PATENTED JUL 25 1871

Oliver B. Howard.

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Imp'd Razor Strop.

Fig. 1.

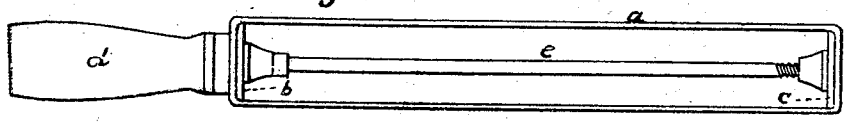


Fig. 2.

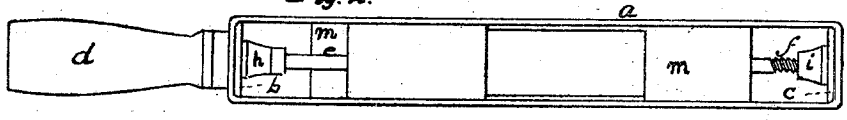
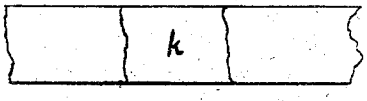


Fig. 3.



Witness.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

OLIVER B. HOWARD, OF WESTBROOK, MAINE.

IMPROVEMENT IN RAZOR-STROPS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 117,421, dated July 25, 1871.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, OLIVER B. HOWARD, of Westbrook, in the county of Cumberland and State of Maine, have invented a new and useful Improved Razor-Strop; and I hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation; Fig. 2, the same with the razor-case inserted; Fig. 3, a detail of part of the strap with the leather cover broken out to show the metal band or strip underneath.

Same letters show like parts.

My invention has for its object to provide a new and improved razor-strop.

The construction may be thus described: *a* shows the leather or strop on which the razor is rubbed backward and forward to produce the edge on the same. This is shown in edge view, and passes over the plate *b* and *c*. Underneath the leather strap *a* is the endless metal band *k*, (see Fig. 3,) the office of which is to relieve the leather of the tension. *d* shows the handle of the strop; *e*, a rod extending from the handle through the plate *b*, and having a screw, *f*, at the other end to fit and screw into a threaded hole in the plate *c*. The rod *e* merely passes through the plate *b*, and has on the inner side the nut or shoulder *h* to bear against the plate *b*. The rod can be turned around by the handle *d*, and, when thus turned in one direction, will, by the screw *f*, push outwardly the plate *c*, and when the direction of the turning is reversed will draw back the plate *c*. The former motion tightens, the latter slackens the leather or strop *e*. This is the purpose of the arrangement. The screw *f*, as shown, fits into a socket in the nut *i*. The strop *e* is made of a proper kind of leather, surrounding the zinc or thin metal strip, illustrated at *k*, Fig. 3. This prevents wrinkling and stretching. The strop may be enveloped in the case, as common. *m* shows a razor-case fitting in between the two parts of the strop *a* as it passes around the two plates *b* and *c*, and resting against the rod *e* to prevent its slipping through. One case may thus be applied on each side of the rod *e*, and then the whole encased in the common cover. A separate or independent razor-case is thus done away with, and the case will also aid in keeping the strop from yielding too much when the razor is being sharpened.

I am aware of the Letters Patent issued to Charles L. Fowle, and of the rejected case of F. L. Schmidt, filed April 27, 1869. These two specifications show and describe devices differing from mine in two important particulars. First, they have no metal sheet or strip around which the leather of the strop is wound. Without this, when the strop is to be tightened by forcing out the piece *i*, the leather would stretch and soon become so loose as to be wholly useless. This liability the metal strip prevents. Second, the two references do not embrace the arrangement for placing the razor-cases into the strop, as in Fig. 2, so as to make the strop a stiff or hard one when desired. I do not claim the combination of a handle, center-brace, nut, and shoulders, as in Schmidt's application; neither do I claim the combination of a double concave piece, screw-block, and endless band, as in Fowle's patent.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The arrangement and combination of the handle *d*, strap *a* composed of leather, and the metal band *k*, as described, plates *b* and *c*, rod *e*, shoulder *h*, screw *f*, and piece *i* with its threaded hole, as herein set forth.

OLIVER B. HOWARD.

Witnesses:

WILLIAM HENRY CLIFFORD,
GEORGE E. BIRD.