

No. 740,388.

PATENTED OCT. 6, 1903.

R. W. BLAISDELL.
APPARATUS FOR MOISTENING LEATHER STOCK.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 22, 1902.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

NO MODEL.

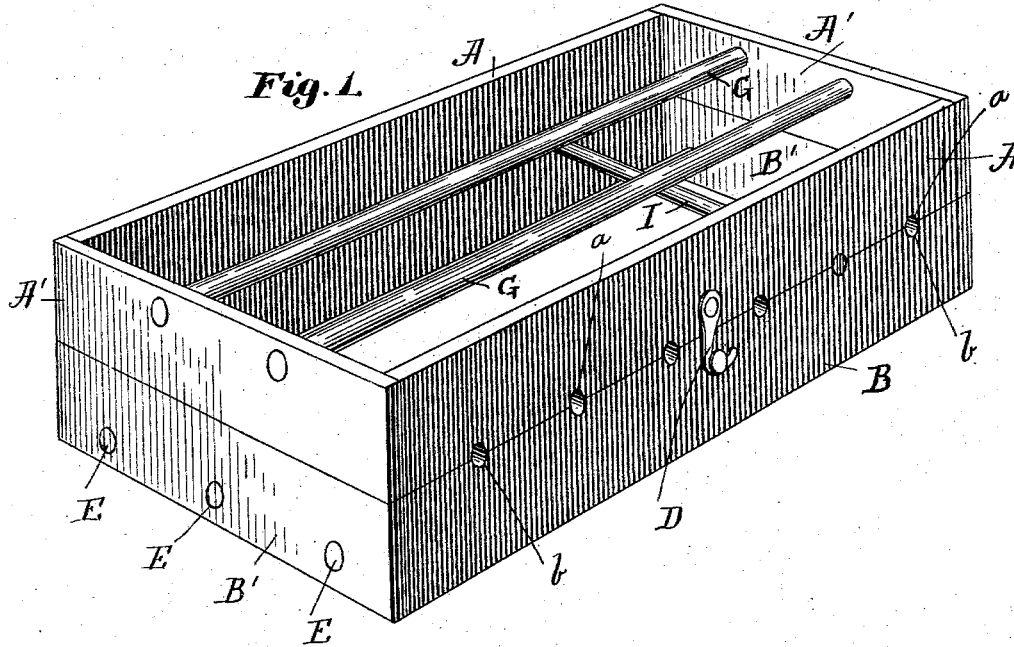
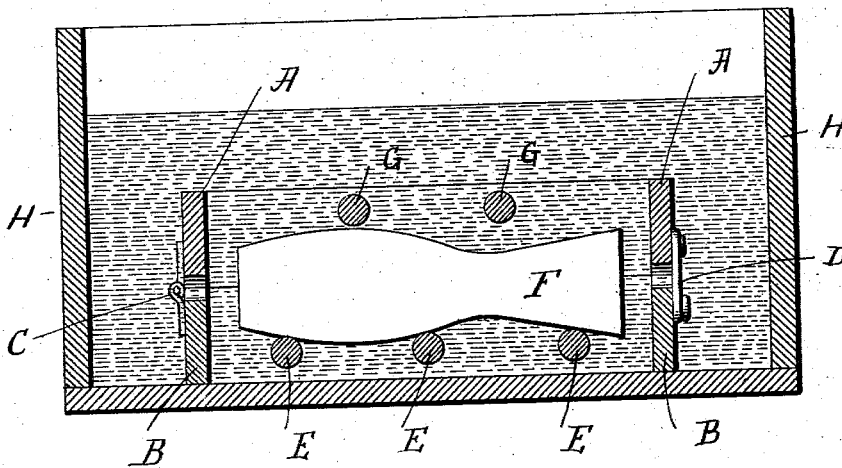


Fig. 1.



Witnesses:
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Inventor:
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by *Alban Andrew* Atty

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT W. BLAISDELL, OF BEVERLY, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO HEZEKIAH O. WOODBURY, OF BEVERLY, MASSACHUSETTS.

APPARATUS FOR MOISTENING LEATHER STOCK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 740,388, dated October 6, 1903.

Application filed September 22, 1902. Serial No. 124,307. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT W. BLAISDELL, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Beverly, in the county of Essex and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Apparatus for Moistening Leather Stock, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in apparatus for moistening or, as it is usually termed, "tempering" leather stock—such as, for instance, sole-leather blanks before the outer soles are died out therefrom; and the object of this my invention is to prevent water stains being made on the soles during the soaking operation, which ordinarily is carried out by submerging a tied-up bundle of soles in water, and in such a method the individual soles are held in close contact with each other, the water is prevented from wetting the soles evenly, and thereby leaving dry spots, causing what are usually termed "water stains," which deface and injure the appearance of the under side of the shoe-soles.

In my improved device the soles are placed in vertical positions side by side, so as to cause the sides of the soles to be evenly wetted, thus preventing the appearance of water stains, as above mentioned.

The invention is carried out as follows, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, wherein—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved moistening apparatus. Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the same, showing it in position within a water-containing trough or receptacle. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section on the line 3 3, shown in Fig. 2; and Fig. 4 is a cross-section on the line 4 4, also shown in Fig. 2.

Similar letters refer to similar parts wherever they occur on the different parts of the drawings.

The apparatus consists of a pair of preferably rectangular upper and lower skeleton frames, as will hereinafter be described. The upper frame is composed of sides A A and ends A' A', secured together in any suitable manner. The lower frame is similarly composed of sides B B and ends B' B', as shown in the drawings. The said skeleton frames

are hinged together at C and provided with a suitable locking device D opposite to said hinged portion, as shown in the drawings. The ends of the lower frame are connected near their under sides by means of longitudinal rest-bars E E E, two or more, as shown, and the latter serve as supports for the sole-blanks F F F during the tempering operation, as will hereinafter be described. The ends of the upper frame are similarly connected at or near their upper portions with longitudinal retaining-bars G G, two or more, as shown, and the latter serve to prevent the sole-blanks from rising out of the water when the apparatus is placed or submerged in the water-containing tank H. (Shown in Figs. 2, 3, and 4.)

For the purpose of holding the sole-blanks F F in upright positions within the skeleton frames in case the latter should not be completely filled with sole-blanks I make use of a lateral adjustable spacer-bar I, and I provide the lower edges of the upper frame sides A A with notches or recesses *a a*, and in a like manner make corresponding notches or recesses *b b* on the upper edges of the lower side frames B B, as shown, and said notches or recesses serve as guides in which to place the spacer-bar I, according to the number of sole-blanks that are placed in the apparatus.

In using the device I first swing the upper frame A A' upward on its hinges, after which I place the sole-blanks F F side by side upon the rest-bars E E in such a manner as to allow free access of water between them when submerged. I then put the spacer-bar I in position, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, so as to hold the sole-blanks in vertical positions in case the frames should not be entirely filled with such sole-blanks. The upper frame is then swung to closed position and locked, as above described, after which the said frames and the sole-blanks contained therein are submerged in the water contained in the tank H, as shown in Figs. 3 and 4, and allowed to remain therein a short time, (about four or five minutes,) after which the frames, with their sole-blanks, are lifted out of the water-tank and placed in a suitable place, so as to allow the surplus water to drain off from the blanks, after which they are in a proper condition to be died out to the desired size and

shape, according to the size of the boot or shoe sole that is being made.

It will thus be seen that in this my improved apparatus the sole-blanks are held in upright positions during the tempering operation and in such a manner as to permit all parts of the sole-blanks to be equally soaked or wetted, thus preventing the formation of water stains, as hereinabove described.

10 What I wish to secure by Letters Patent and claim is—

1. The herein-described leather-moistening device including a pair of cooperating skeleton frames, sole-supporting means carried by one of said frames, and sole-retaining means carried by the other frame and adapted to bear against the upper sides of said soles.

2. The herein-described leather-moistening device consisting, in combination, of a pair of superposed hinged skeleton frames open at top and bottom, a series of longitudinally-arranged supporting and retaining bars carried by the respective frames, the lower bars being adapted to support the soles and the upper bars to bear against the upper sides thereof, and an adjustable spacer-bar in the frame.

3. The herein-described leather-moistening device including a pair of superposed hinged

skeleton frames, means in the frames for supporting and retaining soles and adapted to bear against the same upon the upper and lower sides thereof.

4. The herein-described leather-moistening device including a pair of superimposed skeleton frames, the contiguous edges of which have series of complementary notches along the opposite sides thereof, sole supporting and retaining means carried by the frames, and a spacer device, the ends of which are arranged to fit in said notches.

5. The herein-described leather-moistening device including a pair of cooperating skeleton frames, a plurality of bars arranged in parallelism and uniting opposite parts of one of the frames, and a plurality of bars mounted in the corresponding parts of the other frame and also arranged in parallelism, one of said series of bars constituting sole-supporting means and the other constituting sole-retaining means adapted to bear against the upper sides of the soles.

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

ROBERT W. BLAISDELL.

Witnesses:

ALBAN ANDRÉN,
HEZEKIAH O. WOODBURY.