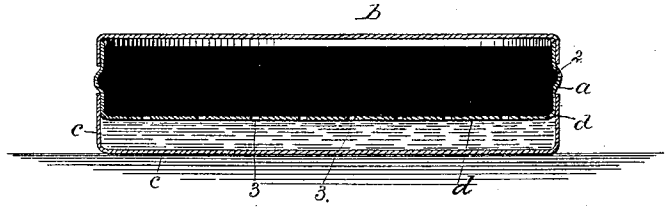
(No Model.)

# J. H. CLARK.
## Blacking Box.

**No. 242,432.** **Patented June 7, 1881.**




Witnesses.
Arthur Reynolds.
B. J. Noyes.

Inventor.
Joseph H. Clark,
by Cooley & Gregory Attys.

N. PETERS. Photo-Lithographer, Washington, D. C.

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH H. CLARK, OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS.

## BLACKING-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 242,432, dated June 7, 1881.

Application filed May 7, 1881. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOSEPH H. CLARK, of Somerville, county of Middlesex, State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Blacking-Boxes, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawing, is a specification.

My invention relates to a box or package for blacking for boots and shoes, and has for its object to preserve the blacking in good condition until it is entirely used up.

Paste blacking is usually put up in shallow circular tin boxes, and while being used frequently becomes dry and brittle and deteriorates in quality.

My invention consists in providing an ordinary blacking-box with a perforated false bottom or diaphragm, placed a short distance above the bottom of the box, and upon which the blacking rests. The space between the bottom of the box and the said diaphragm or false bottom is filled with water or other suitable liquid, the moisture of which, penetrating the blacking, keeps it pliable and in good condition for use until it is entirely used up. A quality of blacking will be used that is not too readily permeated by the liquid, so as to become soft and muddy in case the blacking-box should be inverted or left resting on its edge.

I am aware that a blacking-box cover has been made having a perforated diaphragm, between which and the top of the cover a moist sponge has been kept, the purpose being to provide a ready means for damping a blacking-brush. Such arrangement, however, will not keep the mass of blacking in the box moist and pliable.

The drawing shows, in vertical transverse section, a blacking-box or package embodying my invention.

The box *a* is shown in this instance as of the usual form employed to contain paste blacking, it having an annular bead or ledge, 2, struck up on its sides to form a stop for the cover *b*.

A bottom piece, *c*, shaped similarly to the cover *b*, is fitted and soldered tight upon the bottom of the box *a*, which is perforated, as shown at 3, and the space between it and the bottom piece, *c*, filled with water or other suitable liquid before the blacking is put in the box *a*, the bottom *d* of the box *a* thus forming a perforated diaphragm or false bottom within the package *a c*, to separate the blacking from the water, but allow the former to be permeated and kept moist and pliable by the latter.

It is obvious that the side portion of the box *a* may be made as one continuous piece from the bottom *c*, upon which the liquid rests, and in this case the diaphragm *d* would be inserted as an independent piece, and might rest upon a bead or ledge similar to the one at 2, but curving toward the interior of the box.

I claim—

As an improved article of manufacture, a blacking-package consisting of a tight box provided with a perforated diaphragm or false bottom located above the true bottom, to provide a support for the blacking above it and form a chamber below it to receive a liquid by which the blacking is kept moist and pliable until entirely used up, the said liquid being confined between the true bottom of the box and the mass of blacking above it, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOSEPH H. CLARK.

Witnesses:

JOS. P. LIVERMORE,

ARTHUR REYNOLDS.