J. G. McCARTER.

Apparatus for Blacking the Edges of Leather.

No. 219,965. Patented Sept. 23, 1879.

Fig. 1.

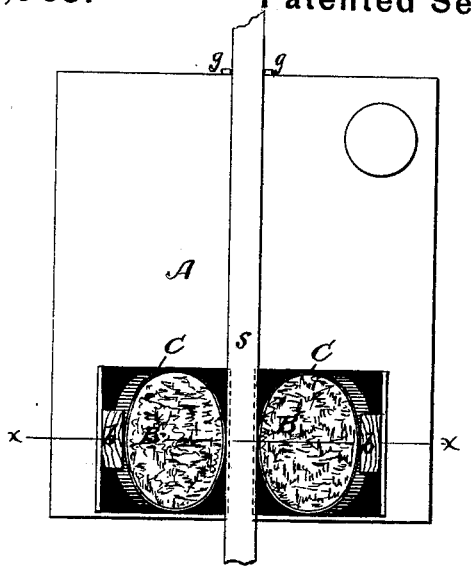


Fig. 2.

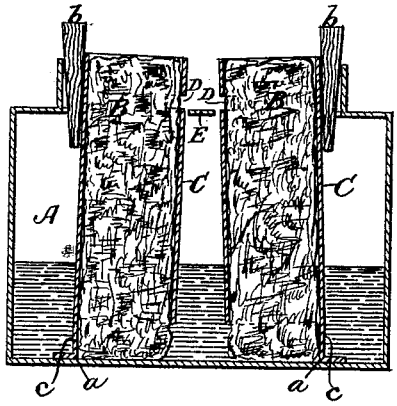
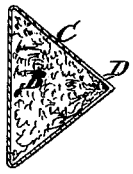


Fig. 4

Fig. 3.



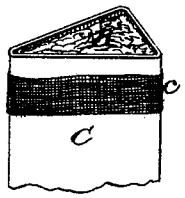
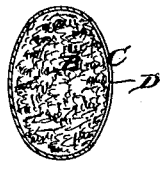


Fig. 5.



Witnesses.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN G. McCARTER, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

IMPROVEMENT IN APPARATUS FOR BLACKING THE EDGES OF LEATHER.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **219,965**, dated September 23, 1879; application filed August 14, 1879.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN G. McCARTER, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain Improvements in Apparatus for Blacking the Edges of Sheets and Strips of Leather, of which the following is a specification.

This invention has for its object to provide convenient and effective means for applying blacking to the cut edges of strips or sheets of leather that is dressed and colored on its outer surface.

The invention is especially intended for blacking the cut edges of seam-covering stays and pieces of upper leather for boots and shoes, to give said edges a color corresponding to the outer surface of the leather, and obviate the necessity of turning in the leather to conceal the cut edges.

The invention consists in an organized apparatus, as hereinafter described and claimed, whereby cut edges can be neatly and expeditiously blacked without wasting the blacking, or spreading the same on portions of the leather which it is not desirable to blacken.

Of the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, Figure 1 represents a top view of an apparatus embodying my invention. Fig. 2 represents a section of the same. Fig. 3 represents a sectional view of a modification. Fig. 4 represents a perspective view of another modification. Fig. 5 represents a section of the sponge conductor.

Similar letters of reference refer to same parts in all the figures.

In the drawings, A represents a reservoir, of any suitable construction, adapted to receive liquid blacking. B represents a conductor, of sponge or other material adapted to raise a liquid by capillary action. Said conductor is contained in a shell or tube, C, which is secured to the reservoir A, and projects through the top of the same, and is provided in its upper or outer end with a lateral opening, D. The lower portion of the conductor B is immersed in the liquid blacking in the reservoir, and its upper portion extends to the outer end of the tube and entirely fills the latter, so that a portion of its surface is exposed through the opening D.

E represents a flat supporting-surface, which is about flush with the lower edge of the opening D, and is, preferably, a part of the top of the reservoir. Said surface supports the leather to be blacked, and allows the edge of the leather to be pressed against the portion of the conductor that is exposed by the opening D.

It will be understood that when the edge of the leather is drawn along when in contact with the blacking-saturated conductor, said edge will receive a coat of blacking from the conductor, and the latter, being confined by the tube C around the opening D, will not project over and blacken the sides of the piece of leather. The side of the tube in which the opening D is made is either curved, as shown in Fig. 1, or angular, as shown in Fig. 3, so that the conductor will project outwardly beyond the ends of the opening. The angular form is preferable when the edge to be blacked is curved, scalloped, or angular, as it holds the conductor in such form that it can enter angles and curves in the leather, which would be inaccessible to the conductor when held in the form of tube shown in Fig. 1. The latter form is preferable in operating on straight edges, as it affords a more extended surface of the conductor for the leather to bear against or upon.

In blacking the edges of a seam-covering stay or other strip of leather having two parallel edges, I prefer to construct the apparatus, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, to black both edges of the strip simultaneously, the apparatus being provided with two conductors, B B, and inclosing-tubes C C, said tubes having the openings D D in their proximate sides, as shown in Fig. 2. The distance between the exposed surfaces of the conductors is such that they will act simultaneously on the edges of a strip, *s*, drawn between them.

I prefer to provide guides *g g* on the tops of the reservoir to guide the strip *s* as it passes to or from the conductors B B.

To enable strips of different widths to be operated on by the same apparatus, I make the tubes C C adjustable to and from each other by any suitable means, preferably by connecting the tubes at *a a* by spring-arms *c* to the bottom of the reservoir, so that they can be inclined toward or from each other, and providing wedges *b b* between the upper ends of the tubes and suitable bearings on the reser-

voir, whereby said tubes may be displaced or forced inwardly from the positions in which they are held by the spring-arms. The top of the reservoir is provided with openings, through which the tubes pass, and said openings are of sufficient size to permit the described movements of the tubes. If desired, only one of the tubes may be made adjustable.

To prevent the conductor from spreading the blacking over the sides of the leather, as it is likely to do to some extent when made of sponge, I cover the portion exposed by the opening D with any suitable cloth, *c*, which will permit the passage of the blacking and present a smooth surface to the leather. The cloth is preferably applied by tying it around the tube to cover the opening D, as shown in Fig. 4.

I do not limit myself to the location of the reservoir below the portion of the conductor that acts on the leather, as said reservoir may be elevated above the conductor, if desired, and connected to the latter by a suitable tube.

By this arrangement the hydraulic pressure of the liquid blacking insures the complete saturation of the conductor.

I claim as my invention—

1. As a means for applying liquid blacking to the edges of strips or pieces of leather, a reservoir for the blacking, a conductor communicating with said reservoir, and a shell or tube to hold the conductor, and provided with an opening to expose a portion of the conductor to the leather, as set forth.

2. In an organized apparatus for applying blacking to the edges of strips of leather, the combination of a conductor communicating with a reservoir, a shell or tube holding the conductor and provided with an opening to expose the conductor to the leather, and means for supporting a strip of leather and presenting only the edge of the latter to the portion of the conductor that is exposed by the opening of the tube, as set forth.

3. An organized apparatus for applying blacking to two edges of a strip of leather, consisting of a reservoir, two conductors extending from the interior to the exterior of said reservoir, two shells or tubes to hold the conductors, provided in the proximate sides of their outer portions with openings to expose the conductors to the leather, and adapted to be adjusted to operate on strips of different widths, as set forth.

4. In an organized apparatus for applying liquid blacking to the edges of leather, the combination of a conductor entering a suitable reservoir, a tube or holder holding said conductor and provided with an opening in its outer portion, and a layer of textile fabric covering the opening in the tube, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses this 6th day of August, 1879.

JOHN G. McCARTER.

Witnesses:
CHARLES D. WOOD,
C. F. BROWN.