

L. W. BEECHER.  
Fruit Baskets.

No. 134,027.

Patented Dec. 17, 1872.

fig. 1

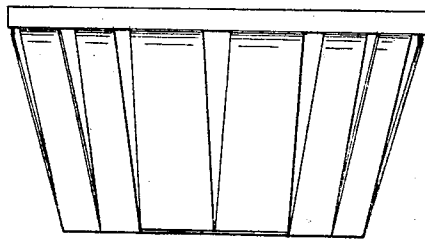


fig. 2

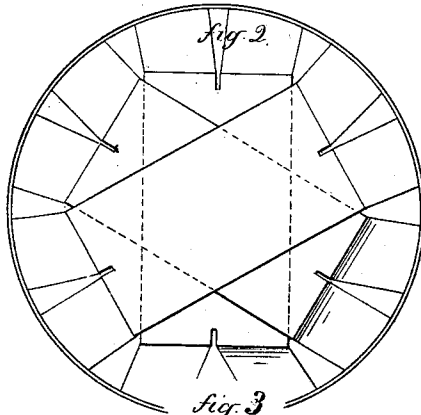


fig. 3

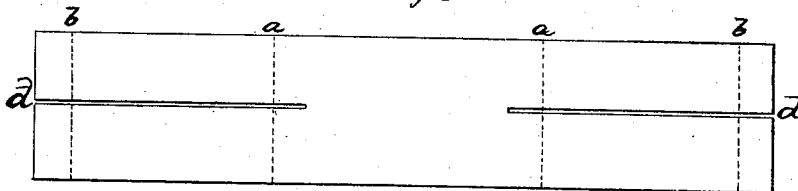
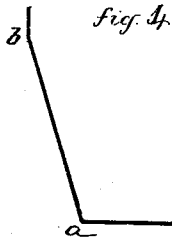


fig. 4



Witnesses

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## IMPROVEMENT IN FRUIT-BASKETS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 134,027, dated December 17, 1872.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, L. WHEELER BEECHER, of New Haven, in the county of New Haven and State of Connecticut, have invented a new Improvement in Fruit-Basket; and I do hereby declare the following, when taken in connection with the accompanying drawing and the letters of reference marked thereon, to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, and which said drawing constitutes part of this specification, and represents, in—

Figure 1, a side view, the basket complete; Fig. 2, a bottom view; Fig. 3, a diagram of the strips from which the basket is formed; and in Fig. 4, the manner of bending the same.

This invention relates to an improvement in that class of fruit-baskets which are formed of strips of veneer crossing each other to form the bottom and bent upward to form the sides and secured at the top by a band or hoop.

In this class of baskets it has been customary to slit the strips from the top down to the angle or bottom, in order to attain the required spread at the top. Opening this slit to attain this desired spread brings a strain on the slit at the angle and frequently causes the wood to split and thus destroy that piece. In this way no inconsiderable amount of material is lost.

The object of my invention is, first, to overcome this difficulty, and, second, to attain a better fitting and position of the hoop at the top. My invention consists in extending the slit at each end of the veneer a short distance into the bottom, past the angle or point where the wood is to be bent.

In Fig. 3 one of the strips of veneer is rep-

resented, the broken lines at *a a* showing the two points of scoring for the opposite angles at the bottom. At each end one or more slots *d* are formed, running in a short distance beyond the scores *a*. Hence, when the basket is being formed and the slit is open at the top to give the desired spread, the slit at the angle yields slightly, sufficient to prevent the splitting which will frequently occur when the slit stops at the angle.

In the usual construction, the hoop is bent around the top and nailed to the strips, one hoop upon the inside and another upon the outside, as the hoops must lie flat or vertical; and, the sides being inclined, neither the inside nor outside hoop will adjust itself to the inclination of the sides. It is, therefore, difficult to give a neat appearance to the upper edge of the basket.

To overcome this difficulty I form a score, *b*, near each end of the strip, about the width of the hoop or a little more, so that when the sides are turned up and inclined, as in Fig. 4, the extreme upper end may be bent into a vertical position, and thus allow the inside and outside hoop to fit vertically upon this bent portion.

I claim as my invention—

In the manufacture of fruit-baskets from veneer, slitting the strips from the end to and extending into the bottom below the angle or score *a*, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

L. WHEELER BEECHER.

Witnesses:

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