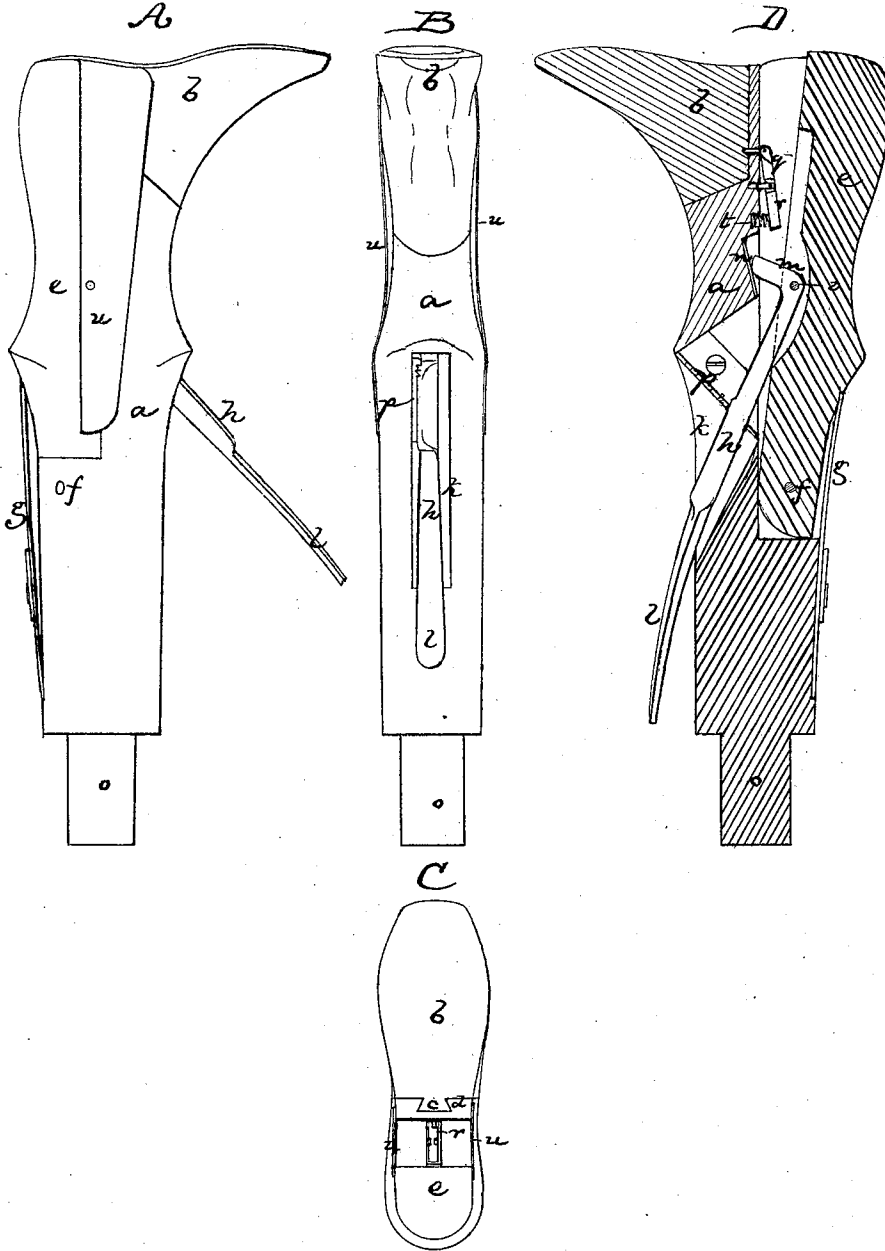


C. STODDARD.

Improvement in Shoe-Trees.

No. 130,329.

Patented Aug. 6, 1872.



Witnesses.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CURTIS STODDARD, OF NORTH BROOKFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS.

IMPROVEMENT IN SHOE-TREES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 130,329, dated August 6, 1872.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CURTIS STODDARD, of North Brookfield, in the county of Worcester and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improved Shoe-Tree; and I do hereby declare that the following, taken in connection with the drawing which accompanies and forms part of this specification, is a description of my invention sufficient to enable those skilled in the art to practice it.

My invention relates to the construction and arrangement of a shoe-tree for stretching and holding shoes in finishing them. In my invention I have a solid leg-piece, with a sliding foot-piece applied to its front side and a movable heel and stretcher-block at its rear side, said block being jointed at its upper end to the leg-piece, and being forced out by a lever extending through the front of the leg-piece and in by a spring, the lever being held in position to keep the parts open and the shoe stretched upon the tree by a suitable ratchet-plate. The invention consists in a tree thus made.

The drawing represents a tree embodying my invention, A showing a side view, B a top view, C a front view, and D a section, of the tree.

a denotes the main or leg piece; *b*, the foot-piece, attached to the piece *a* by a dovetail tenon, *c*, sliding in a mortise *d* in the piece *a*. *e* denotes the movable block. This block is pivoted to the piece *a* by a pin, *f*, the block being held up to the leg-piece *a*, with its adjacent face abutting or pressed toward the leg-piece by the stress of a spring, *g*. *h* denotes the lever for forcing the block *e* outward, said lever being pivoted at *i*. The long arm of this lever extends through a slot, *k*, in the piece *a*, and has a handle, *l*, and the short arm *m* is bent and its end bears and plays against a face, *n*, beyond the slot *k*.

The tree, when in position, extends horizontally from the bench, being fastened to the bench by a pin, *o*, that extends into a suitable socket in the bench. When the shoe is to be placed on the tree, or "treed," the handle *l* is disengaged from a ratchet-plate, *p*, and the

stress of the spring closes the block *e* upon the piece *a*. The shoe is then drawn over the foot-piece *b* and upon the leg-piece *a*, and, when in position, the lever-handle *l* is pressed toward the leg-piece *a*, which throws out the block *e* and foot-piece *b* against the stress of the spring and stretches the boot upon the three pieces *a b e*, in which stretched position it is held by locking the lever *h* in place by engaging it with one of the teeth of the ratchet-plate *p*. When the work upon the shoe is finished, or the shoe is ready for removal, the lever is unlocked or slipped from the ratchet-plate, when the spring *g* will instantly close the parts together, and the shoe can then be withdrawn from the tree.

In applying the shoe the foot-piece is first slipped into the front of the shoe-foot, and then the leg-piece *a* is slid upon its tenon *c*, and to hold the foot-piece and leg-piece together a pin, *q*, may be used, said pin being in the end of a lever, *r*, and being forced into the foot-piece, when the block is opened, by the stress of a spring, *t*, the pressure of the block against the lever forcing back the pin when the tree is closed. To cover the open space between the leg-piece *a* and block *e* when the tree is open, a plate, *u*, is fixed to each side of the stretcher-block *e*, and extends over the adjacent edge of the leg-piece, as seen at A.

By means of the tree so made shoes may be very rapidly jacked, treed, or stretched, for hand-finishing operation, and the tool is very simple and strong, is easily worked, and is inexpensive.

I claim—

The shoe-tree having the leg-piece *a*, to which the foot-piece *b* is applied and the stretcher-block *e* pivoted, the block *e* being pressed in by the spring *g* applied to the leg-piece and to the block, and being forced out by the lever *h*, all substantially as shown and described.

CURTIS STODDARD.

Witnesses:

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