

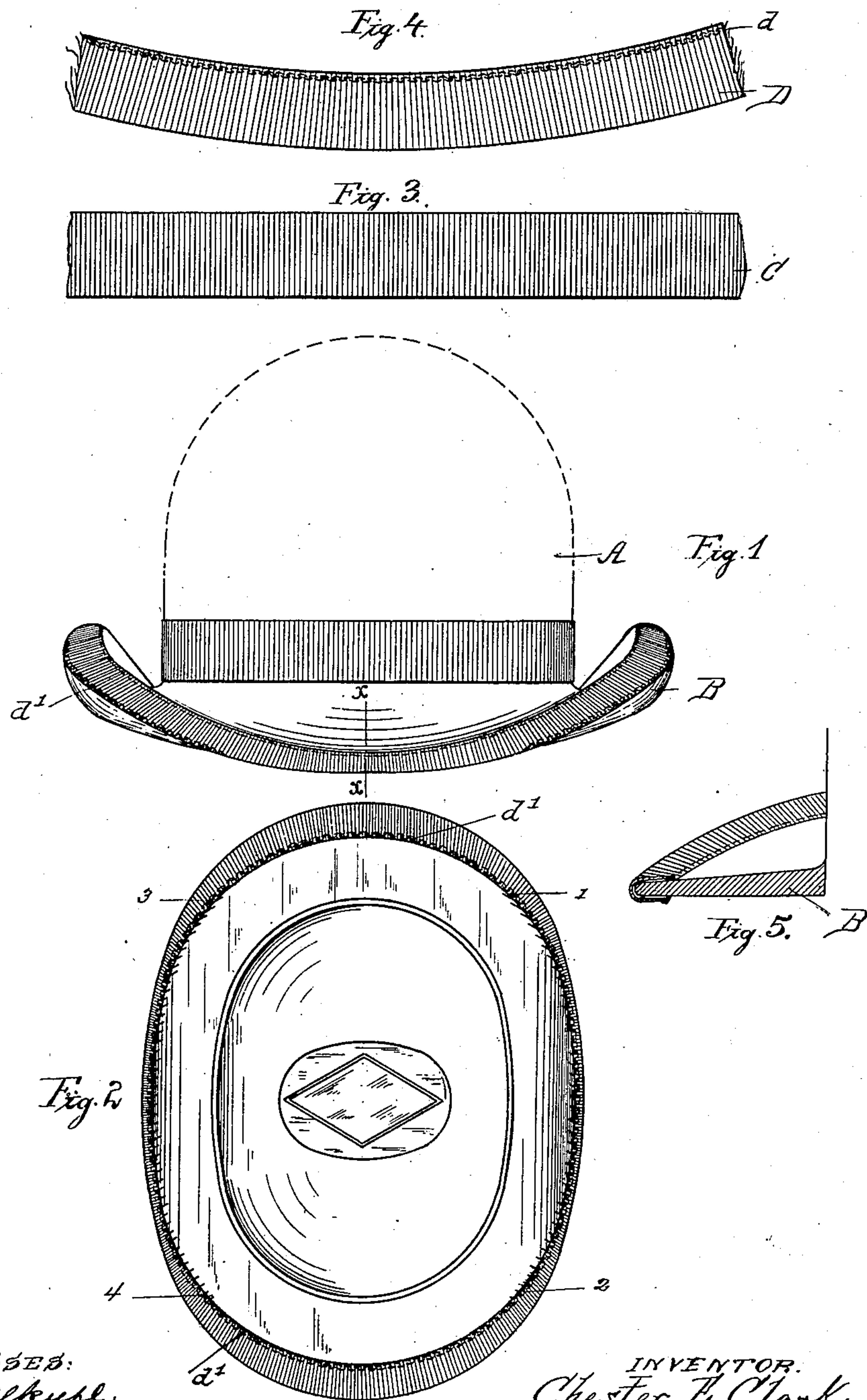
No. 730,851.

PATENTED JUNE 9, 1903.

C. E. CLARK.
HAT BINDING.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 24, 1902.

NO MODEL.



WITNESSES:
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HAT-BINDING.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 730,851, dated June 9, 1903.

Application filed January 24, 1902. Serial No. 91,017. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHESTER E. CLARK, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Hat-Bindings; 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 invention relates to improvements in bindings for stiff hats; and it consists in producing a binding tape, band, or ribbon of any suitable material in which one edge is shorter than the other and the short edge is made elastic, said tape adapted to be bound to the edge of a stiff hat-brim in a manner that will save stitching, cause the binding to lie flat against the brim, prevent puckering of the binding, and when finished present a neat finish.

Bindings in general use for hats consist of straight-edge ribbons of common form with a selvage along each edge. These are applied to hat-brims by first sewing one edge of the ribbon along the upper side of the brim, turning the ribbon over, and stitching the other edge along the under side of the brim. The first stitching is done by machinery and the second by hand. In some cases the binding is pasted to the brim at the front and rear portions of the latter, owing to the difficulty in sewing at such points and to cheapen the work. As the seam along the upper side of the brim is rarely ever the same length as that along the lower side of the brim, owing to the peculiar contours given the latter in the different styles of hat, in applying the binding, which is of the same length along both of its edges, it is necessary to stretch one edge and "full" or pucker the other in order to produce a neat job, and even then careful workmanship is required. These are some of the difficulties which I have overcome in my invention.

In the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this application, I have shown a preferred application of my invention in order that together with the following specification the invention may be fully understood.

In said drawings, Figure 1 is a front elevation of a hat to which my improved binding

is attached after my improved method. Fig. 2 is a bottom plan view of the same. Fig. 3 is a view of a section of hat-binding ribbon of common form. Fig. 4 is a similar view of a hat-binding ribbon made in accordance with my invention, and Fig. 5 is a cross-section through a hat-brim on the line *x x* of Fig. 1.

Referring to the drawings in detail, A represents a stiff hat of well-known form, having a curled stiff brim B, also of well-known contour.

C represents a plain, straight-edge ribbon suitable for hat-binding before it has been treated or operated upon in accordance with my invention, and D represents the same ribbon after it has been so treated.

d' represents a line of stitching along one edge of the ribbon, the style of stitching being what is commonly known as the "chain-stitch," which, as is well known, is more or less elastic in its action and has the property of being continuous or open, so that it may be stretched at certain points and the threads will be drawn from other parts of the seam or line of stitching. In applying this chain-stitch along one edge of the ribbon I so adjust the tension of the sewing-machine that the stitches will slightly draw the material, thus very gradually contracting that edge without any perceptible pucker or gather in the same. By using silk to form the chain-stitch I further increase the elasticity of the seam, silk being in itself more elastic than linen or cotton threads.

Before applying the above-described binding to hats I preferably shrink same by steaming or in any other well-known manner, though this is not essential to the successful application of my invention.

In applying my improved binding-ribbon to hats I first stitch the plain or untreated edge of the ribbon to the upper side of the brim with a machine in the usual manner and then turn over the ribbon against the under side of the brim and stitch it by hand along the parts between the points 1 2, 3 4, as shown in Fig. 2; but along the portions 1 3 and 2 4 I leave unstitched, and same are not secured to the brim in any manner, as the tension of the elastic chain-stitching is sufficient to cause the binding to hug the under side of the hat-brim closely and firmly, as shown in

Fig. 5. I have found that the line of stitching along the edge of the binding not only gives it a better finish or appearance, but also serves to improve the wearing qualities of the ribbon, and where the ribbon is sewed the chain-stitching serves to hide the hand-stitches. As the hand-stitching intersects the chain-stitches along the side of the hat-brim, a stronger and more durable seam is formed at such points.

It will be apparent that in some instances it may be desirable to chain-stitch both edges of the ribbon in order to effect a close fit about the hat-brim, or, on the other hand, I may prefer to chain-stitch only a portion of one edge instead of the whole band, such modifications being clearly within the scope of my present invention.

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

1. As a new article of manufacture, a binding for hats composed of a strip of suitable

material having a line of stitching along one edge, the stitches being under tension, whereby the stitched edge will be shorter than the unstitched edge. 25

2. As a new article of manufacture, a binding for hats composed of a strip of suitable fabric having along one edge a line of stitches of chain pattern under tension, whereby the stitched edge will be shorter than the unstitched edge. 30

3. As a new article of manufacture, a binding for hats, stitched along one edge with a silk thread under tension. 35

4. A binding for hats, composed of a strip of suitable fabric having one edge slightly puckered by a silk thread stitched under tension along said edge. 40

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

CHESTER E. CLARK.

Witnesses:

F. BENJAMIN,
CLYDE BASS.