

H. B. COOK.
HORSE-BOOTS.

No. 177,991.

Patented May 30, 1876.

Fig. 1.

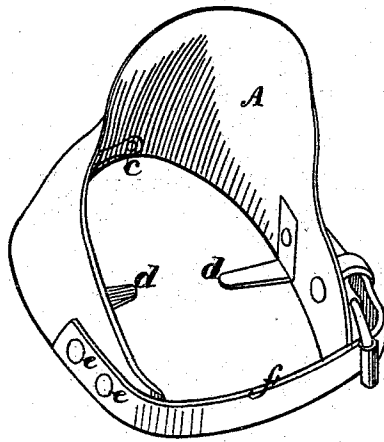
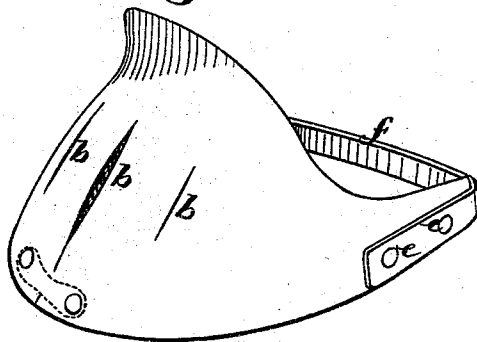


Fig. 2.



Witnesses

Geo. H. Strong.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HIRAM B. COOK, OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN HORSE-BOOTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **177,991**, dated May 30, 1876; application filed March 13, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, **HIRAM B. COOK**, of San Francisco city and county, State of California, have invented a Horse's Boot; and I do hereby declare the following description and accompanying drawings are sufficient to enable any person skilled in the art or science to which it most nearly appertains to make and use my said invention without further invention or experiment.

The object of my invention is to provide an improved hoof or cuff boot, such as is used for protecting the hind feet of trotting-horses from the effects of forging or interfering.

The ordinary method of constructing this kind of boot, and conforming it to the shape and swell of the hoof, has been by cutting out one or more gores from the lower edge of the boot, and drawing the edges together with stitches, so as to form a swell at the middle of the boot. The attachment to the hoof was effected by two straps and buckles sewed to the boot, one passing around the heel to keep it back, and the other was passed through openings between the hoof and shoe, and across underneath the bottom of the foot to keep the boot down.

This method of construction is faulty in the extreme—first, because of the difficulty in putting the boot on the foot of a horse, even on the most gentle animal. The opening between hoof and shoe for the passage of the under strap being of the smallest size, the operation of inserting a soft strap, especially with an uneasy horse, is manifestly difficult. Secondly, the necessary smallness of the size of the strap to allow it to pass through the opening leaves it entirely inadequate to resist the sharp blows and chafing contact with the ground. This is a serious defect, as the parting or even stretching of this slender strap changes the boot instantly from a comfortable protector into a chafing annoyance or a fatal impediment. Another fruitful source of trouble is the giving out of the stitches by chafe and exposure, so that the straps often come off at the very time when

the boot should be the firmest; besides, when the under strap is sufficiently tight to prevent all motion of the boot, it is objectionable as binding and restricting the natural play and spread of the foot, the contact of the strap with the frog causing a clogged and uncomfortable feeling, and eventually injuring the hoof.

To remedy all of these difficulties I slash the body of the boot at proper places by making a slit with a knife, as represented at *b*, to the front of the boot, to allow it to conform to the shape of the hoof, leaving the upper and lower edges intact.

By this means I not only simplify the construction, but greatly enhance its value as a reliable protector. But in exceptional cases, where it may be desired to open the lower edge of the boot, (as in the old method,) I use a strip of metal, as at *c*, and metal rivets, for uniting the edges in place of stitches. I do away with the under strip altogether, and use in its place two or more metal clips, *d d*, bent at an angle, to conform to the shape of the hoof, one end of which is smoothly countersunk and securely riveted to the boot. The other end is merely inserted or hooked into the usual openings for the strap.

I thus avoid crossing the bottom of the foot with a strap, and secure a firm, reliable hold, obviating all danger of twisting, moving, chafing, or coming off, and leave, at the same time, a natural and unfettered action to the foot.

The heel-strap *f* I retain, but attach it to the foot by means of metallic rivets, as at *e*, in place of stitches.

These several improvements (the results of experience and investigation) combine to form a novel and reliable article of manufacture.

I am aware that a single metal clip has heretofore been used for the purpose of fastening a weighted-toe boot to the foot of a horse; but it was used in front or at the toe only, and would not accomplish what my opposite clips are used for.

These several improvements in a horse-

boot are valuable and important, whether they are all used in the manufacture of a boot, or whether any one of them is used independent of the other.

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

As an improved article of manufacture, a

horse-boot composed of the piece of leather A, slashed at *b b*, and provided with side clips *d d* and a back strap, *f*, fastened with rivets *e e*, as set forth.

HIRAM BURT COOK.

Witnesses:

GEO. H. STRONG,

C. M. RICHARDSON.