

HAT BLOCK.

1,059,239.

Fig. 1.

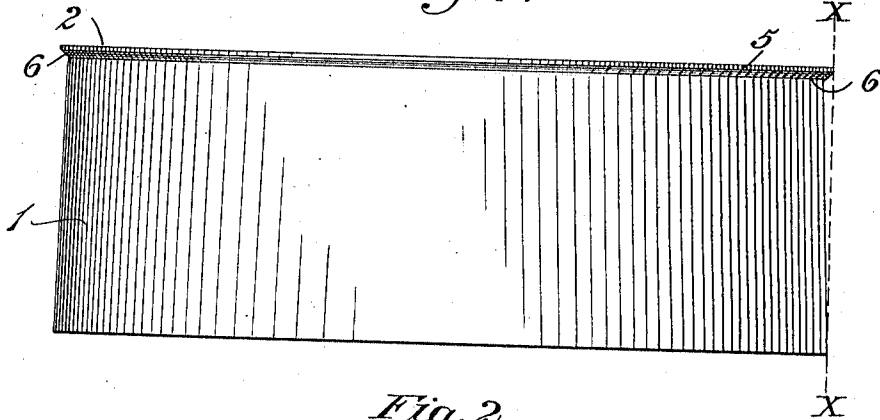


Fig. 2.

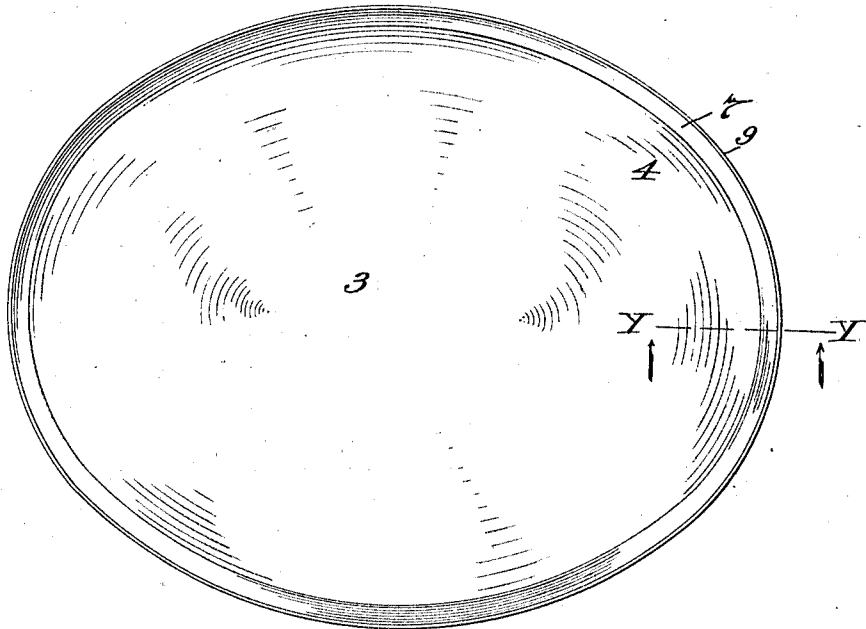
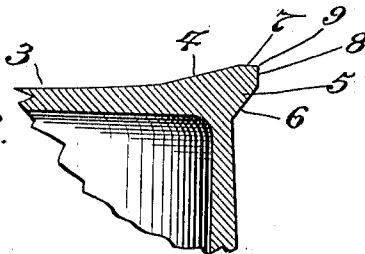


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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HAT-BLOCK.

1,059,239.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Apr. 15, 1913.

Application filed June 25, 1912. Serial No. 705,749.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANCIS BAILEY VANDERHOEF, citizen of the United States of America, residing at New York city, in the county and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Hat-Blocks, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a hat block particularly adapted for use in making straw hats.

One of the chief objects of the invention is to provide a block on which a straw hat may be made in such manner that the sides of the hat will be truly vertical and straight.

Another object is to provide a block on which a hat may be made with a sharp edge at the corner or line of junction of the sides with the top.

Another object is to provide an integral or one piece block of such nature and construction that a hat may be made thereon with vertical sides and a sharp edge at the top and be readily removed from the hat as a single piece after the hat has been so made thereon.

The block in its preferred form consists of a frustum of a cone substantially elliptical in plan with a peripheral flange projecting laterally at the small or top end, the flange having its lower surface inclined and being of an outside diameter and shape substantially equal to the corresponding diameter and shape of the base of the frustum and directly overlying the latter.

The block is preferably made of metal and aluminum is preferred.

In the accompanying drawing I have shown a hat block constructed in accordance with the preferred form of my invention.

Figure 1 is an elevation. Fig. 2 is a top plan. Fig. 3 is a fragmentary, vertical section taken on any radius as the line $y-y$ of Fig. 2.

The block which is preferably integral, *i. e.*, formed in a single piece, consists of a body portion 1 in the form of a frustum of a cone. This is usually elliptical in plan but may be otherwise shaped to conform to the head. The cone is closed at the top or small end 2, the top surface being concave at 3 and having its inclination greatest adjacent the edge at 4, as shown. Encircling the conical frustum at the top or small end and projecting laterally therefrom, is a peripheral or annular flange 5. Preferably

this flange, as shown, has its bottom face inclined, forming a conical zone 6 oppositely disposed to the frustum 1, the outside diameter of the flange being equal at all points to the corresponding diameter of the base of the frustum and directly overlying it, as indicated by the dotted line $x-x$ of Fig. 1.

The top surface is centrally concave at 3, has a flat face 7 encircling its periphery, and the outer face of the flange 5 above the conical zone 6 is straight and vertical, as indicated at 8, the faces 7 and 8 being preferably at right angles and meeting in a vertex 9 which encircles the periphery of the flange. While the edge surfaces 7 and 8 are at right angles, the respectively adjacent surfaces 4 and 6 are at an acute angle as seen in Fig. 3, and the block is preferably hollow.

In the operation of my invention, a hat body is first assembled in the usual manner by sewing or weaving as nearly as possible in the desired form, and with the sides as nearly vertical as possible. The hat is then placed over the block and shaped thereto by pressing with hot irons. The top corner is drawn or broken over the vertex 9 of the flange 5, and pressed to conform to surfaces 7 and 8, thus forming a sharp edge along the line of junction of the sides with the crown. The sides are pressed in to the surface of the conical frustum during the ironing operation, but thereafter will spring back straight and to a true vertical as indicated by the dotted line $x-x$ of Fig. 1. The block may then be readily removed.

In the manufacture of straw hats it is found desirable to provide the top of the block with a flange because a sharp edge or corner at the top of the hat can be better secured by this means. But, if the sides of the block are vertical and of the same diameter at the top as at the bottom, which has been the case heretofore, the outside diameter of the flange will be greater than the diameter of the bottom of the block. Therefore, the hat will have a greater diameter at the top than at the bottom, the sides will not be straight and vertical and the block cannot be removed except it be made in and removed by sections or pieces.

This invention obviates the difficulties suggested and accomplishes the results desired by providing an integral or one piece block with a top flange and a conical body such

that the outer surface of the flange and the bottom of the block are in the same vertical plane. By this means a hat may be made with a sharp top edge and vertical sides and the block may be made in and removed as a single piece, all of which are important objects in the art of manufacturing straw hats.

I have thus described in specific terms a single embodiment of my invention in order that its nature and operation may be clearly understood; however, the specific terms herein are used in their descriptive rather than in their limiting sense and the scope of the invention is defined in the claims.

What I claim is:

1. A hat block formed of a frustum of a cone with a laterally-projecting peripheral flange at the top or small end of the frustum.
2. A hat block in the form of a frustum of a cone with a laterally-projecting, peripheral flange at the top or small end of the frustum, the flange being of a diameter at all points equal to the corresponding diameter of the base of the cone, the flange being also of the same shape as the base and overlying the same.
3. A hat block in the form of a frustum of a cone with a peripheral flange at the

small end of the frustum, the top surface of the frustum being concave.

4. A hat block in the form of a frustum of a cone with a peripheral flange at the small end of the frustum, the flange having its bottom face inclined, the top surface of the frustum being concave, the inclination of the concave surface being greatest adjacent the edge.

5. A hat block of varying cross-section, having its smallest diameter near the top with a laterally-projecting flange at the top or small end, the block being integral.

6. A hat block wherein corresponding diameters in two planes at right angles to the axis of the block are equal, one of said planes being adjacent to the top of the block and the other adjacent to the bottom thereof, the intervening periphery of the block being of less diameter adjacent to the top of the block and tapering then toward the base of the block.

Signed by me at New York city, county and State of New York, this 8th day of May, 1912.

FRANCIS BAILEY VANDERHOEF.

Witnesses:

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Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."