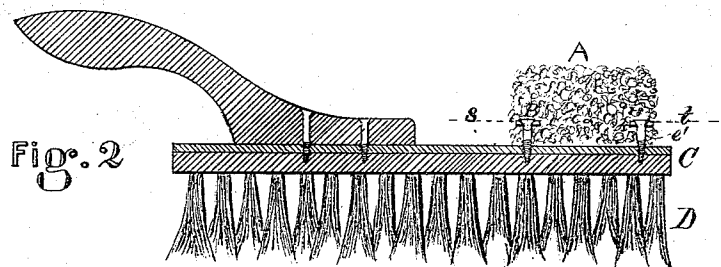
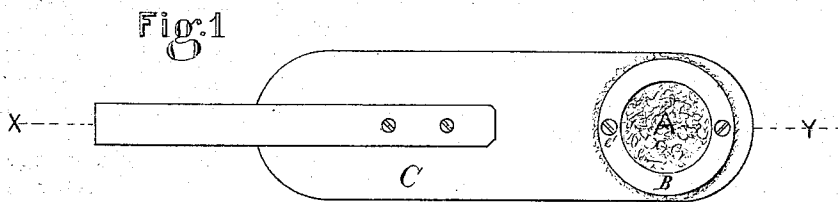


HUGH S. KERR.

Improvement in Blacking-Spreaders.

No. 125,894.

Patented April 23, 1872.



Hugh S. Kerr

Witnesses { *Edw. Brown*
John A. Grant

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HUGH S. KERR, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN BLACKING-SPREADERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 125,894, dated April 23, 1872.

Specification describing certain Improvements in Blacking-Spreaders, invented by HUGH S. KERR, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

My invention relates to the mode of securing a sponge to a handle or back for the purpose of spreading blacking on the boot preparatory to the polishing process. It consists in securing the sponge to the back by a ring of metal encircling the middle of the sponge and fastened to the back by screws.

Referring to the drawing, Figure 1 is a horizontal section through the sponge on the line *s t*. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section on the line *x y*.

In Fig. 1, A is the sponge. It is first cut around the center with a sharp knife, and the ring B of thin sheet metal is inserted in the said groove. The ring is then secured to the back C by the screws *e'*.

In blacking-spreaders as usually made the spreader is made of bristles secured to the back C, either in combination with a polishing-brush D or by itself, and a separate brush is used for polishing.

The advantages of the sponge are, that it

holds more water, keeps moist longer, and is more cheaply made than a brush of bristles. When fixed in the manner herein shown it is supported and kept in shape by the back C and the encircling-ring B. It is very easily secured to the back of any brush which may have the spreader worn out, and it is reversible, so that the under side of the sponge can be turned to the top when one side is hard or worn out.

I do not claim the use of a sponge for blacking-spreaders. Nor do I claim securing a sponge to a back by wiring the edge of it to a central block, as shown in I. Marshall's patent for a bathing-brush.

I claim—

As a new article of manufacture, a blacking-spreader, made by the combination of the sponge A and the encircling ring B, connected rigidly to the back C, with an intervening space between it and the back, substantially as herein described.

H. S. KERR.

Witnesses:

EDWD. BROWN,
JOHN F. GRANT.