(No Model.)

C. A. KEITH.

BOOT OR SHOE UPPER AND METHOD OF PREPARING IT FOR LASTING.

No. 377,391. Patented Feb. 7, 1888.

FIG. 1.

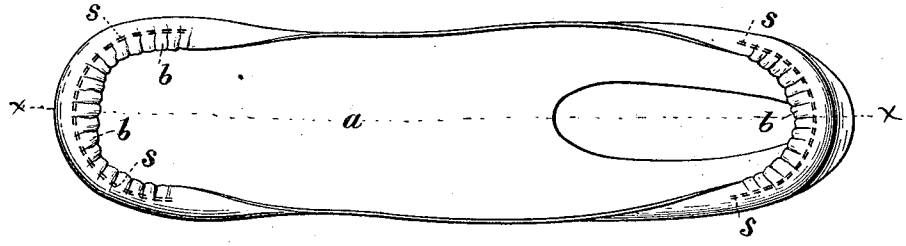


FIG. 2.

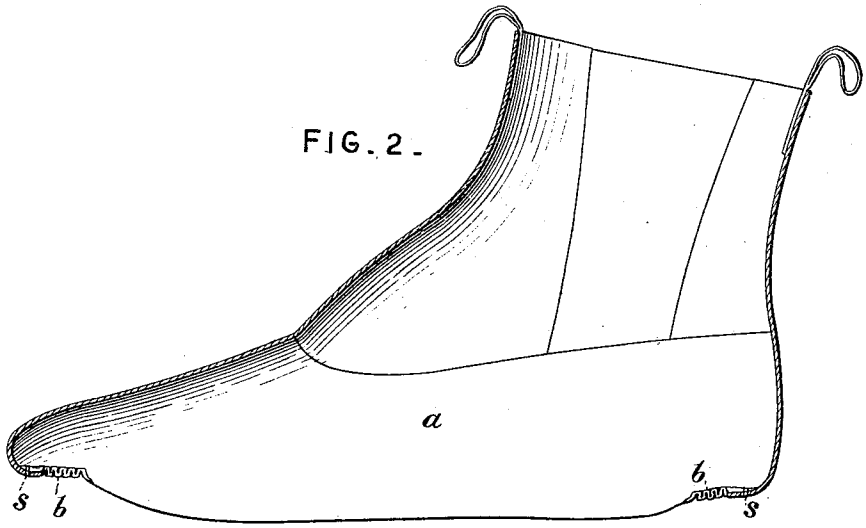
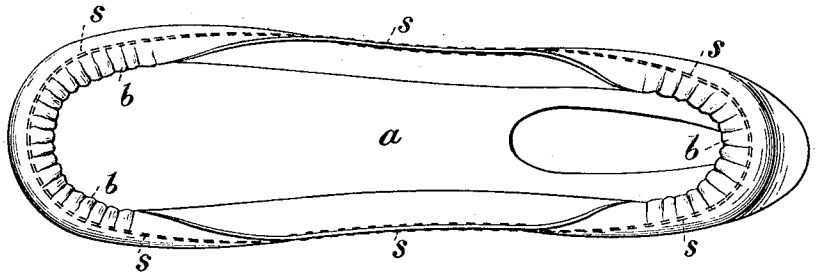


FIG. 3.



Attest:
Geo. T. Smallwood.
Geo. M. Finckel.

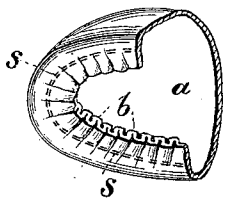


FIG. 4.

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

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES A. KEITH, OF DANVERS, MASSACHUSETTS.

BOOT OR SHOE UPPER AND METHOD OF PREPARING IT FOR LASTING.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 377,391, dated February 7, 1888.

Application filed June 3, 1887. Serial No. 240,145. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES A. KEITH, of Danvers, in the county of Essex and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Boot or Shoe Uppers and the Method of Lasting the Same, of which the following is a specification.

This invention has for its object to facilitate the operation of lasting boot or shoe uppers; and it consists in an upper having its abruptly-curved portions—as the toe or the heel, or both—formed by crimping or plaiting and stitching before the lasting operation to fit the corresponding portions of the last, so that in lasting the operator will have to conform only the side portions of the upper to the last, all of which I will now proceed to describe.

Of the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, Figure 1 represents a bottom view of a partially-formed upper embodying my invention. Fig. 2 represents a longitudinal section of the same on line *x x*, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 represents a bottom view of a slightly-different embodiment. Fig. 4 represents a perspective view of the formed toe portion.

The same letters of reference indicate the same parts in all the figures.

In carrying out my invention I partially form an upper, *a*, by giving its toe portion or its heel portion, or both, substantially the shape they have in the completed boot or shoe. This partial formation I effect by forming a series of folds or plaits, *b b*, along the edges of the portions of the upper to be formed, and securing said plaits by stitches *s s*. This may be effected by a suitable sewing-machine organized to form both the folds or plaits *b* and stitches *s*, and such machine will constitute the subject of a future application for Letters Patent. The folds or plaits arranged as shown constitute an inwardly-projecting flange on the body of the upper, and are held in place by the stitches.

The stitches *s* may be continued along the entire edge of the upper, as shown in Fig. 3, as a means of holding a lasting-cord, which may be drawn through them for the purpose of drawing the side portions of the upper inwardly upon the bottom of the last during the lasting operation. The upper, partially formed, as shown, is placed upon the last, the toe and heel portions of the upper fitting those of the last and requiring no further labor on the part of the laster in conforming them to the last, so that all the laster has to do is to conform the edges of the upper between the toe and heel to the corresponding portions of the last. The labor of lasting is therefore materially reduced and the operation is performed easily and quickly.

It is obvious that the vamp alone may be partially formed, as described, before it is attached to the quarters.

I claim—

1. As an article of manufacture, an unlasted upper or vamp having the edges of its toe portion turned inwardly and crimped or plaited to form an inwardly-projecting flange, and provided with binding-stitches to hold said flange, as set forth.

2. As an article of manufacture, an unlasted upper having the edge of its heel portion turned inwardly and crimped or plaited to form an inwardly-projecting flange, and provided with binding-stitches to hold said flange, as set forth.

3. As an article of manufacture, an unlasted upper having its toe and heel portions turned inwardly and crimped or plaited to form inwardly-projecting flanges, and provided with binding-stitches extending around the edge of the upper, the stitches at the toe and heel holding said flanges, while the intermediate stitches serve to hold lasting-cords, as set forth.

4. The method of partially forming a boot or shoe upper, consisting in turning it inwardly and folding or plaiting it at its edge to form an inwardly-projecting flange, and at the same time stitching said folded or plaited portion to hold the folds or plaits, as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses, this 25th day of May, A. D. 1887.

CHARLES A. KEITH.

Witnesses:
C. F. BROWN,
A. D. HARRISON.