

H. C. Babcock,

Belt Fastener,

N<sup>o</sup>. 70,775.

Patented Nov. 12, 1867.

Fig. 1.

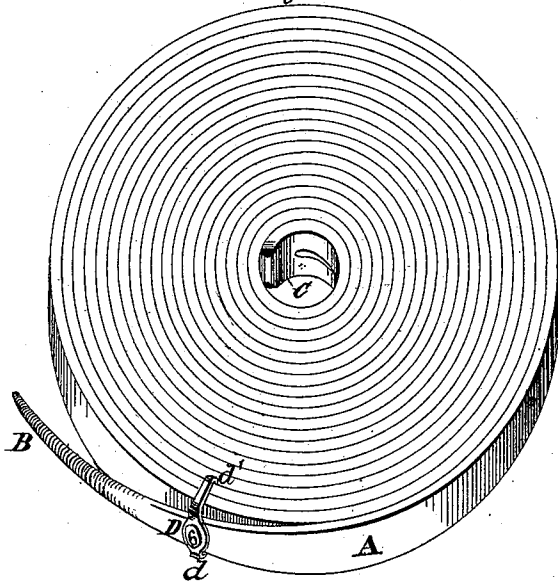


Fig. 2.

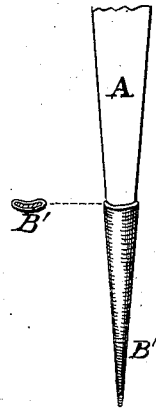
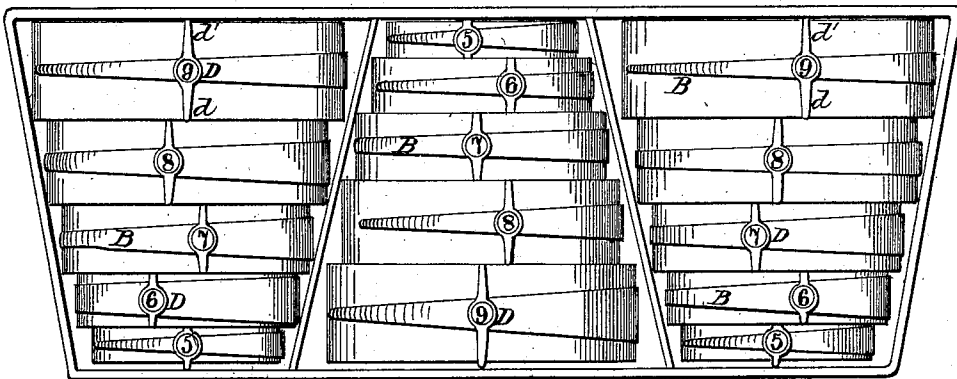


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:

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# United States Patent Office.

HOLLAND C. BABCOCK, OF CINCINNATI, OHIO.

Letters Patent No. 70,775, dated November 12, 1867.

## IMPROVEMENT IN BELT-LACING.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same

### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN :

Be it known that I, HOLLAND C. BABCOCK, of Cincinnati, Hamilton county, State of Ohio, have invented a new and useful Manufacture of Belt-Lacing; and do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification.

The numerous class of manufacturers who employ machine belting are accustomed to cut their lacing as wanted from a side of leather kept for that purpose. This leather, from its necessary greasy character, soils all it comes in contact with, and itself becomes soiled and much deteriorated by exposure to dust and atmospheric influences, the said dust acting to absorb the grease and to destroy the nature of the leather. Moreover, great loss of time is entailed, when a belt parts, by the necessity of waiting until another lace can be prepared or a fresh side procured. A side of leather remains so long on hand with small manufacturers as to greatly aggravate the above evils. Then, also, the laces being prepared rudely by hand, are of such unequal widths as to waste about one-fourth of the leather, and to require larger holes than necessary in the belting, and occasion unequal strain on different parts thereof.

By means of suitable machines I cut each side of leather up into a number of thongs, of assorted but definite lengths and widths, one end of each thong having an eye or slit, and the other end being pointed and stiffened, in manner hereafter explained, to facilitate its insertion and passage through the holes of the belt. In the accompanying drawings—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of one of my improved belt-laces in coil form for packing.

Figure 2 represents a modification of the tip.

Figure 3 shows the mode of packing my lacing in assorted sizes.

I take a side of lace-leather, and by means of suitable appliances, which I design to make the subject of a patent, I convert said side into lacing of diverse sizes and definite width, suitable for every description of belting. Having suitably reduced the width of the thin end of each lace A, I convert the said end to a sharp and stiff point, either by heat and pressure, as at B, fig. 1, or by enveloping the same in a metallic tip, as at B', fig. 2. The tip B or B' is formed concave or convex, so as to facilitate its insertion through the eyelets, and to serve as a guide to avoid twisting in the act of lacing. In the thick end of each lace, near its extremity, I make a slit, C, through which to pass the pointed end B, so as to enable the lace to be securely looped to one of the ends of the belt preliminary to lacing. D is a tag or clip, having its back marked with the length of the lace, and having claws *d d'*, which, being clinched around the lace, serve to hold it to the coiled form.

The following are among the advantages of my improved belt-lacing: Economy of material, as they are cut true and straight; great saving in time to consumers, as they are always ready for immediate use when a belt breaks. Each lacing is cut the right width and length for a specified width of belting. They are cut true, and will draw into a small punch-hole; each hole of belt contains the same bulk and substance; the strain is equally divided; the lacing is not liable to cut or tear out of the holes; the pointed and stiffened tip much facilitates the operation of lacing, and supersedes the necessity of a belt-awl. My object in coiling each lace separate is to have them convenient to use, and to be within the reach of all. They occupy but a small space, one coil packed above another. They can be shipped to and used in any climate, and the atmosphere is less liable to affect them than in the original side. They are generally put into market. The device for fastening holds the ends securely, and is easily detached; also answers for a tag for marking the length. Leather thus converted into lacings occupies less than half the bulk of the original hide, and can be put up in larger or smaller packages, to suit purchasers.

I claim herein as new and of my invention, as an article of manufacture—

The belt-lacing, provided with a pointed or stiffened tip, B or B', a slit, C, and secured for packing in a coiled form by tag D, or its equivalent, substantially as and for the object stated.

In testimony of which invention I hereunto set my hand.

HOLLAND C. BABCOCK.

Witnesses :

GEO. H. KNIGHT,  
JAMES H. LAYMAN.