Oct. 11, 1938. A. H. AVERY 2,132,981

MARKING MACHINE

Original Filed May 14, 1932 5 Sheets-Sheet 1

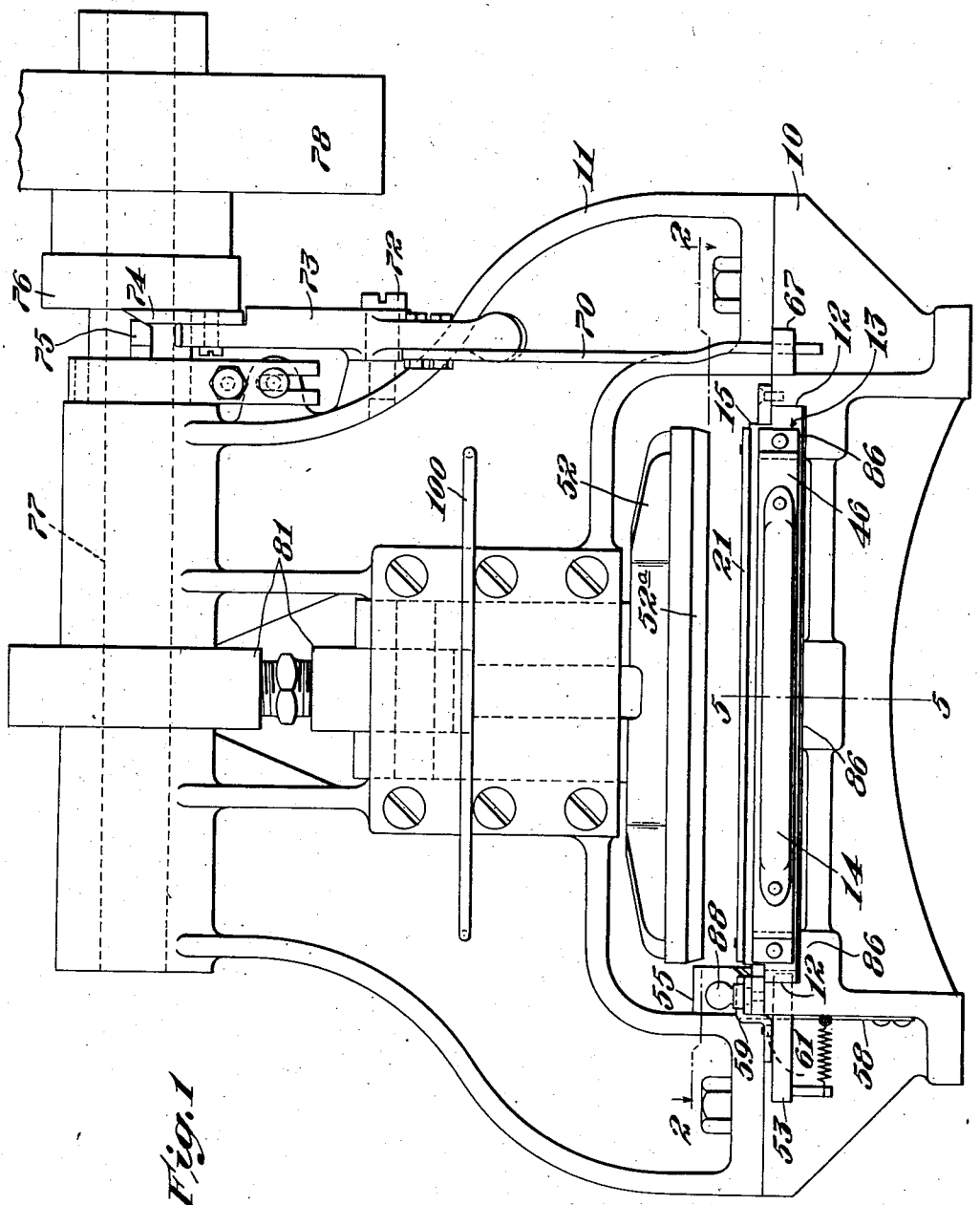


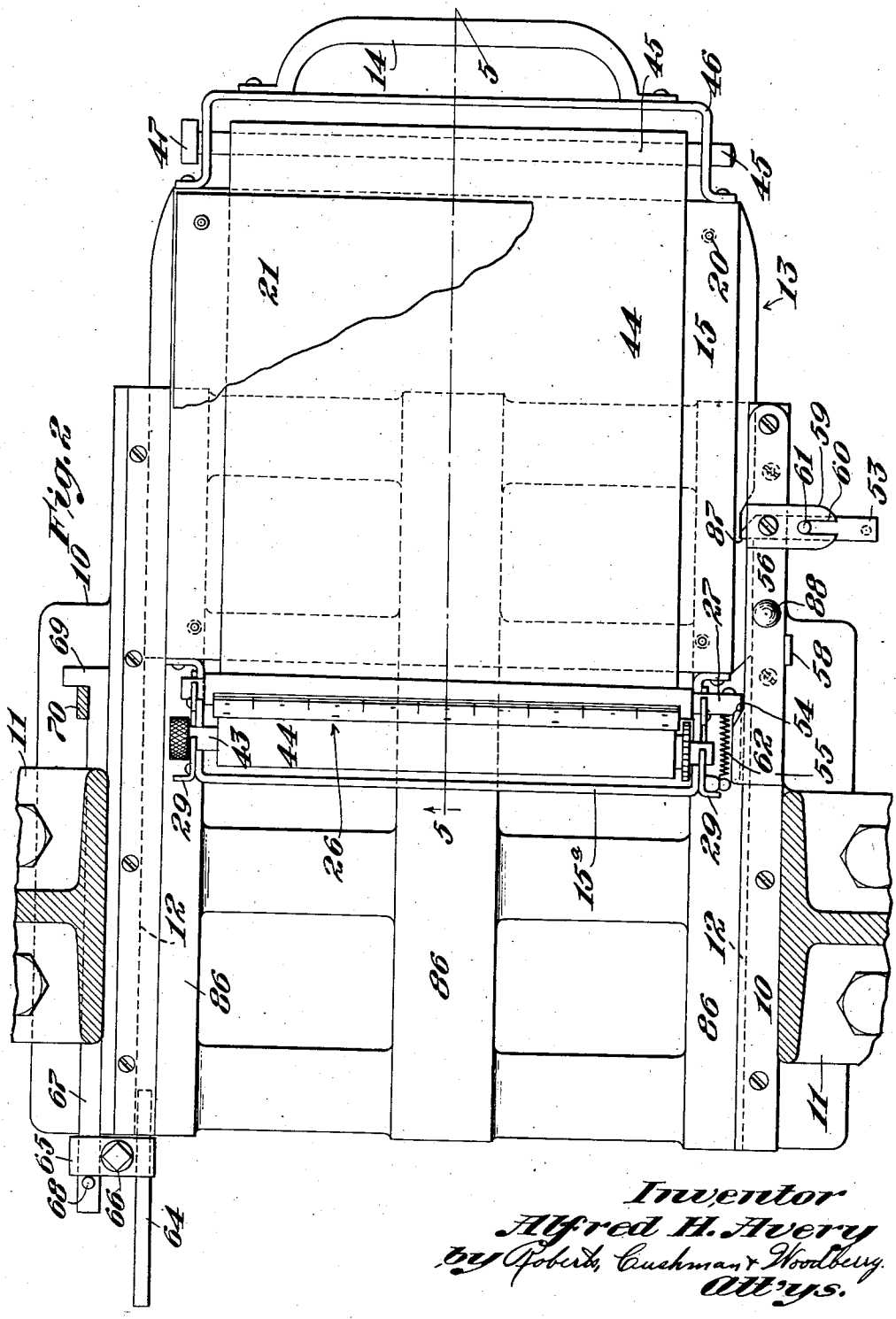
Fig. 1

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MARKING MACHINE

Original Filed May 14, 1932 5 Sheets-Sheet 2



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MARKING MACHINE

Original Filed May 14, 1932 5 Sheets-Sheet 3

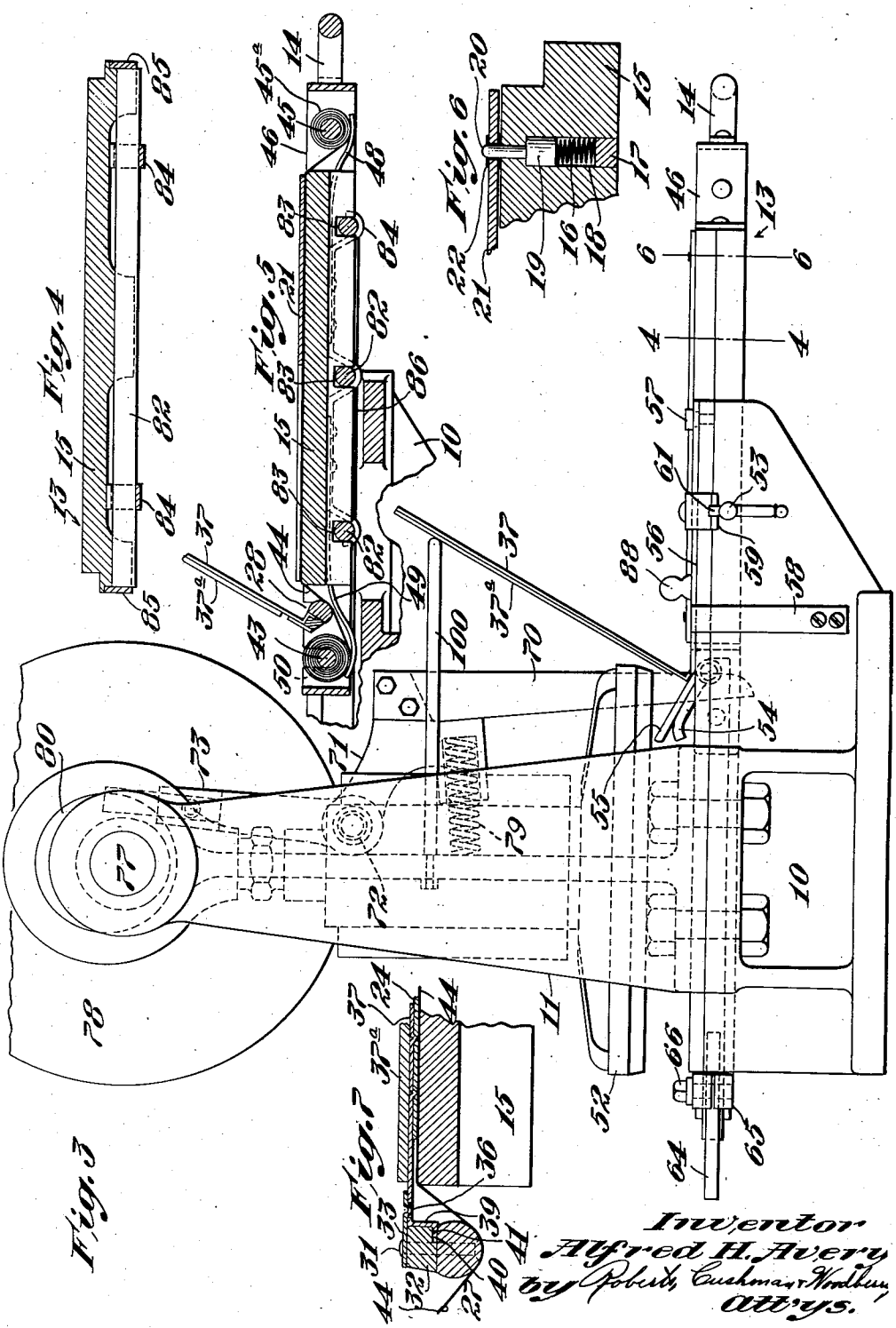


Fig. 3

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MARKING MACHINE

Original Filed May 14, 1932 5 Sheets-Sheet 4

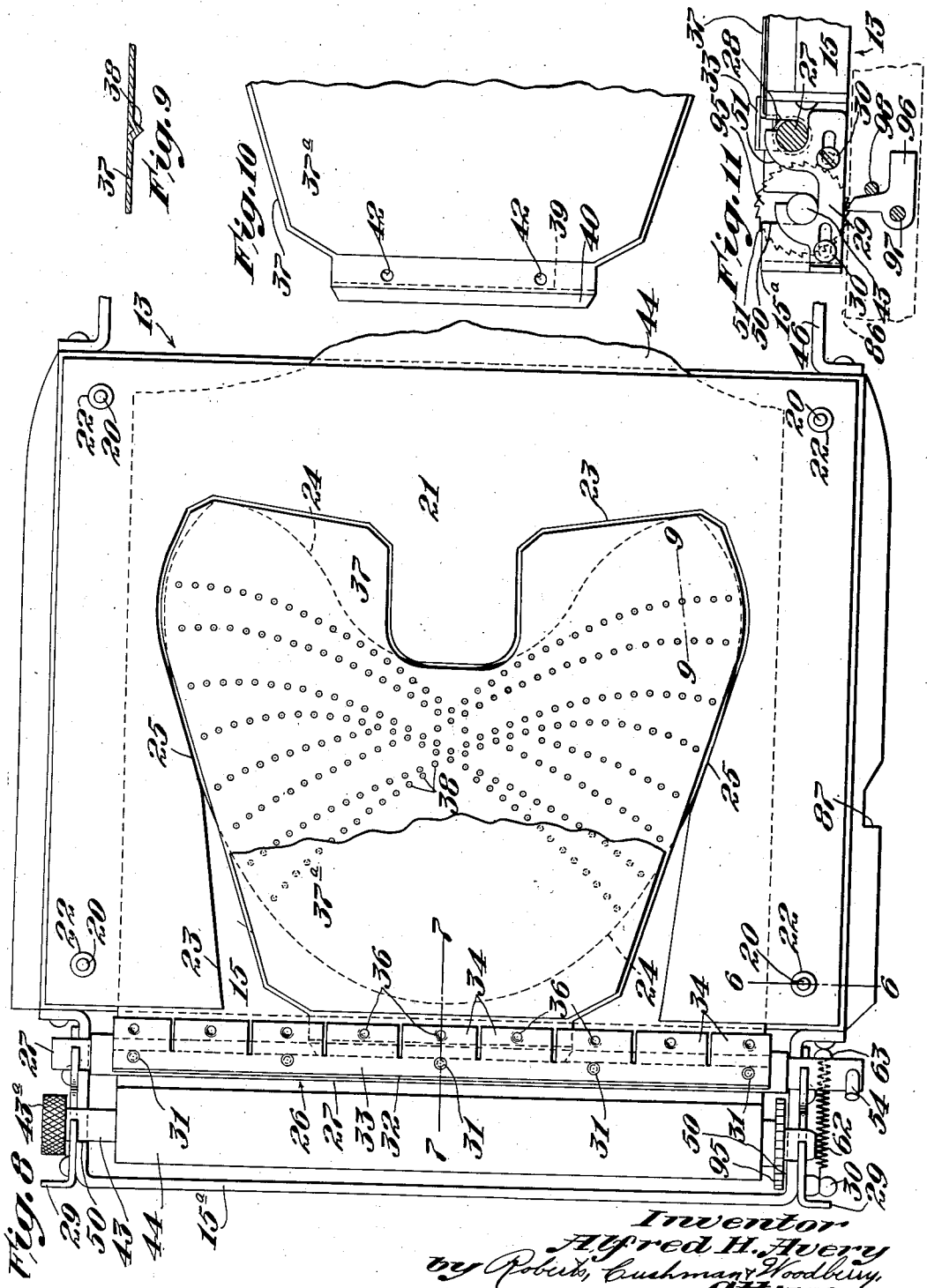


Fig. 8

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MARKING MACHINE

Original Filed May 14, 1932 5 Sheets-Sheet 5

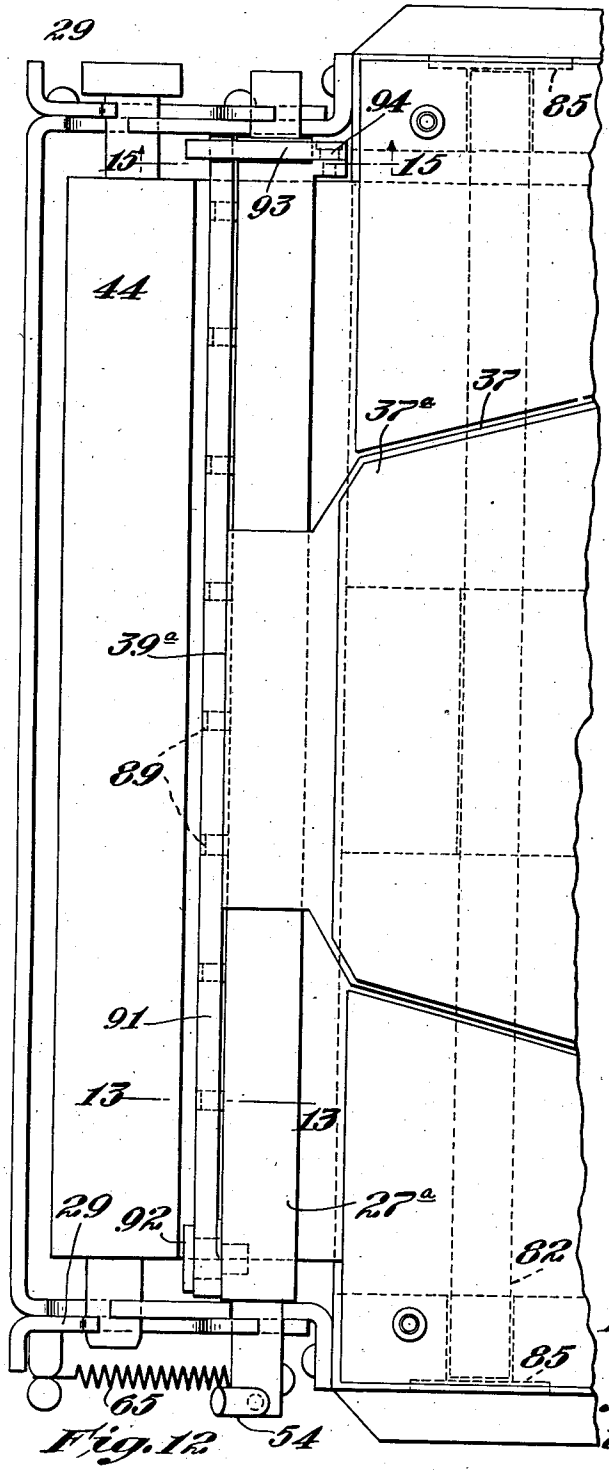


Fig. 12

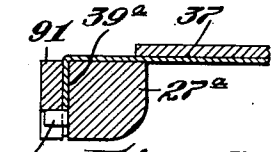


Fig. 13

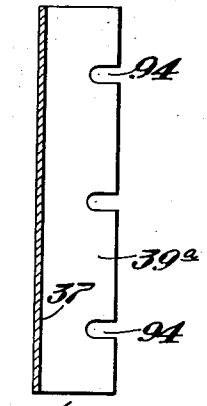


Fig. 14

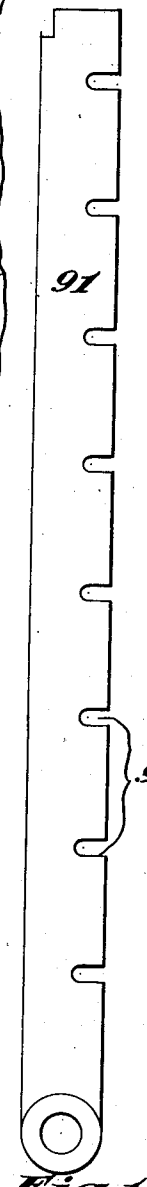


Fig. 16

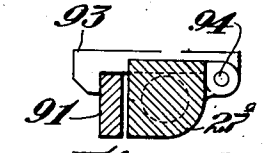


Fig. 15

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Patented Oct. 11, 1938 2,132,981

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,132,981

MARKING MACHINE

Alfred H. Avery, Malden, Mass., assignor, by mesne assignments, of one-half to North American Holding Corporation, Syracuse, N. Y., a corporation of New York, and one-half to Parshad Holding Corporation, Syracuse, N. Y., a corporation of New York

Original application May 14, 1932, Serial No. 611,355. Divided and this application July 16, 1934, Serial No. 735,419

10 Claims. (Cl. 101—316)

This invention relates to machines for marking shoe upper sections or similar pieces of sheet material, particularly for performing the method of marking described in the Edwards Patent No. 1,639,332, dated August 16, 1927, and is a division of my copending application Serial No. 611,355, filed May 14, 1932, now U. S. Patent No. 1,972,860, dated September 11, 1934.

In the manufacture of shoes, particularly women's shoes, it is customary to apply ornamental designs to the shoe uppers, as by stitching, perforating or embossing. Present fashions demand that shoe uppers be made of leather, textile fabrics such as silk, satin or velvet and various other kinds of sheet material. Usually, the ornamental designs are applied to the cut-out sections of the uppers before they are assembled in the shoe; and in the case of stitching, the designs are first marked on the shoe uppers and the marked designs are then followed in the stitching. As explained in said Edwards patent the design may be impressed upon the shoe upper section or similar article of sheet material, by a marking plate, on which the desired pattern is formed by bosses punched from the material of the plate and disposed in lines, rows or other arrangements to delineate the pattern. The marking plate is then impressed upon the shoe upper section or other piece of work to be marked, with a transfer sheet against the opposite side of work, and the pattern displayed by the bosses will then be printed or impressed on the work. A similar method may be used without the transfer sheet for merely embossing a piece of leather, in which case the marking plate will be embossed in accordance with the desired design, or for perforating the work, in which case the marking plate will be made with bosses in the form of cutting punches of such shape and arrangement as to cut holes or perforations in the work, shaped and arranged according to the desired design.

Printing or marking, perforating and embossing, whether used separately or in various combinations at the same time, are all included in the expression marking as herein used; and the term marking plate is used to designate the plate for applying the design to the work whether the plate is constructed for printing from a transfer sheet, or for perforating, or for embossing, or for any combination of these operations.

One object of the invention is to provide a marking machine having a normally inactive reciprocable press member which is automatically operated to impress the desired design on the work when a platen, supporting the work and the marking plate, is moved into operative relation to the press member, and to stop the press member when the platen is moved away from the press member.

Another object of the invention is to provide means by which the marking plate is automatically controlled so as to rise or move away from the platen to permit the placing of the article to be marked upon the platen or permit it to be removed from the platen, when the platen is shifted out from under the press member, and to move the marking plate into operative position overlying the work on the platen when the platen is shifted to operative position under the press member.

Other features of the invention are mechanism for automatically advancing the transfer sheet each time the platen is moved in and out of operating position with relation to the press member; means for detachably and interchangeably mounting the marking plate on the platen and for correctly positioning the same thereon; work-positioning means associated with the platen; and the mechanisms for controlling and actuating the various parts.

These and other features will be herein more fully described and particularly pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings which illustrate preferred embodiments of the invention,

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of the machine;

Fig. 2 is a plan view partly in horizontal section on line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a side elevation of the machine;

Fig. 4 is a section on line 4—4 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a longitudinal section of the platen and parts carried thereby on line 5—5 of Figs. 1 and 2 with the marking plate (which is omitted from Figs. 1 and 2) shown attached to its holder;

Fig. 6 is an enlarged detail in section on line 6—6 of Fig. 8;

Fig. 7 is an enlarged detail in section on line 7—7 of Fig. 8;

Fig. 8 is a plan view of the platen and parts carried thereby;

Fig. 9 is an enlarged detail of the marking plate in section on line 9—9 of Fig. 8;

Fig. 10 is a plan view of one end of the marking plate detached from its holder;

Fig. 11 is a detail in side elevation of the inner end of the platen and parts carried thereby;

Fig. 12 is a plan view of the inner end of the platen and parts carried thereby embodying alternative constructions;

Fig. 13 is a sectional detail on line 13—13 of Fig. 12;

Fig. 14 is a sectional detail of one end of the marking plate shown in Fig. 12;

Fig. 15 is a sectional detail on line 15—15 of Fig. 12; and

Fig. 16 is an elevation of the locking bar forming part of the locking plate holder shown in Fig. 12.

Referring first to the form of machine shown in Figs. 1 to 11, the frame of the machine consists of a base 10, adapted to rest upon and be secured to a bench or similar support, and an upper frame 11 in the general form of an arch.

The base 10 is provided at opposite sides with guideways or grooves 12 within which the work-supporting platen, indicated generally at 13, is mounted to slide forward and backward into and out of operative position with relation to a reciprocable plunger or press member 52, carried by the frame 11. The platen 13 is provided at its front end with a handle 14 by which it may be manually moved back and forth along the ways 12. In the drawings the platen 13 is shown occupying its outermost position away from the press member, in which position the machine is at rest.

The body or bed 15 of the platen is preferably a rectangular casting. Near each corner it is formed with a vertical hole 16 (Fig. 6) whose upper portion is of smaller diameter than its lower portion. The lower end of the hole 16 is closed by a plug 17 which serves as an abutment for a coil spring 18 by which a plunger 19 is yieldingly supported with its upper reduced end 20 projecting above the top surface of the body 15 of the platen.

Resting on top of the platen 15 is a removable work-positioning plate 21 preferably made of cardboard or similar sheet material and provided near each corner with a small aperture reinforced by an eyelet 22, each eyelet being adapted to be fitted upon the upwardly projecting reduced end 20 of one of the plungers 19. Thus the plungers 19 serve to hold the work-positioning plate 21 in a definite position on top of the platen 15 so that it will not be displaced laterally but can readily be removed when desired. The work-positioning plate 21 is made with a cut-out or recess 23 (Fig. 8) so shaped as to receive and properly to position the piece of work to be marked, such as the vamp or forepart of a shoe upper 24, or other piece of sheet material. As herein illustrated the cut-out 23 of the work-positioning plate 21 is formed with opposite side edges 25, 25 to engage the opposite side edges of the sheet article 24 to position the same laterally, and with end edges to engage the outer end of the article 24 thereby to position the same longitudinally. It is not necessary that the cut-out 23 should exactly conform in all respects to the shape of the article to be marked but it must be of such shape and dimensions that it will receive the article to be marked and will fit it sufficiently closely at a sufficient number of points to position it definitely and accurately to be properly operated upon by the marking plate. It will be understood that for each different shape and size of article to be marked a different work-positioning plate 21 will be used having a cut-out adapted to the size and shape of the work in question.

Near the inner end of the platen 15 (Figs. 2, 5, 8 and 11) is a marking plate holder indicated generally at 26, comprising a transversely disposed rock-shaft 27 which rests at its opposite ends within sockets 28 provided in a bracket 15a secured to the end of the platen body. The bearing ends of the rock-shaft 27 are held within the sockets 28 by means of detent plates 29 secured in position against the opposite sides of bracket 15a by screws 30. The screws 30 occupy slots formed in the detent plates 29 so that by loosening the screws and retracting said plates the holder 26 can be removed from the platen.

Secured to the upper flattened side of the rock-shaft 27 by means of rivets 31 is a rigid bar 32 (Figs. 7 and 8) and secured to the top side of this bar 32 by the same rivets is a strip of resilient sheet metal 33, which is of greater width than the bar 32 so that its margin extends inwardly beyond the bar as best shown in Fig. 7. The free or projecting margin of the strip 33 is transversely slotted at intervals, as best shown in Fig. 8, to provide a row of spring tongues 34 each of which is embossed to provide a rounded boss or projection 36 upon its under side (Figs. 7 and 8).

The marking plate, which is detachably secured to said rock-shaft, is shown at 37 and is preferably made of a piece of sheet metal such as galvanized iron embossed or otherwise formed to provide marking projections or bosses 38 on its under side (Figs. 8 and 9). The marking plate 37 is of such shape and size as to enter the recess or cut-out 23 of the work-positioning plate 21, and is of a shape conforming at least approximately to the shape of the work. At its inner end the margin of the marking plate 37 is bent at right angles in opposite directions on two parallel transverse lines to provide a step 39 and a lip 40 (Figs. 7 and 10), the lip 40 being parallel but offset relatively to the body of the marking plate. The bar 32 forming part of the holder for the marking plate is cut away or stepped upon its inner under side to provide a groove 41 between the bar and rock-shaft 27 into which the lip 40 of the marking plate is inserted. Along the margin of the marking plate 37 near the step 39 there is provided a series of holes or sockets 42, each of which is adapted to receive and engage one of the projections 36 on the tongues 34 (Figs. 7 and 10) when the marking plate is attached to the holder. In assembling the marking plate on the holder the lip 40 is inserted in the groove 41 and the plate then pushed home, whereupon the spring tongues 34 will yield until the projections 36 snap into the sockets 42. In removing the marking plate from its holder it is necessary only to pull it forcibly outward, the spring tongues 34 yielding to release the projections 36 from the sockets 42. Thus, the projections and sockets serve both to position the marking plate accurately on its holder and also detachably to secure the marking plate to the holder so that it can readily be removed and replaced by another marking plate of different pattern. It will also be apparent that if desired two or more marking plates can be attached to the holder side by side at the same time, which is sometimes desirable in impressing a plurality of patterns on different parts of the article to be operated upon.

Alongside of the rock-shaft 27 and parallel thereto is a take-up spindle 43, on which is wound one end of a transfer sheet 44 extending from a supply spindle 45, on which is wound a supply roll 45a of the transfer sheet. The transfer sheet extends across the body 15 of the platen and then underneath the rock-shaft 27 to the take-up spindle 43. The supply spindle 45 is journaled at its opposite end in bearings provided upon a bracket 46 secured to the outer end of the body 15. The handle 14 is fastened to the bracket 46. A handwheel 47 is provided

at one end of the supply spindle **45** and a hand-wheel **43a** is provided at one end of the take-up spindle **43**, by which said spindles, respectively, may be manually rotated if desired.

The take-up spindle **43** is supported at its ends within open socket **50** (Figs. 5, 8 and 11) formed in the top of the sides of brackets **15a**. Normally the spindle **43** is held within the sockets by the detent slides **29**. Each detent slide **29** is made with two hooks, **51** and **51a**, the former serving to lock the rock-shaft **27** within its bearing socket **28** and the latter serving to lock the spindle **43** within its bearing socket **50**. When the detent slides **29** are retracted, which can be accomplished by loosening the screws **30**, both the shaft **27** and the spindle **43** may be removed from the machine.

To prevent accidental rotative displacement of the spindles **45** and **43**, leaf springs **48** and **49** fastened to the underside of the body **15** of the platen bear against the under sides of the rolled up transfer sheet wound upon spindles **45** and **43**, respectively.

The transfer sheet **44** is similar to carbon paper but its coating is preferably softer than the coating of carbon paper so that the transfer will be made more readily. It is placed on the platen with its transfer surface upward. The coating of the transfer paper is preferably of a suitable color to be readily distinguished from the color of the article to be marked.

Fast on the take-up spindle **43** near one end thereof is a ratchet wheel **95** (Figs. 8 and 11) co-operating with a pawl **96** pivoted at **97** on the machine frame and normally resting by gravity against a stop stud **98** projecting from the frame. The end of the pawl **96** is in the path of the lower side of ratchet wheel **95** so that when the manually moved platen reaches the limit of its outward movement away from the press member, the ratchet wheel **95** engages the pawl and is rotated to the extent of one tooth, hereby advancing the transfer sheet the same distance. When the platen is thereafter shoved inwardly the pawl **96** is idly rocked by the ratchet wheel and as soon as the ratchet wheel passes out of engagement with the pawl the latter is returned by gravity to its normal position against stop **98**. Thus, each time the platen is operated in and out its motion is utilized to rotate take-up spindle **43** the distance of one ratchet tooth thereby winding up the transfer sheet **44** on spindle **43** and presenting a fresh unused portion of the transfer sheet to the action of the marking plate for each operation thereof. A stop **53** (Fig. 2) at the side of the platen limits the outward movement of the platen, as hereinafter more fully described, and the pawl **96** is so positioned relatively to the stop that when the platen is arrested by the stop **53** the ratchet wheel **95** and the pawl **96** are in substantially the position shown in Fig. 11.

An important feature of the present invention is that when the platen **13** is shifted to its outermost position away from the press member, the marking plate **37** is automatically raised and held in open position to permit free access to the top of the platen so that the operator may place the shoe upper section or other article which is to be marked in position within the recess **23** of the work-positioning plate **21**; and that when the platen is shoved inwardly under the press member the marking plate **37** will be lowered to operative position over the work upon the platen so as to impress the markings upon the work when the press member is operated. Upon again withdrawing the platen from its operative position under the press member the marking plate is again swung upwardly or opened so that the finished work may conveniently be removed by the operator from the platen and a new piece of work inserted in its place. The mechanism for accomplishing this will now be described.

Fixed to one end of the rock-shaft **27**, which carries the marking plate, is an arm or cam follower **54** (Figs. 3 and 8) extending upwardly at an incline to cooperate with a cam **55** (Figs. 1, 2 and 3), which is formed by an upwardly bent inclined end of a lever **56** fulcrumed at **57** on top of the base **10** of the machine frame. This lever is yieldingly held in normal position with the cam **55** in the path of arm **54** by means of a leaf spring **58** secured to the side of the base **10**. The lever **56** is provided with a laterally and downwardly extending bracket **59** which engages the outer side of the base **10** and serves as a stop to limit the inward swinging movement of the lever **56** under the influence of spring **58**.

The free end of bracket **59** is formed with a slot **60** (Fig. 2), against the inner end of which abuts a pin **61** projecting upwards from the stop bolt or latch **53**. The stop latch **53** extends through and slides in a hole in the base **10**, into the guideway **12** for the platen and into the path of stop shoulder **87** of the platen, and is normally urged by a spring toward its operative position. The stop latch **53** is free to move endwise independently of the lever **56** but when the latter is manually swung outward on its pivot **57** by means of a handle **88** it acts through bracket **59** and pin **61** to retract the stop latch **53**.

The cam or abutment **55** is normally positioned so that when the platen is moved outwardly and is nearing the end of its movement in that direction the arm **54** on rock-shaft **27** engages the cam **55** thereby rotating the rock-shaft and swinging the marking plate **37** into its raised or open position. The shoulder **87** on the platen engages the stop latch **53** to stop the platen and hold the marking plate **37** in raised position while the platen is in its outward or inoperative position with relation to the press member. When the platen is shoved inwardly toward the press member the arm **54** moves away from the cam **55** thereby permitting the spring **62**, aided by gravity, to rock the shaft **27** in the opposite direction and swing the marking plate **37** down into operative position upon the work **24** which is held within the cut-out of the work-positioning plate **21**.

Inasmuch as the marking plate **37** is a thin sheet of metal and is sometimes thrown upwardly rapidly and with considerable force by the engagement of arm **54** with cam **55**, it is desirable to provide means to arrest the marking plate when raised to its elevated position and to prevent undesirable vibrations thereof. To this end a wire bail **100** (Figs. 1 and 3) is provided, the two side arms of which are supported by the frame **11**, with the transverse stretch of the bail in a position to act as an abutment or stop against which the marking plate **37** strikes when raised to its fully open position.

The spring **62** which urges the marking plate towards its lowered or closed position is attached at one end to one of the screws **30**, by which the detent slide **29** is held in position, while the other end of the spring extends partly around the under side of rock-shaft **27** and is fastened thereto at **63**. The spring **62**, therefore, which

is normally under tension, at all times yieldingly urges the shaft 27 in a direction to swing the marking plate 37 downward toward closed position on the work.

When it is desired to remove the platen 13 from the machine it is only necessary for the operator manually to swing the cam lever 56 sidewise and outwardly thereby removing the cam 55 from the path of arm 54 and at the same time retracting the stop bolt or latch 53. The platen is then free to be drawn forwardly out of the machine.

It is also an important feature of the present invention that the movement of the platen inwardly to operative position under the press member 52 controls mechanism by which the press member is automatically operated to press the marking plate upon the work. This is accomplished by the following mechanism.

In the path of the inner end of the platen body 15 is a stem 64 (Figs. 2 and 3) adjustably fastened to an arm 65 by means of a clamping screw 66. The arm 65 is mounted upon a slide bar 67 supported in a slideway in the base 10 and is provided at its rear end with an abutment pin 68 which bears against arm 65. The opposite end of slide bar 67 is made with a laterally extending lug or abutment 69 to engage with the depending shipper arm 70 of a clutch-controlling lever 71 fulcrumed at 72 (Figs. 1 and 3) on the frame 11 of the machine. Th lever 71 actuates an upwardly extending arm 73 carrying at its upper end a wedge-shaped cam 74 cooperating with an adjustable member 75 forming part of a clutch mechanism 76 of usual construction. When the member 75 is moved toward the left (Fig. 1) by wedge 74 the clutch is disengaged and when the wedge 74 is disengaged from member 75 the latter is shifted by a spring (not shown) toward the right to set or engage the clutch. The clutch 76 is mounted on a transversely disposed shaft 77 journaled in bearings at the top of the frame 11 and on this shaft 77 is loosely mounted a continuously driven pulley 78 to which one of the clutch members is fixed. When the clutch 76 is set the pulley 78 acts to rotate the shaft 77 and when the clutch is thrown out the shaft 77 is at rest. A spring 79 (Fig. 3) acting against the shipper lever 70 yieldingly urges the upper arm 73 toward the clutch-shifting member 75 and also acts through lever 70 to hold the slide bar 67 at the limit of its movement toward the right (Fig. 2). Thus the wedge 74 is normally held in position to engage the clutch-shifting member 75 so that the clutch is normally disengaged and the press member 52, actuated from shaft 77, is normally inactive.

Fast on shaft 77 is an eccentric 80 connected by a pitman 81 with the upper end of the press member 52. It will be understood that the press member is mounted to slide on vertical ways provided on the frame 11 and is reciprocated vertically by shaft 77 and the eccentric connection when the clutch is in engagement.

When the platen 13 is shoved inwardly to the limit of its movement toward its operative position under the press member the rear end of the platen body 15 will engage the end of stem 64, thereby moving the stem 64, arm 65, slide bar 67 and lever 70 toward the left, as viewed in the drawings, whereupon the clutch 76 will be engaged and the press member will be reciprocated vertically by the eccentric 80 until the platen is again pulled forwardly out of operative relation to the press member. The inward movement of the platen is limited by the engagement of the arm 70 with the frame of the machine and the outward movement of the lever 70 in the opposite direction under the influence of spring 79 is limited by the engagement of the arm 65 on slide 67 with the rear side of the frame 10.

The body 15 of the platen is provided upon its under side with rollers 82 loosely mounted within rectangular pockets 83 provided on the under side of the body 15 (Figs. 4 and 5). These rollers are held against falling out of the pockets 83 when the platen is removed from the machine by strips of metal 84 fastened by screws to the bottom of the body 15. The rollers are also held against endwise movement in the pockets 83 by small plates 85 fastened to opposite sides of the body 15. The base 10 of the frame is made with a plurality of parallel runways 86 (Figs. 1 and 2) on which the rollers 82 travel as the platen is moved back and forth.

The marking plate 37 is provided on its top side with a pad 37^a (Figs. 3, 8 and 10) which may consist of a piece of cardboard of a size and shape corresponding approximately to the size and shape of the marking plate 37. This pad receives the direct impact of the press member 52 during the marking operation. A rubber pad or similar cushion 52^a may be provided on the under side of the press member 52, if desired. In practice the pad 37^a may conveniently and economically be made from the piece of cardboard cut out from the work-positioning plate 21 to form the recess 23. This piece, which would otherwise be waste, may be utilized as the pad by trimming it slightly to fit the marking plate and fastening it, by cement for example, to the top side of the marking plate.

The operation of the machine, which will be evident from the foregoing description, may be briefly summarized as follows: When the platen is pulled forward out of its operative relation to the press member 52 the press member will be at rest or inactive and the marking plate 37 will be held in raised or open position by the engagement of the arm 54 with the cam 55. The operator then places the shoe upper section or other article of sheet material to be operated upon in correct position within the recess or cut-out 23 of the work-positioning plate 21 with the surface which is to be marked downward in contact with the marking surface of the transfer sheet 44. The platen is then shoved inwardly into operative position under the press member 52. During the first part of the inward movement the marking plate 37 swings down to closed position upon the platen overlying the work held within the work-positioning plate 21. Just before the platen reaches its innermost or operative position under the press member, it actuates the shipper lever 70, thereby setting the clutch 76 and causing the press member 52 to descend on top of the marking plate, whose pattern is thereby impressed on the under side of the work by the transfer sheet 44; or directly on the work if no transfer sheet is used. When the press member rises the platen is again manually pulled out to inoperative position whereupon the clutch 76 is disengaged and the movement of the press member is stopped; and when the platen reaches its outermost position the marking plate is swung upwardly to its open position and the operator removes the marked article from the platen. The machine is now in condition to receive another piece of work and the operation is repeated.

In the modified construction illustrated in Figs.

12 to 16 inclusive the transverse rock-shaft 27ª is made with a flat rear side provided with a longitudinal row of uniformly spaced studs 89, which are adapted to occupy notches 90 provided along the lower edge of a retaining or clamping bar 91. One end of bar 91 is pivoted at 92 to the rock-shaft 27ª and the other end is engaged by a releasable latch 93 pivoted to the rock-shaft at 94. The marking plate 37 is provided at its inner end with a perpendicular flange 39ª formed with notches 94, spaced to correspond with the studs 89, so that when the marking plate is applied to the rock-shaft 27ª, the engagement of the notches 94 with studs 89 will properly position the marking plate and hold it against displacement. After the marking plate has been placed in position on shaft 27ª the clamping bar 91 is swung downward into closed position against the flange 39ª and the latch 93 is engaged with the free end of the clamping bar to hold the parts in place. This detachable connection, like the ones shown in Figs. 7 and 8, permits two or more marking plates to be attached side by side to the rock-shaft at the same time if desired.

I claim:

1. In a machine of the character described, a platen, a marking plate holder movably mounted on the platen having a series of projections, a marking plate detachably secured to the holder having a complementary series of sockets adapted to engage said projections to position the detachable marking plate with relation to the holder and a releasable clamp to secure the marking plate to the holder and to hold the projections and sockets in engagement.

2. In a machine of the character described, a platen, a marking plate holder comprising a rock-shaft journaled on the platen, a releasable clamping bar carried by the rock-shaft, and a marking plate having one margin bent to form a lip, said lip being detachably held between the rock-shaft and clamping bar.

3. In a machine of the character described, a platen, a marking plate holder comprising a rock-shaft mounted on the platen having a longitudinal groove and a spring tongue, and a marking plate constructed with an offset lip to occupy said groove, said marking plate and spring tongue being provided with complementary projections and sockets by which the marking plate is detachably secured to the holder.

4. In a machine of the character described, a platen, a marking plate holder comprising a rock-shaft mounted on the platen having a longitudinal row of studs uniformly spaced apart, a marking plate having a series of correspondingly spaced sockets along its margin adapted to engage said studs, a retaining bar alongside of said rock-shaft for detachably securing the marking plate to the rock-shaft and holding said studs and sockets in engagement, said bar being hinged at one end to the rock-shaft, and means separably connecting the opposite end to the rock-shaft.

5. In a machine of the character described, a platen, a marking plate holder mounted to move toward and away from said platen, a marking plate detachably secured to said holder, and positioning means having a recessed portion constructed and arranged to receive a blank to be marked, said positioning means being detachably secured to said platen in predetermined fixed position relative to the path of travel of said marking plate holder.

6. In a machine of the character described, a platen, a marking plate holder mounted to move toward and away from said platen, a marking plate detachably secured to said holder, and a detachable positioning member having a cut-out portion adapted to receive a blank to be marked and hold it in predetermined fixed position relative to the path of movement of said holder.

7. In a machine of the character described, a platen, a marking plate holder mounted to move toward and away from said platen, said marking plate holder being constructed and arranged detachably to secure one of a plurality of interchangeable marking plates in fixed position, positioning means having a recessed portion constructed and arranged to receive a blank to be marked, and means constructed and arranged detachably to secure one of a plurality of positioning means in predetermined fixed position on said platen.

8. In a machine of the character described, a platen, a marking plate holder movably mounted on said platen, a marking plate, said marking plate holder and said marking plate having complementary interengaging fastening means operative detachably to secure the marking plate to said marking plate holder, and positioning means having a recessed portion constructed and arranged to receive a blank to be marked, said positioning means being detachably secured to said platen in predetermined fixed position relative to the path of travel of said marking plate holder.

9. In a marking device, the combination with a base member, a roll of transfer sheet material supported at one end of the base member, means for drawing a length of said transfer sheet, transfer face uppermost, from the roll and across the base member in engagement therewith, and a guide pattern, superimposed on the transfer face of the drawn transfer sheet, provided with at least one opening for exposing said transfer face and for receiving a shoe part with its finished or grain face in engagement with said transfer face, of means for simultaneously providing the unfinished or flesh face of the received shoe part with at least one legible guide line and pressing against said transfer face that portion of the finished or grain face of the shoe part which lies beneath said guide line.

10. In a marking device, the combination with a base member provided with a planaform surface, a roll of transfer sheet material supported at one end of said surface, a shaft adjacent said surface, means for drawing a length of said transfer sheet, transfer face uppermost, from the roll, under said shaft, and across said surface in engagement therewith, and a guide pattern, superimposed on the transfer face of the drawn transfer sheet between the shaft and the sheet drawing means, provided with at least one opening for exposing said transfer face and for receiving a shoe part with its finished or grain face in engagement with said transfer face of means for simultaneously providing the unfinished or flesh face of the received shoe part with legible guide lines and pressing against said transfer face those portions of the finished or grain face of the shoe part which lie beneath said guide lines.

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