

A. M. CUSHIN
Shoe-Horns.

No. 159,159.

Patented Jan. 26, 1875.

Fig. 1.

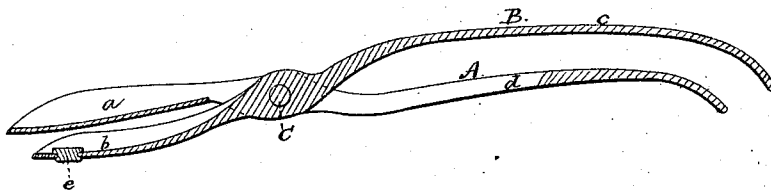
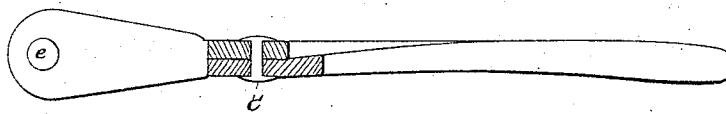


Fig. 2.



WITNESSES.

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ALVIN M. CUSHING, OF LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS.

IMPROVEMENT IN SHOE-HORNS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **159,159**, dated January 26, 1875; application filed January 7, 1875.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALVIN M. CUSHING, M. D., of Lynn, Essex county, Massachusetts, have invented certain Improvements in Compound Shoe-Horn, of which the following is a specification:

My invention is an improvement upon compound shoe-horns, or those which comprise a horn to guide the wearer's heel into the shoe, and a clamp to seize hold of the shoe and enable the latter to be readily pulled on, this class of horns consisting of two levers or bars, pivoted together at about their center, practically after the manner of blacksmiths' tongs, the shorter arms forming jaws to seize the quarter of the shoe, and the longer arms constituting handles by means of which the jaws are made to gripe the said quarter, and the shoe is pulled on.

My improvement consists in applying to the inner face of one or both clamp-jaws a block or plate of india-rubber, or other elastic, adhesive, or tenacious material, by which the tendency of the jaws to slip upon the shoe is overcome, and much of the exertion now required to close the jaws upon the quarter with a sufficiently firm gripe is avoided.

The drawings accompanying this specification represent, in Figure 1, a longitudinal section, and in Fig. 2 a horizontal section, of a shoe-horn embodying my improvement.

By referring to these drawings, it will be seen that A B represent two levers or bars, pivoted together by a rivet, C, in manner substantially as now generally practiced in making blacksmiths' tongs; the outer and shorter arms or jaws *a b* of these levers being flattened and concavo-convex or semi-cylindrical, in order the better to adapt them to the contour of the wearer's heel, and of the heel portion of the quarter of the shoe. The longer

arms *c d* of the levers A B constitute handles, by means of which the jaws *a b* are tightly compressed upon the shoe-quarter; and the extremities of these handles may be curved, as represented, in order to enable the user to obtain a strong hold upon the implement in pulling on the shoe.

In carrying my improvement into practice, I apply in any suitable manner, to the inner face of one or both the jaws *a b*, a button or plate, *e*, of india-rubber, or other material which possesses elastic or adhesive properties of sufficient extent to prevent tendency of such jaws to slip upon the shoe and lose their hold thereupon.

With a compound shoe-horn composed entirely of metal, a considerable exertion of power is required to close the jaws upon the shoe, and compel them to maintain a firm hold while drawing such shoe upon the foot, especially if it fit the latter tightly.

If the surface of the metal is abraded or scored to obtain a better hold, the leather is scarred and injured.

With my improvement the friction and hold of the jaws upon the shoe-quarter is greatly increased, and the power to be exerted by the user diminished in a corresponding degree, while no injury results to the leather; therefore,

I claim as original with myself, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States—

A compound shoe-horn, the gripping-jaws of which are one or both plated or provided with an elastic or adhesive substance, substantially as and for purposes stated.

ALVIN M. CUSHING.

Witnesses:

F. CURTIS,

W. E. BOARDMAN.