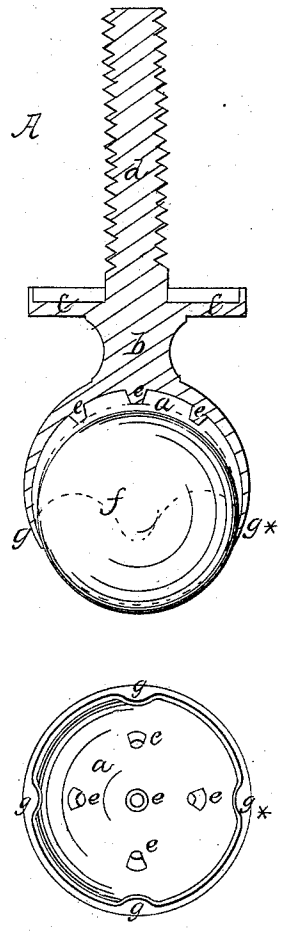
L. Wilkinson,

Furniture Caster.

No. 78,850. Patented June 9, 1868.



Witnesses:
H. B. Cushman
Francis Gould

Inventor:
Lewis Wilkinson

N. PETERS, PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHER, WASHINGTON, D. C.

United States Patent Office.

LEWIS WILKINSON, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

Letters Patent No. 78,850, *dated June* 9, 1868.

IMPROVED BALL-CASTER.

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

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, LEWIS WILKINSON, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk, and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improved Ball-Caster; and I do hereby declare that the following, taken in connection with the drawings which accompany and form part of this specification is a description of my invention sufficient to enable those skilled in the art to practise it.

My invention has reference to that class of furniture-casters known as "ball-casters," in which the friction-roll consists of a spherical ball, so combined with a socket or seat, as to roll freely in every direction.

My improvement relates particularly to the manner of applying and holding the ball within its seat or socket; and the invention consists, primarily, in making the socket in the form of an inverted cup, provided with suitable bearing-points or surfaces for the upper side of the ball to rest against, and having four or any other suitable number of extensions projecting to such depth that by springing them inwards slightly, they serve to retain the ball in the socket, so that it cannot drop out by gravity when the caster is raised, while by slight strain or pressure, the ball may be readily withdrawn from or pressed into the socket.

The drawing represents at A a vertical section of my improved caster. B shows a bottom view of the ball-containing socket.

a denotes the ball-containing cup or socket, attached by a neck, *b*, to a flanged circular disk or plate, *c*, which fits upon the bottom of the table or other leg, to which the caster is to be applied, the caster being secured to the leg by a central screw-spindle, *d*, rising from the plate *c*, as seen at A, this screw-spindle being for the purpose of entering the leg, and securing the ball-socket firmly thereto.

Within the socket, at the upper surface thereof, are small projections, *e*, against the points of which the ball rests and rotates.

f denotes the ball, which fits loosely in the upper part of the cup or socket, and bears at top only against the points of the pins *e*.

Projecting down, at opposite sides of the socket, are extensions *g*, which reach below a horizontal plane passing through the centre of the ball, and are bent inwardly, as seen at A and B, so that from the point of one to the point of its opposite is a little less than the diameter of the ball, or so much so that while the ball may be readily pressed through them to remove it from or place it in the cup *a*, the points will secure it from dropping out when the caster is lifted off the floor.

Ball-casters are generally somewhat complex in construction, and are therefore expensive, and easily get out of order, but the simplicity of my construction, and the ease with which the ball may be applied or removed, render the article superior both in efficiency and in cheapness to any construction now to me known.

The whole ball-containing device is made in one piece, provided with its own means of attachment to the table-leg, without necessity for employment of any auxiliary screws or other fastening-devices, the screw-spindle bringing the plate *c* up tightly against the bottom of the leg, the plate and its flange imparting a substantial and ornamental finish to the bottom of the leg and the top of the caster.

For light furniture, the screw-spindle may be dispensed with, the plate *c* being then screwed to the bottom of the leg with common screws, but I generally prefer the construction shown.

The advantage of the ball-caster, in running freely in every direction, over the wheel-caster, which has to swing in a vertical shaft, is well known, and need not be described.

I claim a furniture-caster, having a ball, *f*, secured in a cup or socket, *a*, by extensions *g*, substantially as shown and described.

I also claim, in combination with such socket *a* and extensions *g*, the pins or projections *e*, against which the surface of the ball bears and rotates, substantially as shown and described.

I also claim, in combination with the ball-containing cup or socket, the flanged plate or disk *c*, and screw-spindle *d*, cast integral with the socket-piece, substantially as described.

LEWIS WILKINSON.

Witnesses:

J. B. CROSBY,

FRANCIS GOULD.