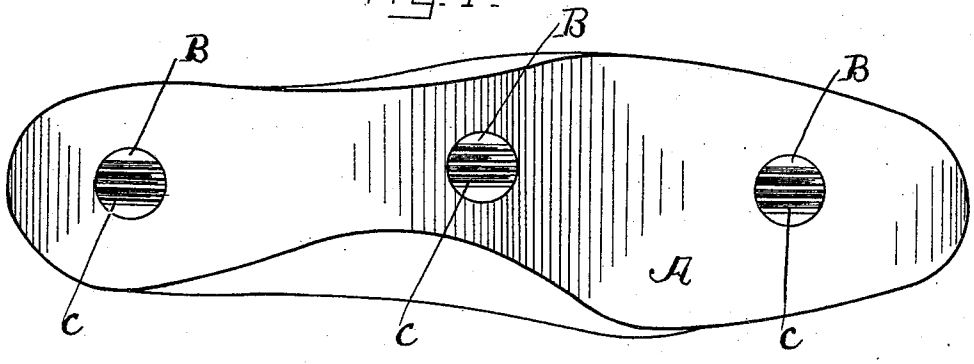
(No Model.)

C. H. JOSSELYN.

LAST.

No. 496,785. Patented May 2, 1893.

Fig. 1.



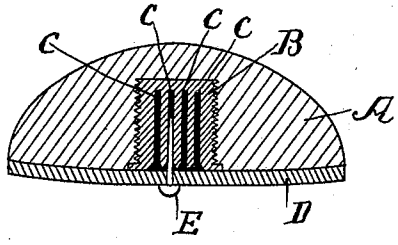


Fig. 2.

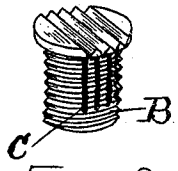


Fig. 3.

WITNESSES:

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LAST.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 496,785, dated May 2, 1893.

Application filed August 1, 1892. Serial No. 441,799. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES H. JOSSELYN, of Rockland, in the county of Plymouth and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Lasts for Boots, Shoes, and Slippers, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my invention is to prevent the injury to lasts caused by driving nails into them in the process of lasting the shoe.

In the manufacture of boots, shoes or slippers the first thing done is to temporarily attach the inner sole to the last by means of nails or tacks driven through the leather into the last which is either made wholly of wood or has a metallic facing on the under part of the sole. In the latter case such facing is provided with holes through which the nails can be driven into the last. These holes are usually three in number,—one near the toe, one near the beginning of the forward part of the arch of the instep, and one on the heel. After the inner sole has been fastened to the last the uppers or vamps are drawn over the upper part of the last and secured to the inner sole. When this has been done the tacks or nails which fastened the inner sole to the last are withdrawn. It is found in practice that after a last has been used for a brief time the wood becomes chipped and broken by this repeated driving in and drawing out of nails and will no longer hold the nails and the last becomes useless. My invention is intended to obviate this difficulty and to enable a last to be used for an indefinite period. I attain this end by means of a last provided with plugs slotted longitudinally so that the nails or tacks can be driven into the slots of the plugs through the leather of the sole and hold the said sole firmly to the last and can be afterward withdrawn without injury to the last.

Figure 1, is a last provided with three such last plugs. Fig. 2, is a vertical section of a portion of the last showing a last plug in position with the inner sole held to the last by a nail driven through the leather into one of the slots. Fig. 3, is a last plug slotted longitudinally.

Similar letters refer to similar parts throughout the several views.

A, is a last.

B, is a last plug slotted longitudinally.

C, C, are slots in the last plug.

D, is an inner sole.

E, is a nail.

The last plug B is preferably made of steel or some other hard metal and is provided with one or more longitudinal slots C separated by parallel partitions integral with the plug each of which slots is made of proper width to enable a nail to be driven into it and to bind against its sides which are preferably beveled for a short distance from their upper or outer surfaces. One or more, but usually three such plugs are used and are so inserted into the last that the outer surface of the plug will be as nearly as possible flush with the under surface of the last or of its metallic facing, if such facing is used. When the inner sole is placed in position upon the last, nails can be driven through it into such slots and will hold it closely to the last. After the lasting is finished the nails can be withdrawn as usual. But the driving and withdrawal of the nails will do no injury whatever to the last, and but little if any, to the plug which can be replaced by a new one whenever desired.

In the drawings I show the plug inserted in the last by means of a screw thread on the outer surface of the plug, but the mode of attachment is immaterial. I also show the sides of the slots beveled for the purpose of guiding the nails more rapidly into said slots, but this though desirable is not absolutely essential.

I am aware that spring plates having beveled edges have been loosely placed in a recess in a last the sole of the last including the recess being covered by a metallic plate perforated for the introduction of a nail between said spring plates, and also that in a similar construction rubber springs have been placed at the sides of knife edged plates. These prior constructions were combined with a metallic sole plate and in case either a nail or

knife-edge plate was broken the removal of the last plate was necessary. And further such earlier devices cannot be applied to old lasts.

My improvement can be used without a face plate and can be applied to worn lasts without such plate. It is also adapted to be used with lasts having a last plate but in either case the plug can be removed and replaced directly and without removing the face plate if one be used. Further I dispense with springs and spring plates and force the soft iron nails between the rigid walls of the plug slots.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

A last provided with one or more plugs removably secured in said last and having fixed partitions separated by slots, substantially as set forth.

CHARLES H. JOSSELYN.

Witnesses:

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