(No Model.)

A. FRENCH.

BLACKING BOX.

No. 249,167. Patented Nov. 8, 1881.

Fig. 5.

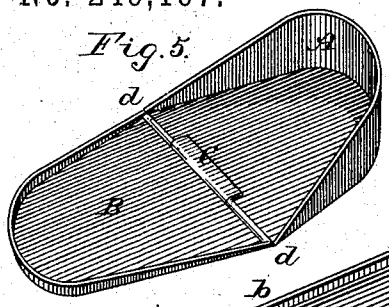


Fig. 1.

Fig. 6.

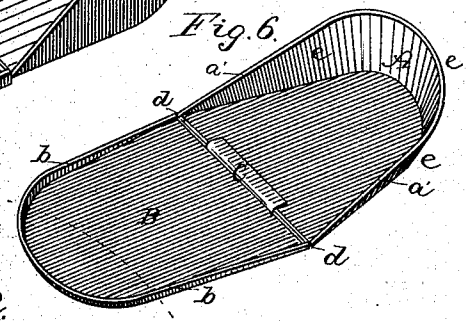


Fig. 2.

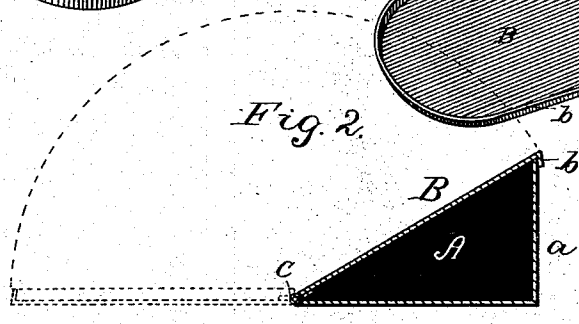


Fig. 3.

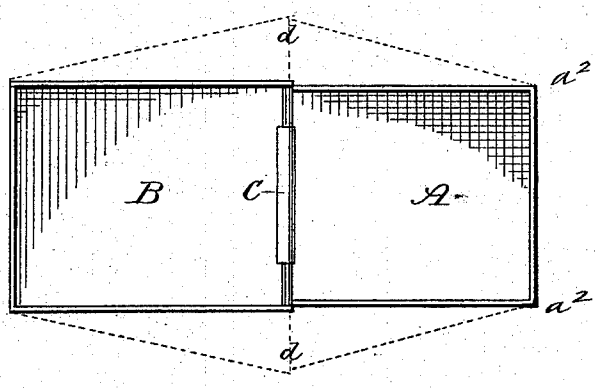
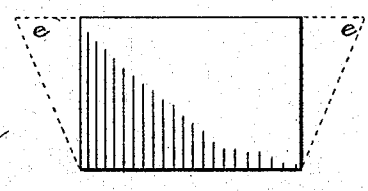


Fig. 4.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALFRED FRENCH, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

BLACKING-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 249,167, dated November 8, 1881.

Application filed June 7, 1881. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALFRED FRENCH, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Washington, District of Columbia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Blacking-Boxes; 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 appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters or figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in blacking-boxes; and it consists in combining with a blacking-box having walls with sloping edges a hinged cover, the cover being hinged to the bottom of the box and used for mixing the blacking with water previously to applying it to boots or shoes, as will be more fully set forth hereinafter.

The accompanying drawings illustrate my invention.

Figure 1 is an isometric view of one form of my blacking-box. Fig. 2 is a sectional view, showing, in dotted lines, the portion of the lid when opened for use. Fig. 3 is a plan view in which the dotted lines represent a modification. Fig. 4 is a rear elevation, and Figs. 5 and 6 are isometric views of modified forms of construction.

The box consists of a bottom having walls on all sides, except the one to which the lid is hinged, forming a space, A, for the reception of the blacking.

The walls may be vertical, as in Fig. 1, or inclined outwardly, as shown in Fig. 6. The box may have its corners rounded, as shown in Fig. 1, or it may be constructed with square corners, as shown at a^2, Fig. 3.

The side walls are made sloping, as shown at a' in various figures.

To the open side of the box, at C, is hinged the lid B, which corresponds to the shape of the walls, and is provided with the flange *b*, both for the purpose of fitting over the top edge of the walls when the box is closed, thereby making a tight joint, and for the purpose of retaining a small quantity of water or other liquid which may be used in mixing the blacking when the brush is applied to it.

A good form of box is shown at *d*, Fig. 5, in which the box and lid are widest where they unite at the hinge, thus giving a large mixing-surface to the lid; but perhaps the best form is shown at Fig. 6, in which the box is provided with inclined or flaring walls *e e*, in addition to being widest at the hinge, as at *d*. By having the walls flaring the box can be the more easily stamped into shape from the metal, will hold more blacking, and the blacking will be more readily accessible to the brush.

The lid may be hinged on the same plane with the bottom of the box, or a little lower or higher, if preferred.

The advantages possessed by my blacking-box are these: Blacking contained in the ordinary boxes in common use always gives a better polish when enough of it has been used to expose the bottom of the box, for the reason that when the box is full too much of the blacking is usually applied to the shoes; but in a box constructed as hereinbefore described the lid forms a convenient mixing-surface, and by rubbing the brush in it before applying the blacking to the shoes the superfluous blacking will remain in the lid, while that which is retained by the brush will admit of being evenly and thinly applied to the shoes, and will consequently be capable of yielding a higher polish than if it were smearingly applied in the ordinary way. Not only will the blacking contained in a box of this construction give better results, but the large proportion of it which is wasted in the ordinary boxes will be saved.

I do not desire to limit myself to the precise forms of boxes shown, as it is evident that other shapes may be employed without departing from the spirit of my invention.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

1. A blacking-box open on one side, having sloping sides adjacent thereto, and provided with a lid hinged to the bottom, substantially as shown.

2. A blacking-box open on one side, having sloping sides adjacent thereto, and provided with a lid hinged to the bottom, said bottom

and lid being widest at the hinge, substantially as set forth.

3. A blacking-box open on one side, having sloping and flared or inclined sides adjacent thereto, and provided with a lid hinged to the bottom, said bottom and lid being widest at the hinge, substantially as and for the purpose described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

ALFRED FRENCH.

Witnesses:
GEO. M. LOCKWOOD,
JNO. SMALLWOOD.