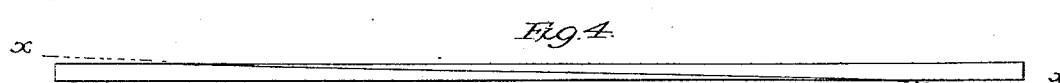
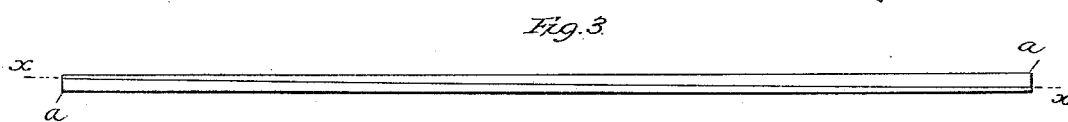
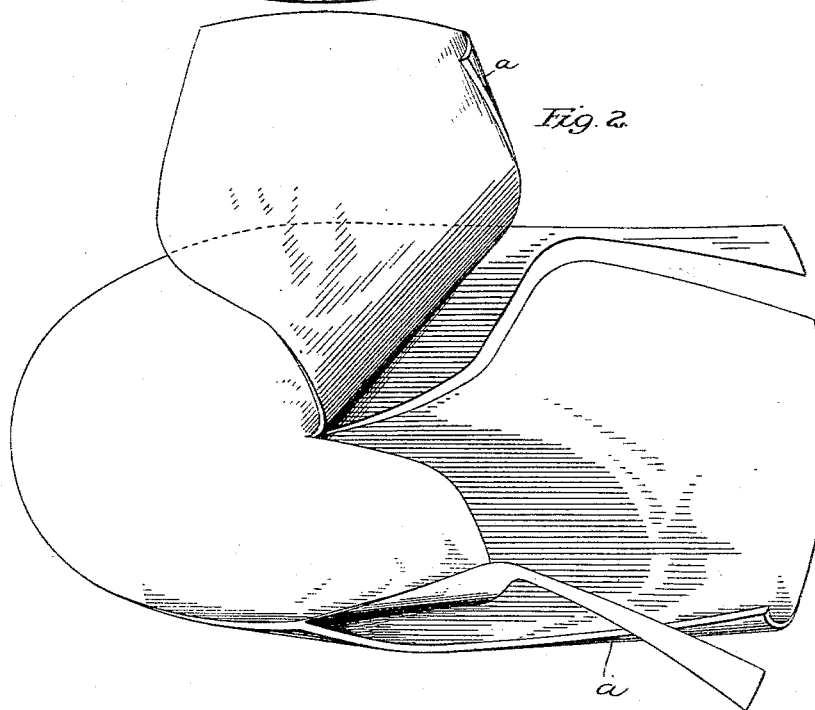
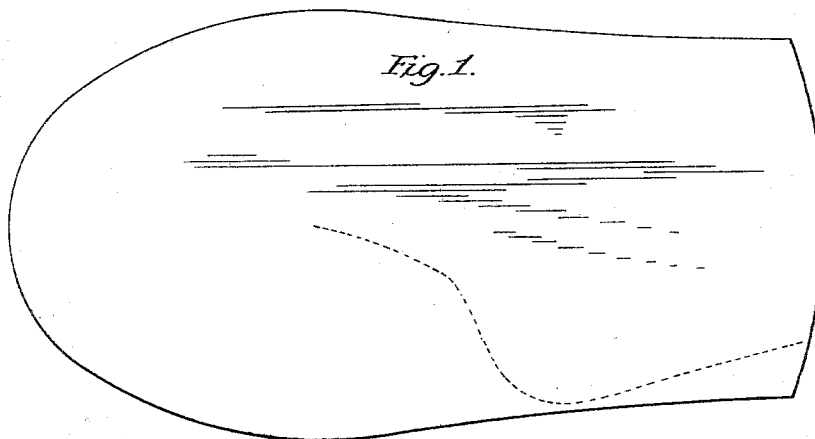


(No Model.)

W. A. REED.  
MANUFACTURE OF SHOES.

No. 303,883.

Patented Aug. 19, 1884.



Attest:  
*Walter Donaldson*  
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Attys.

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM A. REED, OF WESTBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS.

## MANUFACTURE OF SHOES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 303,883, dated August 19, 1884.

Application filed February 29, 1884. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM A. REED, of Westborough, in the county of Worcester and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in the Manufacture of Shoes; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same.

My invention is an improvement upon the method and article which are the subject of an application filed in the United States Patent Office on the 22d day of December, 1883, by George W. Sleeper, and numbered 115,353. As described in that application, a blank of suitable shape is split from the rear or heel toward the toe to the point where the opening of the shoe terminates. The upper half of the portion so split, cut into proper shape, forms the right side of the shoe, and the lower part, cut in the same way, forms the left side.

My invention consists in splitting this blank with a slightly-inclined cut, so that the lower edge of the leather on both sides shall be thicker than the upper.

The accompanying drawings show in general form the same blank and mode of splitting said upper as those in the aforesaid application.

In these drawings, Figure 1 represents the blank in plan view. Fig. 2 represents the form of the piece or blank after the splitting and cutting has been performed. Fig. 3 is an edge view of the rear of the blank, showing the line of the split. Fig. 4 is a modification.

The purpose being to give thicker leather in the upper at the lower edge, where it is joined to the sole, I split the leather with the knife slightly inclined to the surfaces of the leather, as shown in Fig. 3. In this figure the line *x x* indicates the cut. On the right-hand side this line, where it reaches the edge, is a little above the central line, so that the right-hand edge of the upper section is thicker, and the same edge of the lower section is thinner. On the left-hand side the edge of the lower is the thicker and that edge of the

upper is thinner. As the knife makes a straight cut, the diminution in thickness is gradual from edge to edge. The upper section in the form shown having been shaped to form the side, as explained in aforesaid application, is turned up to the right and the under to the left. Thus both the thicker edges *a a* are joined to the sole, and form that part of the shoe requiring the thickest leather. It is immaterial, of course, which of the two sections forms the right or left; that depends upon the formation of the sides. Either may be cut for right or left side, but the inclination of the split must be changed accordingly.

It will be understood that I claim no part of the method or article excepting this inclined cutting or the thickened edges formed thereby.

In Fig. 4 I have shown a modified form of cut, in which I set the knife to begin the cut an inch (more or less) from the edge of the blank, as shown, thus getting the entire thickness of the vamp around the lower parts of the quarters, this being desirable in some class of shoes.

I claim—

1. The described method of forming the upper of a shoe, consisting in first cutting a blank in the form shown, then splitting the blank from the heel by an inclined cut to the proper point, and then forming the sides and counter out of the upper and lower sections, with the thicker edges at the bottom, all substantially as described.

2. A shoe-upper formed of one piece, split in the rear portion, and having the edges of unequal thickness, said split portions constituting the sides and counters, with the thicker edges at the bottom, all substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

WILLIAM A. REED.

Witnesses:

HENDERSON ROSS,  
W. TROWBRIDGE FORBES.