2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

F. J. BURCHAM.

BOOT AND SHOE.

No. 111,039. Patented Jan. 17, 1871.

Fig. 1.

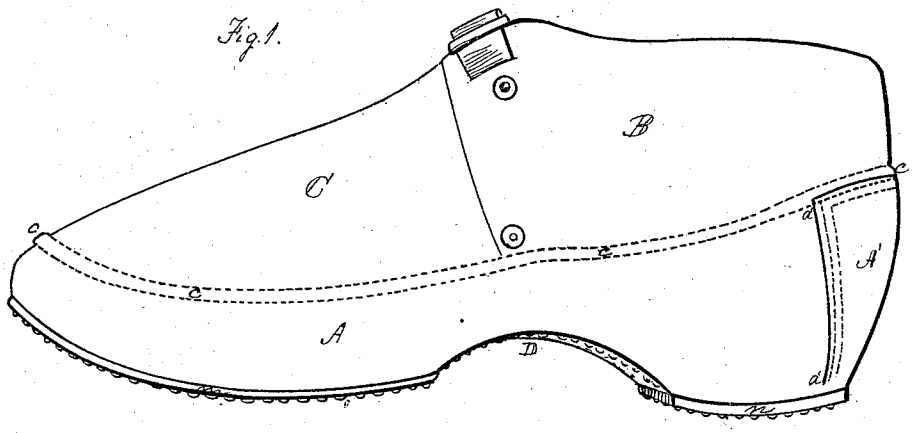
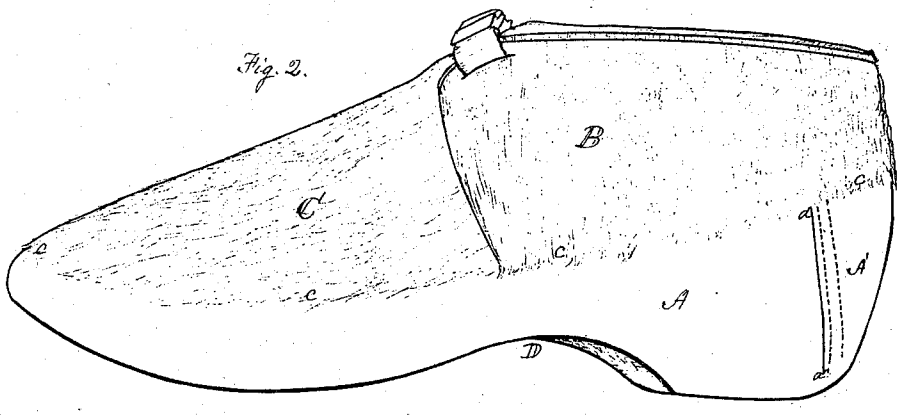


Fig. 2.



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2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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Fig. 4.

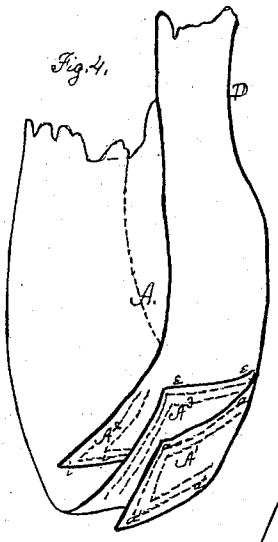
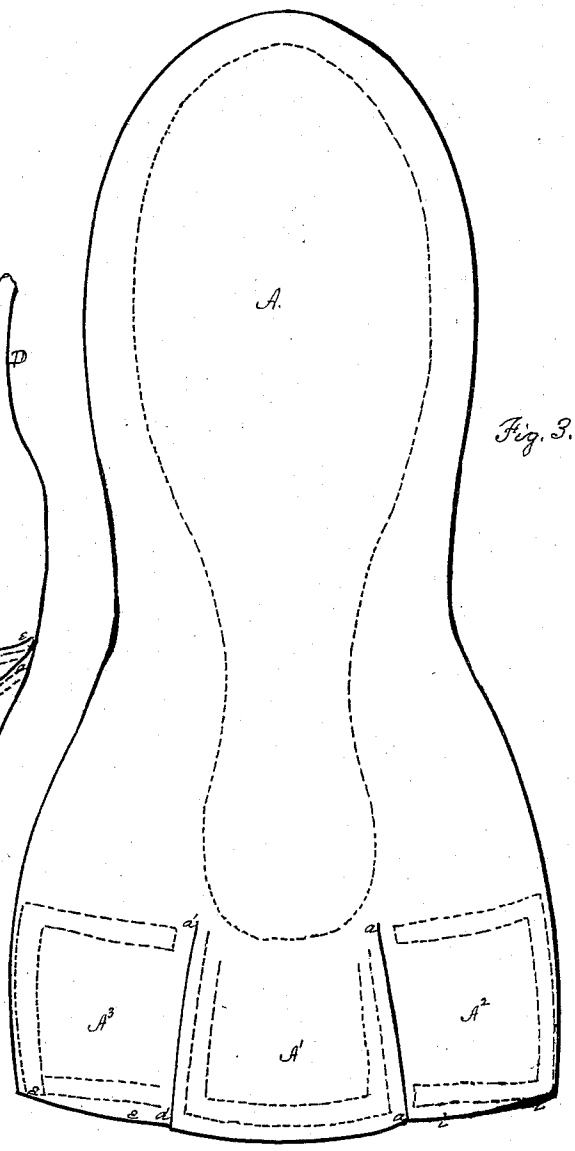


Fig. 3.



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FRANKLIN J. BURCHAM, OF RACINE, WISCONSIN.

Letters Patent No. 111,039, dated January 17, 1871.

IMPROVEMENT IN BOOTS AND SHOES.

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, FRANKLIN J. BURCHAM, of Racine, in the county of Racine and State of Wisconsin, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Boots and Shoes; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing forming part of this specification, in which—

Figures 1 and 2 represent side views of my improved shoe;

Figure 3 represents a plan of the shoe-pattern, or of the leather cut to form the shoe; and

Figure 4 is a perspective view showing the manner in which the counter and shank are formed.

Similar letters of reference indicate like parts.

This invention is applicable to the construction of all kinds of leather boots and shoes, although designed particularly to be applied in the manufacture of overshoes; its object being to provide for public use a handsome, cheap, and durable overshoe, which shall be neater in appearance and easier to the foot than any heretofore brought into use; to this end

The invention consists in the peculiar construction of the shoe, as I will now proceed to describe.

A shoe, when constructed after my method, is composed of three pieces of leather, designated in the drawing as A B C, the piece A forming the entire sole, toe, counter, heel, shank, and flanks, of the shoe; the piece B forming the quarters; and the piece C covering the instep.

The two upper pieces B C are united to the lower along a seam, *c c*. They may be made of any kind of leather, tanned with or without the hair; and, when tanned with the hair, that side may be placed out or in, at the option of the maker. A neat shoe is made, as shown in fig. 2, by placing the hair-side out, and lining the shoe throughout or in part with flannel, felt, or other suitable material.

A thicker sole, *m*, and heel, *n*, may be added if preferred; but these are not essential.

The most important feature of the invention is the construction of the part A. This piece is first cut into the form shown in fig. 3, its rear end being slitted as shown at *a a a' a'*, so as to form a number of flaps, preferably three, A^1 A^2 A^3.

The central flap A^1 is bent up to a vertical position; one of the flaps A^3 is bent upward and drawn inward until its rear edge *e e*, fig. 3, lies against the lateral edge *a a* of the middle flap, fig. 4; the remaining flap A^2 is then brought to a similar position, its rear edge *i i*, fig. 3, covering the lateral edge *a' a'* of the middle flap, fig. 4.

The three thicknesses thus brought together and lapping over each other form the counter of the shoe. By simply bringing them together as described, the sole, at D, is drawn up into the arched shape shown in figs. 1 and 2, thereby forming the shank.

The same result may be attained by cutting out a triangular piece from the rear end of the part A, and bringing together the edges of the leather on each side of the cut so as to form a vertical seam in the middle of the counter; but the other method is preferable.

The heel, the toe, and the sides, are crimped into shape, but it is not necessary to crimp the shank, that part of the shoe owing its shape to the peculiar formation of the counter, and being in no danger of flattening down or losing its shape so long as the counter lasts; and it will be observed that the counter is of triple thickness and exceedingly firm and durable.

It is obvious that the same principle may be applied to the manufacture of top-boots, gaiters, Congress-boots, and other kinds of boot and shoe.

The result is so great a saving of labor and material as to diminish the cost of the shoe nearly one-half.

A boot or shoe formed in this way is, if the leather be of the proper quality, perfectly water-tight, there being no seam lower than that designated as *c c c*.

The use of insoles, and the necessity for pegging or stitching the sole along its edge, are entirely avoided.

Having thus described my invention,

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The method of constructing the lower portion of a boot or shoe in a single piece A, by slitting the rear end of the piece and lapping the flaps, substantially as herein shown and described.

2. The part A, when constructed substantially as shown and described.

3. The counter of a boot or shoe, when strengthened by the overlapping flaps, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

4. The method of arching a shoe or boot-sole, at D, by cutting the leather at the counter and drawing the flaps together, substantially as shown and described.

F. J. BURCHAM.

Witnesses:

L. HILL,

A. R. HILL.