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. An overshoe for horses consisting of an upper of leather shaped to fit the hoof and provided with fastening means, a sole of thick
15 felt flexible material secured to said upper, and a metallic shield and stiffener comprising a sole-plate and an upper-plate having a lateral flange interposed between the said upper and sole and means passed through said flange

and sole for securing the parts together, as 20 set forth.

2. An overshoe for horses consisting of a thick sole of felt adapted for direct contact with the ground, an upper of leather to which said sole is secured, and an interposed rein- 25 forcing-stiffener resting upon said sole and against the front portion of the upper and having a lateral flange with means securing said upper and sole to the flange, said stiffener serving the double function of reinforcing the 30 upper and sustaining the same and preventing penetration of and injury to the felt sole by the metallic shoe of the animal, as set forth.

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Witnesses:

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