(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

O. W. CASTNER.

RAZOR STROP.

No. 469,893. Patented Mar. 1, 1892.

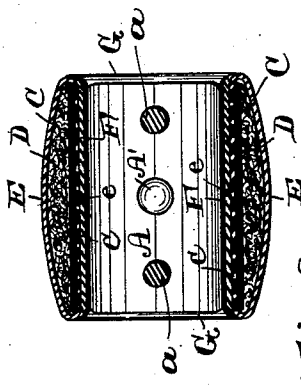

Fig. 2

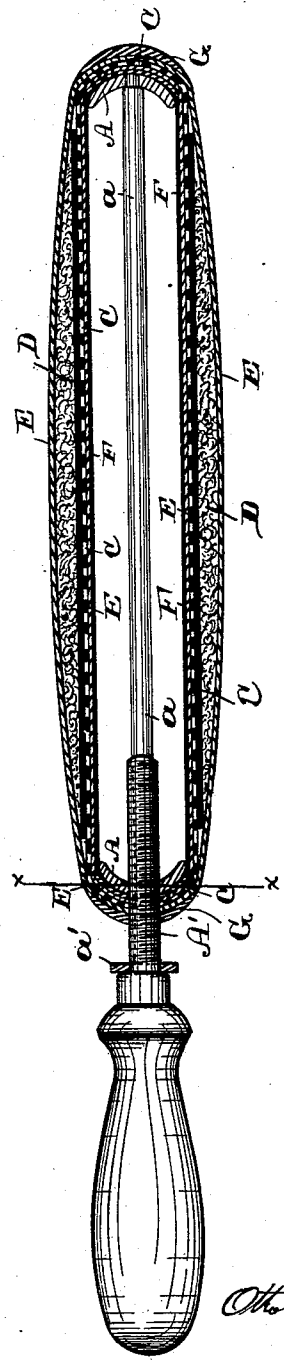

Fig. 1

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(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

O. W. CASTNER.

RAZOR STROP.

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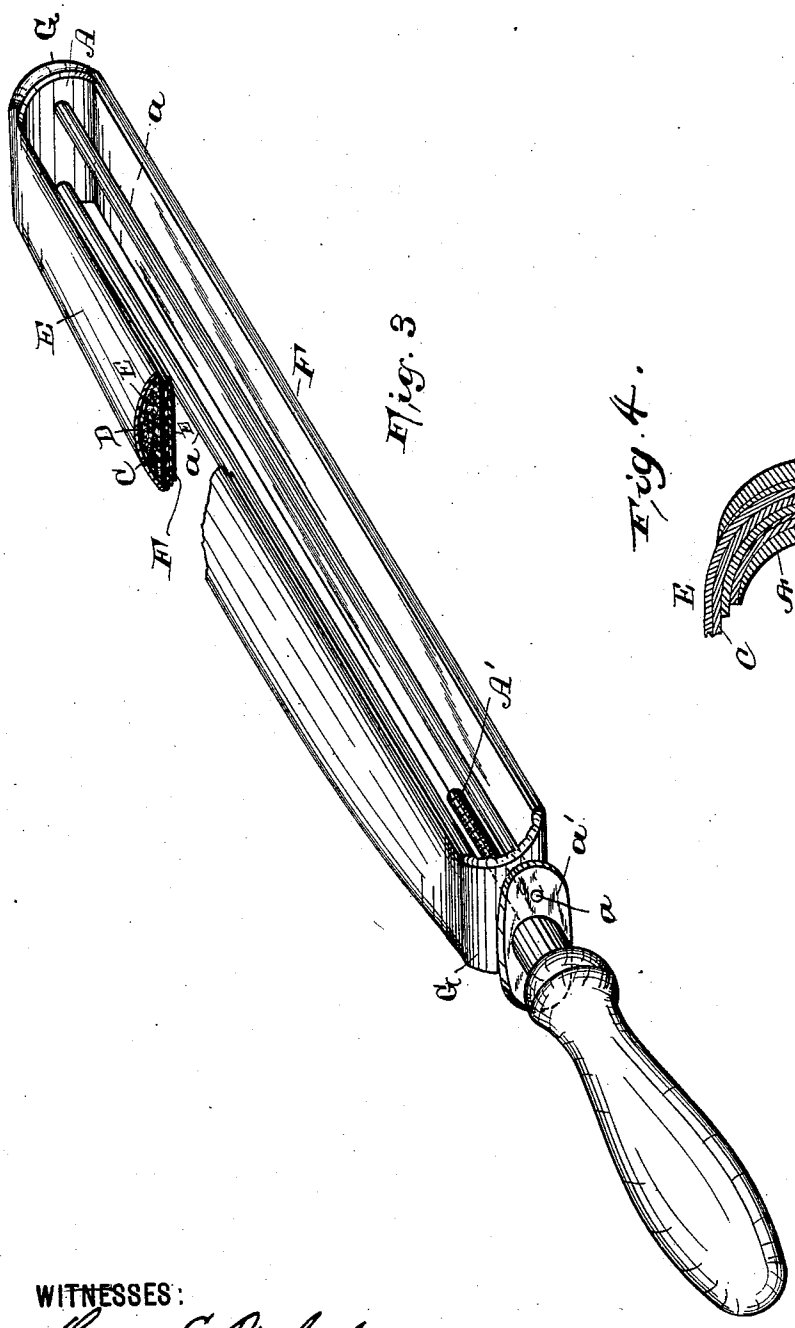

Fig. 3.

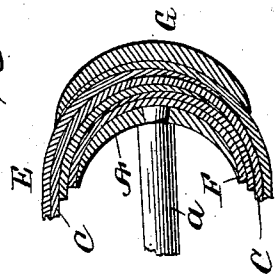

Fig. 4.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

OTTO W. CASTNER, OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY.

RAZOR-STROP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 469,893, dated March 1, 1892.

Application filed May 28, 1891. Serial No. 394,364. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, OTTO W. CASTNER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Newark, in the county of Essex and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Razor-Strops; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as 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 letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to improvements in that class of razor-strops commonly known as "suspension-strops," and has for its object to provide a cushioned razor-strop of the character mentioned of simple design, the effective surfaces of which will not become curved or warped out of shape or drawn to such an extent as to impair their operation or become broken when the tension is increased.

In strops heretofore made the pads or cushions and the part forming the stropping-surface were under the control of the tension device, so that when the tension of the stropping part was increased the cushion or pad was correspondingly extended, and when the tension was decreased the stropping part, by reason of its resiliency, would return to its normal position, while the pad or cushion, owing to lack of resiliency, would remain in its stretched condition, leaving the stropping-surface with less material under it after each operation. I propose to remedy this objection by making the pad or cushion wholly independent of the control of the tension-adjusting mechanism, so that when the stropping-surface is stretched the position or length of the pad or cushion will not be altered. The invention therefore consists of constructions and combinations whereby this result is accomplished, and of minor details, all as will hereinafter be set forth in the specification, and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a longitndinal section through a razor-strop constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a transverse section on the line *x x*, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a perspective sectional view of the strop from the handle end; Fig. 4, a detail in section, showing the manner of connecting the leather and canvas sections.

Like letters of reference indicate the same parts.

The frame-work or tension-adjusting portion of the strop may be of any desired construction, the ordinary form shown being preferred, however, and consists of the two end bridge-pieces A A, around which the strop proper passes, the rods *a a*, abutting against the outer bridge-piece, passing through the inner bridge-piece and connected by the cross-piece *a'* and the screw-shaft A', carrying the handle and passing through the cross-piece *a'* and engaging a screw-threaded aperture in the inner bridge-piece. With this construction, when the handle and screw-threaded shaft are turned the bridge-pieces are moved toward or from each other, as will be readily understood.

As before stated, the strops proper are padded and so constructed as to prevent any undue strain being brought to bear on the stropping surfaces or pads themselves. At the same time the said pads are kept extended and in proper condition for use under all conditions, and in order to accomplish these desirable ends a relatively heavy strap or tension band is provided, which passes around both of the bridge-pieces and practically takes up all the strain, and the pads are mounted on this tension-strap, being kept extended and taut thereby.

In the drawings, C indicates the tension or supporting strap, made of relatively heavy and thick material of substantially the width of the strop and passes around both of the bridge-pieces, the ends being united and lapped at the handle end, where the rods pass through the same to afford additional security, practically forming an endless band. This strap C is covered by a sheet of any suitable stropping material E, having a stropping-surface, and preferably made in the form of an endless tube, which wholly incloses strap C. The longitudinal edges of the covering E are brought together under the strap C, as at *e*. (See Fig. 2.) When formed in the manner shown, the strop is preferably provided with two stropping-sur-

faces of different material. In the present instance one is composed of a leather tube and the other of canvas, the former having its stropping-surface coated with a suitable abrading material and the other also properly treated to give the best results. The ends of these tubes are secured together by inserting the ends of one into the ends of the other. In the present instance the ends of the canvas tube are inserted in the ends of the leather tube, both being of sufficient length to carry them partly around the bridge-pieces to give the joint the necessary strength. The covering will thus be under the control of the tension-adjusting device. Between the upper part of the covering and upper side of the tension-strap is the pad or cushion D, of any ordinary or preferred material, the ends and edges being tapered or thinned down to give proper slope to the stropping-surface of the cover. The pad or cushion rests upon the strap C, and its ends terminate with the ends of the stropping-surface, so that its ends will not overlap the bridge, and thus be under control of the tension device. In other words, the pad or cushion does not extend to the bridge-pieces, which press against the cover and the strap at each end of the strop and would stretch the pad or cushion if the latter overlapped the bridge-pieces. Inside of the whole band thus formed a second or finishing strap F is placed, and serves as an additional support for the pads, but more particularly as a binder for the edges of the sheets which form the stropping-surfaces after they pass beneath the supporting-strap, giving a neat and substantial finish to the whole strop, the edges of the finishing-strop of course being beveled down to make neat joints at each side.

It will of course be understood that the specific structure just described may be changed considerably and the pads formed and secured in position in any well-known manner common to strops of the non-suspension class without departing from the spirit of my invention, it only being essential that a supporting and tension strap be employed to relieve the direct strain on the stropping-surfaces, although said pads and surfaces should be so constructed as to be kept reasonably taut in order to prevent wrinkling or working out of shape.

Over the ends and outside of all the parts the usual finishing-loops G are applied, if desired, to afford a little additional strength at the points where the parts join and also to cover up the ends or rough edges of the tubes.

The suspended tension and supporting strap C, it will be seen, is of substantially the width of the strop, and in addition to relieving the tension on the pads and surfaces serves to hold the same extended laterally, preventing all danger of the strop becoming warped or bent out of shape when worn or through rough usage.

By employing the padded surfaces the well-known advantages incident to the use of the same are secured, and by making the strop a suspension and adjustable one the same may be held as taut as desired without impairing the stropping qualities in the least.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new is—

1. In a strop having means for regulating the tension of the stropping-surface, the combination, with said stropping-surface, of a pad or cushion beneath the stropping-surface and independent of the tension-regulating device.

2. In a strop, the combination of a supporting and tension strap, means for regulating the tension of said strap, a covering for the tension-strap under control of the tension-regulating device and having a stropping-surface, and a pad or cushion between the covering and strap and its ends terminating with the stropping-surface of said cover.

3. In a strop, the combination of an endless supporting and tension strap, means for regulating the tension of said strap, an endless tubular covering for said strap, having two stropping-surfaces and under the control of the tension-regulating device, and pads or cushions, one on each side of the strop, between the cover and strap and independent of the tension-regulating device.

4. In a razor-strop, the combination, with the suspended supporting and tension strap having the pads on the outside thereof, of the canvas or woven sheet surrounding said pad and strap on one side and the leather sheet surrounding said pad and strap on the opposite side with its ends surrounding the end of the canvas, substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the invention set forth above I have hereunto set my hand this 23d day of April, 1891.

OTTO W. CASTNER.

Witnesses:
HARRY E. RICHARDS,
JOSEPH D. GALLAGHER.