

F. HICKMAN.
Hat-Brushes.

No. 147,393.

Patented Feb. 10, 1874.

Fig. 1.

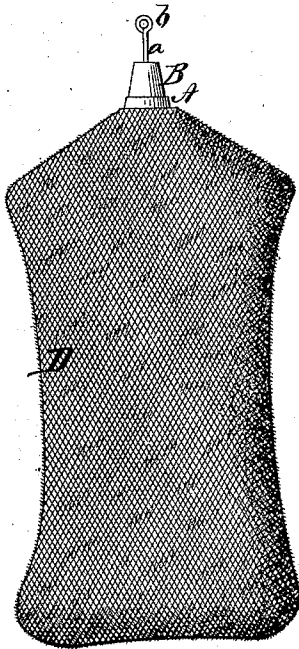
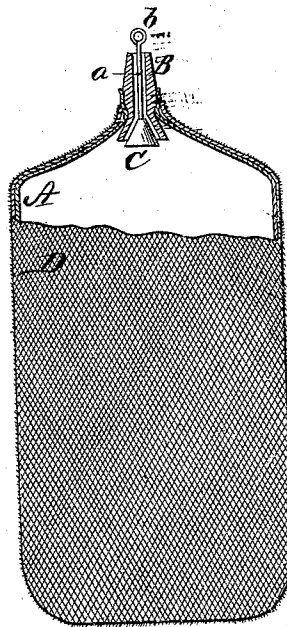


Fig. 2.



WITNESSES.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANCIS HICKMAN, OF READING, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN HAT-BRUSHES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **147,393**, dated February 10, 1874; application filed December 8, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANCIS HICKMAN, of Reading, in the county of Berks and in the State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Hat-Brush; and do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, making a part of this specification.

The nature of my invention consists in an inflatable bag of suitable dimensions, provided with a self-closing valve, and covered or inclosed within a casing of cloth, velvet, or other suitable material, as will be hereinafter more fully set forth.

In order to enable others skilled in the art to which my invention appertains to make and use the same, I will now proceed to describe its construction and operation, referring to the annexed drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a side view of my hat-brush, and Fig. 2 is a broken section of the same.

A represents a rubber or other inflatable bag, of any suitable dimensions, provided with a tubular mouth-piece, B. The inner end of this mouth-piece is made flaring, as shown in Fig. 2, to form the seat for a conical valve, C, which closes from the inside. The valve C is provided with a short stem or rod, *a*, passing

through the mouth-piece, and provided at its outer end with a ring or knob, *b*, to prevent the valve from falling inward. The inflatable bag A is completely covered or inclosed in a casing, D, of cloth, velvet, or other suitable material.

By blowing in the mouth-piece B, the bag A is easily inflated, and the valve C closed by the pressure from the inside, the whole then forming a superior hat-brush. By pushing in the valve C, by pressing on the knob or ring *b*, the air is exhausted from the bag, and the article can be carried easily in the pocket, it taking up but little room.

I do not confine myself to the particular construction of the mouth-piece and valve, as they may be varied or changed, if so desired.

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

A hat-brush composed of an inflatable bag, with self-closing valve and an exterior covering or casing, substantially as herein set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 17th day of November, 1873.

FRANCIS HICKMAN.

Witnesses:

C. L. EVERT,
F. M. BANKS.