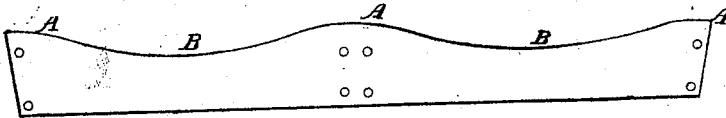


*W. Wright,  
Conformator.*

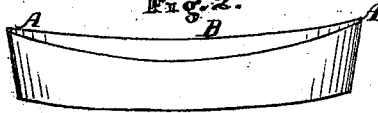
*No. 5849.*

*Patented Oct. 10. 1848.*

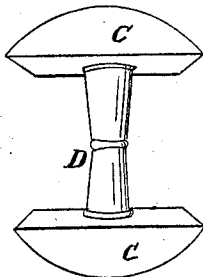
**Fig. 1.**



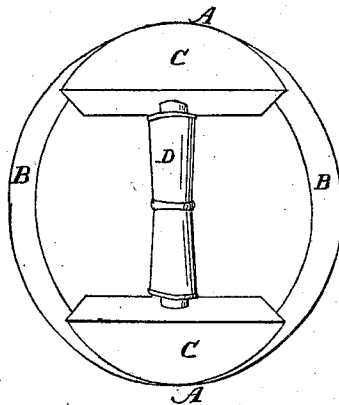
**Fig. 2.**



**Fig. 3.**



**Fig. 4.**



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM WRIGHT, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

## BLOCKING HATS.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 5,849, dated October 10, 1848.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM WRIGHT, of the city of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, hat-block maker, have invented a new and useful improvement or machine for altering the shape of hats, so as to make them more or less oval, according to the head of the wearer, called "Wright's spring-band block;" and I do hereby declare the following to be a full and exact description of the same.

The nature of my invention consists in connecting with what is known among hatters and hat-block makers by the name of a "hat-screw," or "set," an elastic hoop or band of a circular or oval form, which hoop or band encircles the "hat screw" or "set," and is fastened to the two ends of it so as to construct an entire machine by which the shape of hats may be more easily and perfectly changed than by the use of the ordinary "hat screw."

In order to construct the hoop or band I obtain or make a long plate of iron, steel, or other elastic substance, which may be of the thickness of ordinary sheet iron, or more, or less, and of twenty inches in length, or more, or less, according to the size of the hats to which it is to be applied, and of one to two inches in width, or more, or less. It may be of equal width throughout, but it is better, for the present style of hats, to make it vary in width, so as to correspond at its upper edge with the concave shape of the rim of the hat, or part where the band is applied. And also to have the upper edge of the plate drawn out somewhat longer than the lower edge, so that when bent into a hoop, the diameter of the upper edge of the hoop will be somewhat greater than that of the lower edge.

Figure 1 of the annexed drawings represents a plate, prepared in order to form a band or hoop; the holes seen in the figure, being for screws, rivets or nails, to fasten the band to the "hat screw" or "set." This plate is to be bent into a circular or oval form, so that the two ends will meet and thus form a hoop to surround the "hat screw" or "set."

Fig. 2 represents a hoop or band after it is bent; the wider parts A, A, A in Fig. 1, and A, A, in Fig. 2 being those which are to be attached to the ends of the "set" and to fit to the front and back of parts of the hat; while the narrower parts B, B, Fig. 1, and

B Fig. 2, fit to the sides of the hat, the hoop being intended to be placed within the crown of the hat, under the band, and within the rim, when the machine is used. The hoop should be soldered, welded or otherwise fastened when the ends meet.

Fig. 3 represents a top view of the "hat screw" or "set" which is usually constructed of 3 pieces of wood, viz: two end pieces C, C, of a semi oval form; and one center piece, or handle, D. The end pieces may be from one to two inches in thickness, or more or less, and sloped or beveled a little, to correspond with the shape of the hoop already described. The hoop is to be fastened to the "set," by placing the screws or rivets, &c., at the two extremities of the "set," so as to bring the widest parts of the hoop to those parts of the "set." The mode of making the "set" is known to hatters and hat block makers, and may be judged of by others, from the drawing and foregoing description. It is to be observed, however, that on one or both ends of the handle D of the "set" there must be a screw cut, and a corresponding nut, or female screw in the end piece or pieces, where the handle is to be inserted. If screws are cut on both ends of the handle D, the one must be a right, and the other a left screw. If a screw is cut on but one end, the other end must be so inserted that it will revolve in the end piece, but not move end wise or longitudinally in it. The most convenient method is supposed to be that of a right screw on one end of the handle D, and a left screw on the other.

Fig. 4 represents the hoop or band in connection with the "hat screw" or "set," to which it has been attached; or in other words is a top view of the entire combination which constitutes the machine ready for use. In this form it is to be used by setting it within the crown or band of the hat, at the intersection of the crown and brim, so that the two extremities A, A will be at the front and back of the hat. Then if the hat is too round, so that it will bind the forehead and back of the head of the wearer, the handle D is to be turned in that direction which will cause the end pieces C and C, to recede from each other, and thus elongate the oval of the hat; but if the hat be too much elongated so as to bind the sides of the head then the handle is to be turned in the other direction so as to bring the end pieces

C and C nearer to each other, and consequently press the hoop outward at the sides, so as to render the shape of the crown more circular. Fig. 3, shows the end pieces C, C, in the nearest position to each other, but in Fig. 4 they have been driven asunder, so that a portion of the screws or tenons, at the ends of the handle D, are seen, thus elongating the machine, and of course the hat in which it is supposed to be placed. When the hat has thus been brought to the desired form, and the machine remains in it, the iron of the hatter is to be applied to the brim and a shape given to it corresponding with that of the crown, so as to cause the latter to remain permanent.

What I claim as my invention is—

The making and use, for the purposes above specified, of the hoop or band of elastic material, whatever its dimensions or precise form, and its combination with the "hat screw" or "set" as previously in use, or as it may be otherwise modified, in what manner soever the loop or band may be attached to it, so as to compose the entire machine herein described; and the application of that machine to the purposes herein specified.

WM. WRIGHT.

Witnesses:

TYLER LIPPINGOTT,  
THOS. C. WRIGHT.