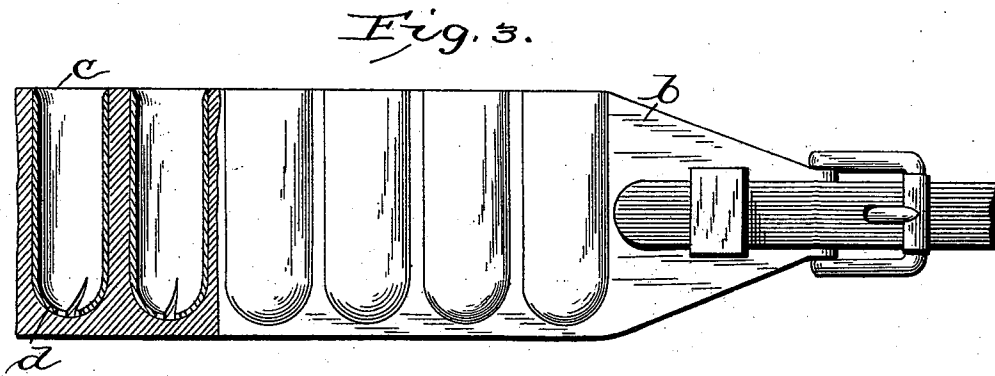
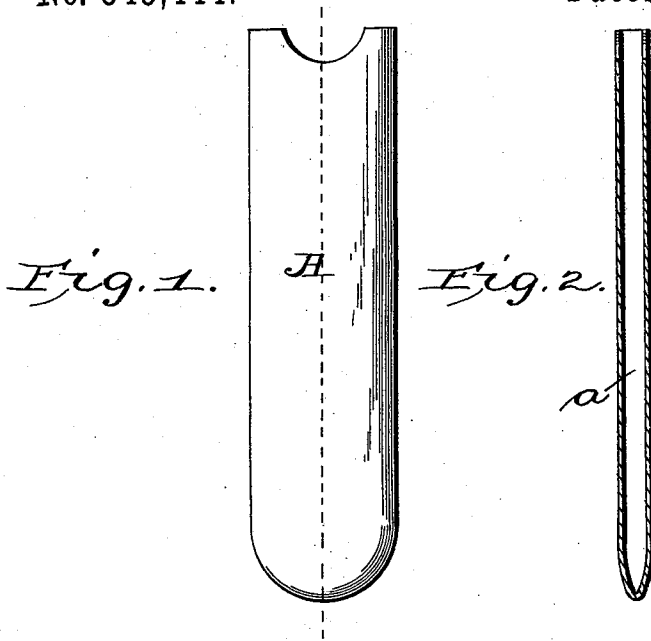


(No Model.)

F. J. BRINGHAM.
SEAMLESS LEATHER ARTICLE.

No. 545,444.

Patented Sept. 3, 1895.



Attest
Wm. F. Hall
J. L. Middleton

Inventor
F. J. Bringham
by Wm. Spear
Atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRIEND J. BRINGHAM, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR TO THE SEAMLESS LEATHER COMPANY, OF SAME PLACE.

SEAMLESS LEATHER ARTICLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 545,444, dated September 3, 1895.

Application filed October 6, 1894. Serial No. 525,097. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRIEND J. BRINGHAM, late of San Francisco, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Seamless Leather Articles, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in manufactured articles of leather, in which a seamless pocket is formed by partially dividing a piece of leather edgewise so as to produce a pocketed seamless blank, which is afterward expanded and shaped to form the seamless leather article required. Among the articles which can be formed from a slitted blank of this character may be mentioned spectacle, eye-glass, and opera-glass cases, pistol-holsters, sword-scabbards, cigar-cases, dice-boxes, music-rolls, pocket-books, and cartridge-belts, these articles being representative of the class. It is essential that for each article a seamless slitted blank be produced by dividing a piece of leather edgewise partially through both its length and width, which shall afterward be formed or shaped into the required article, the latter being tubular, as in a music-roll or dice-box, or curved in elevation, as in opera or field glass holders, or approximately flat, as in a spectacle-case, and tubular and in series, as in a cartridge-belt. These different shapes are produced from blanks of substantially the same kind by different forms of shaping-dies.

For convenience I have described in this specification and shown in the drawings a spectacle-case and a cartridge-belt made in accordance with my invention, in which—

Figure 1 is an elevation of the spectacle-case, and Fig. 2 a section on line *xx*. Fig. 3 is a view of the cartridge-belt.

It will be understood that while I have shown the invention as applied to a spectacle-case this is only a representative article, and my invention is broad enough to cover any article made of a single piece of leather slitted edgewise partially through its width and partially through its length, to form a seamless expanded pocket closed on three edges and open on one.

The case A is made from a single piece of leather of sufficient thickness and of proper length and breadth to form the completed article. By means of a knife of proper shape the leather is slitted downward from one edge nearly to the other, so as to form a pocket *a*, closed at the ends. After the blank is slitted the opening is enlarged or expanded and subjected to pressure between dies, so that the leather is compressed into the proper shape desired.

The seamless leather pocket-blank which I have shown as adapted to a spectacle-case may, by the use of differently-shaped dies, be formed into other articles, such as those before mentioned; but in all of them it is essential to produce a slitted blank, divided edgewise partially through its length and width, so that before being shaped or finished it shall be a seamless leather pocket closed at its bottom and at its two ends and open at its top for the admission of an inner die of any shape which may be required for forming the particular article to be produced.

In some of the articles above referred to it may be found desirable to keep the pocket in the desired shape by inserting a stiffening-piece of approximately the expanded shape of the article, this stiffening-piece being preferably a piece of leather, tending to keep the article in shape.

The advantages of my invention lie in the fact that the necessity of stitching adjoining ends of leather is entirely avoided, and the completed articles may be turned out much more rapidly and cheaply than is now possible, while in their strength, appearance, and fitness for the purpose intended they are fully equal to those now in general use.

My invention also includes the application of a series of such pockets to a leather strap or belt, such as a cartridge-belt, as shown in Fig. 3. The edge of the strap or belt *b* is slitted at intervals, as at *c*, to form a series of pockets, these pockets being expanded and kept in this position by the insertion of stiffening-pieces *d* of leather of proper form.

I claim—

1. A seamless article of leather made of a single piece of leather split edgewise forming

an expanded pocket, substantially as described.

2. A seamless article of leather made of a single piece of leather split edgewise forming
5 an expanded pocket and a stiffening piece inserted in said pocket to hold it expanded substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

FRIEND J. BRINGHAM.

Witnesses:

J. GUTHRIDGE,
GEORGE BARRATT.