

S. M. Perkins  
Stretching Block.

N<sup>o</sup> 9154.

Fig. 1.

Patented Jul. 27. 1852

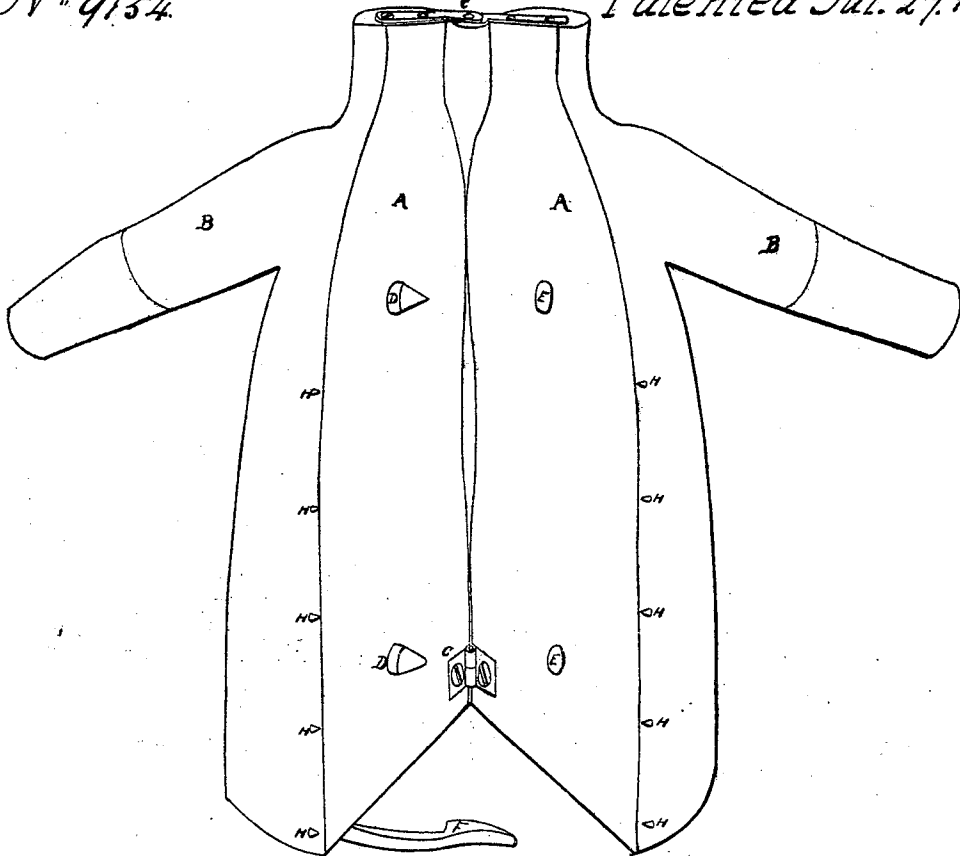
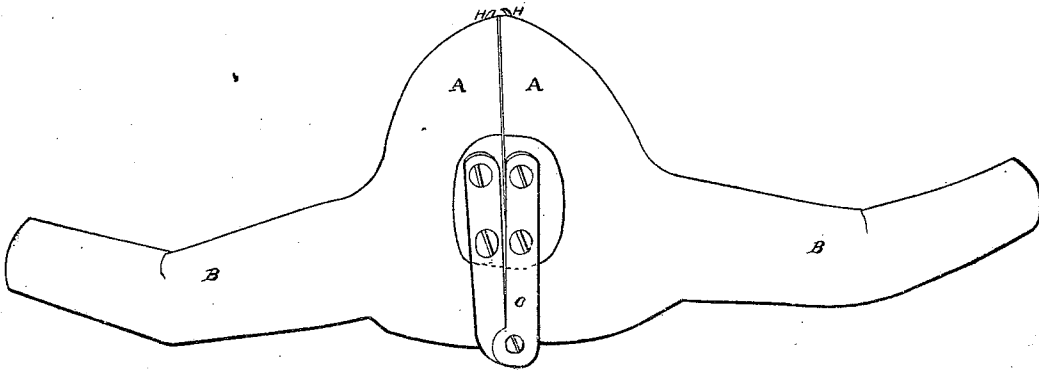


Fig. 4.



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Fig. 2.

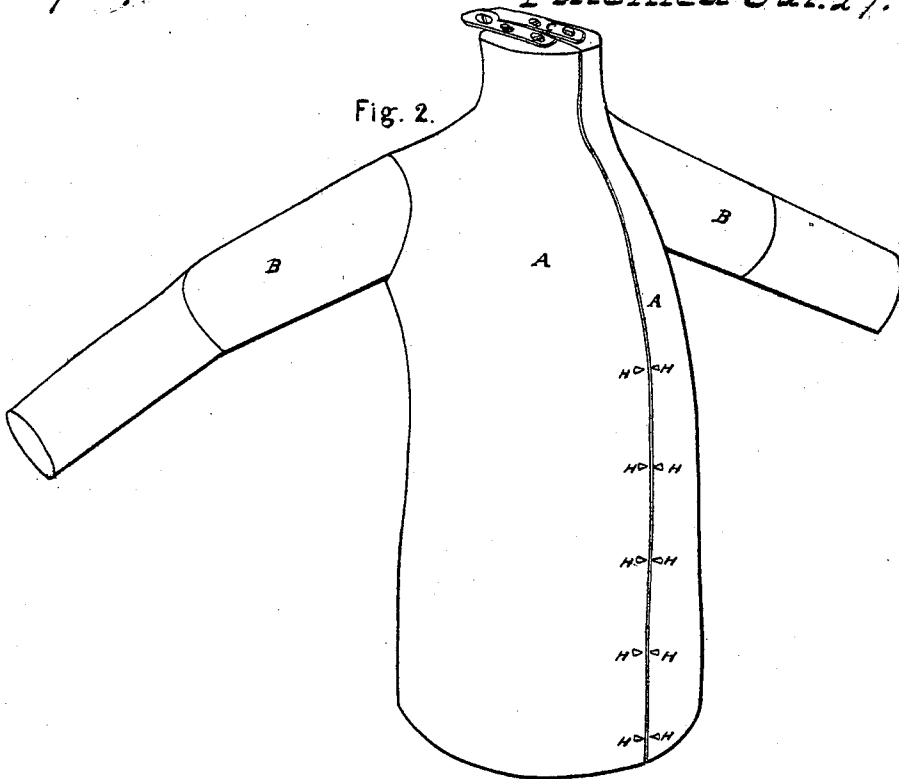
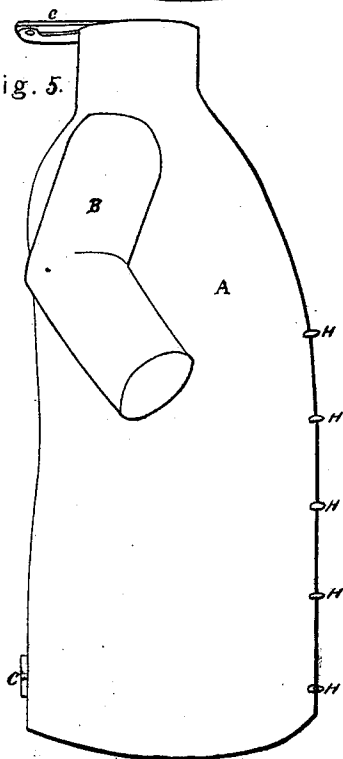


Fig. 5.



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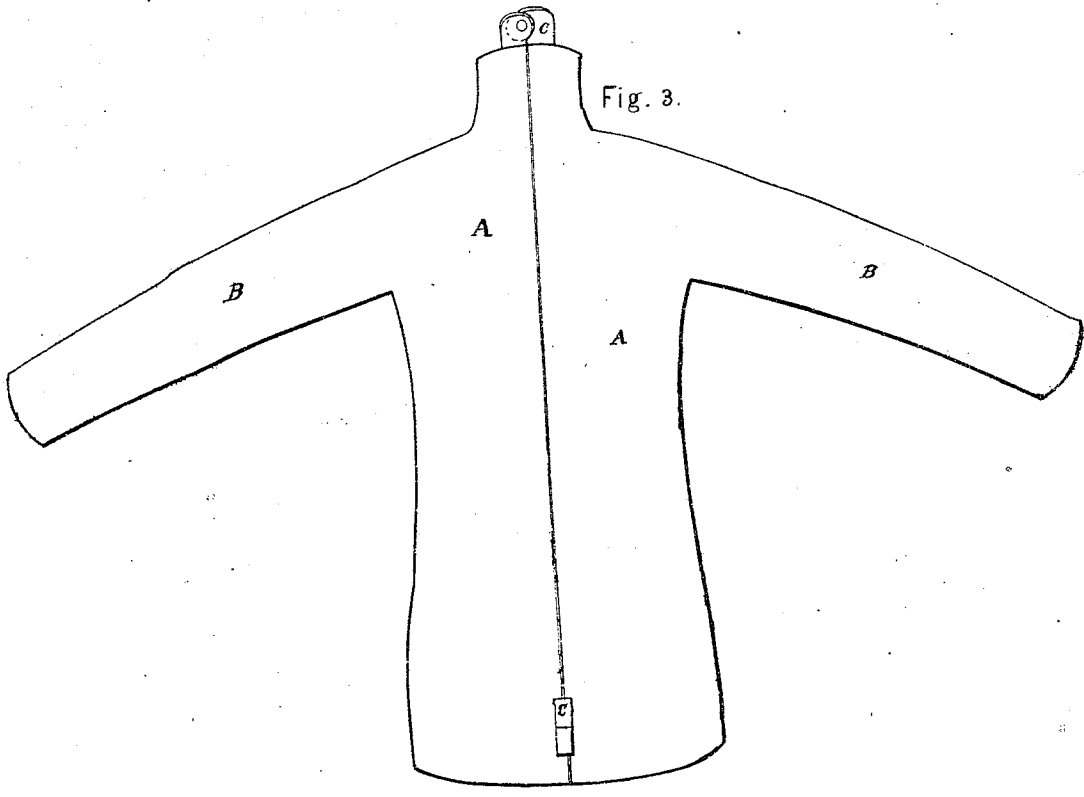


Fig. 3.

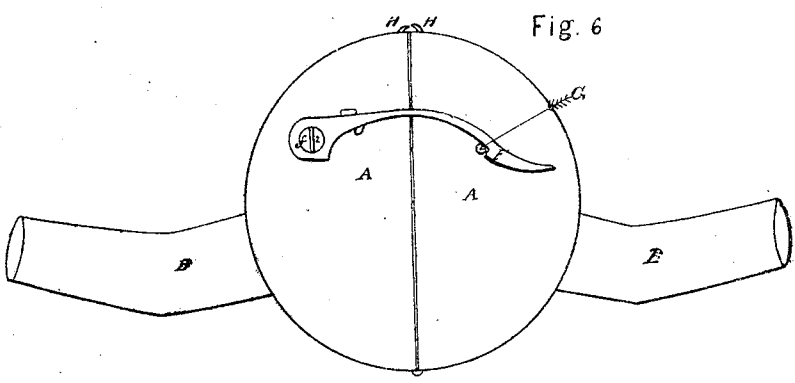


Fig. 6

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL M. PERKINS, OF SPRINGFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA.

## BLOCK FOR STRETCHING COATS.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 9,154, dated July 27, 1852.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SAMUEL M. PERKINS, of Springfield, Bradford county, State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Article or Machine for Stretching or Blocking Felt or Seamless Coats, &c.; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full description of the same.

The nature of my invention consists in shaping or modeling a block of wood, iron or other substance in the form of a bust of a man, having arms attached thereto, and cut in two halves lengthwise and joined together at their back edges by hinges, so that the arms may be thrown back, for putting on the block the felt coat, when in its wet state, and when its edges are secured by the pins or hooks on the front edges of the model, the coat may be stretched to the shape of the model when it is closed and held by a hook or catch secured to one half of the model and attaching to a pin on the opposite half. But to describe my invention more particularly I will proceed to refer to the accompanying drawings the same letters in the several drawings referring to the same parts wherever they occur.

Figure 1: is a representation of the machine or stretcher, as appearing when partially thrown open for putting the seamless coat on it. Fig. 2, is a representation of the same when closed, showing the hinge at the throat, arms and pins for attaching the edges of the seamless coat to. Fig. 3, is a back view of the machine, showing the upper and lower hinges and arms. Fig. 4, is a plan view of the machine, exhibiting the upper hinge, throat shoulders and arms, and pins. Fig. 5, is a profile view of one side of the machine. Fig. 6, is a representation of the base or lower end of the machine showing the spring latch for holding the two halves of the machine together, and arms and pins, for securing the front edges of the coat thereto, for holding it when stretching.

Letter A, A, are the two halves of the machine, or apparatus. These may be made of wood, iron or any other suitable material, and size to fit the various sizes for which coats are to be made. To each of these halves is attached an arm B, B. These arms are made with a slight bend at the elbows, so that when the coat shrinks or dries, the sleeve will have a natural curve of the arm of the wearer, like that given by the

cut of the tailor. In the drawings they are represented as being permanently attached to the body of the machine, but it is contemplated to make them adjustable or to work with hinges, in some garments, and therefore deem any variation in the mode of attaching the arms to the body substantially the same as I have represented as the mode of making this part of the machine.

Letters C, C, are two hinges for attaching the two halves of the machine together. These may be attached at any convenient point, so long as the requisite strength is obtained and uniformity of action. Letters D, D, are two pins, inserted in the inner face of one of the halves of the machine; and E, E, are two holes in the inner face of the opposite half of the machine, and into which, the pins enter, when the two halves are closed, for the purpose of holding them firmly and steadily in contact.

Letter F, is a spring catch or latch, secured by a screw ( $f^2$ ) to one of the halves of the machine at its bottom or lower end, and extending across the face of the opposite half, so as to hook or catch over a pin or stud G, placed therein, for the purpose of holding the two halves of the machine together by its own action, while the operator is engaged in "dressing up" and closing the machine, and thereby facilitating the operation of blocking the garment.

Letters H, H &c., are two rows of hooks or pins, secured in the front edges of the two halves of the machine. These hooks are sharpened at their points, so as to hook in the felt or cloth, and to hold it while being stretched on the machine. The number of these pins are not material, as they may be more or less used according to the nature of the garment to be "blocked."

The operation of this machine is: When the article has been properly fullered or shrunken, the machine is opened, so as to throw the arms back far enough to slip the coat sleeves on them. When this is done the coat, which is in a wet state, is then worked up by the hand so as to allow the front edges to be hooked on the hooks down the front of the machine. It is then gradually shut, taking care to work the folds or wrinkles out of it, and not tear the hooks out, until it is quite closed and the spring hook on the lower end of the machine catches on the pin or stud and holds it closed till it is dried, and thereby giving to the coat or

vest or other garment worked on it, the perfect shape of the body of the wearer, and at the same time allowing of its being dressed or finished by napping it or otherwise as may be required.

Having now described my invention I will proceed to state what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent.

What I claim is—

10 The use of the seamless coat stretcher made in two halves, and joined together by hinges at their back edges, and having per-

manent or adjustable arms attached thereto, and hooks for holding the edges of the cloth while stretching, spring hook or catch and pin for holding the halves of the machine together, and steadying pins in the face of the two halves, in combination therewith substantially as set forth. 15

SAMUEL M. PERKINS.

Witnesses:

N. M. CARNOCHAN,  
W. MORGAN.