

N. C. NEWELL.
BUTTON.

No. 174,923.

Patented March 21, 1876.

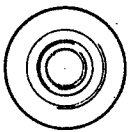


Fig I,

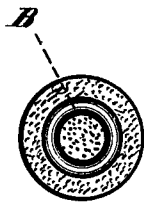


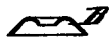
Fig II,



Fig III,



Fig IV,



Witness
Phelps Johnson
J. M. Adams.

Inventor
Nelson C. Newell
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

NELSON C. NEWELL, OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS.

IMPROVEMENT IN BUTTONS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **174,923**, dated March 21, 1876; application filed February 12, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, NELSON C. NEWELL, of Springfield, State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in the Manufacture of Buttons, of which the following is a specification:

My invention consists in an improved method of ornamenting buttons, and is more particularly applicable to that class formed from vegetable ivory, and which is in color nearly white when first cut or turned.

Upon the white button, as shown in Figure I, is sprinkled or spattered an adhesive fluid, such as a mixture or solution of gum-arabic, which I color sufficiently to indicate to the eye its proper distribution over the buttons. When the buttons are so sprinkled, they are immersed in the dye, which colors the button in all of the intervals uncovered by the adhesive mixture, which adhesive covering is easily removed when the dye has set, leaving the button mottled, so that it will be seen that all of the parts unprotected by the sprinkled fluid are solidly and permanently colored; and in order to leave clearly-defined bands upon the button of the color of the dye used, I form a thin sheet-metal mask, as shown in Fig. II, which is punched out and shaped to conform to the part of the face to be covered, and is dropped lightly upon the button to rest, as seen in Fig. IV.

This facility of adjustment is an important feature, as, where many gross have to be similarly dyed, it is of great advantage to have a mask so constructed that when quickly dropped

upon the face of the button, it will find its proper position, and which, when it has served its function, can be shaken off from the button in the act of gathering them for the dye-tub; and the light metallic masks, by always retaining their form and clearly-defined outline, enable the bands to be made with the clear edges so necessary to form the proper contrast to the broken or mottled remaining surface.

I do not wish to make any claim to the method of coloring buttons by sprinkling or spattering them with the dye itself, as in such case no additional die can well be added, and it would be a tedious and uncertain operation preparing a button already dyed to be mottled by subsequent spattering.

By my method, when the sprinkling is accomplished, and the mask B removed, as shown in Fig. III, the button when dyed has its bottom, as well as all other parts unprotected, dyed in one operation.

What I claim is—

The improved process in the art of ornamenting buttons, consisting in first covering part of the button in the manner described, and then sprinkling the exposed portion with an adhesive fluid that may be readily removed after the coloring is effected, substantially in the manner and for the purpose specified.

NELSON C. NEWELL.

Witnesses:

R. F. HYDE,
EDWARD MORRIS.