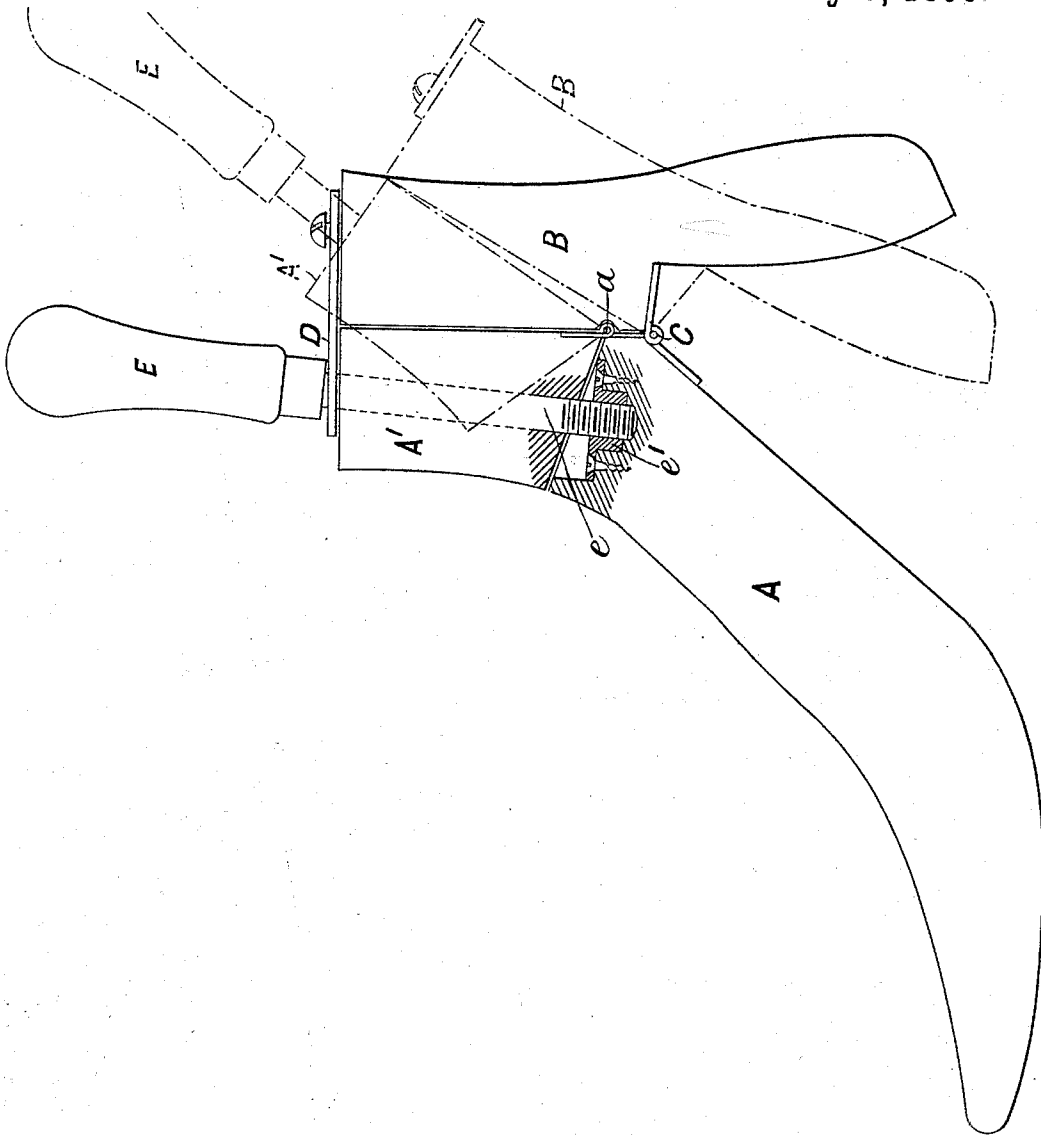


(No. Model.)

J. BOWLER.
BOOT TREE.

No. 497,164.

Patented May 9, 1893.



WITNESSES:

C. Sedgwick
E. M. Clark

INVENTOR

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ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES BOWLER, OF LONDON, ENGLAND.

BOOT-TREE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 497,164, dated May 9, 1893.

Application filed November 15, 1892. Serial No. 452,070. (No model.) Patented in England May 15, 1891, No. 8,399.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES BOWLER, boot-tree maker, of 33 Raphael Street, Knightsbridge, London, in the county of Middlesex, England, have invented new and useful Improvements in Boot and Shoe Trees, (for which I have obtained Letters Patent in Great Britain, dated May 15, 1891, No. 8,399,) of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention is an improvement in the class of boot-trees which are formed of two parts hinged together and provided with extended upper portions which serve as handles for manipulating the tree.

The invention is embodied in the construction and combination of parts hereinafter described and claimed.

The accompanying drawing represents a side view of my boot-tree—part being broken away.

A indicates the toe portion, and B the heel portion. They are of the usual shape exteriorly, except that they abut at the upper part above the point, C, where they are hinged together, and that, below the hinge, C, there is a gap, or space, between their under sides so as to permit the heel portion, B, to fold beneath the other, A, as shown by dotted lines. When in this (folded) position, the tree may be readily introduced into a boot, or shoe, and then, by pressing on the two parts which are above the hinge, C, the lower por-

tions are forced apart, which drives the part, A, toward the toe, and the part B, toward the heel, of the boot or shoe. In this position (shown by full lines), they are rigidly locked by a catch D, which is pivoted on the head of the heel portion, B, and engages a stud fixed in the head of part A.

For convenience of racking the upper part A', of the toe portion, A, is made separate therefrom and is hinged thereto at *a*, so that it will fold back toward the part B, as shown by dotted lines. When required for use, the two parts are rigidly united by a screw rod *e*, which passes through a longitudinal bore in the part A', and screws into a nut *e'*, fixed in the part A.

I claim—

The combination, with the front portion of the last, composed of two upper and lower parts, A and A', hinged together, and the heel portion, B, hinged to said front portion and the screw-rod, *e*, having a handle, E, and passing through the part A' and adapted to engage the part A, and a device for locking together the front and heel portions, substantially as shown and described.

Dated this 21st day of October, 1892.

JAMES BOWLER.

Witnesses:

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