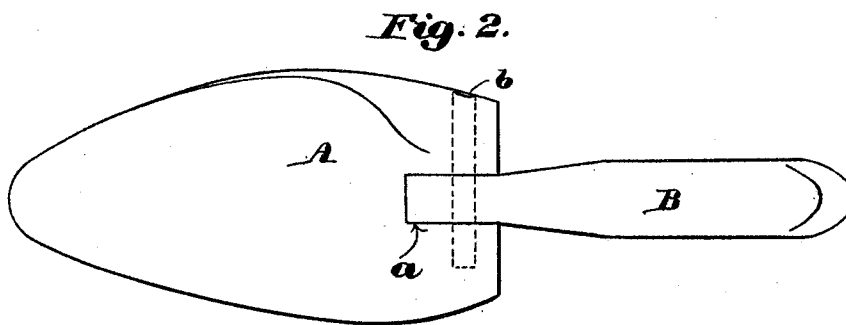
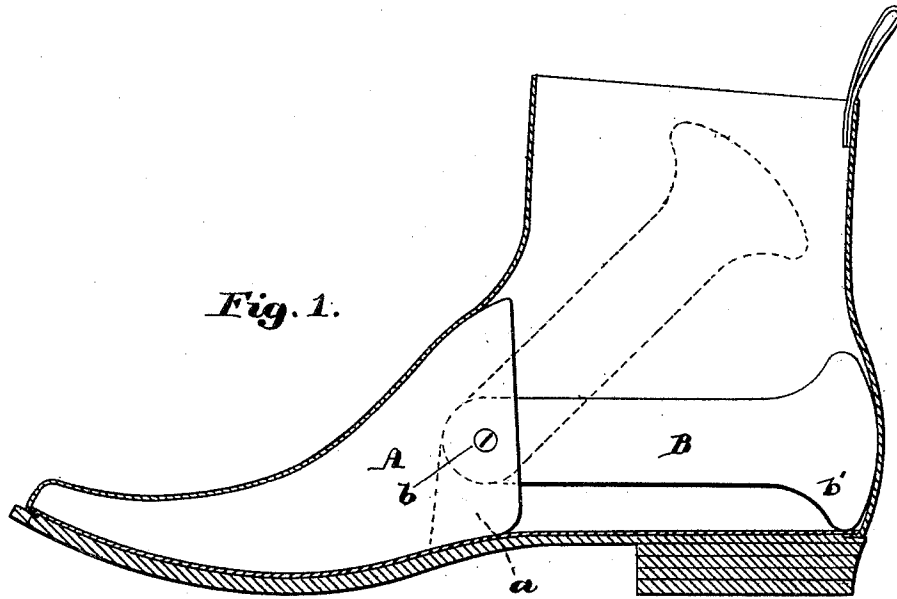


(No Model.)

J. H. WOODBURY.
SHOE HOLDER.

No. 581,569.

Patented Apr. 27, 1897.



Witnesses:
Walter S. Lombard.
Thomas J. Drummond.

Inventor:
James H. Woodbury,
by Lemby Longory. *Atty's.*

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES H. WOODBURY, OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS.

SHOE-HOLDER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 581,569, dated April 27, 1897.

Application filed December 22, 1896. Serial No. 616,679. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES H. WOODBURY, of Somerville, county of Middlesex, State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Shoe-Holders, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification, like letters on the drawings representing like parts.

This invention has for its object the production of a novel shoe-holder adapted to be used by shoe-dealers and the general public for distending and keeping in place a shoe.

My invention may be used to distend a shoe in a shop-window, to distend and keep flat the sole of a shoe when not being worn or after the same by wear has been wet, and it is also very useful to hold a shoe when being blackened or cleaned.

Figure 1, in side elevation, represents one of my holders in place in a shoe, the dotted lines showing the handpiece turned up preparatory to withdrawing the holder; and Fig. 2 is an under side view of the holder.

The fore part A of the holder is shaped as the fore part of any usual last to fill the front part of the upper and rest on the sole to keep the upper in shape and the sole flat.

It is a fact that in use the sole of a shoe which is being worn will when left off the foot for a few days bend or curl up crosswise. So to keep shoes in their best condition for appearance the inner sole should be acted on by a last when not being used.

The fore part A terminates near the instep of the shoe, and at the bottom of the fore part, near its thickened end, I have provided a notch or slot *a*, in which I have pivoted at *b* a handpiece B, its free end being enlarged to bear against the interior of the heel of the shoe inside its counter, the said handpiece when pushed down in place, as represented by full lines, crowding the fore part snugly into the front part of the shoe, keeping the upper stretched and in its original shape.

The handpiece is so shaped, having a depending portion *b'*, and it occupies such a

position in the shoe, being centrally pivoted at *b* above the bottom of the fore part between the instep and shank and midway between the sides of the fore part, that it may be easily grasped by the hand to hold the shoe firmly when the shoe is to be cleaned or polished, for instance.

I am aware that a shoe-form has been proposed having a forward shell to fit the fore part of the shoe and a single wire extending therefrom to the rear, said wire being looped over at the heel and sliding freely back and forth in a strip of leather on the bottom of said shell, a loop of elastic cord being connected to the front end of the wire and to the rear end of the shell so as to slide and hold the loop end of the wire against the heel, and also that it has been proposed to make a form having a shell to fit the forward part of the shoe, and a counter portion made of a strip of sheet material bent around in U shape to fit against the counter and inner sole throughout its extent, being hinged at each end to the sides of the shell, and therefore I make no claim to either of these structures.

Having described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

A shoe-holder, comprising a fore part, and a handpiece, the former being adapted to fill out the forward part of a boot or shoe, the latter being pivoted unyieldingly to the fore part and having a depending portion at its rear end, said handpiece having a solid portion between its pivot and end raised from the bottom of the shoe, when in place therein, to permit the fingers to grasp around it and constituting a rigid brace and a convenient handle, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JAMES H. WOODBURY.

Witnesses:

GEO. W. GREGORY,
ADDIE F. DANIELS.