

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## PROCESS FOR LUSTERING AND FINISHING SILK THREADS.

No. 911,906.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, EDWARD POHL, a citizen of the United States of America, and a resident of New York, county and State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Process for Lustering and Finishing Silk Threads, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to methods of treating silk threads in which a finishing or lustering solution is first applied to the threads and the threads thereafter ironed and polished. Threads thus treated present smooth, unbroken, and highly polished surfaces to the eye, the fibers which usually project laterally from silk threads being all laid during the operation and retained in such condition by the finishing or lustering material. This laying of the fibers is, however, not desirable in most cases, the loading and polishing of the threads being what is desired, and not the laying of the fibers. When the threads are finally used in the weaving of silk cloth the loaded and polished threads will give the "body" required and also the polished surface or "sheen" so sought after, but goods made of threads so treated, when rubbed together, will not produce the desired "rustle" or "swish", and it is the absence of the projecting fibers which is accountable for this. The trade and public require this "rustle" or "swish" of silk cloth, and it is the object of my present invention to treat silk threads in such a manner that though loaded and polished the fibers shall still be permitted to project laterally therefrom so that this "rustle" or "swish" may result in goods made up therefrom. To this end I rupture or break the surface of the lustering or finishing material after it has been applied, dried, and ironed upon the threads, so as to release the fibers which have been laid thereby and to permit them to once more project laterally from the surface of the threads. This rupturing of the surface of the finishing material may be brought about in any desired manner, and

may be conveniently accomplished by rubbing the threads over the edge of a contact element. I find that an efficacious treatment is the rubbing of the threads laterally across the edge of a contact element along which the thread is at the same time drawn lengthwise.

The finishing and lustering solution which is first applied may be of any suitable character, and preferably contains bees-wax suitably dissolved and held in solution while being applied. The threads may be dried and ironed in any suitable manner, as, for instance, by drawing the same over a heated contact surface, all in a manner which will be well understood by those skilled in this art. Suitable take-up means, as, for instance, a spool winding apparatus may be provided for drawing the threads over the surface and winding them on to spools into a condition ready for further use.

What I claim is:

1. The herein described process of lustering and finishing silk threads which consists in first applying a finishing or lustering solution to the threads, whereby the threads are loaded and the fibers laid, in then drying and ironing the threads so treated, and in finally rupturing the surface of the dried and ironed finishing or lustering material to release the laid fibers.

2. The herein described process of lustering and finishing silk threads which consists in first applying a finishing or lustering solution to the threads, whereby the threads are loaded and the fibers laid, in then drying and ironing the threads, and in finally rubbing the threads across the edge of a contact element so as to rupture the surface of the dried and ironed finishing or lustering material in order to release the laid fibers and to permit them to project laterally.

EDWARD POHL.

Witnesses:

D. HOWARD HAYWOOD,  
LYMAN S. ANDREWS, Jr.