

DANIEL P. DIETERICH & RICHARD M. POPHAM.

Improvement in Step-Covers.

No. 115,717.

Patented June 6, 1871.

FIG. 1.

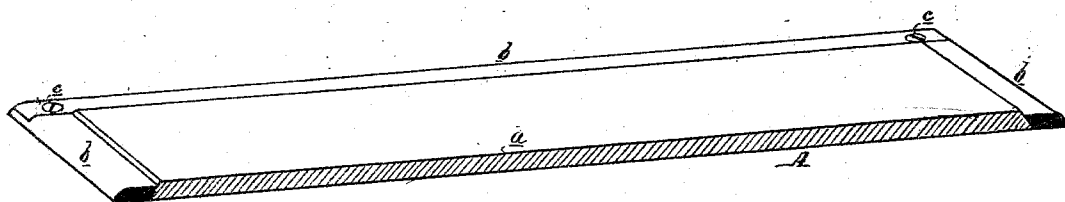


FIG. 2.

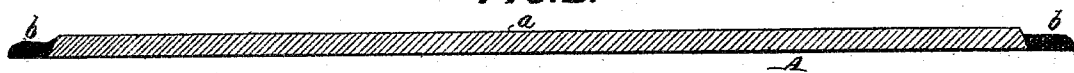
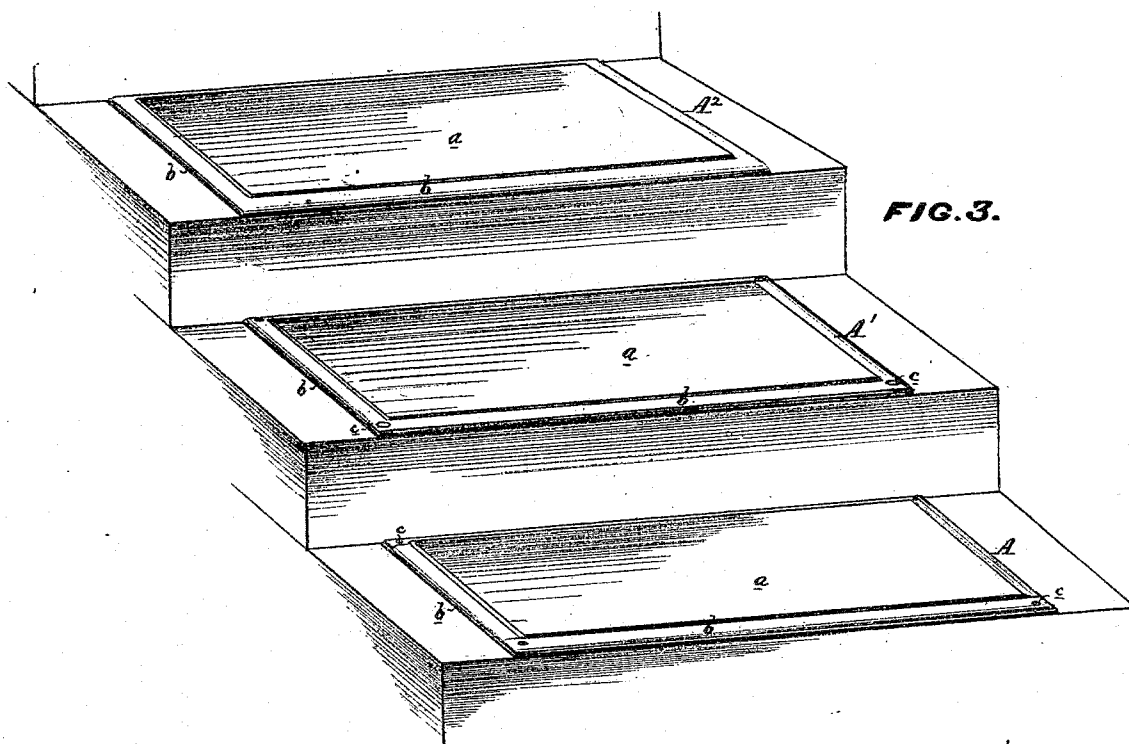


FIG. 3.



Inventors

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*by their Attor*

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WITNESSES {

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DANIEL POPHAM DIETERICH AND RICHARD MORRIS POPHAM, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNORS TO DANIEL POPHAM DIETERICH.

## IMPROVEMENT IN STEP-COVERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 115,717, dated June 6, 1871.

We, DANIEL POPHAM DIETERICH and RICHARD MORRIS POPHAM, both of Philadelphia, county of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania, have invented an Improved Step-Cover, of which the following is a specification:

### *Nature and Object of the Invention.*

Our invention relates to a new article of manufacture, consisting of a cover or protector for steps, composed of rubber, cork, or other equivalent and suitable material inclosed in or secured to a frame or plate, and which can be attached to the top of any step, whether of metal, wood, or stone, without injuring or requiring any special preparation of the said step.

### *Description of the Accompanying Drawing.*

Figure 1 is a sectional perspective view of our improved step-cover; Fig. 2, a sectional view of the same; and Fig. 3, a perspective view of a portion of a flight of steps or stairway, showing methods of securing the cover to the steps.

### *General Description.*

In Figs. 1 and 2, A represents the complete cover, which consists in the present instance of a sheet or slab of vulcanized rubber or gutta-percha beveled on all four edges, and contained within a metal or other frame composed of strips *b* overlapping each other at the corners, where they are secured together by screws *c*, and undercut or beveled on their inner edges, as shown, so as to correspond with the beveled edges of the rubber and thus retain the latter within the frame when the cover is secured to a step. It is important that the rubber should project slightly above the frame, as shown in the drawing; but it is not essential that the frame should be made as above described. It might, for instance, be cast in one piece, or consist of a plate recessed or having projections or ribs to retain the edges of the rubber; or the said plate might have a perfectly plain surface, to which the rubber could be cemented or otherwise secured. We prefer, however, to use an open frame, either formed in one piece or consisting of several pieces joined together at the corners, the inner edges of such frame being simply beveled,

as before described, or dovetailed or recessed in any manner, so as to retain the edges of the rubber. Where separate strips are used to form a frame for the protection of the rubber they might, in some instances, be secured to the sides of the rubber only, leaving the ends exposed; but we prefer that a complete and connected frame should be employed.

We are aware that blocks of rubber have been let into the tops of iron steps cast with recesses in them, or otherwise specially prepared for the reception of the rubber, the latter being used to protect the steps or to prevent slipping upon the smooth surface of the iron. This plan answers the purpose well, but is of very limited application—an objection which is fully overcome by the use of our improved step-cover, which, being complete in itself, can be attached to the top of any step, whether of metal, wood, or stone, and can be as readily detached from the same when no longer required for use, no injury or defacement of the step resulting from the use of this cover, as the step does not require to be recessed or otherwise especially prepared for its reception.

The readiest method of securing the cover to a step is by screws passing through the corners *c* of the frame and into the step, as shown in Fig. 3, the same screws being used for attaching the lowermost cover A to the step that serve to connect the several parts of the frame together.

A frame cast in one piece is shown at A<sup>1</sup> and A<sup>2</sup> in Fig. 3, the latter frame, which may be supposed to rest upon a marble or stone step, being secured to the same in any manner, other than by screws, which will not deface the step.

The cover can be used for front-door steps, iron steps in public buildings, carpeted stairways in hotels or dwellings, or, in fact, wherever it is desired to prevent noise in walking, to protect the steps, and to prevent slipping upon the same.

Although we have referred to the use of rubber only in connection with our improved step-cover, it will be evident that rubber combined with fabrics or other substances, or cork, felt, or other suitable material combined with a frame in the same manner as the rubber,

may be used without departing from our invention.

*Claim.*

As a new article of manufacture, a step cover or protector, consisting of rubber or equivalent material inclosed in or secured to a frame or plate, and adapted to the top of a step, as specified.

In testimony whereof we have signed our names to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

D. P. DIETERICH.  
R. M. POPHAM.

Witnesses:

WM. A. STEEL,  
FRANK B. RICHARDS.