J. T. HARPER.

Mode of Cutting Boot-Fronts.

No. 165,572. Patented July 13, 1875.

Fig. 1.

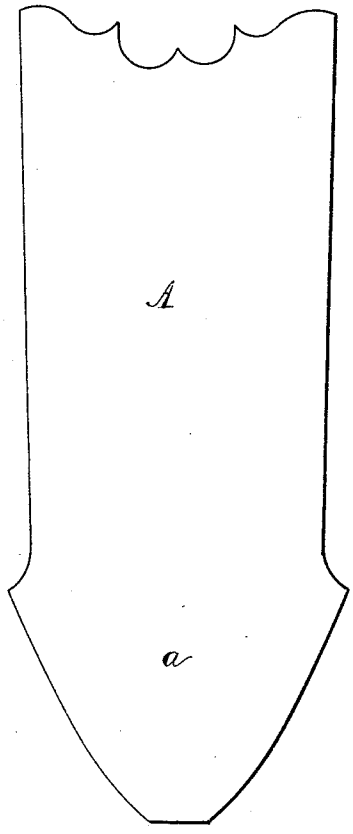


Fig. 2.

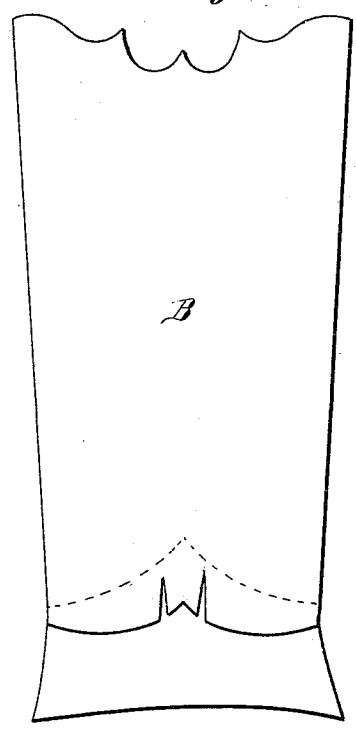
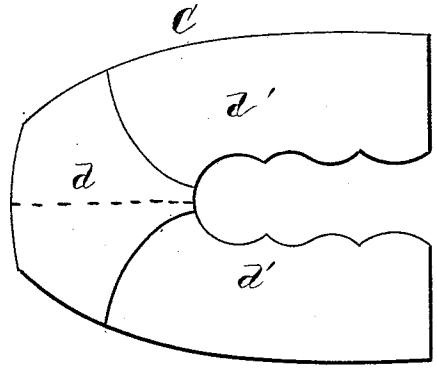


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES

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JOSEPH T. HARPER, OF CHARLESTON, ILLINOIS.

IMPROVEMENT IN MODES OF CUTTING BOOT-FRONTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **165,572**, dated July 13, 1875; application filed April 9, 1875.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH T. HARPER, of the city of Charleston, in the county of Coles and in the State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Cutting Boot-Fronts; and do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings and to the letters of reference marked thereon, making a part of this specification.

This invention relates to certain improvements in the manufacture of boots, by making the uppers in several parts; the object being to economize in cutting the leather, and to enable the small pieces of the same, which have hitherto been unfit for use, to be used in the manufacture of the boots, and also to enable a lighter and cheaper quality of leather to be employed in the construction of the tops without impairing the wearing qualities of the boots.

The invention consists in forming the boot-fronts in two or more pieces, cut and shaped in manner hereinafter described, and united by stitching, as usual.

In the drawings, Figure 1 represents a view of the front portion of the top cut and shaped according to my invention; Fig. 2, a view of the back of the same; Fig. 3, a view of the portion which forms the foot of the boot.

The letter A represents the front portion of the top, cut so as to leave a portion of leather, *a*, to extend down upon the foot when the boot is made up, said portion being cut, as shown, of such length that the pointed end will fall just below the instep and the curved portion at each side of the foot. B represents the back of the boot-top, which may be cut as usual; and C, the portion which forms the vamp in the finished boot. This portion is cut in two or more pieces, according to the nature and size of the material to be worked up, with an opening extending down the center to below the instep, bounded by an ornamental edge, which sets around the portion *a* when the boot is made up. For convenience in working up small pieces the part *c'* is constructed, as shown in Fig. 3, of the parts or pieces *d d' d'*, the parts *d' d* being united by a seam extending from the instep to the toe, which is covered by the portion *d*. The various parts are united by stitching, as will be readily understood by boot-makers, and the whole crimped and attached to the soles in the usual manner.

By the above method of construction I am enabled to cut four pairs of foot-uppers from the same amount of material from which three pairs have been ordinarily produced; and I am also enabled to work up small pieces, which have been hitherto useless, materially lessening the cost without impairing the wearing qualities of the same.

Having described my invention, what I claim is—

A boot in which the vamp is constructed of two or more pieces of material cut and united to each other and to the leg-front, in the manner and for the purpose specified.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 25th day of February, 1875.

JOSEPH T. HARPER. [L. S.]

Witnesses:
F. B. SHORES,
SAML. WRIGHT.