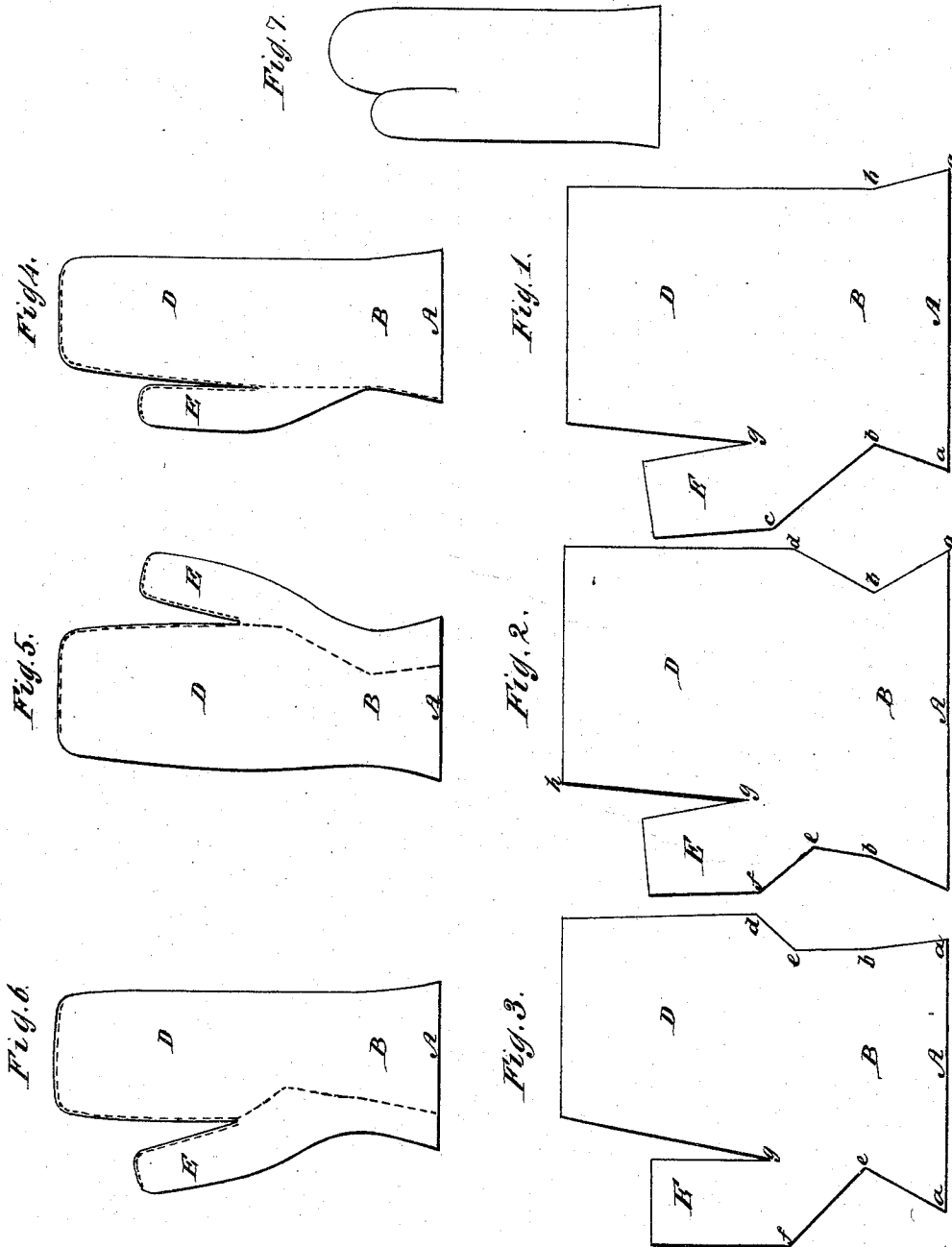


F. L. OAKLEY.
Mittens.

No. 138,273.

Patented April 29, 1873.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

FARNAM L. OAKLEY, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPROVEMENT IN MITTENS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **138,273**, dated April 29, 1873; application filed March 1, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FARNAM L. OAKLEY, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Mittens, of which the following is a specification:

My invention relates to the manufacture of knitted mittens by machinery; and has for its object to produce flat-web mittens shaped to conform to the shape of the hand better than the machine-made mittens now do, which are so ill shaped and unsatisfactory that they meet but little sale and use compared with what might be expected, if they were more satisfactory in this respect.

The only way in which mittens have heretofore been produced in flat web, on machines has been to knit the web from the wrist to the front of the thumb wide enough for the widest part of the hand, then drop off a sufficient amount for forming the thumb, continue the remainder to the end, and then after running it off run the thumb portion on again and finish it, after which the web was folded and sewed together. The shape thus produced is very little like the true shape of the hand, being too wide at the wrist and lacking very much in width from the roots of the thumb to the ends of the fingers, this part being greatly reduced by the part dropped off for the thumb, and the thumb is more like the finger of a glove than the thumb of a mitten.

Now, my invention consists in the manufacture of knitted mittens in flat web with the wrist and hand portion shaped exactly as demanded; and nicely formed and well-fitting thumbs, conforming as nicely to the shape of the natural hand as these portions of the gloves which are made by cutting by patterns from skins or cloths, by widening the web on one or both edges as much beyond the width required for the wrist and hand as needed for the thumb so that when the web is folded and sewed up the thumb springs out from the side of the hand portion as it does in the natural hand and in the mittens and gloves cut out by patterns.

Figures 1, 2, and 3 are diagrams of the flat web, such as I produce on the machine in

slightly-different patterns, but all on the same general plan. Figs. 4, 5, and 6, represent the finished mittens produced from the said webs by folding and sewing them up; and Fig. 7 is a front view of a mitten, such as heretofore made of flat web on knitting machines.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

The cuff or wrist portion A from *a* to *b* I make of any approved fancy stitch, or the same as that by which I make the hand, arranging it so that it will contract a little at the wrist B. From the wrist or at the end of the lines *b*, which I design to have terminate at the beginning of the thumb, I widen out along the line *b c* as far as to the front of the base of the thumb about a dozen stitches, more or less, all on the edge on which the thumb is formed, as in Fig. 1; or I may widen for the hand portion partly on the other edge, as from *e* to *d*, Figs. 2 and 3, and less on the other side, as *e* to *f*, continuing from *b* to *e* nearly in a straight line; then I drop off the stitches for the thumb on the lines *c g* and *f g*, and finish out the hand portion, and after dropping that off run on the thumb, at *c g f g*, and finish them out. These patterns or webs thus formed being folded and sewed together at the edges which meet on the dotted lines of Figs. 4, 5, 6, form the nicely-shaped mittens represented in these figures, which in the perfection with which they fit and their elegance of appearance are very superior to the common style, which is correctly represented in Fig. 7.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

As a new article of manufacture, a mitten having the hand portion D corresponding to the wrist in width, and the thumb portion formed by widening out the web altogether on one edge, or partly on one edge and partly on the other, as shown and described.

FARNAM L. OAKLEY.

Witnesses:

A. P. THAYER,
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