(No Model.)

E. WAITE.

FELT BOOT.

No. 285,089. Patented Sept. 18, 1883.

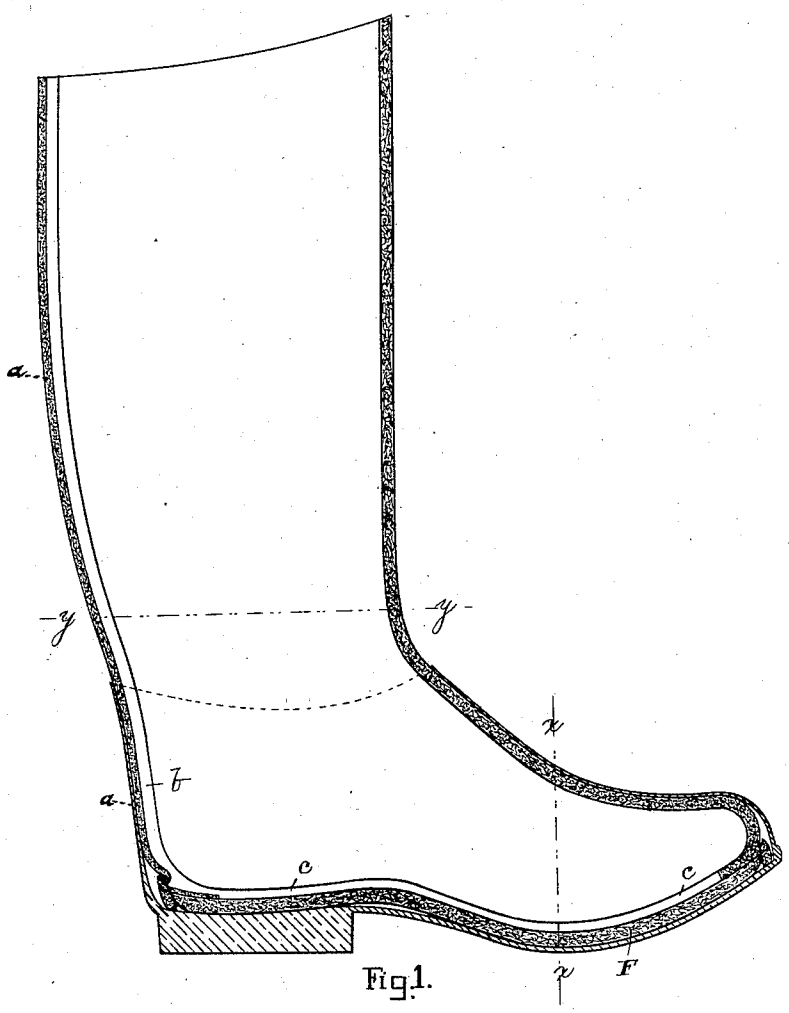


Fig. 1.

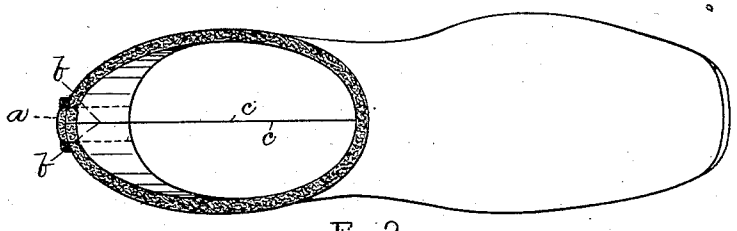


Fig. 3.

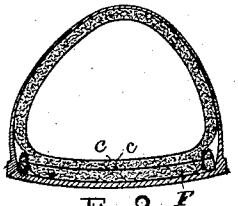


Fig. 2.

Witnesses.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ENOCH WAITE, OF FRANKLIN, MASSACHUSETTS.

FELT BOOT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 285,089, dated September 18, 1883.

Application filed January 22, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ENOCH WAITE, of Franklin, county of Norfolk, State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Boots Made of Felt or Felt and Rubber, of which the following, taken in connection with the drawings accompanying and forming a part hereof, is a full, clear, concise, and exact description.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a vertical section of my improved water-proof felt boot, showing the lower part incased in rubber. Fig. 2 is a section on line *x x*, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a section on line *y y*, Fig. 1.

My invention will be best understood by explaining the construction of the boot, using letters of reference to the drawings.

I take a flat piece of felt of a single thickness, or of several thicknesses laid together, (I prefer to use it as it comes from the fulling process,) and apply it while moist over a boot form or tree of the size and shape required. The piece is so applied that the middle will be at the front of the boot-form, although it may be at either side or at the back; and I then press and stretch and rub the felt over the form until the edges *b b* meet at the back of the form—in case the middle of the piece is applied to the front of the form or tree—that is, up and down the back of the boot leg and upper. The upper is then subjected to a molding process, which stretches and draws it over the last or form and shapes it thereto, and the edges are then tacked or temporarily secured to the sole of the form. The moist felt, when thus molded and allowed to dry, takes the precise shape of the form in every particular, and retains it in a way which would be wholly impossible if leather were used. The surplus at the edges *c c* is then trimmed off, and these edges joined and sewed together, if desired, although the sewing is not necessary. A strip, *a*, may be placed over the edges *b b* where they join, up and down the back of the boot-leg, and sewed on, as shown, Fig. 3, the lower end of the strip at the back of the heel being carried down and under the sole of the heel-part and secured.

The edges *b b*, instead of being covered by a strip and secured thereto, may be sewed directly together, then trimmed and pressed down. The sole F, of any required thickness, is then applied and secured, (preferably by a line of stitches, as shown.) The boot may then be sized, to give it greater permanence of form, and rendered water-proof by the application of any of the well-known water-proofing compositions in use.

I prefer not to dry the boot until after the operations of soling, sewing, and sizing, or sizing and water-proofing, (if the boot is to be water-proofed,) although it may be dried at any time after the upper has been molded to the form.

The boot is designed to be worn in very cold or wet weather with a rubber casing covering the foot part, as shown in section, Fig. 1, thus rendering it doubly proof against water.

In order to prevent the rubber from coming off, as it might in deep snow, I secure it to the felt on either side of the ankle. For this purpose a hook and eye or a button may be conveniently used.

For lightness, strength, and warmth, my improved boot is superior to any known to me.

I am aware of Patent Reissue No. 8,070, dated February 5, 1878, granted to C. W. Palmer and C. Houghton, as also Letters Patent No. 256,538, dated April 18, 1882, to M. R. Bissell, and I disclaim what is therein shown and described.

What I claim is—

A felt boot made from a flat piece of felt, single or of one or more thicknesses, having the edges of the upper carried down onto the sole and united with each other lengthwise thereof, and having the edges up and down the leg united by a line of stitches, or by two lines of stitches and an overlapping strip, and having a felt sole secured to the upper by stitches or cement, substantially as shown and described.

E. WAITE.

Witnesses:
WM. A. MACLEOD,
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