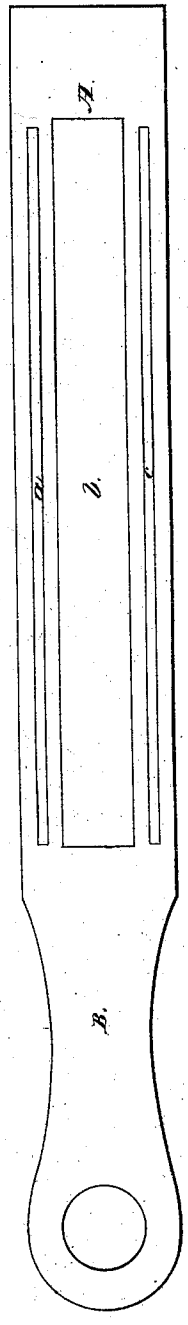
W. H. Webb

Razor Strop.

No. 12,748. Patented Apr. 17, 1855.



N. PETERS, PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHER, WASHINGTON, D. C

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM H. WEBB, JR., OF CHELSEA, MASSACHUSETTS.

IMPROVEMENT IN METALLIC HONES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **12,748**, dated April 17, 1855.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM H. WEBB, Jr., of Chelsea, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Strop or Hone for Sharpening Razors or other Articles of Cutlery; and I do hereby declare that the same is fully described and represented in the following specification and the accompanying drawing, which exhibits a top view or plan of one of the said instruments.

I make the body or main part A of the strop of metal of a softer nature than one or more strips or bars of metal, *a b c*, which I insert and fix within the same, and so that their upper surfaces may be even or in or about in the same plane with that of the main part A. The said part A, with its handle B, I usually make of zinc, while the strips *a b c* may be made of a harder metal, such as copper, steel, or silver. I generally prefer to have one metal a positive and the other a negative metal, so far as their electrical or galvanic properties are concerned, taking care that the strip or strips of metal let into the main part A be of a harder metal.

It is supposed and believed that when the surface of the strop is covered with oil or a liquid an electric current is produced, which promotes in some way the process of sharpening a razor when it is passed back and forth on the strop and the rubbing-surface of the strop has been covered with a sharpening paste or matter. It is not intended to assert it as a fact hat such an electric action really occurs, but it is certain that the softer metal, in connection with the harder strip or strips operates to great advantage in sharpening and putting a fine edge on a razor or any delicate surgical instrument. When the razor is honed on the hone the softer metal seizes and retains the sharpening material and enables it to wear down the blade, the strips of harder metal serving at the same time, or while the blade is moved on the hone, to smooth down or polish the abraded edge. It is very probable that the edges of the harder strips contribute to the removal of the metal from the side of the blade.

With a hone constructed in this manner a very fine but not wiry edge can readily be put upon a razor, the combination and arrangement of the harder and softer metals contributing to wear and smooth or polish the edge.

What, therefore, I claim as my invention is—

A hone constructed with its sharpening-surface composed of a combination of metals of different degrees of density, and arranged together substantially as specified, not intending to claim the broad ground of constructing a hone of metal.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my signature this 7th day of February, A. D. 1855.

WILLIAM H. WEBB, JR.

Witnesses:
R. H. EDDY,
F. P. HALE, Jr.