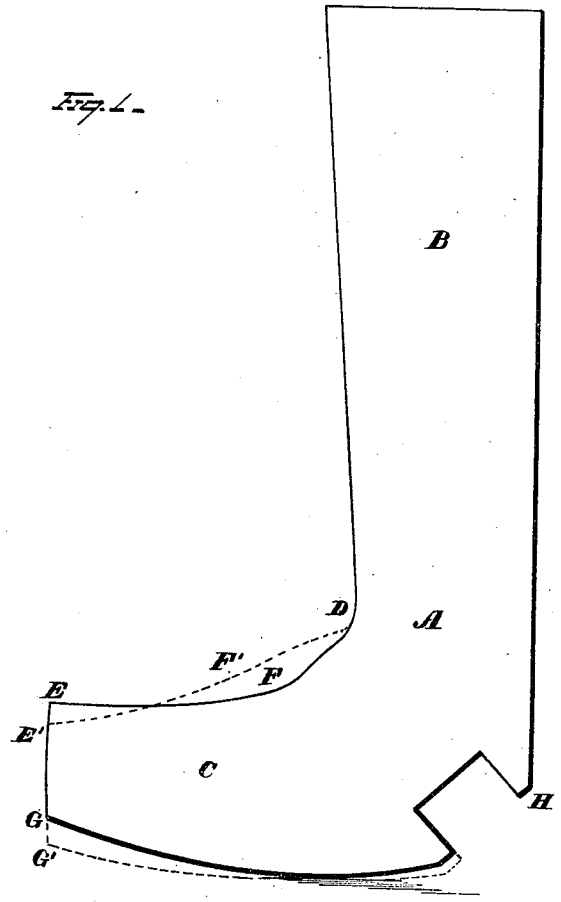
2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

H. A. ROBINSON.

CRIMPING FORMS FOR BOOTS AND SHOES.

No. 178,330. Patented June 6, 1876.

Fig. 1.



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2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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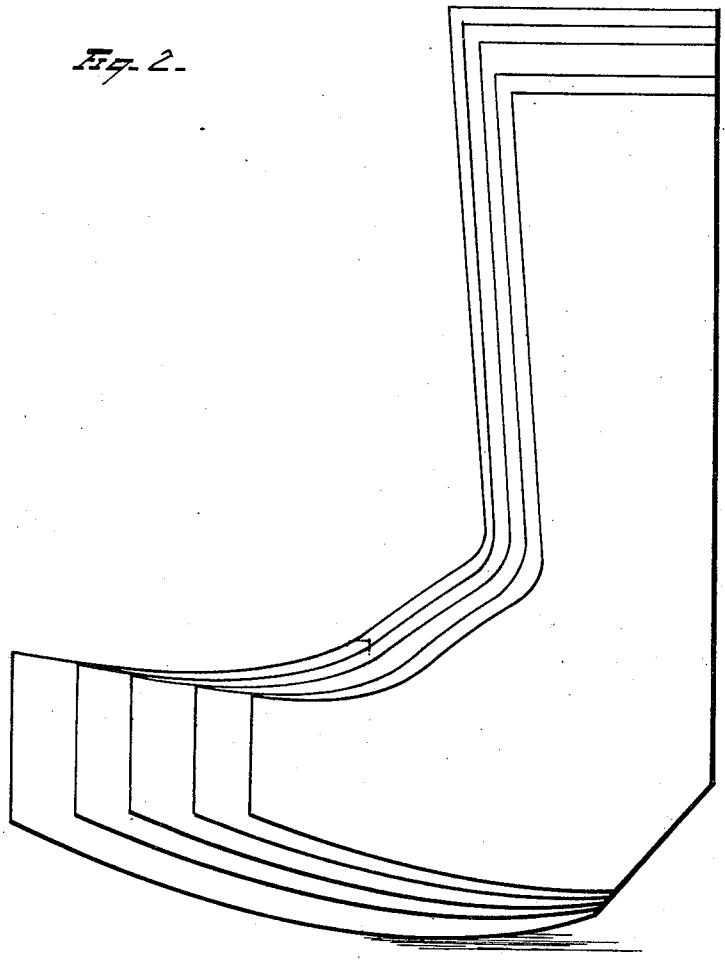
Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

HENRY A. ROBINSON, OF AKRON, OHIO.

IMPROVEMENT IN CRIMPING-FORMS FOR BOOTS AND SHOES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **178,330**, dated June 6, 1876; application filed April 12, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY A. ROBINSON, of Akron, in the county of Summit and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Crimping-Boards; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and use it, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form part of this specification.

My invention relates to an improved crimping-board for crimping boot-fronts; and consists in forming the foot-crimping board so that that portion of the upper edge extending from the leg to the toe shall form a depressed curve, and the toe more elevated than has been the custom heretofore in making boot-crimps, the object being to so stretch the leather that when it is lasted that portion of the leather which forms the shank may press easily into the shank without requiring the leather to be stretched at that point in order to bring it into its proper position.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation of my improved crimping-board. Fig. 2 represents a set or nest of crimping-boards, all of similar construction, but being of various sizes to correspond with the different sizes of boots.

Heretofore it has been customary in making crimping-boards to make the upper portion of the foot, or that portion which extends from the leg to the point of the toe, straight, or nearly so, as shown by the dotted lines in Fig. 1. So, also, it has been customary in making crimping-boards to have the toe depressed lower than is shown in my construction by the full lines in Fig. 1. In crimping a boot-leg over the old form of crimping-boards the boot-front is so crimped that when it is afterward lasted the strain upon the leather is at the lower edges thereof, and it is therefore necessary, in order to properly last the boot-front at the shank to stretch the leather considerably at the lower edges. Moreover, the front, when crimped on the old form of crimping-board, causes the leather when lasting to bag up in the immediate vicinity of the ball, which bagging up is obliged to be worked out by forcibly stretching the leather down to the shank. The result is a boot-front that, when lasted, the leather is strained to a greater extent at the ball than at any other portion of the foot. Moreover, it presents the leather in such a condition that it will not wear uniformly or easily upon the foot on account of the unequal stretch of the leather. Moreover, the boot-front cannot be brought to so perfect a fit upon the last as it can when crimped upon a crimping-board like that one in my invention shown by the full lines in Fig. 1.

A is the crimping-board. B is the leg; C, the foot. D is the junction of the top edge of the foot with the front edge of the leg. E is the toe, elevated, as shown in Fig. 1, considerably above the point E′ on the old form of crimping-board. D F E represent the depressed curve formed on the top edge of the foot of my crimping-board. G is the under side of the toe of the crimping-board, which, it will be seen, is correspondingly elevated about the corresponding point G′ on the old last. H is the heel of the crimping-board, and it will be noticed that the strain or stretch of the leather will be in a direct line from G to H, whereas the bottom or lower edge of the leather which is to form the foot is considerably below this line of stretch. It is apparent, therefore, that a boot-front crimped upon my crimping-board, and made to fit the crimp accurately, will not present the bagging at the ball of the foot that is presented on the old last; that the necessity for this extra amount of leather, as required in the old case, is here obviated by throwing that portion of the leather which is to come into the shank below the line of stretch G H, so that when the boot-front is lasted the front or toe portion is fastened to the last and the heel drawn down into its proper position; the leather which was formerly along the top edge of the foot will fit nicely upon the last, and that portion which is to form the shank will be perfectly free and unstretched, and can be readily pressed with the fingers into its proper position on the last; and, when finally lasted, the portion that receives the stretch is that embraced between the instep and the heel H.

Heretofore it has been customary in making crimping-boards, as before stated, with the upper edge of the foot D F′ E′ straight, or nearly so, and therefore all sizes of boot-fronts have been crimped on the same crimping-

board; but a crimping-board constructed in accordance with my invention, with a depressed curve, D F E, is not suited to crimp all sizes of boot-fronts, but each different size will have its own crimping-board for the reason that the distance from the point D to the ball F will vary with the different sizes of boots. Thus a smaller crimping-board, though similar to the above, should be employed for youths' boots. Another larger, but similar board, should be employed for boys' size. Still another for men's size; and as the sizes in these different grades vary somewhat, there should be two or more youths' size, two or more boys' size, &c., thus forming a group or nest of graded crimping-boards which form a system of such crimping-boards. Moreover, it will be noticed that by the old form of crimping-board more leather was necessarily thrown into the shank than was ultimately required at that point, and it has to be cut away after lasting; but by my crimping-board the leather is dropped down upon the top edge of the foot, or along the line D E F, and consequently that amount of material is saved about the shank.

What I claim is—

1. The improved crimping-board, consisting of the leg B and foot C, the upper edge of the foot from the point of the toe E to the point of juncture D forming the depressed curve F, substantially as and for the purpose described.

2. A crimping-board consisting of a leg, B, and a foot, C, with the points D G H located with respect to each other and with respect to the curve F, that the line of stretch will be in lasting along the line G H, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

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

HENRY A. ROBINSON.

Witnesses:

FRANCIS TOUMEY,

JAMES P. WALSH.