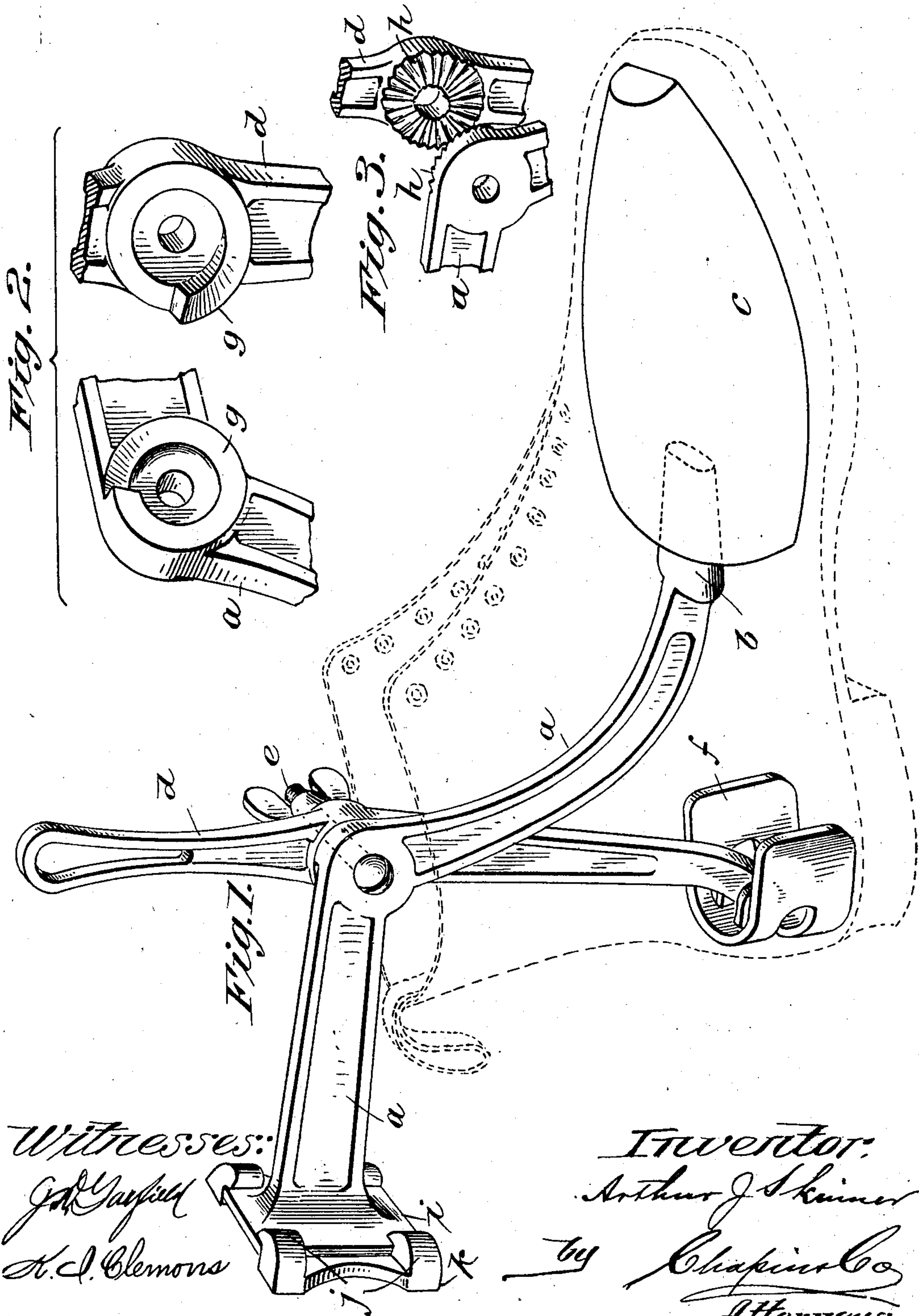


No. 735,833.

PATENTED AUG. 11, 1903.

A. J. SKINNER.  
SHOE HOLDING DEVICE.  
APPLICATION FILED DEC. 13, 1901.

NO MODEL.



Witnesses:  
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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ARTHUR J. SKINNER, OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS.

## SHOE-HOLDING DEVICE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 735,833, dated August 11, 1903.

Application filed December 13, 1901. Serial No. 85,808. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ARTHUR J. SKINNER, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Springfield, in the county of Hampden and State of Massachusetts, have invented new and useful Improvements in Shoe-Holding Devices, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to devices for holding shoes, &c., while they are being polished or for stretching the same, the object of the invention being to improve upon the construction of devices of this character now in use whereby they may be more cheaply manufactured and rendered practically more useful; and the invention consists in the construction, as described in the following specification, and more particularly pointed out in the claim.

In the drawings forming part of this application, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a shoe-holding device or stretcher embodying my invention, a shoe being shown in connection therewith in dotted lines. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the swinging connection between the two main parts of the device, these parts being shown in their separated relations. Fig. 3 is a similar view to Fig. 2, showing a modification of the construction.

In carrying out my invention in practice I provide a rigid supporting-arm *a* for the shoe to be attached removably or otherwise to a wall or similar support, the main part of this arm for a certain distance from the point of its attachment to the wall extending horizontally or substantially at a right angle thereto and then dipping or curving downwardly, the extremity of its lower end being finished off with a tapered head portion *b*, which is adapted to fit wedge-like into a similarly-tapered socket in the rear end of a toe-piece *c*, which engages the toe portion of the shoe, as indicated in the drawings, and substantially fills the same, so as to hold the shoe-upper properly while being operated upon to clean or blacken and polish it. At the point in said arm *a* where the bend thereof begins a swinging lever *d* is pivotally supported on a bolt *e*, passing centrally through the arm *a* and said lever, this bolt being provided with a thumb-nut, whereby said arm and lever may be clamped together, and so held for supporting

a shoe while being operated upon, as below set forth. To the lower end of said lever *d* a curved heel-plate *f* is pivotally hung to swing freely more or less in a plane parallel with said lever, whereby when said lever is manipulated to force the outer surface of said heel-plate against that part of the inner surface of the shoe-upper just above the rear part of the heel of the shoe said outer surface shall without any injurious abrading action so act against said shoe-upper as to draw the toe of the shoe tightly onto said toe-piece *c* to the position shown in Fig. 1 ready to be worked upon for polishing, &c. Thus it is evident that the entire outer side of the plate is forced into the position described and shown in the drawings relative to said inner surface of the shoe-upper near the heel, as above described, whereby all distortion of the part of said shoe-upper so engaged is avoided. Thus the use of said pivoted plate provides against any damage to the shoe such as is liable to be caused by the use of a button rigidly fixed on the lower end of said lever *d*, as heretofore practiced. Furthermore, the use of said pivoted heel-plate obviates all danger of tearing or displacing the shoe-lining against which it is forced due to its broad engagement therewith and its automatic adaptation vertically to the inside of the shoe-upper against which it is forced.

In further explanation of the action of the heel-piece *f* in drawing the toe portion of the upper or vamp tightly onto the toe-piece *c* it should be observed that the pressure-lever *d* projects at its lower end to a point below the plane of the holding element *b* for the rigid toe-piece *c*, whereby the vertically-swinging heel-piece *f* is pivoted at a point below the plane of the support for the toe-piece. By reason of this specific relation of the pivotal support for the heel-piece with reference to the support for the toe-piece provision is made when the stretching pressure is applied to the lever *d* for drawing the vamp downward over the rigid toe-piece, at the same time permitting the heel-piece to remain permanently in firm contact with the counter.

It is desirable in a device of this character that the operation of placing the shoe on the toe-piece and forcibly drawing it on by the



manipulation of the lever *d* and the securing of said lever rigidly in whatever position it may be desired should all be capable of being done quickly and easily and that the  
 5 fastening for the lever *d* to hold it in position should be of that character which will prevent it from yielding when the required pressure is applied to the heel-plate *f* for drawing the toe-piece *c* firmly onto the tapered extremity *b* of said arm *a* while adjusting the shoe thereon. The manner of  
 10 fastening said swinging lever to the arm *a* is as follows: At that point where the arm *a* and the lever *d* are pivotally united their contiguous surfaces comprise two edge cams  
 15 *g*, as shown in Fig. 2, which are halved together, the bolt *e* passing centrally there-through. When the lever *d* is swung on the bolt, the operation of its cam will tend to  
 20 force it away from the side of the arm *a* when the swing is in such direction as will throw the lower end thereof toward the toe-piece.

It is obvious that when a shoe is stretched over the toe-piece by the lever *d* and the  
 25 thumb-nut is tightened up to hold the lever snugly against the arm *a* and the two cam-surfaces *g* are in close contact it will be impossible so long as this close contact is forcibly maintained by the thumb-nut  
 30 to swing the lower end of the lever *d* toward said toe-piece, for the attempt to do so would be blocked by the thumb-nut on the bolt *e*, which would have to be forced off of the latter endwise to permit said lever *d* to  
 35 swing on the screw, because of the interengaging cam-surfaces between said lever and the arm *a*. This construction constitutes, therefore, a very powerful means for locking the lever *d* in position, and, furthermore, it is a  
 40 construction which is easily and cheaply manufactured and one which requires no costly finishing operations—that is to say, the cam-surfaces and the holes for the bolts may be cast in the arms ready to receive the  
 45 bolt.

The heel-plate *f* is secured to the lower end of the lever *d* by a pin, whose ends are upset to retain it in place and which permits the free swing of said heel-plate.

50 The construction shown in Fig. 3 is one which might be used in place of the cam-surfaces shown in Fig. 2, although it is not as easy of manufacture, nor is the device as easily manipulated when this is applied thereto.  
 55 The modification consists in casting or forming in the annular contiguous contact-surfaces between the arm *a* and the lever *d* V-

shaped slots *h* on each of said parts radially disposed relative to the axis of said lever *d*, whose projections and depressions are adapted to interengage when the nut on the bolt *e* is set up to hold the lever *d* in position. 60

In attaching the arm *a* to a wall I prefer to construct it with a flat base *i*, the edges of which on two sides thereof may be slightly tapered to fit closely between suitable lugs *j* of a base-plate *k*, which may be screwed to the wall, the arm being secured in operative position by forcing the base *i* down behind and between the lugs. Other methods, however, may be adopted for securing the device to the wall. These V-shaped depressions and projections are in the nature of a series of cam-surfaces. The provision of the cam-surfaces renders it unnecessary to depend upon the forcible setting up of the thumb-nut to hold the lever *d* against movement in one direction, for the nut need only be set up strongly enough to keep these surfaces in contact, which while it is maintained will prevent the swing of the arm in one direction. This is too obvious to need further explanation. 70 75 80

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is— 85

In a shoe-holder for polishing purposes, a supporting-arm having a dipped member provided at its terminal with a holding element, a toe-piece engaging said holding element and held rigid thereby with the arm, a swinging pressure-lever pivoted to the supporting-arm and projecting below its pivot to a point below the plane of said holding element, said pressure-lever having a swinging movement in a direction toward and from the rigid toe-piece, a vertically-swinging heel-piece having a rest portion designed to extend vertically along the back of the counter between the top and bottom thereof, said heel-piece having between its top and bottom edges a transverse pivotal connection with the lower extremity of the pressure-lever whereby such connection is disposed below the top of the counter and also below the holding member for the rigid toe-piece so that the top of the vamp will be drawn downward and stretched over said toe-piece, and a locking device for holding the pressure-lever in its strained position. 90 95 100 105

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Witnesses:

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