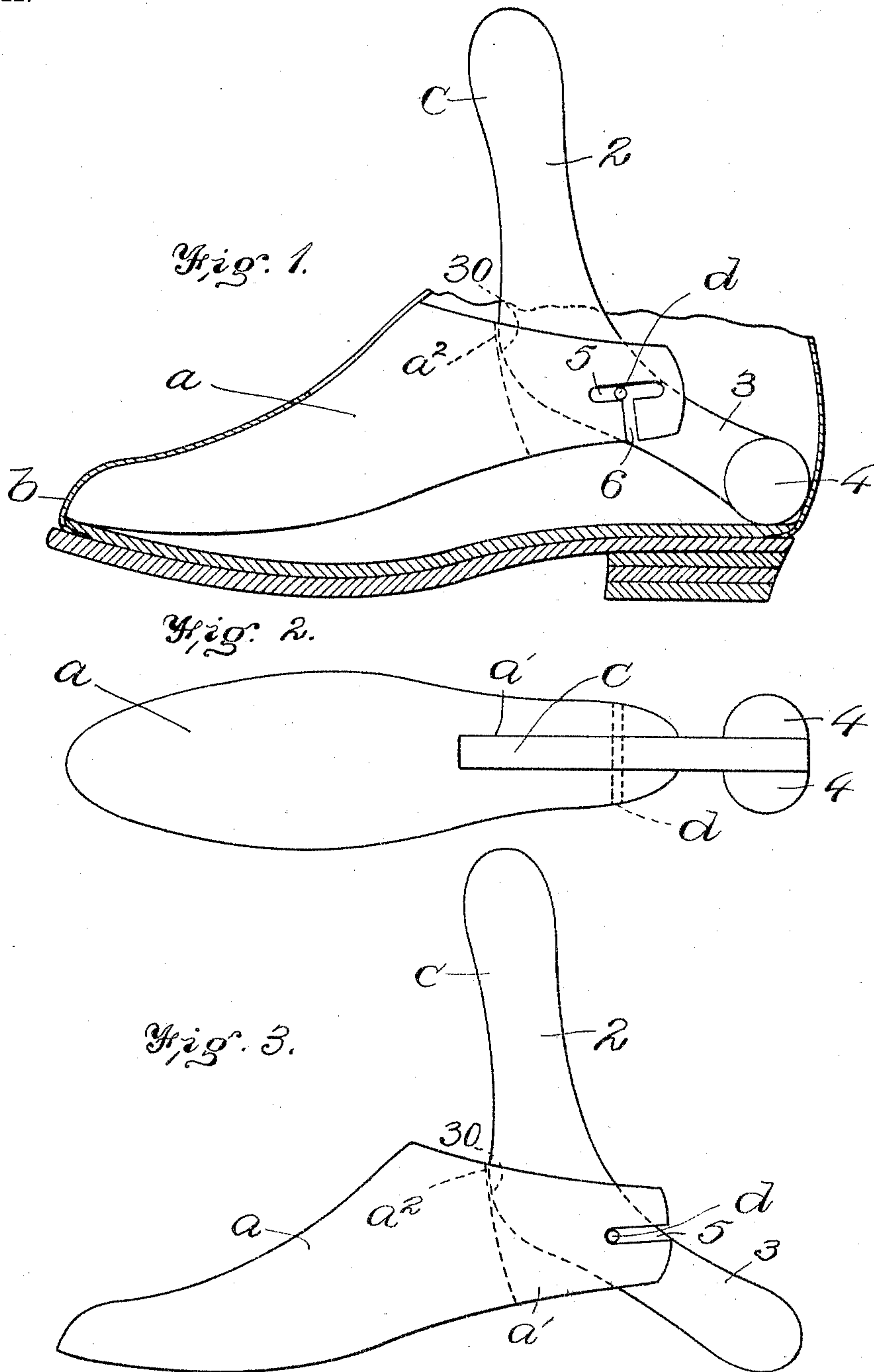


No. 777,188.

PATENTED DEC. 13, 1904.

F. DREW.
SHOE TREE OR STRETCHER.
APPLICATION FILED MAR. 7, 1904.

NO MODEL.



Witnesses:
P. W. Pizzetti
E. Batchelder

Inventor:
Fred Drew
by Wright, Brown & Quincy
Attys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRED DREW, OF BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF
TO A. A. DELANO, OF BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

SHOE TREE OR STRETCHER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 777,188, dated December 13, 1904.

Application filed March 7, 1904. Serial No. 196,862. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRED DREW, of Brockton, in the county of Plymouth and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and
5 useful Improvements in Shoe Trees or Stretchers, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to shoe trees or stretchers which are intended to be used by the wearer of a pair of shoes to exert longitudinal pressure on the interior of the upper
10 between the heel and toe portions for the purpose of eradicating wrinkles and of supporting the upper so that it may be conveniently cleaned, polished, &c.

The invention has for its object to provide a two-part tree or stretcher adapted to be quickly and conveniently engaged with the upper and constructed to provide for automatically adapting itself to fit varying sizes
15 of shoes.

The invention consists in the improvements which I will now proceed to describe and claim.

In the accompanying drawings I have illustrated my invention as embodied in the type of shoe tree or stretcher which is shown, described, and claimed in the application, Serial
25 No. 188,984, filed January 14, 1904, by A. A. Delano. It is to be understood, however, that my present invention may be embodied in a somewhat different type of tree or stretcher.

Of the said drawings, Figure 1 represents a longitudinal section of a shoe having a tree or stretcher constructed according to my invention fitted within said shoe. Fig. 2 represents a top plan view of the tree or stretcher. Fig. 3 represents a modification hereinafter described.

The same reference characters indicate the
40 same parts in all the figures.

In the drawings, *a* represents the fore part of the tree or stretcher, said fore part being formed to enter the fore part of the upper of a shoe *b*. The said fore part *a* is provided
45 with a vertical slot *a'*, the upper portion *a''* of which is adapted to act as a stop for a portion of the lever hereinafter described. The lever *c* is connected with the fore part by means of a fulcrum pin or pivot *d*, said lever

having an outer arm 2 and an inner arm 3, 50 the lower end of the latter being preferably formed with a knob or enlargement 4 to engage the edge of the shoe.

The lever *c* is provided with a protuberance 30, which is adapted to cooperate with the
55 wall *a''* of the slot *a'* in a manner substantially the same as described in the application above referred to. Briefly this cooperation may be stated as follows: When the upper arm 2 of the lever is thrown to the right
60 from the position shown in Fig. 1, it is obvious that the lower end of the arm 3 moves toward the toe and enables the tree to be inserted or removed. When, however, the parts are in substantially the position shown
65 in Fig. 1, the inner arm is in position so that its outer end comes to a bearing simultaneously against the inner wall of the shoe while the fore part is pushed forward to the toe.

According to my present improvement the
70 portions of the fore part which overlap the lever are each formed with a horizontal slot 5, into which the pivot *d* projects. This slot 5 may extend directly to the rear end of the fore part, the end of said slot 5 being open,
75 as shown in Fig. 3, or the ends of the slot 5 may be closed and the intermediate part of the lower side of said slot communicate with the lower edge by means of a vertical slot, such as shown at 6 in Fig. 1. For some reasons I prefer this latter construction. This structure not only enables the two members of the tree or stretcher to be readily assembled or taken apart, but it also adapts the device to automatically adjust itself to vary-
80 ing sizes of shoes within the limits of the length of the slot 5. It will be readily understood that when the device is inserted in a shoe, as shown in Fig. 1, if the shoe were shorter than that shown in said figure the
90 pivot *d* would be nearer the left-hand end of the slot 5 when the device is in stretching position and when the stop *a''* of the fore part and the protuberance or stop 30 of the lever *c* come in contact with each other, and if the
95 shoe were a larger one the outer arm 2 of the lever would be turned farther to the left, the protuberance 30 riding down the wall of the

slot a' , so as to bear against a lower portion of the stop a^2 , the pivot d at the same time riding outward or toward the right along the slot 5 until the limit of movement is reached as prescribed by the size of the shoe. Therefore the adjustment becomes automatic.

It will be seen that the two members of the tree or stretcher overlap and that the overlapping portion of the fore part is longitudinally slotted, the two members of the tree or stretcher having abutting portions comprising the protuberance 30 and the stop-wall a^2 , which will hold the two parts in relative positions for stretching the shoe independently of the position of the pivot relatively to said slot, thereby providing a simple and convenient form of self-adjusting tree or stretcher.

I claim—

1. A shoe tree or stretcher comprising two overlapping members, one of which is adapted to engage the toe and the other the heel of a shoe, one of said members being longitudinally slotted, a pivot projecting from the other member and extending into said slot, and the said members having abutting portions to hold them in relative positions for stretching the shoe independently of the position of the pivot relatively to said slot.

2. A shoe tree or stretcher comprising a

fore part and a lever, the fore part having a slot through which the lever extends, the portions of the fore part which overlap the lever being longitudinally slotted, and a pivot projecting from the lever into said longitudinal slots, the said fore part and lever having abutting portions to hold them in relative positions for stretching the shoe independently of the position of the pivot in said longitudinal slots.

3. A shoe tree or stretcher comprising a fore part and a lever, the fore part having a slot through which the lever extends, the portions of the fore part which overlap the lever being longitudinally slotted and having vertical slots connecting with the longitudinal slots, and a pivot projecting from the lever into said longitudinal slots, the said fore part and lever having abutting portions to hold them in relative positions for stretching the shoe independently of the position of the pivot in said longitudinal slots.

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

FRED DREW.

Witnesses:

A. W. HARRISON,
R. M. PIERSON.