No. 711,194. Patented Oct. 14, 1902.

B. E. BENGTSON & A. A. GUSTAFSON.

BOOT OR SHOE CLEANER.

(Application filed Oct. 12, 1901.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

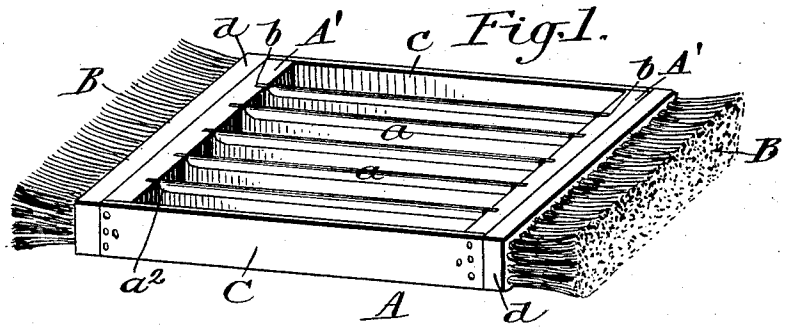


Fig. 2.

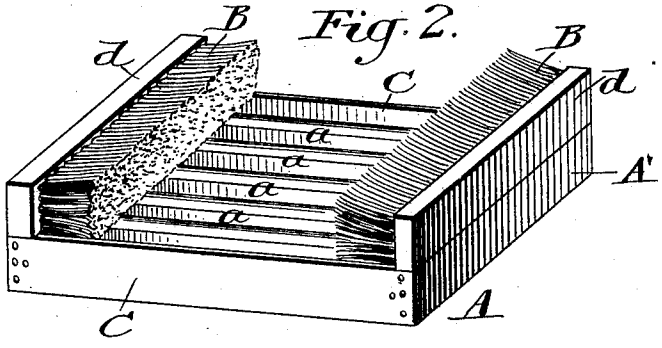


Fig. 3.

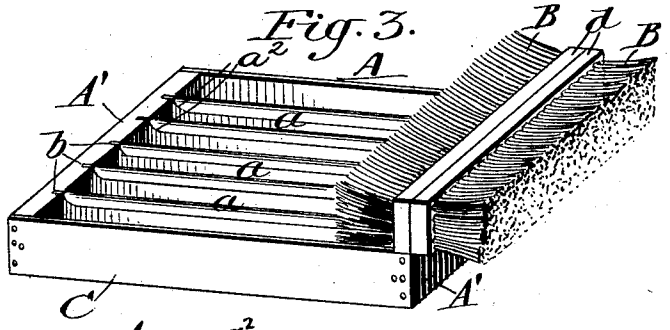


Fig. 5.

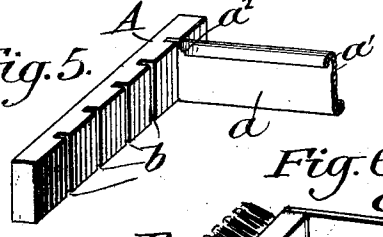


Fig. 4.

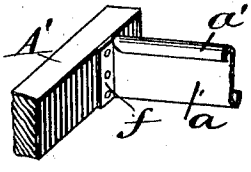
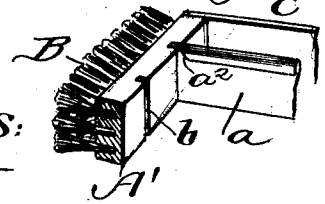


Fig. 6.



Witnesses:
D. C. Stewart
A. E. Danby

Inventors
Berndt E. Bengtson.
Axel A. Gustafson

THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BERNDT E. BENGTSON, OF AXTELL, AND AXEL A. GUSTAFSON, OF DIVIDE TOWNSHIP, NEBRASKA.

BOOT OR SHOE CLEANER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 711,194, dated October 14, 1902.

Application filed October 12, 1901. Serial No. 78,508. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, BERNDT E. BENGTSON, residing at Axtell, in the county of Kearney, and AXEL A. GUSTAFSON, residing in Divide township, in the county of Phelps, State of Nebraska, citizens of the United States, have invented a new and useful Boot or Shoe Cleaner, of which the following is a specification.

This invention is an improvement in boot and shoe cleaning devices, and has for its object to provide a portable device for scraping and cleaning the soles of a shoe or boot and also for cleaning the sides thereof.

With this object in view our invention comprises a frame in which is fixedly held a series of strips or scrapers by which hard substances may be readily removed from the bottom of a shoe, the ends of the frame carrying suitable brushes by which the sides of the shoe may be cleaned; and with the above objects in view our invention further consists in certain details of construction and novel combination and arrangement of parts, as will be fully described in the following specification and pointed out in the claims, reference being had to the drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of our improved boot and shoe cleaner. Fig. 2 is a similar view showing a slightly-different arrangement of the brushes. Fig. 3 is a perspective view illustrating still a different arrangement of the brushes. Fig. 4 is a detail perspective view illustrating a modified arrangement of supporting the scraping-strips to the frame. Fig. 5 is a detail perspective view showing the preferred arrangement of supporting the scrapers. Fig. 6 is a detail view illustrating the modified arrangement of the brushes.

In carrying out our invention we employ a frame A, comprising the end strips A′ and the metallic side strips C. The said end strips are preferably made of wood and have a series of vertically-arranged slots *b* produced upon their inner faces and in which are held the ends of the metallic scrapers *a*, the upper and lower edges of the said scrapers being preferably bent or folded over upon the body portion, which eliminate sharp edges upon the strips, and thereby causing little injury to the shoe and at the same time strengthening the strips, and thus permitting them to be made of much lighter material than if the strips were made with a straight edge. By reference to Fig. 5 of the drawings it will be seen that the edges are bent in opposite directions and also that the ends of the bent portions are cut out for a slight distance from the extreme end, as indicated by the reference-numeral a^2, the purpose of said cut-out portion being to reduce the thickness of the scrapers where they enter the slots, and thus afford the said scrapers an even bearing in the slots throughout their entire width. It will also be noted by reference to Fig. 5 that the central portion of the scrapers is arranged upon a compound curve, with the ends flattened so that they will snugly fit the slots, as before stated, the object of forming this curve being to further strengthen the strips, and by reason of the bent portions a' the material scraped from the shoe will not stick to the scrapers, but will readily drop from the edges thereof to the ground, it being understood that in placing a scraper in position to be used the upper folded edges a' are arranged upon the outer side, so that in drawing the shoe across the scrapers the material will be left upon the said bent-over portion, from which it will readily drop onto the ground.

Suitable brushes B are secured to the end strips A′, the backs *d* thereof being preferably arranged against the outer sides of the strips A′, as shown in Fig. 1; but they may be arranged upon the upper edges of the end strips with the bristles projecting inwardly, as shown in Fig. 2, or both brushes may be supported upon one of the end strips A′ with the bristles projecting in opposite directions, as indicated in Fig. 3. In all of the constructions described the brushes are utilized for the same purpose—that is, to remove any foreign matter that may be accumulated upon the sides of a shoe. If desired, the end strips A may have the bristles of the brushes formed thereon and the said brushes be utilized to form the end strips, as shown in Fig. 6. We also find it desirable to bend the ends of the scrapers at a right angle to the body portion, as indicated at *f* in Fig. 4, and to secure the said bent portions to the inner faces of the end strips A′, as will be clearly understood,

and by this arrangement the necessity of producing the slots in the end strips is avoided. It will also be noted that the scraping-strips are arranged parallel to the sides of the frame and that the brushes are arranged at right angles to the said strips across the ends of the frame, so that in scraping a shoe one may stand in one position in order to clean the sole and heel and also the sides of his shoes.

From the foregoing it will be readily seen that we provide an exceedingly cheap, durable, and highly-efficient device for scraping and cleaning boots or shoes that will be found particularly useful in districts where the walks and crossings are not paved.

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

1. In a device of the kind described, the combination of a frame, scrapers held therein, and having their upper and lower edges bent or folded upon the body portion, and brushes carried by the frame, substantially as shown and described.

2. In a device of the kind described, the combination of a frame, scrapers held therein and having their upper and lower edges bent or folded upon the body portion, said bent or folded ends being turned in opposite directions, and brushes carried upon the exterior of the frame, substantially as shown and described.

3. A scraper or strip for a shoe-cleaner of the kind described, comprising the body portion having its upper and lower edges bent or folded over in opposite directions, the said body portion being curved or crimped throughout its longitudinal length, the extreme ends of said strips being flattened, substantially as shown and described.

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

BERNDT E. BENGSTON.
AXEL A. GUSTAFSON.

Witnesses:
S. C. STEWART,
WM. A. BERKMAN.