

B. J. STEVENS.
 COMBINED COUNTER AND LINING FOR BOOTS AND SHOES.
 No. 191,895. Patented June 12, 1877.

Fig. 1.

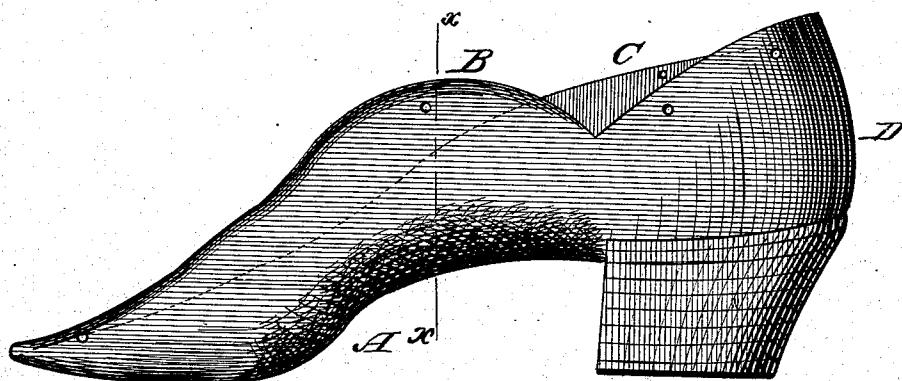


Fig. 2.

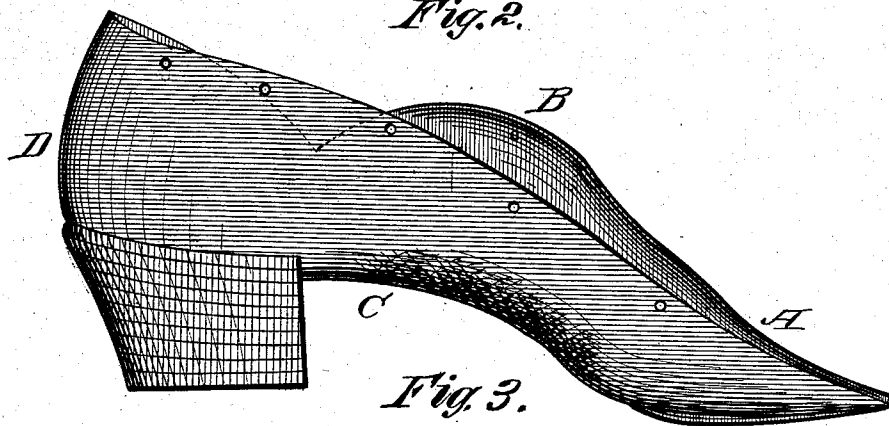
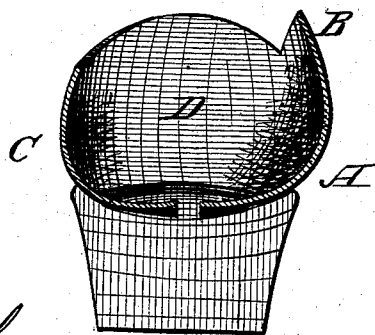


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BENJAMIN J. STEVENS, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPROVEMENT IN COMBINED COUNTER AND LINING FOR BOOTS AND SHOES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **191,895**, dated June 12, 1877; application filed April 20, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BENJ. J. STEVENS, of New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Combined Instep-Supporter, Heel-Stiffener, and Lining; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to boots and shoes; and it consists in a combined instep-supporter, heel-stiffener, and lining, all made in one piece, as will be hereinafter more fully set forth.

In the annexed drawing, which fully illustrates my invention, Figure 1 is a side elevation. Fig. 2 is a view of the opposite side. Fig. 3 is a central section on line *xx*, Fig. 1.

My invention may be made of sheet metal, sole-leather, or any other suitable material, and is cut or otherwise made to form on the inside of the boot or shoe the strip *A*, which has its lower edge turned in between the inner and outer soles, and extends from near the toe to the heel, and takes the place of the lining ordinarily used on that side of the boot or shoe. This strip *A* is formed with a projection, *B*, extending upward at the proper point, and formed over the last to fit the instep of the boot or shoe. This projection forms an instep-supporter, which answers a twofold purpose. It holds and sustains the boot and shoe at the instep in its proper place and position, preventing the leather or other material of which the boot or shoe is made from sagging down and wrinkling, which it is always more or less liable to do. It also sustains the foot at the proper place where such support is most needed.

The material of which the instep-supporter is made is carried around the heel of the last, and forms the heel-stiffener *C*, and then continued on the outer side of the last, forming the strip *D* extending to the toe, and forming the lining for that side of the boot or shoe.

The material of which these parts are made may be cut out, or otherwise formed, in one piece, and then fitted to the last, after which the upper is put on in the usual manner, and then the boot or shoe finished on the last.

By this invention, it will be seen, the boot or shoe obtains a firm and solid support all around, the lining also being of such stiff material, and the boot or shoe will retain its shape without wrinkling or otherwise becoming unsightly, as is generally the case when boots or shoes have been worn for some length of time.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. As a new article of manufacture, a combined lining and heel-stiffener for boots and shoes, constructed in one piece, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. The combined lining and heel-stiffener for boots and shoes, constructed in one piece, and provided with projection *B* upon the inner side, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. In a boot or shoe, the combined lining and heel-stiffener, constructed in one piece, substantially as and for the purpose described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

BENJAMIN J. STEVENS.

Witnesses:

CHARLES M. WATERBURY,
WILLARD M. FULLER.